

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Tuesday, August 30, 1988/ Bhadra 8,
1910 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Exploration for Oil and Gas in Orissa

*406. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any prospects of the availability of oil and gas in Mahanadi basin of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any new efforts are being contemplated in different areas of Orissa Coast to explore oil and gas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (d). Though there are indications of hydrocarbon deposits, drilling by oil India Limited (OIL) so far has not resulted in discovery of oil and gas of commercial significance in Mahanadi

basin and in the North East Coast Offshore (NEC) area. OIL have presently no plans to go in for further exploratory drilling in Mahanadi onshore area.

OIL are carefully studying drilling and seismic data of North East Coast for reviewing and re-evaluating the hydrocarbon prospects. Further drilling will depend on results of the review and re-evaluation of data.

A production sharing agreement has been signed between OIL, Government of India and Chevron International Ltd. and Texaco Exploration India Inc. for exploration in the Mahanadi basin offshore area.

SHRI BRAJAMOCHAN MOHANTY: Sir, may I know about the principle conditions of Chevron International Limited and Texaco Exploration India? How long will you take to analyse the seismic data that was available?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: I will answer the second part of the question first. The process of exploration involves seismic survey and then we drill some exploratory wells. If we do not find anything, further close examination of the data is done, that is being done. I cannot give a definite date. But we are trying to expedite it.

About the second question, out of nine off-shore blocks that we have given for exploration to these international companies, this one block is the off-shore area of Mahanadi basin. The terms are the standard terms which include the risk and the cost of exploration, that is, collecting the data and exploring it. Analysing of data of the exploratory wells will be done by the foreign companies and if there is commercial discovery,

our company will have the option to participate up to the extent of 40 per cent in development, production and discovery. If we decide to participate, then we will contribute 40 per cent on the development cost and the remaining 60 per cent will be borne by the foreign oil company. Then OIL will be entitled to the share of petroleum products or gas corresponding to its participation. The foreign companies share of oil produced will be available to us on international prices. These are the major terms.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Regarding the 'c' part of the question that whether any new efforts are being contemplated in different areas of Orissa Coast, the answer has been given about Mahanadi valley only. But my question is also regarding the Orissa Coast.

What are the exploration activities? What is the result which you are expecting? I am told that your coordinating efforts with the ONGC are very much lacking. That's why the progress is not being made.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: The coordination between OIL and ONGC is on a different level because we have given different areas for exploration to the oil companies. But they exchange information and the knowledge and take each other's help.

In the North East Coast — I think, the hon. Member means by that, beside the Mahanadi basin — this area was covered by seismic survey. We did 4,451 line kilometres of seismic survey in 1986.

Based on this information and the interpretation made, six wells were to be drilled. Four exploratory wells have already been drilled. In well number 1, there is very good indication of hydro-carbon during the drilling. But seismic test did not produce free gas or oil. Regarding well No. 2, due to some problem — which was very severe — we could not reach the targeted depth. There is no positive indication to presence of hydro-carbon in well number 3. Well number 4 was abandoned due to severe drilling problem.

But we reached a depth of 5,500 metres and up to that, there was no indication.

We are already reassessing and reexamining the data that we have obtained due to these efforts. Further exploration activities will depend on this.

Amendment to MRTP and FERA for Taking Over of Sick Companies by Large Companies

*407. **SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY†:**
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to amend the MRTP and FERA to facilitate takeover of large sick mills by the companies covered by the two acts;

(b) if so, the nature of amendments which are likely to be proposed; and

(c) the extent to which the sick companies will be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, I am very much surprised at the reply given by the Minister. Earlier on several occasions, the Government has taken a stand on the floor of the Parliament that in order to promote, liberalise and rehabilitate sick industries, they are exploring the possibility of amending the MRTP and FERA for the sick units. Even the Minister of State, MR. M. Arunachalam, had replied to unstarred question, put by my colleague Dr. B.L. Shailesh, stating this.

In view of this, I want to know from the

Minister whether the Government is prepared to bring out a white paper on the merger of unhealthy industrial units with the healthy units and to further liberalise the procedural hurdles in the case of MRTTP and FERA companies.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, there is no need for amendment. The BIFR can also order amalgamation of a sick industrial company with any other industrial company under section 18 (1) (c) of the Act. Under section 32 (3) of the said Act, the provisions of the MRTTP Act, 1969, shall not apply to modernisation or expansion or amalgamation or merger of a sick industrial company if such a scheme is sanctioned by BIFR.

Another thing is Government has also given sufficient scope. There is no export obligation for the sick units. Secondly, broad-banding and expansion will be automatically allowed if the proposal is part of the rehabilitation area. Thirdly, assistance will be given to the units already located in such areas.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Anyway, my second question would be that the main reasons for the sickness of the industries — whether big, medium or small — are: (i) inadequate financial assistance; (ii) scarcity of raw materials; and (iii) labour unrest.

In view of this, I want to know from the Government whether the Government has made any survey regarding the sickness of the industries and also, if so, the details thereof and what are the reasons for the sickness.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Here the question is about the amendment of the MRTTP Act. So many times, we have allowed half-an-hour discussion about the sick industrial units.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Large sick units are 133 in the country and more than two lakh workers are suffering. I will not take the time of the House by going into that. Here the problem is the Government is not prepared

to nationalise or take over these mills. There is a provision to amalgamate sick units with the healthy units of the same employer? You are not prepared to implement. Two lakh workers are dying. My categorical question is that so many workers are dying and Government is having no plans. At least the Government should consider. The NRIs are allowed to take over the units. The Hinduja has taken the Ashok Leyland and Chabaria has taken five units. Why can't you allow these sick mills to amalgamate with healthy units with certain restrictions? Why can't you reconsider your decisions so that such types of MRTTP relaxation will be done in the circumstances and the workers will be considered and they will get their benefits?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: The answer to this is that Government is not going to nationalise any sick unit.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: After the sick Industries Revival Bill was passed, nothing has happened and there has been no allocation by any of the State Government or the Central Government for reviving the sick industries. Though allocation has been made, no incentive has been announced either by the Central Government or by the State Government. The entire burden has been shifted to the financial institutions which are not coming forward in a generous way for reviving the sick industries. Will the Government consider allocation of certain funds at least in the ensuing year in the Central Budget for announcing incentives, in consultation with the State Government for reviving the sick industries?

MR. SPEAKER: This does not relate to this question.

[Translation]

Telecast of Programmes on Social Evils

*409. SHRI RANJIT SINGH
GAEKWAD†:
SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL:

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

(a) whether there is a plan to telecast daily programmes on prohibition, drug addiction and character building;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date from which such programmes will be telecast, the duration thereof and the time slot;

(d) the number and duration of such programmes telecast during 1.1.1988 to 31.7.1988 and the reaction of the public and press thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (e). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

1 To supplement the efforts of Government to counter the problem of drug abuse and alcoholism and for creating an awareness of the problem and educating people to keep them away from these malady, Doordarshan has been regularly telecasting spots and programmes on these subjects. Social messages are put out in various formats like spots, interviews with doctors, patients, skits, folk songs, TV features on success stories etc. A total of approx. 300 programmes have been telecast by Doordarshan over its network on drug abuse and trafficking and Prohibition for a duration of over 3250 minutes during the period 1.1.1988 to 31.7.1988.

2. Panel surveys and viewers response through letters indicate that majority of the viewers have rated these programmes as good and informative.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD: Sir, I had the pleasure of being in the Consultative Committee and the Minister of Informa-

tion and Broadcasting was also there. At that time, I had brought to his notice that television is a visual media through which social evils can be removed and people can be taught better through visual images. As far as farming goes, I have told them that instead of having discussions it would be better if actual working in the farm was shown so that it would have an impact. I would draw your attention to the same problems here on social evils. Only discussions on television screen do not have the same impact as of the actual cases brought on to the screen to show what the effects are. I would like to know from the Government as to which are the programmes which have proved popular and which are the programmes which have had an impact on the masses.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): I would completely agree with the hon. Member that the visual effect on the ground can certainly be more effective on the minds of the people and Doordarshan should concentrate more on that. We are having a fresh look on the formats of Doordarshan programmes so that the situation at the ground can be changed. Hon. Member's suggestions are quite good. So far as popularity of the programmes is concerned, a large number of programmes are quite popular. For some programmes, the response of the audience has been quite good, and in some cases it has not been that good. Case studies were made in respect of two programmes and I am told in one programme, *Andhi Gali*, where there was 79 per cent viewership, majority of the people appreciated it according to the research of the Doordarshan. We want to strengthen the audience research of Doordarshan and at times make independent studies also. I can assure the hon. Member that we are giving concentrated attention to this aspect. Doordarshan needs to be improved and by making concerted efforts, we do propose to improve it further so that its programmes can be more useful in the social, cultural and economic transformation of the country.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD: In order to effectively control drug abuse, I would like to know whether the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Health would come together to formulate good programmes, better programmes to eradicate such evils.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: At the initiative of the hon. Prime Minister, a Cabinet Sub Committee has been formed on Drug Abuse Control and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is a member of that Committee. A series of initiatives have been taken recently for drug abuse control and as a part of that a very comprehensive multi-media campaign has been launched. This involves Doordarshan, All India Radio, DAVP and our field publicity units. We have statistics of the detailed programmes being telecast and broadcast on mainly three aspects to prevent and reduce drug trafficking, create awareness among the youth and other sections of the society of the dangers of drug abuse as also certain rehabilitative aspects including health and Welfare. I would like to tell the hon. Member that because of this initiative, the total projection in the media against drug abuse has gone up by more than 30 to 40 per cent in the last three months and more a large number of programmes have been specially broadcast and telecast.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that in spite of multi-media campaign against drug abuse, consumption of drugs in the country is increasing day by day. If so, is the Government going to conduct a survey to find out the reasons for increase of drug abuse? How best can we use the various media to project the ill-effects of drugs and what changes are needed in the schemes currently in force to prevent drug abuse?

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: At the initiative of the Cabinet Sub Committee, the

nodal Ministry of Welfare, in addition to the surveys and studies they have already conducted, has embarked on very comprehensive new scientific studies and surveys the results of which are awaited.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I would like to add for the information of the hon. Member that so far as this problem is concerned, a multi-pronged effort is being made; one part of it is educating people so that they do not fall victim to it. That part is being done by the various agencies, of course, primarily by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The other is taking certain methods for de-addiction and the third is rehabilitation of victims. As my colleague has said, the Health Ministry is concerned with it and they are looking to that aspect.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, while the Doordarshan deserves credit for telecasting a programme like 'Tamas' in spite of the objections raised by the obscurantist forces all over the country, it is at the same time most unfortunate that the very same Doordarshan is telecasting a serial like 'Honi Anhoni' which encourages superstitions. So, this reveals the lack of perspective on the part of the Doordarshan in selecting the serials. What the country needs now is the programme which gives thrust on national unity and integrity. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any concrete programme on the part of the Doordarshan authorities to telecast serials which give thrust on national unity and will the Minister see to it that programme like 'Honi Anhoni' are no more telecasted.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I would like to tell the young Hon. Member that 'Honi Anhoni' is already finished. It is not being telecasted now.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants an assurance for the future.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: The opinion was expressed in the House overwhelmingly and the serial is now over. Some people went to the court and the court finally vacated the

stay order but that is no more there.

Secondly, we do not believe at all in encouraging superstitious beliefs. Large number of programmes which encourage unity and integrity of the country are being mounted and the perspective which the Hon. Member has suggested is the perspective before us. We believe that the social message and entertainment are not contradictory to each other. We should have programmes which carry social message and at the same time provide entertainment to the people. By this way the message will reach to the people and they will make more use of the television. With regard to the serials and other things, what the hon. Member has pointed out is our perspective.

LPG Facility in Car Nicobar

*410. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation to provide LPG at Car Nicobar the tribal district of Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) No decision has been taken to provide LPG facility at Car Nicobar.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that Government has decided to provide LPG connection to all the district headquarters in the country. If so, then why and how the tribal district of Nicobar has been left out? This is my first supplementary.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, I have not ruled out the possibility. The Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar met me. He wanted

LPG connections for Port Blair. The main difficulty was that the cost of transportation was very heavy, about 80 to 90 Rupees from Kalyani Refinery, Calcutta. So, in the interest of the island, in order to preserve the ecological balance, we decided to absorb that. It will cost us about Rs. 25 lakhs. Then they send a letter thanking us for this and asked that we should extend this facility to Car Nicobar. The Car Nicobar has got a difficulty. The ships cannot go there, jetties are not very suitable and the quantity that will be required will be 500 cylinders. But we have given the distributorship to the Island Authorities, some co-operative organisation. If they can take up the distribution I have no problem in providing the facility. Let them take the responsibility and I will provide them the necessary facility.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: The Hon. Minister has just now accepted that the Lt. Governor had written to him only for the Port Blair. He has admitted in the written reply that the representation has been received and it was not considered. So, now the question is that there was a demand from the tribal people of Car Nicobar. So far as the question of transportation and other things is concerned, there is a Nicobar Cooperative Society, Central Society which has got its own two vessels. They want to take up this job. So, this can be given to the Cooperative Society in Nicobar. They will be able to get it from Madras. The agency mentioned by the hon. Minister is operating from Port Blair and they do not have any ship or any infrastructure necessary for this job. That is why, my second supplementary is whether the hon. Minister would kindly consider my proposal to give this agency to the central cooperative society in Car Nicobar. This is a tribal cooperative society and they have their own ships.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: I am sorry, I could not make myself understood. I did not say that the Administration did not want it. I only stated that they come from Port Blair. The government agency or the cooperative agency mentioned by the hon. member can lift the cylinders from Port Blair.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Port Blair is in one direction and Car Nicobar is in another direction.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: We will discuss it. Whatever facilities are given to Port Blair, equivalent facilities will be given to Car Nicobar too..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You may meet the Minister and sort it out.

National Research and Development Centre for Tyre Industry

*411. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Research and Development Centre is being set up for the tyre industry; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA) have submitted a proposal to the Government for the setting up of a National Research and Development Centre for tyres. No final view has been taken on the proposal.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I hope you agree with me — and I am sure everybody will agree with me — that the cost of production of tyres in our country is far higher than the cost of production in other countries. There may be various reasons for this. But the most important among them is the lack of proper R & D facilities. What steps have the Government initiated in this direction? In your reply, you have stated that the ATMA have submitted a proposal for setting up a R & D Centre on which no final view has yet been taken. What is the initial view taken by you? Is it in favour of setting up a R & D Centre? If so, where are you going to locate it? As you know, Kerala is the largest natural rubber

producing State in the country. Therefore, will you consider setting it up in Kerala?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: As far as the question of international and local prices of tyres is concerned, I answered an unstarred question some time back in the beginning of this month stating that the prices of tyres would depend on the source of origin and it would not be possible to indicate the average differences between international and local prices with regard to common varieties of tyres. We are allowing various manufacturers to have foreign collaboration for improvement in technology.

As far as the location of the Research Centre is concerned, the ATMA had identified a place at Mysore. They have approached the State Government for land at a subsidised rate. If the hon. member is very much interested, we will ask the ATMA to contact him. He can approach his State Government also.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Yes, I will do so. As part of my first supplementary, I would submit that you should direct the ATMA to consider Kerala also which is producing 95 per cent of the total quantity of natural rubber produced in the country. Therefore, the Research Centre should be located in Kerala. As you know, the Government of Kerala is not doing anything for the State. At least you do something for our State.

Now, I come to my second supplementary. You have already admitted that the price of tyres in the country is very high compared to other countries. There is no correlation between the price of tyre and the price of the raw material. If you consider the price of natural rubber which is the most important ingredient in the manufacture of tyres, over the last five years, the increase in the price of natural rubber is only ten to fifteen per cent, whereas the increase in the price of tyre is more than 100 per cent. How can you explain such discrepancy? So I would like to know whether you have some steps to correlate between the price of the raw materials and the price of the tyres,

especially the price of the natural rubber with that of the tyre.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: As far as the prices of the tyres are concerned, the Government have taken various steps, including the import of tyres under OGL. Because of our efforts, the prices of tyres have come down by Rs. 300 recently.

MR. SPEAKER: What he is interested is in getting the better prices for the growers.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: That is not our concern. That comes under the Ministry of Commerce.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: He should answer the second part. I am interested in ensuring better price for the rubber growers not the tyre manufacturers.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): That subject comes under the Ministry of Commerce. It is not out subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question. Q.No. 412. Shri V.N. Gadgil. Not here. Q.No. 413. Shri Thota.

TV Relay Station in East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh

*413. **SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a T.V. relay station at agency area in East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Two low power TV transmitters, one

each at Kakinada and Rajahmundry, are, at present, functioning in the East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. These, together with the neighbouring high power transmitters at Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, provide TV service to about 47% area and 56% population of the district. However, in view of acute constraint of resources, there is no scheme under the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan to set up any additional transmitter in the district for bringing about further improvement in the service.

SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA: Sir, T.V. Transmitters at Kakinada and Rajahmundry do not provide any programmes for the Girijans. They are of no use to the tribals. Therefore, will the Minister be pleased to instal a T.V. Transmitter in East Godavari District for the benefit of the Girijans in the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): I would like to inform the hon. Member that what he is pointing out is quite relevant. We are quite sympathetic to the idea of giving more coverage to this district. Apart from this thing in the Seventh Plan, we are thinking of — subject to availability of finances and equipment — having some more T.V. Transmitters in various parts of the country including one in the district known as Amalapuram. We are examining this. But it all depends subject to availability of transmitters and finances. We want to have another crash programme of putting some more transmitters and what the hon. Member is suggesting that we are keeping in view.

SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to assure that for the benefit of Girijans, the Low Power Transmitter at Kakinada may be converted into a High Power Transmitter?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I cannot give that assurance to the hon. Member because I do not want a wrong assurance. It is not that I am not sympathetic to the idea. In our whole scheme of things — future expansion and

expansion during the Seventh Plan — we are keeping the Tribals and the Girijans in view.

Now High Power Transmitters are not easily available. They take a very long time. For me to give any assurance at this stage would not be possible. But the point that the Girijans should be covered as much as possible is under our consideration.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Government have taken a policy decision to confine the setting up of Lower Power Transmitters during the Seventh Plan period only in district headquarters. If that is so — the remaining period for the completion of the Seventh Plan is only one year and six months — I would like to know as to why in the case of Amethi constituency alone, a departure has been made? I would like to know whether Mr. Rajiv Gandhi represents Amethi alone or the whole country and if that is a new departure, will that departure be made applicable to all other districts in the country?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT. I am very sorry with respect to the hon. Member, I wish to say that he has taken a view which is not correct. His information is also not correct. It is again not correct to say that every transmitter is in the district headquarter. We have kept certain criteria when we started this TV expansion plan. It was meant for a town with a population of one lakh and above. That was the criteria.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: That is the Sixth Plan. Don't confuse Sixth Plan with the Seventh Plan.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Even in the Seventh Plan period, we have a number of schemes at different places in the country — at different States. Some of them are not headquarters. There is a question today. It is listed later where all that information is provided. Drawing an inference, the hon. Member has tried to say something. I would only tell him, with utmost respect, that his

inference is not correct — with due regard to him.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He has not given the answer to my question, viz. whether such a policy decision has been taken, and whether a departure has been made in the case of Amethi.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I have already said that the policy decision is to put a transmitter at a suitable place — not necessarily in the district headquarters. (*Interruptions*) The idea is to cover the area better.

SHRI H.A. DORA: Sir, I am unable to catch your eye.

MR. SPEAKER: It depends. Wait till tomorrow then.

[*Translation*]

What is your objection about Amethi?

[*English*]

SHRI H.A. DORA: The Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts are very backward districts. They are deprived of TV facilities.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You give a notice for a separate question.

[*English*]

To all these questions which may arise, he may not have the replies with him. You can get it from him. Now sit down.

[*Translation*]

Today Shri Abub Khan is not being given a chance to speak. He is waiting for his turn. Today the problems of Jhunjhunu and Sikar had to be discussed. That could not be done because this matter was raised (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Today, districts are

being given publicity.

[*English*]

Opening of Rural Post Offices

*415. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of the rural post offices proposed to be opened during the financial year 1988-89;

(b) whether the villages of Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa have been identified for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) A Statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Three villages in Jagatsinghpur subdivision of Cuttack district have been identified for the purpose.

(c) These are —

- (1) Naharana;
- (2) Deriki; and
- (3) Sagadailo.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: May I know from the hon. Minister whether Government has a proposal to open one post office in every village — and in my constituency, viz. Jagatsinghpur also; and if so, by which year such the proposal is expected to be implemented? What are the prescribed norms and guidelines for opening new post offices, in rural as well as urban areas?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): Sir,

in our country 72,000 villages do not have a post office facility. It has been decided to open one post office in each of these 72,000 villages. The 'Gram Sabha' of each of these villages would be given Government assistance to run their respective post offices. Such a system will enable postal services to reach all parts of the country. The criterion for opening a branch of a post office is that the distance between two post offices should be three kilometres and the cost of setting up a branch should be one-third of the cost of setting up a post office. Post offices are being opened on these lines since the formulation of this policy. The Government proposes to open 6000 post offices during the Seventh Plan. Out of these 3000 are being opened this year. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, they are changing the policy. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask him; no problem.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: My second supplementary would be this: the Minister has said in his reply that only three post offices are identified for opening post offices in my constituency, viz. Jagatsinghpur. I represent Jagatsinghpur, and it is a very thickly populated area. Educationally and politically also, it is very advanced. Even today, there is no post office in a gram panchayat. May I know from the hon. Minister whether post offices will be opened in every gram panchayat; and also, in view of the thickly-populated nature of my constituency, whether the Minister will consent to open a new post office in each panchayat as well as village, to cater to the needs of the people there?

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied to that, and explained things. What more do you want?

[Translation]

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, I am not talking of every 'Gram Sabha'. I have said that there are certain norms for opening of post offices and these have been provided in the Plan. Out of the 6000 post offices that are proposed to be opened during the Seventh Plan 3000 are to be opened this year alone. Every state will get its share of post offices according to the approved plan. Your State too will get its due share.

SHRI SHANKAR LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that a new post office could be set up if there is no postal facility within a radius of three kilometres. But in my constituency the Gram Panchayat headquarters are situated at a distance of less than three kilometres. Therefore, the Government's policy should be to open a post office at every Gram Panchayat headquarters. May I know from the hon. Minister if the Government will adopt such a policy? On the one hand the Government talks highly of Panchayati Raj and on the other they cannot even provide one post office at the headquarters of the Panchayat.

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, a number of villages in our country do not have a post office. When the Government accomplishes the task of providing every village with a post office, the hon. Member's suggestion can be considered.

SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that a post office could be opened if there is none within a radius of three kilometres or the population of the area is over 3,000. But under the Government's policy a number of existing post offices were closed. The city of Nasik has a large industrial area and big colonies of the housing board. Even though the city has a population of 50,000 it does neither have an effective communication system nor adequate number of post offices. When the Government is asked to clarify they say that a post office will be opened only if an agent is willing to work over there. May I know why the Government itself does not open post offices over there? Why is this

facility not being provided in the new colonies?

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, we have a separate system for opening post offices in new colonies and commercial areas. The Government opens post offices wherever new colonies come up or the population of existing colonies increase. But the Government wants to provide post office facilities in remote villages also. That is why the norms like absence of postal services within a radius of three kilometres, a population of over 3,000 and the capacity to bear one-third of the cost of a post office have been laid down. So far as tribal and hilly areas are concerned. We can open a post office even within a radius of less than three kilometres and with a population of 1,000.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, I want to ask about the policy.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the policy? He has stated already.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: The hon. Minister stated that during the Seventh Plan they are going to open 6,000 new Post Offices. But is it a fact that when you open new Post Offices in various States, the minimum number of Post Offices were opened in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal in comparison to any other State? If so, will you make up during the rest of the Five Year Plan?

[Translation]

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: Sir, this is not true. What the hon. Member says is not correct. This has not been done. Efforts have been made to open a post office wherever it is needed in the country.

[English]

Use of Foreign Trade Marks

*416. **SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress regarding regulating the use of Foreign Trade Marks for sale of goods in India;

(b) whether Government propose to make some regulations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the regulations will be brought into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). The Government's policy is not to encourage the use of foreign brand names on products meant for sale in the domestic market. While approving foreign collaborations, a standard condition is therefore laid down that the use of foreign brand names will not be allowed on products meant for internal sales. Under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, prior permission of the Reserve Bank of India for use of foreign trade marks is required if such use involves direct or indirect consideration. The policy of regulating the use of foreign trade marks for sale of goods in the domestic market is under review in all its aspects. No decision has been taken in the matter so far.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: According to the answer of the hon. Minister, the Government policy is not to encourage the use of foreign brand names on products being sold in the domestic market.

May I know from the hon. Minister, why, in spite of this statement, more and more foreign brand names are in use for the goods produced in India and sold in India and they are allowed to use foreign brand names like Lipton and Brooke Bond for tea produced in India?

Similarly, corn oil produced in India is sold under the foreign trade name 'Mazola', and 'Vespa' of Lohias for Indian products.

There are so many others.

Sir, is it not the outcome of free role given to multinationals and excessive foreign collaboration which insist on using foreign brand name and exploit the Indian people and kill our indigenous industries. So, I would like to know the decision of the Government.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Regulating the use of foreign trade marks is a complex issue. It requires examination from several angles. Our Department is studying the issue. It is discussing with other Departments also. I hope we will come out with a proposal in the near future.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Sir, I have asked about regulating the foreign trade mark and what the Government is going to do. It is stated that the question of policy of regulating the use of foreign trade marks for sale of goods in domestic market is under review. I would like to know when the process of review will be completed and when the decision would be taken.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, that is what I have said. We are discussing with other Departments. As soon as they have submitted their comments, we will come out with a proposal.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, the reply given by the Minister, to say the least, is confusing. In the written statement which has been laid on the table — I quote

"While approving foreign collaborations, a standard condition is laid down that the use of foreign brand names will not be allowed on products meant for internal sales".... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Sir, is it permitted to quote as per the rules?(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is the statement given in reply to the question.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: This is the reply given to the question. How can I ask a supplementary question without referring to it?(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Perhaps that is the rule in the Kerala House(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Without the rules what will you do from the Chair Sir? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: So, I would like to know whether the standard condition which he says is laid down, is being enforced at all. Everybody knows that the domestic market is flooded with goods carrying foreign brand names. You know it. They are not necessarily goods of very high priority. They are things like soap, toothpaste, tea, chocolate, coffee and things like that. All the foreign brand names are being used. So, I would like to know from him, when he makes a statement that the standard condition is laid down, does he mean to say that in spite of this condition laid down, this condition is being violated, flouted by all these companies which are making these goods in India, and if so, what is the use of laying down a condition like this, which is inoperative due to this Government's inability to enforce it.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: These names are existing even before 1947. We have laid down the policy only regarding the new units with foreign trade names that when the new foreign collaborations are given, use of foreign brand names for domestic sale is totally prohibited. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: How is it the foreign trade name is totally prohibited? What does it mean? — (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We are here only to put questions.(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): Sir, about the trade marks, we are not a member of the Paris

Convention. Because internationally if you want to introduce this under the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act 1958, as it stands, the registration of trade mark is not mandatory in our country. Now, we are considering to bring a Bill regulate the use of foreign trade marks.

Industrial Licensing Policy

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

(a) whether Union Government have a proposal to amend the existing industrial licensing policy with a view to incorporate export stipulation for all capital intensive industries;

(b) if so, to what extent, the strategy will give boost to exports in the face of balance of payments; and

(c) to what extent these changes will be helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Sir, the reply given to my question is negative. However, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether in a bid to accelerate the industrial growth, the Planning Commission has suggested to each and every State to liberalise the industrial policy, and also whether the Planning Commission has suggested that while preparing the plan, the entrepreneurs should be taken into confidence and with their cooperation the future plans should be prepared. Various suggestions have been given by the Centre to each State to prepare their individual plans. I would like to know what are those suggestions which have been given to the States for preparing various plans for the Eighth Plan.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): Sir, the following aspects were emphasised in the recommendations of the Committee, namely:

- (i) Making production for exports more attractive and profitable vis-a-vis sales in the domestic market.
- (ii) Providing the mechanisms for a coordinated focal point for quick and effective solution of problems of production and exports.
- (iii) Enhancing the production capacities and the competitiveness of domestic manufacturers to provide effective and substantial export thrust.
- (iv) Developing a few thrust industries for providing a selective approach.

A few industries which have export potential were identified as thrust industries for special export efforts. A list of such identified export thrust industries has been prepared. If it is a 100 per cent export-oriented industry, we are giving five years tax holiday also.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Sir, my second supplementary is whether it is a fact that the industrial policy in the backward regions is not very much satisfactory, both at the State level as well as at the Central level. There is a lot of regional imbalance and also imbalance in various aspects. If so, at the time of preparing the Eighth Plan, will the hon. Minister like to see that the inter-region balance is very much satisfied and also see that at the time of preparing the Eighth Plan, a Central Government undertaking or a State Government undertaking will be set up so as to see that unemployment is very much reduced? Also I would like the hon. Minister to state when will the Draft Eighth Plan be ready.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, one of

the main features of the industrial licensing policy of the Government has been the balanced regional industrial growth. We have taken so many steps. Among them, we have recently announced the growth centres in various districts. We will be establishing 100 growth centres in the beginning. Those will be established within five years from now. By the end of the Eighth Plan, we will be having a growth centre in each district. With that I think we will be erasing this regional imbalance.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, though the hon. Minister.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: When is the Draft Plan going to be ready, that also I have asked, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: That is all, Madam.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, though the hon. Minister in his written reply has said 'No, Sir' and 'Do not arise', I would like to know from the Minister, is it not a fact that already, as compared to the labour-intensive industries, the capital-intensive industries are a big drain on the investible resources, and as a result of that is it not the major responsibility of the capital-intensive industries to see that they assist in overcoming of crisis of foreign exchange and also relieve the balance of payment position. In view of the requirements of our national economy, will he not make it compulsory that at least in the capital-intensive industries, a definite portion of the produce will have to be such that they will have to export it?

We will have to ensure that there is a better earning as far as the exports are concerned so that our foreign exchange position is improved and the balance of payment position is also improved. Will the hon. Minister take concrete steps in this direction and move in the direction of changing the licensing policy?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, Prof. Madhu Dandavate's suggestions is a good suggestion. We are considering that big

business houses must export and they must earn foreign exchange. Now for the big units also, we are considering to put this condition in the licence.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You could have said: No, Sir; does not arise.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Not to your question, but to the main question we are saying this.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether his Ministry has received a suggestion that import licenses be given to industrial units instead of exporters? The import licenses given to exporters are sold away. Would it not be better to give import licenses to industrial units and big industrial houses and cash compensation to exporters? May I know the decision taken on this suggestion?

[English]

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: This import and export licence is with the Commerce Ministry. It is not with our Ministry.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: It is the recommendation of the Industries Department.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: To encourage exports, we are giving them compensatory allowance of 5 per cent.

Fire at Haldia Unit of India Oil Corporation

*424. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: W the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a fire at the Haldia unit of the Indian Oil Corporation during July, 1988;

(b) if so, the details of loss suffered;

(c) whether safety measures were not adequate in that unit;

(d) the details of compensation paid for the loss of life and injured persons; and

(e) whether the repair works have been completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMADUTT): (a) to (e). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

A fire broke out at Haldia Unit of Indian Oil Corporation on 2.6.1988. An overhead reflux vessel, structural members and some field instruments, lighting and instrument cables etc. were damaged. The estimated loss is about Rs. 32 lakhs. Two of the Contractor's men died in this accident.

The safety measures in the Unit were adequate including fire protection facilities which have been provided at the Refinery since its inception.

An amount of Rs. 1.05 lakh has been deposited by the Contractor with the concerned authorities as compensation. In addition, an amount of Rs. 5,000/- has been paid to the families of the deceased as ex-gratia payment by IOC.

The repair works have since been completed.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: May I know from the hon. Member.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is a member first and Minister later.

AN HON. MEMBER: MEMBER of the Cabinet.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He becomes a number too often Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: It is otherwise. If you are not a member, you cannot be a Minister.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He has referred to the future reshuffling.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether any enquiry was made regarding this fire accident; if so, whether any person was held responsible for this and what action has been taken against that person?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: On 2nd June, 1988 at about 4 p.m. fire broke out in Crude Distillation Plant of the Refinery. 10 contractor labourers were removing the scaffolding from the main distillation column. They were asked to move up and remain on top of the column. 8 people remained there and they were not injured. But these two people got panicky. They came down and in the process they got killed. One Senior Production Engineer was accidentally hit by fire water jet, but he has recovered. We have paid compensation under the Act. An enquiry committee was set up by the Indian Oil Corporation to investigate this fire incident. Now we are carrying on safety audit in all our oil installations because of the Haldia incident and yesterday's incident in Mexico.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: In his statement, the hon. Minister has said that safety measures in the unit were adequate. I strongly differ with him on this point. There was no safety measures. About 18 workers were working at a height of 41.6 metres. At that time, the fire broke out at the bottom. There was no safety measure for rescuing the people working there. One person jumped and died. Another person tried to escape by coming down through the rope. But he slipped and died. And the hon. Minister has said that the safety measures were adequate. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will look into the matter or not?

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Funds allotted to Maharashtra State Electricity Board by Rural Electrification Corporation

*408. **SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allotted by the Rural Electrification Corporation to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board for electricity connections to the agricultural pump sets during 1987-88 and 1988-89;

(b) whether the Maharashtra State Electricity Board has asked for more funds to clear the pending applications for electricity connections;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):

(a) Year-wise allotment of funds under the Special Project Agriculture (SPA) Programme of Rural Electrification Corporation for release of electric connections to agricultural pumpsets in Maharashtra is as under:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount (Rs. in crores)</i>
1987-88	30.24
1988-89	19.83

In addition, during 1988-89 the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 13.75 crores under the normal programme mainly for electrification of 450 villages and release of 1000 pumpsets.

(b) to (d). The Maharashtra Government have requested for additional funds for clearing 2.5 lakhs pending application for agricultural pumpsets. The proposal of Maharashtra Government for providing additional funds over and above the plan allocation of 1988-89 is being examined in consultation with concerned authorities.

Audit of Accounts of Companies in Joint Sector

*412. **SHRI V.N. GADGIL:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Valley Paper Mills, Andhra Valley Power Supply Company, Escorts Limited, Hindustan Brown Boveri (Larsen and Toubro), Hastings Mills Limited, Gujarat State Fertilisers, Poysha Industrial Company, Nagarjuna Steel, Banswara Syntex and Vikrant Tyres having more than 51 per cent equity in them held singly or jointly by Government companies or institutions are "deemed Government companies" under section 619 (B) of the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) whether it is also a fact that none of these companies have submitted their accounts for auditing to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the last five years as required under the Companies Act, and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). There is no company in the name and style of "Andhra Valley Paper Mills". Another company, M/s. Hastings Mills Ltd., has been merged with M/s. Shree Digvijay Cement Company Ltd., as per orders of the Court dated 23-2-1984. Out of the remaining 8 companies, only two companies, namely, M/s. Gujarat State Fertilizers Company Ltd. and M/s. Vikrant Tyres Ltd., are covered under Section 619-B of the Companies Act, 1956 and as per information available, both these companies have submitted their accounts to Comptroller and Auditor General of India. M/s. Vikrant Tyres Ltd. is a Section 619-B company since the year 1985-86.

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

Dankuni Coal Complex, West Bengal

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

(a) whether efforts have been made to ascertain the reasons for delay and to fix the responsibility on all those who delayed the completion of the Dankuni Coal Complex

Project, Hooghly, West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b). Dankuni Coal Complex project was sanctioned by the Government of India in 1980. Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, was appointed as the turnkey contractor for execution of the project. The project was originally scheduled to be completed in September, 1984. There has been delay in the completion of the project and the project is now likely to be commissioned by 31st December, 1988.

An Inter-Departmental Committee was constituted by the Department of Coal comprising of representatives of the Department of Coal, Department of Public Enterprises, Heavy Engineering Corporation and Coal India Limited to examine the reasons for delay in the implementation of Dankuni Coal Complex Project and to identify the agencies responsible therefor. The implementation of the project has got delayed due to various reasons, like initial delay in consolidating the land at construction site, delays in structural and erection work of the retort section, receipt of design packages, import of equipment etc. The Committee is finalising its report.

Procurement of Power Generation Equipment for Farakka Thermal Power Station

*418. SHRI C. JANGAREDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether power generation equipment for the Farakka Thermal Power Station has been procured from some foreign suppliers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for rejecting the claim of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited; and

(d) whether global tenders along with inbuilt financial packages were invited and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d). The Steam Generator (SG) and Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) Packages for the Farakka Super Thermal Power Project Stage-II are being procured under Italian credit from M/s Ansaldo Componenti SPA of Italy at a total value of Rs. 210.57 crores, excluding port trust charges, ocean freight for SG and inland transportation and insurance for ESP. Since the Italian assistance for these packages was available only if orders were placed on the Italian suppliers, procurement was not feasible from M/s BHEL.

In respect of the portion of the equipment for the project covered by the World Bank financing, global tenders were invited and orders for turbine generators and other major equipment packages were placed on M/s BHEL.

Agreement between BHEL and ISRO for Solar Cells

*419. **SHRI M.V. CHANDRA-SEKHARA MURTHY:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the solar cells manufactured by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited have been found of sub-standard quality by the Indian Space Research Organisation;

(b) the quantity of solar cells ordered by ISRO to the BHEL;

(c) the details of the agreement under which this order was placed;

(d) how much loss the BHEL will suffer due to rejection of the order;

(e) whether any responsibility has since been fixed on the BHEL; and

(f) the reaction of Government in this

connection?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d). The manufacture of solar cells for space applications involves complex developmental efforts. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) entered into a development and supply contract for 1,17,000 (90,000 space qualified and 27,000 non-space qualified) solar cells with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) in July, 1981. A specific purchase order for 10,000 space qualified and 3,000 non-space qualified solar cells was placed on BHEL in August, 1981. The contract included specifications, price and supply schedules and test and acceptance procedures for solar cells as prescribed by ISRO. BHEL obtained the basic technology from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and established additional facilities at a total cost of Rs. 39.38 lakhs including some common facilities which could be used for other products also. By March, 1985 BHEL supplied about 2000 solar cells. Though the cells came close to meeting acceptable quality, they did not fully meet ISRO's special specification test and acceptance procedure for space quality cells. BHEL did not continue its efforts further due to techno-economic reasons. The contract was terminated in August, 1986. The loss incurred by BHEL in this project is estimated at Rs. 45.14 lakhs. However, some of the facilities created are being used for regular production of power devices as well as solar cells for terrestrial applications.

(e) and (f). The agreement between ISRO and BHEL was 'developmental' and in such complex and advanced technology, such problems are not uncommon. Government as a matter of policy, strives to develop indigenous sources in Indian industry for the requirements of the space and other programme; as such, efforts for indigenous development of space quality solar cells are continuing.

Industrial Ventures Floated by Engineers/Professionals in Delhi

*420. **SHRI SOMNATH RATH:** Will the

Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of engineers and professionals who have floated their own industrial ventures in Delhi under the 'half a million job' programme;

(b) whether those industries have flourished or are going to be closed;

(c) how many persons have got jobs in these industries;

(d) whether these entrepreneurs have been allotted sheds and given financial assistance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (e). According to Delhi Administration, 800 industrial sheds were allotted to engineers and professionals under the 'Half-a-Million Jobs Programme'. A recent survey conducted by Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (DSIDC) revealed that industrial units in 724 sheds were functioning. Approximately 8000 persons are estimated to be directly employed in these industrial units

In addition to allotment of sheds, the entrepreneurs were provided financial assistance as follows:-

- (i) Margin money amounting to Rs. 100 lakhs was provided to 353 entrepreneurs at a nominal interest to enable them to raise capital from the financial institutions.
- (ii) Financial assistance to the extent of Rs.6.45 lakhs was released by DSIDC to 22 entrepreneurs in the form of loan to enable them to raise finance from financial institutions.
- (iii) An amount of Rs. 7,92,300 was released to 7 industrial co-operative Societies of Engineer/diploma holders by the Depart-

ment of Industries, Delhi Administration as margin money/equity/capital.

[Translation]

Expansion of A.I.R. and T.V. in Seventh Plan Period

*422. SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH:
SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD:

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

(a) the target fixed for the expansion of Radio and Doordarshan network during the Seventh Plan period, State-wise;

(b) the extent to which this target has so far been achieved;

(c) the action taken to achieve the remaining target; and

(d) the time by which the remaining target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). Besides modernisation and augmentation of existing facilities for programme production and transmission and a number of ancillary schemes, the Seventh Plan envisages establishment of following main project for Radio and TV expansion:—

ALL INDIA RADIO

1. Setting up of 105 new Radio Stations.
2. Establishment of two Relay Centres and
3. Upgradation of the power of a number of existing radio transmitters.

DOORDARSHAN

1. Establishment of 32 Programme Production Centres
2. Installation of 281 TV transmitters.

The State-wise details are given in the statements placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See LT No. -6566/88]

(c) and (d). The remaining projects are at various stages of implementation and most of these are expected to be completed by the end of the Seventh Plan period.

[English]

Joint Ventures among Public Undertakings and Private Sector Units

*423. SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for promotion of joint ventures among the central and state undertakings and the private sector units; and

(b) if so, which are the industries considered for embarking on joint ventures so that they become economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). Government have been giving a measure of priority and preference to State Industrial Development Corporations (SIDCs) in the grant of Industrial Licences under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. The objective has been to enable the SIDCs to associate competent private sector parties in the implementation of the projects in the core and export oriented sectors and at the same time facilitate the rotation of funds by the SIDC, where necessary.

Inclusion of Paracetamol in Price Controlled List

*425. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister

of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Paracetamol for formulations have been categorised as "antimalarial drug" in the Drug (Price Control) Order, 1987 and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Kelkar Committee has opined that Paracetamol has no therapeutic value as an anti-malarial drug and hence it should be in the decontrolled category;

(c) whether in Indian Pharmacopoeia and British Pharmacopoeia and other authoritative textbooks, Paracetamol has not been specified as an anti-malarial drug;

(d) whether the All India Medical Association has protested against the categorisation of Paracetamol as an anti-malarial drug; and

(e) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Paracetamol was included in the first Schedule to the DPCO, 1987 on the basis of the recommendation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) The Kelkar Committee recommended that Paracetamol should be decontrolled.

(c) It is true that Indian Pharmacopoeia and British Pharmacopoeia and similar other text books do not specify Paracetamol as an anti-malarial drug.

(d) and (e). The representation made by the Indian Medical Association before the Kelkar Committee regarding wrong categorisation of drugs is being looked into by the Committee.

Expansion of Indian Telephone Industries Palghat

*426. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan for expansion of the Indian Telephone Industries, Palghat, Kerala has not been cleared by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There has been an increase in the capital cost of the expansion project over the cost estimates approved earlier and this is required to be cleared by the Government. As soon as cleared, the expansion project will be implemented.

Rural Telephone Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

*427. SHRI MANIK REDDY:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan for the establishment of rural telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of the districts of Andhra Pradesh in which rural telephone exchanges will be set up;

(c) whether Government propose to set up more telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh in near future and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH). (a) to (d). All districts subject to existence of minimum demand and availability of financial and material resources. Project Estimates for 50 exchanges stand sanctioned which are planned to be opened during 1988-89 are given in the Statement below.

Rs. 75 lakhs have been earmarked for this purpose.

STATEMENT

Names of Districts in Andhra Pradesh in which Rural Telephone Exchanges are Planned to be Opened during 1988-89

Sr. No.	Name of District
1	2
1.	Sangareddy
2.	Nizamabad
3.	Mehboobnagar
4.	Warangal
5.	Karimnagar
6.	Khammam
7.	Adilabad
8.	Nalgonda

Project Estimates for 50 exchanges in the districts stand sanctioned. These

1	2	3
9.	Chittoor	are proposed to be opened during 1988-89.
10.	Kurnool	
11.	Anantapur	
12.	Cuddapah	
13.	Nellore	
14.	West-Godavari	
15.	Prakasam	
16.	Srikakulam	
17.	Vizianagaram	
18.	Vishakhapatnam	

Coal Washeries in Bihar

4221. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal washeries which are by the side of river Damodar in Bihar and the total capacity thereof;

(b) whether a considerable quantum of coal turned into "fires" is deposited as "slurry" in the river bed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. ZAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) There are 7 Coal Washeries situated near the Damodar river. Their total operable capacity is about 13.25 million tonnes per annum of raw coal.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. During the rainy season, however, small quantities of coal fines that escape recovery at the washery end find their way through nallahs into the

river.

Licences to Nirma Chemical Works for Production of Soda Ash

4222. SHRI GANGA RAM:
SHRI K.N. PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nirma Chemical Works which is considered to be in small sector for production of synthetic detergents is proposing to invest over rupees three hundred crores in a large number of industries like toiletries, soda ash and caustic soda; and

(b) whether this company has been given licences for production of soda ash, caustic soda and fatty acid?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). In May, 1988, M/s. Nirma Pvt. Ltd., have been granted a letter of intent for the manufacture of 60,000 tonnes per annum of Distilled Fatty Acids. The company has also proposals to manu-

facture toilet soap and soda ash for which they have separately obtained provisional registrations from the Government under the scheme of delicensing. According to the company, the total investment on these projects would be around Rs. 220/- crores. The company has no proposal to manufacture caustic soda.

[Translation]

Re-opening of Tarikhet Bronze Factory in Almora, U.P.

4223. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Tarikhet Bronze Factory in Almora District of Uttar Pradesh is lying closed since long;

(b) whether an assurance was given that efforts would be made to re-open the factory;

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

(d) whether any fruitful results have been achieved through these efforts; and

(e) if not, whether any further action is proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Compensation to Villagers Affected During Laying of HBJ Pipeline in Uttar Pradesh

4224. SHRI RANAVIR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the compensation to the farmers of village Katoli, tehsil Faridpur, district Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh whose fields

have been covered during the laying of Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur (HBJ) gas pipeline between Aonla and IFFCO factory has not been paid so far; and

(b) if so the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to ensure immediate payment of compensation to the concerned farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) and (b). Out of 12 districts in U.P. through which the HBJ Gas Pipeline passes, payment of compensation was completed in 9 districts excluding the districts of Jhansi, Bareilly and Badaun. Calculation of compensation is based on land records, copy of sale deed prior to Gazette notification and crop compensation is based on the market rate. The payment of compensation in Bareilly district will also be made in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose.

[English]

Price of Cement

4225. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSAIN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the price per quintal of levy cement and levy-free cement, year-wise from 1980 to 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): As regards levy cement, according to the Cement Control Order, 1967, its price is fixed on per tonne basis. Accordingly, Statement I showing the prices of levy cement per tonne from 1.1.1980 to 30.9.1988, quarter-wise, is given below.

As regards non-levy cement it is free from price and distribution control and its price is determined through the operation of market forces from time to time. Further, the open market price of cement is with reference to a bag of 50 kg. Prior to the introduc-

tion of scheme of partial de-control of cement in Feb., 1982, the entire production of cement was sold as controlled cement and there was no non-levy category. Therefore, Statement-II showing the prices of non-levy

cement per bag (including all taxes) as prevalent in the last week of each year from 1982 to 1987 and first week of August, 1988 in respect of four metropolitan cities is given below.

STATEMENT I

Quarterwise F.O.R. Price of Levy Cement Per Tonne W.E.F. 1.1.1980 to 30.9.1988.

Year	Period	F.O.R. price of naked cement per tonne	Excise duty per tonne Rs.	Packing Charges per tonne	Total F.O.R. Price Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1980	1.1.80 to 31.3.80	318.94	68.25	66.94	454.13
	1.4.80 to 18.6.80	318.94	68.25	65.53	452.72
	19.6.80 to 30.6.80	318.94	71.50	65.53	455.97
	1.7.80 to 30.9.80	318.94	71.50	64.77	455.21
	1.10.80 to 31.12.80	318.94	71.50	62.30	452.74
1981	1.1.81 to 31.3.81	318.94	71.50	62.98	453.42
	1.4.81 to 30.6.81	318.94	71.50	59.01	449.46
	1.7.81 to 23.7.81	318.94	71.50	60.18	450.62
	24.7.81 to 30.9.81	400.85	71.50	60.18	532.51
	1.10.81 to 31.12.81	400.85	71.50	63.74	536.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
1982					
	1.1.82 to 27.2.82	400.85	71.50	63.93 8x9 @ 67.84 8x10	536.28 540.19
	28.2.82 to 31.3.82	440.00@	135.00	63.93 8x9 67.84 8x10	638.93 642.80
	1.4.82 to 30.6.82	440.00	135.00	61.75 8x9 65.57 8x10	636.75 640.50
	1.7.82 to 30.9.82	440.00	135.00	66.96 8x9 71.10 8x10 @	641.96 646.10
	1.10.82 to 31.12.82	440.00	135.00	76.48	651.49
1983					
	1.1.83 to 27.2.83	440.00	135.00	78.88	653.89
	28.2.83 to 31.3.83	440.00	205.00	78.88	723.88
	1.4.83 to 30.6.83	440.00	205.00	77.48	722.48
	1.7.83 to 1.7.83	440.00	205.00	83.96	728.93
	2.7.83 to 30.9.83	492.00	205.00	83.96	780.96
	1.10.83 to 31.12.83	492.00	205.00	89.93	786.93

1	2	3	4	5	6
1984	1.1.84 to 31.3.84	492.00	205.00	99.73	796.73
	1.4.84 to 30.6.84	492.00	205.00	108.43	805.43
	1.7.84 to 17.7.84	492.00	205.00	117.47	814.47
	18.7.84 to 30.9.84	532.00	205.00	117.47	854.47
	1.10.84 to 31.12.84	532.00	205.00	127.65	864.65
1985					
	1.1.85 to 16.3.85	532.00	205.00	176.94	913.94
	17.3.85 to 31.3.85	532.00	225.00	176.94	933.94
	1.4.85 to 30.6.85	532.00	225.00	183.76	940.76
	1.7.85 to 30.9.85	532.00	225.00	183.29	940.29
	1.10.85 to 31.12.85	532.00	225.00	128.12	885.12
1986					
	1.1.86 to 31.3.86	532.00	225.00	102.31	859.31
	1.4.86 to 30.6.86	532.00	225.00	88.96	845.98
	1.7.86 to 30.9.86	532.00	225.00	84.10	841.10
	1.10.86 to 31.12.86	532.00	225.00	96.99	853.99

6

5

4

3

2

1

1987

847.56

90.56

225.00

532.00

1.1.87 to 31.3.87

852.07

95.07

225.00

532.00

1.4.87 to 30.6.87

851.42

i) 94.42 *

225.00

532.00

1.7.87 to 30.9.87

842.02

ii) 85.02 **

841.42

iii) 84.42 ***

852.85

i) 95.85 *

225.00

532.00

1.10.87 to 31.12.87

843.45

ii) 86.45 **

842.85

iii) 85.85 ***

1988

856.98

i) 99.98 *

225.00

532.00

1.1.88 to 29.2.88

847.58

ii) 90.58 **

846.98

iii) 89.98 ***

847.23

i) 99.98 *

215.25

532.00

1.3.88 to 31.3.88

1	2	3	4	5	6
				ii) 90.58 **	837.83
				iii) 89.98 ***	837.23
	1.4.88 to 30.6.88	532.00	215.25	i) 107.03 *	854.20
				ii) 98.83 **	846.08
				iii) 101.43	849.68
	1.7.88 to 30.9.88	532.00	215.25	i) 108.94 *	856.19
				ii) 100.74 **	847.99
				iii) 103.34 ***	850..59

@ Denotes weaving pattern of construction of gunny bags.

* i) When packed in Conventional Jute bags (531 gms).

* ii) When packed in NCB Light Weight Jute Bags (446 gms).

*** iii) When packed in NCB Jute Synthetic Union Bags (415 gms).

1. Applicable for OPC/PSC w.e.f. 28.2.82 F.O.R price of PPC and Masonary cement is less by Rs. 15 per tonne.

2. The above price is exclusive of Central and State Sales Taxes, local levies and margin of profit and local transport expenses etc. as applicable and fixed by the various State Governments/ Union Territories Administrations.

STATEMENT II

Prices Per Bag in Respect of Four Metropolitan Cities During the Last Week of Each Year from 1982 to 1987 and 1st Week of August, 1988 Including All Taxes.

(Figures in Rupees)

Sl.No.	Name of the city	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Delhi	60.56	64.75	62 to 64	58 to 62	65 to 67	61 to 62	70 to 75
2.	Calcutta	61.16	58.50	60 to 61	76 to 78	73 to 74	64 to 66	78 to 82
3.	Bombay	65 to 75	69	62	62 to 65	65 to 72	70 to 72	80 to 82
4.	Madras	70	70	68	72	66 to 70	69 to 72	66 to 72

Sick Industrial Units

4226. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick industrial units in the large scale sector in West Bengal;

(b) the particulars of each large scale unit;

(c) the particulars of the units under Centre's management which have been 'denotified';

(d) the total number of workers affected as a result of denotification by Union Government; and

(e) the main reasons for sickness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) As per the provisional data furnished by Reserve Bank of India, the number of sick units, as defined in Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, in the organised sector, in West Bengal, is 146 as at the end of June, 1987.

(b) In accordance with practices and usages customary among Bankers as also in conformity with the provisions of the statutes governing nationalised banks, it will not be possible to divulge the names of the sick units.

(c) The Central Government have so far denotified the following seven units, under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951;

1. M/s. Indian Rubber Manufacturers Ltd.
2. M/s. Containers & Closures Ltd.
3. M/s. Carter Pooler & Company (P) Ltd.

4. M/s. Motor & Machinery Manufacturers Ltd.

5. M/s. Sri Durga Cotton Spinning & Weaving Mills Ltd.

6. M/s. Bengal Potteries Ltd.

7. M/s. Mohini Mills Ltd.

The case of M/s. Bengal Potteries Ltd., is sub-judice.

(d) The number of workers affected in the seven denotified units is about 9,700.

(e) A number of causes, both internal and external often operating in combination, having been responsible for industrial sickness. Some of the causes are faulty planning, management deficiencies, inefficient financial control diversion of resources, inadequate attention of R & D, obsolescence of technology and machinery, poor industrial relations, excess labour force, inadequacy of demand, shortage of raw materials and other inputs and infrastructural constraints.

Funding of National Industrial Technology Data Bank

4227. SHRI H.B.PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details regarding funding of the National Industrial Technology Data Bank and the facilities likely to be extended by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Industrial Technology Information Centre would be funded through budgetary resources and support from EEC. The facility to be extended by this Centre would be to collect, analyse and disseminate information on technical and commercial aspects of Industrial Technologies from abroad and within the country.

Setting up of Medium Type Automatic Telephone Exchanges

4228. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will

the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medium type automatic telephone exchanges set up in different States by the end of 1987;

(b) the number of lines in a medium type automatic telephone exchange;

(c) whether there is a great demand from various States to provide automatic telephone exchanges in place of manual exchanges;

(d) if so, the details of requests so far received from each State and particularly from Gujarat;

(e) whether Government have any proposal to set up some more such medium type automatic exchanges during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(f) the names of the cities where manual telephone exchanges will be converted in auto exchange during the remaining period of the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). There is no classification as medium type exchange. However, as on 31.3.87 there are a total of 2204 exchanges in the country with equipped capacity ranging from 100 to 2000 lines.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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

(e) Yes, Sir.

Removal of Production Assistants from Service in Delhi Doordarshan

4229. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 15 production Assistants in Delhi Doordarshan were removed from service recently; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). The matter is subjudice.

[Translation]

Purchase of machines by Coal India Limited

4230. SHRI S.D.SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total value and the number of machines purchased so far by the Coal India Limited after the acquisition of coal mines and the dates on which these machines have been purchased;

(b) the number of machines out of them, which have not been utilised so far;

(c) the reasons for not utilising these machines and their total value; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any action against those officers who had recommended the purchase of such unnecessary machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Expansion of Telecommunications Network in Madhya Pradesh

4231. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked for the expansion of telecommunication net-work in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the amount proposed to be spent in the various telecommunication expansion programmes in Madhya Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan period and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The approved outlay during 7th Plan is Rs. 4010 Crores (1984 prices).

(b) Telecommunication network is an integrated network and extends beyond the territorial limits of the States, therefore, outlays have not been worked out statewide.

Excise duty on Cement

4232. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the excise duty on cement

was substantially reduced in the last budget;

(b) if so, whether the levy cement quota was also reduced recently to help the manufacturers;

(c) if so, whether the market price of non-levy cement has now reached about Rs. 80 per bag; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to counter profiteering by the Cement manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Excise duty on cement, covered under Item No. 2502.20 of the Excise List, was reduced from Rs. 225/- per tonne to Rs. 205/- per tonne w.e.f. 1.3.88. However, in view of the levy of a special excise duty on all excisable good @ 5% of basic excise duty, the net reduction in excise duty in the case of certain cement units varies from Rs. 9.75 per tonne to Rs. 12.25 per tonne.

(b) With effect from 1.3.88 the levy obligation of various categories of cement units has been reduced as under:-

(i) Pre-1982 units:-

(a) Sick units : From 30% to 15% of actual production

(b) Other than sick units : From 50% to 30% of actual production

(ii) Units which commenced production sometime prior to 1.1.82, but were deemed to have commenced commercial production after 1.1.82 : From 30% to 20% of actual production

(iii) Expansion of capacities after 1.1.82 : From 30% to 20% of actual production

(c) The price of non-levy cement has touched about Rs. 80/- per bag at a few places only. In most other cities in the country, the prices are reported to be below

Rs. 80/- bag. As statement showing the prices of non-levy cement at various centres, in the first week of August, 1988, is given below.

(d) Non-levy cement is free from price and distribution control and its price fluctuates according to the demand and supply position.

STATEMENT

Prices of Non-Levy Cement Per Bag During 1st Week of August, 1988 in the Important Cities

(Price per bag including all taxes in rupees)

Sl.No.	Name of the City	August, 88 (1st Week)		
1	2	3		
<i>NORTH ERN REGION</i>				
1.	Delhi	70	to	75
2.	Karnal	71	to	75
3.	Ludhiana	71	to	75
4.	Chandigarh	72	to	74
5.	Jaipur	77	to	73
6.	Lucknow	70	to	73
7.	Srinagar	73	to	85
8.	Shimla	73		
<i>EASTERN REGION</i>				
9.	Calcutta	78	to	82
10.	Patna	73	to	75
11.	Bhubaneswar	72	to	74
12.	Guwahati	85	to	92
<i>WESTERN REGION</i>				
13.	Bombay	80	to	82
14.	Bhopal	65	to	67
15.	Goa	76	to	80
16.	Ahmedabad	70	to	73

1	2	3
17.	Rajkot	62 to 69
18.	Garoda	68.55 to 71.50.
19.	Surat	69 to 70
<i>SOUTHERN REGION</i>		
20.	Madras	68 to 72
21.	Trivendrum	78 to 84
22.	Bangalore	77 to 78
23.	Hyderabad	69 to 70
24.	Calicut	76 to 82

Nationalisation of Films Distribution

4234. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to nationalise the distribution of feature films produced in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Production and distribution of films is an unregulated activity. Exhibition is regulated only in terms of licensing of the place of exhibition. This is in the State List. Government control and/or intervention in this activity is not feasible since production is unregulated. It would not be correct to control and/or regulate production as that would inhibit creativity.

Dhaleswari Hydel Project Mizoram

4235. SHRI SUDARSHAN DAS: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) when the project report of Dhaleswari Hydroelectric project in the state of Mizoram was submitted by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation to the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) whether the Central Electricity Authority has since conducted the techno-economic appraisal and cleared the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and when it will be cleared by the C.E.A. and Department of Environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c). The project report of Dhaleswari Hydro-electric Project in Mizoram was submitted by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation to the Central Electricity Authority in October, 1984. In view of the other

benefits, apart from power generation, likely to accrue from the project, the project is now proposed to be treated as a multi-purpose project and the project cost is proposed to be apportioned amongst various sectors. The cost estimates of the project have been updated by the NHPC and submitted to CEA in May, 1988. The Central Water Commission and the Central Electricity Authority have undertaken the technoeconomic appraisal of the project as a multi-purpose project. The Ministry of Environment and Forests are also, simultaneously, processing the project for clearance from the environmental and forest angles.

Employment on Compassionate Ground

4236. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cases of employment of the sons/wards of the employees who died while in service are pending with the Departments of Posts and Telecommunications and in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh Postal and Telecommunications circles during the period of Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, circle wise for Punjab and Himachal Pradesh;

(c) the reasons for delay in offering employment on compassionate ground and the likely date by which all such pending cases would be cleared and the sons/wards appointed; and

(d) whether it would be ensured that all such cases are cleared within one year of their receipt, so as to avoid any hardship to the family?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Superannuated Persons Working In Central Public Sector Undertakings In Kerala

4237. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of superannuated persons working in each of the central public sectors undertakings in Kerala; and

(b) the reasons for their continuance in service?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Leakage of Gas From LPG Cylinders In Delhi

4238. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have recently been cases of gas leakage from LPG cylinders resulting in catching fire in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the loss suffered, the number of deaths and injured persons, etc;

(c) the causes of leakage of cylinders; and

(d) the steps being taken by various Oil Companies supplying LPG throughout the country to prevent such leakages and educate the consumers against such hazards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b). During the period from April 1988 to mid August 1988, there were 10 cases in Delhi of LPG-related fire accidents. These accidents resulted in a total damage to property to the tune of Rs 2.97 lakhs and burn injuries to 27 persons, out of which 11 died;

(c) Investigations revealed that the main causes of these accidents were:-

- (i) Leakage of LPG;
- (ii) Faulty rubber tubes;
- (iii) Negligence of consumers, etc.;

(d) The oil industry procures LPG cylinders, PRs and valves only from approved manufacturers and conforming to the quality specifications of the Bureau of Indian Standards. The filled cylinders are subjected to stringent checks at various points to detect leakages, if any. Information on the use of LPG cylinders is being disseminated through the press, TV, radio, magazines consumers seminars, safety clinics, etc., to the consumers. Regular training programmes for LPG distributors and deliverymen are also carried out by the oil companies on a continuous basis;

Joint Ventures with China

4240. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Industry is keen on joint venture with China for transportation of liquid products and heavy duty goods upto 500 tonnes;

(b) if so, the details of the possible joint ventures;

(c) by what time the proposals will be finalised;

(d) whether Government have any plan to have ministerial level talks with China on the question of joint ventures;

(e) if so, by what time ; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI. M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c).

It has been reported by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) that during the visit of a business delegation sponsored by it to China from May 23, to June 2, 1988, the Indian business delegation expressed a desire to enter into joint venture arrangement in the field of transportation of heavy duty goods upto 500 tonnes and liquid products. The Chinese side took note of the proposal.

(d) to (f). There is no proposal with the Government at present for holding ministerial level talks with China on the question joint-ventures.

Modernisation of Coal Mining Projects by Coal India Ltd., Calcutta

4241. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited, Calcutta and its subsidiaries have taken up an ambitious programme of modernisation of various coal fields/mining projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the projects that have been identified and the total amount to be spent thereon; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned for procurement of equipment both of domestic and foreign origin and time schedule fixed for completion of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) Coal India Ltd. along with its subsidiary companies has drawn up a programme of modernisation which comprises reorganisation of existing mines to improve the production capacity and efficiencies, opening of new mines to meet the increasing demand for coal and augmentation of infrastructural and support facilities.

(b) to (d). The total number of sanctioned mining projects is 169. A substantial

portion of the sanctioned amount in mining projects is for the procurement of indigenous and imported machinery and equipment,

companywise break up of mining projects and the sanctioned capital cost are given in the table below:-

<i>Name of company</i>	<i>Sanctioned Mining Projects</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Capital cost (Rs. Crores)</i>
ECL	32	1174.50
BCCL	44	890.49
CCL	27	410.75
NCL	8	1999.34
WCL	27	472.75
SECL	31	937.68
Total	169	5885.51

During the Seventh Five Year Plan an outlay of Rs. 6000.58 crores has been envisaged for both mining and non-mining projects of Coal India Ltd. During first three years of Seventh Plan the actual expenditure by Coal India Ltd. has been Rs. 842.73 crores (1985-86), Rs. 980.41 crores (1986-87) and Rs. 1007.65 crores (1987-88). An outlay of Rs. 1314 crores has been fixed for 1988-89.

Out of a total number of 43 on going mining projects costing Rs. 20 crores and more, 18 projects are on schedule where as 25 projects have been delayed because of various reasons like land acquisition etc.

Expansion of Air and Doordarshan

4242. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the expansion plan of the AIR and Doordarshan for the next three years, State-wise;

(b) the present position regarding TV uplinking transmitters and microwave link-

ing and the number of States benefited by these facilities and when other States are likely to get these facilities; and

(c) the details of schemes proposed for Ahmedabad and Gujarat in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) A statement indicating the VII Plan projects of AIR and Doordarshan likely to be completed in the next 3 years, namely by the end of VII Plan, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No LT-6567/88]

(b) Satellite based telecast of Regional Service, has already been introduced in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. The similar service on a limited scale has been introduced in Tamil Nadu with effect from 15.8.88 Karnataka, Orissa and North Eastern region are expected to get the satellite based regional service on operationalisation of INSAT-1C/availability of uplink facilities.

High power transmitters in West Ben-

gal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Punjab have been linked to the respective programme Production Centre through Microwave links. TV transmitters at Calicut is expected to be linked to Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum through Microwave during 1988-89.

(c) All TV transmitters in Gujarat are envisaged to be linked to TV Centre, Ahmedabad consequent upon operationalisation of INSAT-II during early 1990s or earlier if requisite facility becomes available in INSAT-IC.

Electrification of Narwana Cooperative Group Housing Society in Patparganj Delhi

4243. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given on 2 August, 1988 to Unstarred Question 1002 re: supply of power to Cooperative Group Housing Societies in Delhi and state:

(a) whether the instructions given to the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking to complete the electrification of colonies of the Group Housing Societies within six months, in Mayur Vihar Phase-II, are also applicable to other Societies located in the adjacent Trans-Yamuna Colonies, particularly the Group Housing Societies in the Patparganj Housing Complex;

(b) if so, the reasons why the internal electrification work of Narwana Cooperative Group Housing Society in Patparganj has not been completed by the Delhi Electric Supply Undertakings, even after the lapse of over six months; and

(c) the time by which the DESU propose to complete the remaining work of internal electrification of Narwana Cooperative Group Housing Society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, the scheme of electrification of Narwana Cooperative Group Housing Society was released for execution in November, 1987. The Society has yet to deposit the remaining 25% of its share towards the cost of electrification etc. Some changes in the electrification scheme have also been suggested by the society which are being examined by DESU. The electrification work is expected to be completed by DESU by the end of this year subject to receipt of remaining 25% of Society's share of the cost and implementation of the changes suggested by them.

Procurement of Equipment for Lignite Mining in Rajasthan

4244. SHRI H.N.NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited is still working with the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. as nodal agency for exploration of lignite deposits in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the results achieved so far;

(c) whether the NLC has made out the system to be adopted for the lignite mining there and whether equipment are yet to be procured;

(d) whether any foreign aid/assistance has been received; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the exploration of lignite carried out in Barmer and Bikaner districts of Rajasthan, a total of about 500 million tonnes of in-place geological reserves of lignite has been estimated.

(c) NLC has prepared feasibility report.

for a lignite mine of 1.7 million tonnes capacity at Barsinghsar in Bikaner District which is under techno-economic appraisal of the Government.

(d) No, sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Growth Centres in Goa

4245. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any growth centre is proposed to be identified in the State of Goa for central assistance for infrastructural development ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the recent Government announcement regarding setting up of 100 growth centres all over the country. The growth centres will be identified in consultation with the State Governments concerned.

Rural Electrification Scheme under 20 Point Programme

4246. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) State-wise position at present with regard to the implementation of the Rural

Electrification Scheme under the 20-Point Programme;

(b) the target fixed for the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether the progress is very slow and is much behind the schedule;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to achieve the target during the remaining period; and

(e) the steps taken by government to achieve the cent per cent goal in regard to implementation of the Rural Electrification Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) Statement I and II indicating statewide position of village electrification and pumpset energisation as on 30.6.1988 are given below.

(b) The Planning Commission has fixed a target of electrification of 118,101 villages and energisation of 234,9678 electric pumpsets during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Planning Commission is enhancing the Plan outlays in respect of Rural electrification programme from plan to plan. Cent percent electrification in the country is expected to be achieved by the end of 8th Plan subject to availability of resources and other inputs.

STATEMENT - I

Progress in electrification of villages as on 30.6.1988

S.No.	States/U.Ts.	Total No. of villages	total achievement as on 30.6.1988.
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27379	25787 (*)

81	Written Answers	BHADRA 8, 1910 (SAKA)	Written Answers	82
1	2	3	4	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3257	1073	
3.	Assam	21995 (£)	17924 (*)	
4.	Bihar	67546	41049 (*)	
5.	Goa	386	377	
6.	Gujarat	18114	17886	
7.	Haryana	6745	6745	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16807	16778 (c) (*)	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6477	6011 (*)	
10.	Karnataka	27028	26589 (c) (*)	
11.	Kerala	1219	1219	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	71352	51947 (*)	
13.	Maharashtra	39354	37905	
14.	Manipur	2035	903 (*)	
15.	Meghalaya	4902	1662 (*)	
16.	Nagaland	1112	1072	
17.	Mizoram	721	252 (e)	
18.	Orissa	46553	27962 (*)	
19.	Punjab	12342	12342	
20.	Rajasthan	34968	23060	
21.	Sikkim	440	303	
22.	Tamil Nadu	15831	15736	
23.	Tripura	856 (4727 as per 1971 Census)	2346 (*)	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	112566	75953	

83	Written Answers	AUGUST 30, 1988	Written Answers	84
1	2	3	4	
25.	West Bengal	38024	23744	(*)
	Total (States)	578009	436625	
	Total (U.Ts)	1123	1033	
	Total (All India)	579132	437658	

(c)- As on 31.5.1988. (e) As on 31.3.1988 (*) as per 1971 census.

STATEMENT II

Progress in the energisation of Electric I.P. Sets/Tubewells as on 30.6.1988

S.No.	States/U.Ts.	Estimate ultimate potential in terms of Electric I.P. Sets	Total Achievement soon as on 30.6.1988
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15000000	960079
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
3.	Assam	200000	3225
4.	Bihar	1000000	227076
5.	Goa	(*)	3272
6.	Gujarat	500000	385021
7.	Haryana	250000	327104
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10000	2999
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	15000	1637
10.	Karnataka	600000	596508
11.	Kerala	150000	176593
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1300000	620328
13.	Maharashtra	900000	1251508
14.	Meghalaya	10000	65
15.	Manipur	10000	45

1	2	3	4
16.	Mizoram	—	—
17.	Nagaland	10000	10
18.	Orissa	500000	38544
19.	Punjab	500000	515452
20.	Rajasthan	600000	308630
21.	Sikkim	5000	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	1000000	1207500
23.	Tripura	10000	1191
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2400000	598607
25.	West Bengal	500000	62301
Total (States)		11970000	7287695
Total (U.Ts.)		30000	29744
Total (All-India)		12000000	7317439

(*) Potential of Goa State included in Total (UTs).

Doordarshan News Service

4247. CH. RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reorganise and improve the Doordarshan New Service; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Yes,
Sir, Doordarshan have chalked out a
scheme to expand and improve its TV News
coverage which includes setting up of a
Central News Organisation responsible for
national news bulletins and current affairs

programme. The scheme also includes the
provision of modern equipment like Beta-
cam Cameras and editing suits etc. in addi-
tion to transport and other supporting faci-
lities like digital library. For re-organisation
and strengthening the news set up of Doord-
arshan, fifty-seven posts of TV News Corre-
spondents/Assistant News Correspond-
ents/Assistant News Editors have been
sanctioned and offers of appointments have
been issued to the selected candidates.

Best Source of Oil

4248. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMA-
CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETRO-
LEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to
state:

(a) the best source of oil identified by the
Oil and Natural Gas Commission; and

(b) the estimated annual production from this source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Bombay High field is the best source of oil so far discovered by ONGC.

(b) (The production of crude oil from this field during 1987-88 was 18.48 million tonnes.

Sickness in Small Scale Industrial Units

4250. **SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spurt in the sickness of small industrial units in recent years;

(b) if so, whether a comprehensive survey at Government's level has been conducted to find out the real causes of the sickness; and

(c) if so, the concrete measures taken or proposed to be taken to help the small units with a view to make them on going units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country are collected by the Reserve Bank of India as per the definition of sickness adopted by it. According to the data available from the Reserve Bank of India there were 1,45,776 SSI units identified by banks as sick at the end of December, 1986 as against 78,351 at the end of December, 1983 constituting 7.8% and 6.3% of the total borrowing SSI units respectively. The amount locked up in sick SSI units formed 14.3% and 13.5% of the aggregate bank advances to small scale units at the end of December, 1986 and December, 1983 respectively.

(b) A diagnostic survey regarding sickness in the small scale units was conducted by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) in 1982-83 which, inter alia, identified causes of sickness in the small scale sector.

(c) A number of measures have been taken by the Government for detecting sickness at the incipient stage and towards rehabilitation of sick units in the small scale sector. Detailed guidelines have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India to all commercial banks in February, 1987 with specific reference to detecting incipient sickness, identification of sick small scale units viability norms, as also reliefs and concessions from banks/ financial institutions for implementation of rehabilitation packages in the case of potentially viable sick units. The Small Industries Development Fund set up by the Industrial Development Bank of India in May, 1986 also provides for rehabilitation assistance to sick SSI units financed by commercial banks, State Financial Corporations and State Small Industries Development Corporations. Financial assistance in the form of long term equity type assistance upto Rs. 75,000/- to units with a project cost not exceeding Rs. 5 lakhs at a nominal service charge of one per cent per annum is also available to potentially viable sick SSI units from the National Equity Fund set up in August, 1987. The Government of India have liberalised the Margin Money Scheme for revival of sick small scale units and the quantum of assistance under the Scheme has been raised from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- per unit.

Demand for Gas from Gujarat State Electricity Board

4251. **SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received

a demand from the Gujarat State Electricity Board for allocation of gas supply to meet the additional demands for generating electricity in Gujarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Proposals for the following gas based power plants have been received from the Gujarat Electricity Board.

i) Uttaran combined cycle Power Plant	—	123	MW
ii) Gas based power station at Battol, Kalol and Ankleshwar	—	99	MW
iii) Combined Cycle TPS based on Gandhar Gas field in Bharuch District	—	600	MW
iv) Gas based combined cycle Power Project in South Saurashtra	—	75	MW
v) Dhuvaran TPS	—2. x	35	MW

Bearing in mind the availability of natural gas, gas for GEB's Projects at Dhuvaran and Uttaran has been committed this year.

Cent Per Cent T.V. Coverage

4252. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population benefited under T.V. programmes; and

(b) the targets achieved so far and fixed for cent per cent coverage of the population under T.V. programme by providing T.V. stations in the States not having the same?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). The T.V. service is at present available to about 72 % population of the country and this will increase to about 83% with the implementation of all the schemes included in the VII plan. Any further expansion would depend upon availability of resources under the future plans.

Utilisation of Foreign Assistance

4253. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given on 9 August, 1988 to Starred Question No. 192 regarding foreign cooperation in field of energy and state:

(a) the exact purpose for which the credit is to be utilised in each case;

(b) whether the credit can be spent on a global basis or only in the donor country; and

(c) the period during which the credit must be utilised in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Joint Bipartite Committee on Coal Industry

4254. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to

state:

(a) whether the core group set up by the Joint Bipartite Committee on Coal Industry (JBCCI) to be into the details of grades and the existing disparities between minimum and maximum pay of miners and other non-executive staff had met recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the new formula chalked out by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) A Steering Group of Joint Bipartite Committee on Coal Industry has been formed to examine the modalities of formulation of new grades and scales of pay of non-executive employees.

(b) The Group has not yet completed its deliberations.

Appointments on Permanent Basis in Super Thermal Power Project at Farakka

4255. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some jobs of permanent nature are performed by contract labourers engaged by contractors in the Super Thermal Power Project of Farakka;

(b) If so, the number of such workers/employees category-wise;

(c) whether such workers/employees are paid much less as wages than that fixed under the Minimum Wages Act alongwith the reaction of the National Thermal Power Corporation as the principal employer;

(d) the reasons for which appointments on permanent basis are not being made though the nature of the works is of a permanent one;

(e) whether Government propose to recruit people on permanent basis with prior-

ity to members of the land ousted families against these jobs;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (g). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Charges by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. New Delhi

4256. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., New Delhi has billed a sum of Rs. 75 as Directory' charges in the telephone rental and other charges bills sent earlier this month to the subscribers at '60' and '67' exchanges;

(b) whether such charges have been or are being levied from all the subscribers;

(c) whether any public notice for levying such charges was issued in advance; if so, when and whether a copy thereof would laid on the Table; and

(d) what is the authority for this billing for the first time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir, The charges have only been levied for those subscribers for whom additional entries have been printed in addition to normal free entry.

(c) Yes Sir. All telephone subscribers

were informed in advance through individual letters. A copy of the letter is given in the statement below.

(d) The billing for additional entries is made as per request received from the subscribers for additional entry.

STATEMENT

Sub: Keeping you in Touch with the New Telephone Directory with yellow pages (Business Pages)

Dear Subscriber,

Our telephone directory supplement 1987 was in your hands in the month of April. The work on the main telephone directory, 1988 is now under way. This directory, as you are aware, for the first time will be containing yellow pages. The work of Printing of this directory alongwith the yellow pages has been awarded to M/s United India Periodicals, and they are to bring it out by December 1987. We presume that subscribers of group entires as also those needing any alternations, additions, deletions etc. would have sent the requisite information to our Directory Officer by June 30, 1987 as requested earlier through our press advertisements in the leading dailies

One entry in the directory containing name and single address, as you know, is being given free. This system will continue in the new directory as well. However, in regard to additional entries which were earlier being changed at Rs. 40/- for every printed line and Rs. 80/- for each additional line in bold type, the revised tariff will now be Rs. 75/- for every additional printed line and Rs. 125/- for each line in bold type. In case you require any cancellation on account of revision in tariff, this may please be communicated to the Directory Officer latest by 31st July, 1987.

The details regarding the free listing and advertisement rates for the yellow pages will be available to all subscribes from United Database India Pvt. Ltd (UDI) a project of United India Periodicals. The launch-

ing of the UDI yellow pages will be yet another step in the direction of offering better services to our valued customers.

With you in mind, we in MTNL Delhi in our constant endeavour to upgrade the quality of telecommunication services in the capital shall bring more and more new services to your doorstep. We hope and trust, UDI yellow pages, which is one such new service will open an excellent business window and provide a unique source of information on business and services to one and all.

[Translation]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps in Madhya Pradesh

4257. SHRI NANDLAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the persons who have been allotted petrol pumps in Civil Line ward of Sagar city in Madhya Pradesh and on Sagar-Bhopal Road, and out of these how many are from Scheduled Castes; and

(b) the annual income stated by each of them before petrol pumps were sanctioned and their permanent address and occupation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) While the process of selecting dealers for the retail outlets (MS/HSD) to be established at Civil Lines, Sagar City and on the Sagar-Bhopal road (at 7 Km. stone) has been initiated, no selection has been made; the second of these is reserved for SC category;

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

[English]

Licence for Use of Satellite

4258. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be

pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made it compulsory to obtain licence for users of satellite antenna for receiving signals directly from INSAT -IB;

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

(c) the number of such users of satellite antenna who have applied for grant of necessary licence;

(d) how many of these applicants have since been issued the licence and how many applications are pending disposal and since when; and

(e) the reasons for delay in granting licence and when all the applicants are likely to be granted the said licence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). A license is necessary for operation/possession or dealing in a television set or video cassette recorder, set used or capable of being used for the reception of TV programmes with the use of special antenna and associated hardware direct from Indian Satellite.

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

Licences issued for 'No Industry Districts' in Punjab

4259. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences issued for 'No Industry Districts' in Punjab so far by Union Government; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUS-

TRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) None of the districts in the State of Punjab has been declared as 'No Industry District'.

(b) Does not arise.

Production and Import of Pesticides

4260. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pesticides which have been registered for being manufactured in the country till date;

(b) the indigenous production and import during the last year, item-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether any instructions have been issued that pesticides under Open General Licence should not be imported until clearance is taken from the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) A statement showing details of pesticides registered for manufacture is given below.

(b) The production and import figure for the year 1987-88 have not been compiled so far. They are available for the period 1986-87 for production and 1985-86 for imports. Figures for last year will be furnished when available.'

(c) No such instructions have been issued.

STATEMENT

List of Pesticides Registered for Indigenous Production

1. Acephate
2. Alpha Naphthyl Acetic Acid
3. Aluminium Phosphide

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 4. Atrazine | 30. Fenvalerate |
| 5. Barium Carbonate | 31. Glyphosate |
| 6. B.H.C. | 32. Isoproturon |
| 7. Butachlor | 33. Lindane |
| 8. Calcium Cyanide | 34. Malathion |
| 9. Captafol | 35. Maleic Hydrazide |
| 10. Captan | 36. Mancozeb |
| 11. Carbaryl | 37. M.E.M.C. |
| 12. Carbazim | 38. Methyl Bromide |
| 13. Carbofuran | 39. Methyl Parathion |
| 14. Carboxin | 40. Methyl Bromide+ Ethylene-Dibromide |
| 15. Chlorpyrifos | → 41. Metaxuron |
| 16. Copper Cxychloride | 42. Monocrotophos |
| 17. Cuprous Oxide | 43. Nickel Chloride |
| 18. Cypermethrin | 44. Nicotine Sulphate |
| 19. Dalapon | 45. Phorate |
| 20. Decamethrin | 46. Phosalone |
| 21. D.D.T. | 47. Phosphamidon |
| 22. Diazinon | 48. P.M.A. |
| 23. Dichlorvos | 49. Propoxur |
| 24. Dicofol | 50. Pyrethrum |
| 25. Dimethoate | 51. Quinalphos |
| 26. Diuron | 52. Simazine |
| 27. Edifenphos | 53. Sodium Cyanide |
| 28. Endosulfan | 54. Sulphur |
| 29. Fenthion | 55. Streptocycline |

56. Trichloro Acetic Acid
57. Thiram
58. Warfarin
59. Zinc Phosphide
60. Zineb
61. Ziram
62. 2,4-D(Sodium Salt & Ethyl-Ester)
63. Indiar. .

Telecast of Malayalam Films

4261. SHRI P.A. ANTONY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Malayalam feature films have been scheduled for telecast in the national network of Doordarshan during the current year; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of Malayalam films already telecast on the national network of Doordarshan during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Two feature films in Malayalam viz. 'Purushartham' and 'Veena Poovu' have been tentatively scheduled for telecast in the national network during the remaining part of the current year.

(b) Five feature films in Malayalam have already been telecast in the national network during the current year.

Increase in Monthly Rental of Telephone Connections

4262. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent increase in rental

of telephone connections meant for domestic/personal use as well as for commercial purposes has been made at par, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government propose to provide some relief to the persons having telephone connections for personal use and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The existing policy of the department is not to make any distinction in rental between different types of users. The same policy was followed in revising the tariffs from April, 1988.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration in view of the existing policy of the Department.

T.V. Programme Production Centre in Orissa

4263 SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a full-fledged T.V. Programme Production Centre in Orissa;

(b) if so, the place where the centre is proposed to be set up, the total area of land acquired for the purpose and the expenditure involved; and

(c) the time by which the centre is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Setting up of a full-fledged T.V. Studio Centre at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 1572.79 lakhs is under implementation at Bhubaneswar in Orissa. A land site measuring 5.05 acres has been acquired by Doordarshan for the purpose.

(c) The Centre at Bhubaneswar is ex

pected to be commissioned into service during 1990-91.

Non-Payment of Equity Shares Money by Companies In Calcutta Region

4264. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints of non-payment of equity shares money (guaranteed to be returned by the company) have been received by the Registrar of Companies, Calcutta, since January, 1988; and

(b) the number of cases where payment has not been made by the company companies and the action taken by the Registrar of Companies, Calcutta in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No complaint of non-payment or refund of money to applicants against public issue of share capital under section 73 of the Companies Act, 1956 has been received by Registrar of Companies, Calcutta since January, 1988.

(d) Does not arise.

Electrification of Villages and Pump Sets Energisation In U.P.

4265. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified during the last three years in Uttar Pradesh under Rural Electrification Programme;

(b) whether pump sets are also energised under the Rural Electrification Programme;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which they are likely to be energised.

(d) whether several pump sets which are not energised had been shown energised on paper; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take against those who are responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) In Uttar Pradesh 12674 villages were electrified during 1985-88.

(b) and (c). The pump sets are also energised under the Rural Electrification programme. In U.P., 83687 pump sets have been energised against a target of 79,000 pump sets during the last three years (1985-88).

(d) No such report has been brought to the notice of Rural Electrification Corporation.

(e) Does not arise.

Conversion of Vasai Telephone Exchange

4266. SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a considerable delay to replace Vasai (Maharashtra) manual telephone exchange by an automatic exchange;

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

(c) the time by which the Vasai Exchange will start working as automatic one and the programme for Vasai Exchange to have STD facility to Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (c). Vasai Exchange is programmed to be automatised by the end of 1988-89 and to have National STD facility by end of 7th Plan which will

include STD service to Bombay.

**Yearly Review of Various Media Bodies
Recommended by Second Press
Commission**

4267. SHRI HAREN BHUMJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter of yearly review of various media bodies of working journalists, editors, publishers and owners of newspapers as stipulated in Chapter 7, paragraph 48 of the Second press Commission Report;

(b) if so, when and the results thereof; and

(c) whether some press bodies have represented to Government for review of the representatives of the bodies represented on the committees; if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). The
Second Press Commission's recommenda-
tion as stipulated in Chapter 7, para 48 of its
Report was remitted to the Press Council of
India which had accepted the recommenda-
tion. Accordingly, the Council started the
process of collecting information from the
various recognised press bodies in 1983.
The response to this effort was not very
encouraging despite reminders. The Coun-
cil, therefore, reconsidered the matter and
decided that such details from the already
notified press bodies need not be called for
except in cases where there were objections
or complaints received by the Council
against a particular association/organisa-
tion that it had become defunct.

(c) Yes, Sir. Following a representation
from the Indian Federation of Small and
Medium Newspapers, the Government has
framed guidelines for determining the repre-
sentative character of various media bodies

for the purpose of giving them representa-
tion on various committees.

**Issuing of Licences for Distilleries and
Breweries in Karnataka**

4268. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the
Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to
the reply given on 16th August, 1988 to
Unstarred Question No. 2757 regarding
issuing of licences for Distilleries and Brew-
eries in Karnataka and state;

(a) whether Karnataka Government
has powers to grant licence to distilleries for
manufacturing rectified spirit from molas-
ses;

(b) if so, under what rules;

(c) whether Karnataka Government has
issued licences without prior approval of
Union Government; and

(d) the action Union Government con-
template in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI
J.VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (d). The licences for
distilleries & Breweries in Karnataka are
reported to have been granted under the
State Excise Laws on the plea that Industries
*(Development & Regulation) Act is not
applicable to Units employing less than 50
workers. The question of violation of the ban
orders on manufacture of potable alcohol
beyond the capacity which existed on
19.11.75 will be looked into and information
will be laid on the Table of the House as soon
as possible.

[Translation]

**Faulty Power Transformers of Delhi
Electric Supply Undertaking**

4269. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RA-
WAT:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MAN-
DAL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be

pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of power transformers of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking have become faulty before the guarantee period and have been dumped as waste material;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action against the companies from which these transformers were purchased; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of the cost of faulty transformers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) According to DESU, the transformers which become inoperative during the guarantee period are got replaced/repared by their manufacturers/ suppliers under the contractual obligations and are not dumped as waste material.

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

[English]

Medical Racket in Central Coalfields Ltd.

4270. DR. G.S. RAJHANS:
SHRIMATI MADHUREE
SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a medicine racket has been detected by the Central Coalfields Limited at Ranchi as reported in the Hindustan Times of 8 May, 1988;

(b) if so, the details of the firm involved in this racket;

(c) whether the Central Coalfields Limited has handed over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b). Two of the Ranchi-based medical firms, namely, M/s. Enfield Industries and M/s. Solar Enterprises, authorised by some reputed manufacturers of medicine as their stockists/distributors, tried to defraud the Central Coalfields Limited on the strength of suspected forged Government orders indicating rise in price of certain medicines and raising bills accordingly on the CCI for payment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The investigation of the case by the Central Bureau of Investigation is still in progress. However, pending investigation, on the basis of its own enquiries, the company has charge-sheeted 18 executives. All further payment to the concerned firms have already been stopped and overpayments, wherever made to the concerned firms, have been fully recovered/adjusted. The company has not suffered any financial loss on this account.

Sales Tax on Postal Stationery

4271. SHRI NARSING SURYAVANSI:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware that Andhra Pradesh Government has asked the Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle to pay sales tax on the postal stationery sold through post offices in the State; and

(b) if so, the Union Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The Postmaster General, Andhra Pradesh Circle, had reported about receiving a letter from Commercial Tax Officer, Government of Andhra

Pradesh, requesting the Postal Department in Andhra Pradesh to furnish the revenue realised from the sale of envelopes and money-order forms and stating that the sale is liable to sales tax.

(b) The matter was examined in consultation with the Ministry of Law & Justice and the Postmaster General, Andhra Pradesh has been advised suitably to explain to the appropriate authority that the postal department is not legally liable for such tax.

Production of Talcher Super Thermal Power Plant

4272. SHRI NITYANANDA MISHRA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of production of the Talcher

Power Plant in Orissa during the last three years years-wise;

(b) the increase in plant load factor during each of these years;

(c) whether a case of misappropriation of coal in Orissa State Electricity Board controlled plant in Talcher involving a sum of rupees one crore has come to light; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to remedy the Situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b). The requisite information is as under:

	Talcher Thermal Power Station	
	Generation (MU)	PLF(%)
1985-86	1304	31.7
1986-87	1307	31.7
1987-88	1343	32.5

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Investment of United Breweries Group in Petrochemical Industries

4273. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Breweries Group has applied for a licence for a project worth Rs. 2500 crores to start a Naphtha Cracker and down stream products unit as part of the Petrochemical Complex proposed to be set up at Vishakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details of the same and the present stage thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the overall investment of the United Breweries in the on-going petrochemical Industries would reach around Rs.500 crores; and

(d) what are the profits earned by the said group of Companies and whether all of these are FERA Companies?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) and (b). Some applications for setting up of the Petrochemical Complex at Visakhapatnam have been received. Final decision on these applications will be taken in due-course based on techno-economic considerations. Details of such applications are not disclosed till a final decision is taken on them.

(c) According to the party the overall

investment of the party in the petrochemical Industry as on 30th June 1988 is Rs.50.56 crores on Gross asset basis.

(d) These will be available from the Balance-Sheet of the Companies constituting this group.

Information regarding the FERA status of these companies is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Gift Schemes in Consumers Products

4274. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FERA Companies like Hindustan Lever Limited, Geoffrey Manners, Ponds India limited, Coalgate India Limited etc. manufacturing consumer products are asking their distributors/stockists to give gifts/schemes to the retail dealers so as to push their products in the market in competition with products of other manufacturers;

(b) if so, whether such practices are unfair trade practices falling within the purview of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade practices Act; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken against the erring companies under the aforesaid Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) There is no such case before the MRTP Commission relating to these four companies.

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

[*Translation*]

Anomaly in Pay Scales in Telecommunications Department

4275 SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Will

the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various unions had submitted a memorandum to Government to remove the anomalies existing in the pay scales in the Telecommunications Department ;

(b) if so, the names of such union which had submitted the memorandum;

(c) the details of demands made by each union;

(d) whether a notice of strike has been served recently by the All India Federation through a memorandum;

(e) if so, what are its demands; and

(f) the action being taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). do not arise.

[*English*]

Expansion of Central Undertakings in Kerala

4276. SHRI K. MOHANDAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals for expansion of central undertakings in Kerala accepted by Union Government for 1988-89; and

(b) the total outlay sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENKAT RAO) : (a) and (b). An outlay of Rs. 388.03 crores has been allocated for the

State of Kerala during the Seventh Five Year Plan in the Central Undertakings in the Industrial & Mineral Sector (excluding Petroleum, Coal & Power) for the on-going and new schemes.

Year-wise break-up not available.

Norms for Posting and Transfer in News Sections of A.I.R. and Doordarshan

4277. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has devised any norms for postings and transfers of staff working in the News sections of the A.I.R. and Doordarshan Kendras in the country; and

(b) if so, whether these norms are being applied uniformly in both these organisations throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Post-
ings and transfers of news personnel are
made on the basis of administrative require-
ments, tenure on a particular post or at a

particular station, individual aptitudes, need for specialisation in different areas, and overall performance including general reputation for conduct as enjoined in Government servant conduct rules.

[Translation]

Expansion of A.I.R. and T.V. Network in Maharashtra in the Seventh Plan Period

4278. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme chalked out for the expansion of Radio and Doordarshan network in Maharashtra during the Seventh Plan period and the extent to which this target has been achieved; and

(b) the time by which the remaining expansion work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). The
details in respect of All India Radio and
Doordarshan are given in the Statements I
and II below.

STATEMENT - I

ALL INDIA RADIO

I. SEVENTH PLAN SCHEMES

A. New Radio Stations :

1. Kolhapur	2	x	3	KW FM Transmitter, M.P. Studios
2. Nasik	2	x	3	KW FM (Local)
3. Ahmednagar	2	x	3	KW FM (Local)
4. Dhule	2	x	3	KW FM (Local)
5. Bir	2	x	3	KW FM (Local)
6. Chandarpur	2	x	3	KW FM (Local)

113	<i>Written Answers</i>	BHADRA 8, 1910 (SAKA)	<i>Written Answers</i>	114
7.	Nanded	2 x 3	KW FM (Local)	
8.	Akola	2 x 3	KW FM (Local)	
9.	Osmanabad	2 x 3	KW FM (Local)	
10.	Yavatmal	2 x 3	KW FM (Local)	
11.	Satara	2 x 3	KW FM (Local)	

B. Additional facilities at Existing Stations:-

1. Bombay :
 - i) Modernisation and refurbishing of the existing studios.
 - ii) Introduction of multichannel recording and stereo transmission facilities.
 - iii) Consolidation of Vividh Bharati Service.
 - iv) Replacement of 50 KW MW Transmitter by 100 KW MW.
 - v) Replacement of 20 KW MW Transmitter by 100 KW MW.
 - vi) Replacement of 10 KW SW Transmitter by 50 KW SW.
2. Pune :
 - i) Permanent Type IV Studios.
 - ii) Replacement of 1 KW MW Transmitter by 3 KW FM Transmitter (VB/Commercial).
3. Nagpur :
 - i) Replacement of 1 KW MW Transmitter by 2 x 3KW FM (VB/Commercial)
4. Parbhani :
 - i) Type I (R) Studios.

II. STATUS OF SEVENTH PLAN SCHEMES

1. Kolhapur: New Radio Station

Two sites have been taken over in December, 1986. the preliminary estimate for civil works sanctioned. The civil works for studio and staff quarters & transmitter building are in progress and the building is expected to be ready by December, 1988. Orders for transmitter and Studio equipment have been placed and expected to be delivered in 1988-89.

The radio station is expected to be

ready in 1989-90.

2. Nasik: Local Radio Station

The site for this project has been finalised and acquisition is in progress. Layout of building has been approved. Orders for transmitter and studio equipment have been placed and expected to be delivered in 1988-89.

The radio station is expected to be commissioned in 1989-90.

3. Ahmednagar: Local Radio Station

The site has been taken over in Decem-

ber, 1986 and civil works are in progress. Orders for transmitter and studio equipment have been placed and expected to be delivered in 1988-89.

The radio station is expected to be ready in 1989-90.

4. *Dhule: Local Radio Station*

The site for this project has been taken over in November, 1987. Building layout has been approved. The transmitter and studio equipment is also expected to be received in 1988-89.

The radio station is expected to be commissioned in 1989-90.

5. *Beed: Local Radio Station*

The site for this project was taken over in May, 1986. The civil work was completed in March, 1988 the installation work has been taken up

The station is expected to be commissioned in 1989.

6. *Chanderpur: Local Radio Station.*

The site for this project was handed over to AIR in September, 1987. Civil works are in progress and building is expected to be ready during 1988-89. Orders for transmitters and studio equipment have been placed and expected to be delivered during 1988-89

The radio station is expected to be commissioned in 1988-89

7. *Nanded: Local Radio Station*

The site for the project was taken over in November, 1987. The civil work is in progress and expected to be completed by the end of 1988. Orders for transmitter and studio equipment have been placed and expected to be delivered in 1988-89.

The radio station is expected to be

commissioned in 1989.

8. *Akola Local Radio Station*

The site for this project was taken over in April, 1987. The civil works are in progress and expected to be completed during 1988. The orders for transmitter and studio equipment have been placed and expected to be delivered in 1988-89. The station is expected to be commissioned during 1989.

9. *Osmanabad. Local Radio Station*

The site for this project was taken over in January, 1988. The site survey has been done and preliminary estimates are under preparation. The orders for transmitter and studio equipment have been placed and expected to be delivered during 1988-89

The radio station is expected to be commissioned in 1989-90

10. *Yeotmal. Local Radio Station*

The site for this project was taken over on 19/9/1987. The civil works are in progress. The orders for transmitter and studio equipment have been placed and expected to be delivered during 1988-89. The radio station is expected to be commissioned in 1989-90.

11. *Satara Local Radio Station*

The site for this project was taken over in April, 1987. The civil works are in progress and expected to be completed shortly. The layout for transmitter has been finalised which is likely to be delivered during 1988-89. The station is expected to be commissioned in 1989-90.

12. *Bombay "A" :100 KW MW Transmitter*

This transmitter has been installed at the existing HPT site at Malad. The civil

works for this project have been completed. Equipment has been received at site and installation has been completed. Mast was erected in June, 1988. This project is expected to be commissioned shortly.

13. Bombay "B" : 100 KW MW Transmitter

This transmitter is also being installed at the existing HPT site at Malad. The building works are complete. Mast has been erected. Transmitter installation has been completed. The testing of the transmitter is in progress. This project is expected to be commissioned shortly.

14. Bombay : 50 KW SW Transmitter

This transmitter will be installed in existing building at HPT Malad. The transmitter has been ordered in March, 1987 and delivery is expected in July 1990.

15. Pune: 3 KW FM Transmitter

1 KW MW Vividh Bharati transmitter is being replaced by 3 KW FM Transmitter. The building works are in progress. The transmitter has been ordered in December 1986 and is expected to be delivered in October 1988. This project is expected to be completed by 1988-89.

16. Nagpur : 2 x 3 KW FM Transmitter

1 KW FM Vividh Bharati transmitter is being replaced by 2 x 3 KW FM transmitter. The building works are complete. The transmitter has been ordered in December 1986 and is expected to be delivered in October 1988. The project will be completed in 1989.

17. Parbhani: Type I (R) Studios

The site was taken over during 6th Plan. The civil works have been completed in 1988. The functional rooms are ready and the installation is being taken up.

The equipment has been ordered and is expected to be delivered in 1988. The project is scheduled to be commissioned in 1989.

18. Pune: Type IV Studios

These studios are being installed at the existing site. The building works are in progress and are expected to be completed in December 1988. The equipment has been ordered and is expected to be delivered by 1988. The project is expected to be completed by 1990.

STATEMENT -II

Doordarshan

I. SEVENTH PLAN SCHEMES

1. Introduction of second channel service at Bombay.
2. Introduction of Primary (regional) service in the State.
3. Expansion of TV Centre, Bombay (including additional Studio facilities for second channel service)
4. Establishment of high power (10 KW) TV transmitters at Ambajogai, Aurangabad (in replacement of the existing low power transmitter) and pune (in replacement of the existing 0.6 KW transmitter).
5. Establishment of low power transmitters at Bir, Buldana, Gadchiroli, Ichalkaranji, Osmanabad, Pusad, Ratnagiri, Satara and Yavatmal.
6. Establishment of TV trans-

posers at Junnar and Aurangabad.

7. Establishment of a TV Studios at Pune.

II STATUS OF SEVENTH PLAN SCHEMES

Second Channel TV service was introduced at Bombay by commissioning a 1 KW transmitter in May, 85, as an interim measure. The transmitter is envisaged to be replaced by a 10 KW transmitter during the current financial year. Regional service in Maharashtra started in August, 86 by making temporary arrangements & hiring the uplink facilities from DOT. Low power transmitters at Bir, Buldana, Gadchiroli, Ratnagiri, Satara and Yavatmal have since been commissioned. Low power transmitters at Pusad & Osmanabad are expected to be commissioned during the current financial year. The remaining schemes are expected to be completed towards the end of the VII Plan period except for the schemes of expansion of TV Centre, Bombay and TV Studio, Pune, which would be completed, subsequently.

[English]

Execution of Hydro-Electric Power Projects

4279. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up separate bodies to execute giant hydro-electric power projects in the joint sector with the concerned State Governments;

(b) if so, whether sound technical parameters and the requirements of the power sector were kept in view while taking the decision; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) Tehri Hydro Development Corporation and Naptha Jhakri Power Corporation have been set up as joint venture Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh respectively for execution of Hydro-electric power projects in these States.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As 'Water Resources' is a subject in the State List, concurrence of the states is necessary for execution of the projects outside the State Sector. With a view to encourage hydro development in these States and to expedite work on projects lagging behind due to paucity of funds, it was decided in consultation with the concerned State Government to implement the projects through joint corporations of Central and the State Governments.

[Translation]

TV Programmes for Women and Retired Persons

4280. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to introduce a noon TV Programme for the benefit of women and retired persons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; when it is likely to be introduced, the time slot and duration thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It has been decided to commence afternoon transmission from 1345 hrs. to 1445 hrs. on Mondays to Fridays. The Programmes to be included in this transmission will be a mix of entertainment, utility and informative etc. No date has so far been fixed for its introduction

[English]

Manufacture of Electronic Switches System

4281. SHRI G.S.BASAVARAJU:
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided to perpetuate the stranglehold of State-owned Indian Telephone Industries in the manufacture of electronic switching systems;

(b) if so, whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. had also rejected to enter the field;

(c) if so, what were the main reasons; and

(d) whether the Indian Telephone Industries is capable of manufacturing electronic switching systems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Indian Telephone Industries has been the sole and premier manufacturing Company for electronic Switching system since Independence. On account of large trained manpower and vast infrastructure that it has, it is expected to maintain its primacy in this field.

(b) This Ministry has no information.

(c) Does not arise

(d) Yes, sir.

[Translation]

Opening of Postal Agency Counters

4282. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the previous and present policy of Department of Posts in regard to opening of Postal Agency Counters at all India level;

(b) whether the policy is now being withdrawn; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to strengthen the Postal Agency Counter system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). In August, 1985 a decision was taken to issue licences for setting up of licensed postal agencies. Subsequently, in July 1987 it was decided that no fresh licenses should be issued and that after a case-by-case review, the existing licensed postal agents may be allowed to function till the expiry of the licenses issued to them.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Telecast of Nepali Film "Samjhana"

4283. SHRIMATI D.K.BHANDARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain requests have been received in his Ministry for telecast of Nepali feature film 'Samjhana';

(b) if so, when the said film is proposed to be telecast; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The producer has been requested to send the detailed offer along with the print of the film to Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi for preview to decide its suitability for telecast on Doordarshan.

Utilisation of Gas in Maharashtra

4284. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

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

(a) whether certain proposals for overall utilisation of natural gas in Maharashtra have been received for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have accorded approval to these proposals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requests have been recently received from Government of Maharashtra for allocation of gas for power generation by MSEB, Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Undertaking and Tata Electric Co.

(c) to (e). As the available gas at Uran has already been committed to various consumers, it would not be possible to make additional commitments of gas at present.

Electrification of Villages in Maharashtra

4285. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Maharashtra yet to be electrified;

(b) what were the targets set under the Seventh Plan for this purpose and how much has been achieved;

(c) how long it will take to cover the

uncovered villages; and

(d) the work programme till 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPANATH RAI) : (a) In Maharashtra as on 31.7.1988, 1349 villages are yet to be electrified.

(b) The Seventh Plan envisages electrification of 2365 villages. Against this, 4652 villages have been electrified during the first three years of Seventh Plan.

(c) and (d). During 1988-89, the Planning Commission has fixed a target of electrification of 500 villages. The State is expected to achieve cent percent electrification by the end of 8th Plan subject to availability of resources and other inputs.

LPG Facility in Bihar

4286. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LPG facility has not been provided so far in most parts of Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of cities in Bihar which have not been provided LPG facility till July, 1988;

(d) the number of gas agencies sanctioned during the last one year; and

(e) the time by which all cities of Bihar are likely to be provided the LPG facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b). The Oil Industry is normally taking up, in a phased manner, locations in the country, including Bihar, with a population of around 20,000 and above (as per 1981) Census) which offer sufficient potential for viable marketing of LPG;

(c) All towns/cities which offer adequate potential for viable marketing of LPG in Bihar have been provided/proposed for marketing of LPG by the oil industry. However, the following towns with population of 20,000 and above, do not offer adequate potential for viable LPG distributorships;

<i>Name of the location</i>	<i>District</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
1. Phulwari Shariff	Patna
2. Masaurhi	Patna
3. Khagaul	Patna
4. Hilsa	Nalanda
5. Daudanagar	Aurangabad
6. Revelganj	Saran
7. Sonapur	Saran
8. Barauni	Gopalganj
9. Baigania	Sitamarhi
10. Teghra	Begusarai
11. Kharagpur	Monghyr
12. Darbhanga	Monghyr
13. Barabiya	Monghyr
14. Sultanganj	Bhagalpur
15. Nangachia	Bhagalpur
16. Banka	Bhagalpur
17. Chatra	Hazaribagh
18. Pakaur	Santhal Parganas
19. Garhwa	Palamu

(d) A total of 11 LPG distributorships were allotted during 1987-88 in the State of

Bihar:

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

[*Translation*]

Survey and Exploration of Lignite in Rajasthan

4287. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Mineral Exploration Corporation is conducting survey and exploration of lignite in various districts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard and the quantity of lignite deposits in tonnes found at each place;

(c) whether the Neyveli Lignite Corporation is going to set up power stations at Palana and Kapoordi with these deposits of lignite;

(d) whether project report has also been prepared for this purpose; and

(e) if so, whether a copy of the project report will be laid on Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Exploration for lignite in Kapurdhi area of Barmer district and Barsinghsar area of Bikaner district has been almost completed whereas exploration is in progress in Jalpa area of Barmer district and Gurha and Bholasar areas of Bikaner district. The quantity of in-place geological reserves of lignite in the different areas are estimated as below:-

Barmer District

Kapurdhiu — 150 Million tonnes in 12 sq. Kms.

Jalipa — 182 million tonnes in 15 sq. Kms.

Bikaner District

Barsinghsar — 67.41 million tonnes in 4.5 sq. Kms.

Gurha (East) — 26.18 million tonnes in 1.47 sq. Kms.

Gurha (Central)— 15.00 million tonnes in 2.50 sq. Kms.

Gurha (West) — 36.40 million tonnes in 4.60 sq. Kms.

(c) to (e). Neyveli Lignite Corporation has prepared feasibility reports for a lignite mine of 1.7 million tonnes capacity and a thermal power station of 2 x 120 MW capacity at Barsinghsar in Bikaner district which are under techno-economic appraisal with the Government.

[English]

Industrial Liberalisation Measures

4288. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:
SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY:
SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industrial liberalisation measures announced by Government have bypassed the small scale sector completely, as has been complained by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to bring the small scale sector under the ambit of liberalised industrial policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The industrial liberalisation measures announced in the last few months relate to

enhancing the limit for licensing of industries, de-licensing of industries, broad-banding, minimum economic capacity, etc. Since these regulations do not apply to the small scale sector, the question of liberalisation measures bypassing the small sector does not arise.

Setting up of Public Sector Units in Sirsa, Haryana

4289. SHRI HET RAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up public sector units at Sirsa in Haryana, which in Industrially backward district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) There is no proposal of the Central Government to set up Central Public Sector Units Sirsa in Haryana.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) Central investments are made taking into consideration the techno-economic viability of projects while keeping in view the need for the overall balanced regional development.

Import of Machinery to make Coir

4290. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to import machinery to make coir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Coir Board has placed an order on

a Japanese firm for supply of an automatic spinning unit for research & development purposes. The supply has not so far materialised.

Selling of LPG Cylinders by Dealers

4291. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several LPG dealers who are not able to sell even one thousand cylinders per month;

(b) if so, the number of such dealers who sell less than one thousand cylinders;

(c) whether Government propose to give them additional markets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) 644 LPG distributors in the country are at present selling less than 1000 refills per month based on 1987-88 Refill Sale figures;

(c) and (d). Extension of area of operation to nearby markets upto a radius of 15 Kms. has been permitted in respect of distributorships in markets where the development of the potential has not been as expected and the distributorships do not reach a viable level after two completed years of operation.

[Translation]

Scheme to Provide TV Sets to Gram Panchayats

4292. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide TV sets to Gram Panchayat, Gram

Sabha, Zila Panchayat and Schools all over the country;

(b) whether there is a demand for TV sets in this regard; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of TV sets provided to Gram Panchayat so far and the number of TV sets which are in working condition at present; and

(d) the number of TV sets proposed to be provided to such bodies during 1988-89 and 1989-90 and the estimated expenditure involved?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (d). Whereas demands for deployment of TV sets for community viewing have been received from time to time from different parts of the country, the provision and the maintenance of such sets is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting does not, therefore, have any regular feed back about the number of TV sets deployed in the country by the various agencies for this purpose, nor about the number of sets which are not in a working condition. So far as Doordarshan is concerned it envisages to provide during the Seventh Plan period, as a special case, 5000 Community viewing TV sets in the seven States of the North-Eastern region, 100 in the State of Sikkim and eight(8) in Lakshadweep group of Islands, at a total capital expenditure of 8.1189.65 lakhs. The location of these TV sets for community viewing has been left to the discretion of the concerned state Government and the Union Territory Administration.

[English]

STD Facility Between New Delhi and Phulbani District in Orissa

4293. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be

pleased to state:

(a) whether STD facility has not been provided between New Delhi and Phulbani district in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the other districts in Orissa which have not been provided with STD facility;

(d) the time by which STD facility is proposed to be provided between Delhi and Phulbani; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a), (b) and (e). Yes, Sir. Works connected with the augmentation of the Satellite Earth Station for providing STD are in progress at Phulbani.

(c) The district headquarters other than Phulbani which are not provided with STD facility are:

Bhawanipatna, Bolangir, Keonjhar and Sundergarh.

(d) STD will be provided to Phulbani during 1988-89.

Collieries attached to Cement Companies in Karnataka

4294. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the collieries attached to cement companies in Karnataka for the supply of coal;

(b) the total requirement of coal for cement factories in the State;

(c) whether the collieries attached to Karnataka have not supplied coal to the cement factories in the state;

(d) the steps taken by Government for proper supply of coal to cement factories in

Karnataka; and

(e) the total loss of production due to non-supply of coal to cement factories in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) Cement factories in Karnataka are linked to Singareni Collieries Company Ltd, and Western Coalfields Limited for supply of coal.

(b) Requirement of coal of cement plants in Karnataka, both for cement production and captive power generation is 1.28 lakh tonnes per moth as assessed by Development Commissioner for Cement Industry.

(c) As per the position maintained by Development Commissioner for Cement Industry, Cement plants in Karnataka received 11.42 lakh tonnes of coal during the year 1987. Receipt of coal during 1988 (January to June) was 3.89 lakh tonnes.

(d) High priority is accorded to cement industry in allocation of coal and requirement of cement and other industries in core sector is catered for after meeting the requirement of power sector and Railways. Supplies to cement plants are also regularly monitored.

(e) Cement factories in Karnataka suffered a loss of production of 4240 tonnes on account of non availability of coal out of overall production loss of 1275000 tonnes during 1987 and a loss of 34095 tonnes (provisional) for want of coal during 1988 (Jan. to June, 1988) out of overall production loss of 423920 tonnes for various reasons.

[Translation]

Hospital in South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

4295. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made to set up a hospital with modern facilities in South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. headquarters at Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b). It has been decided, in principle, to establish a 250 bedded hospital at Bilaspur by South Eastern Coalfields Limited with modern facilities.

(c) Work of designing hospital building has been awarded. Consultants have been appointed for feasibility study and preparation of project report. However, due to non-availability of land, final design of the hospital building is pending. State Government has been approached for allotment of land; but the land has not been allotted so far.

[English]

Hydro-Electric Power Generation Potential in Kerala

4296. SHRI VAKKOMPURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated hydroelectric power

generation potential in Kerala at present;

(b) the total power being generated in the State from the existing hydroelectric power stations;

(c) the estimated power generation after the commissioning of the projects under completion and the expected time of completion of each project;

(d) whether even after the execution of these projects, about 58 per cent of the hydroelectric power potential in the State will remain untapped; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to set up more hydroelectric power stations in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) The estimated hydroelectric power potential in Kerala is 3451 MW at 40 per cent load factor.

(b) The total power generating capacity of the existing hydroelectric power stations in Kerala is 1476.5 KW.

(c) The commissioning of the hydroelectric projects under construction would yield 498 MW of installed generating capacity. The expected time of completion of each project is given below:-

<i>Scheme (MW)</i>	<i>Inst. Capacity Commissioning</i>			<i>Likely Year of</i>
1	2		3	
1. Kallada	2 x 7.5	=	15	1989-90
2. Lower Periyar	3 x 60	=	180	1990-91
3. Madupatty	1 x 2	=	2	-do-
4. Malampuzha	1 x 2.5	=	2.5	-do-
5. Muvattupuzha	1 x 6	=	6	-do-

1	2	3
6. Chimoni	1 x 2.5 = 2.5	-do-
7. Kakkad	2 x 25 = 50	-do-
8. Puyankutty	2 x 120 = 240	Beyond 8th Plan period.
	498 MW	

(d) After completion of the scheme under construction, about 42 percent of the hydroelectric power potential in the State will remain untapped.

(e) Yes, Sir.

TV Relay Centre at Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh

4297. SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a TV Relay centre at Nandyal in Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be set up and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTINGS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). There is, at present, no scheme in the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan to set up a TV transmitter at Nandyal.

Declaration of Kalahandi, Orissa as No Industry District

4298. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have any proposal to declare Kalahandi district in Orissa as 'A' category "No Industry District"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir. It has been declared as Category 'B' District.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Refund on Colour TVs Purchased During Asiad

4299. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission had passed an order under which the consumers who had purchased colour television during Asiad in 1982 were advised to take refund of Rs. 1650/- from their respective TV dealers; and

(b) if so, the total number of applications filed by the consumers with the Commission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The MRTP Commission has ordered a refund of Rs. 1650/- with interest in one case of CTV purchased in 1985.

(b) The 64 compensation applications u/s 12-B of the MRTP Act, 1969, for alleged over-charging of price in respect of TV sets purchased during the Asiad, 1982 are under consideration of the MRTP Commission

[English]

Clearance to Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation for Linear Alkyl Benzene Project

4300. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether clearance has been given to Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (A.P.I.D.C.) to start a Linear Alkyl Benzene project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) and (b). Some applications for the setting up of a Linear Alkyl Benzene project have been received. No final decision has yet been taken in this regard. Details of such applications are not

disclosed till a final decision is taken on them.

Hike in Prices of Sera and Vaccines

4301. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is hike by 250 per cent in the prices of certain sera and vaccines which are essential for universal immunisation programme;

(b) the names of these sera and vaccines; and

(c) the reasons for the hike in prices?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (c). As per the provisions of DPCO, 1987, the manufacturers of sera and vaccines, which are not under price control, are free to revise the prices. However, Government has intervened to bring down the prices, as per details to the extent available given in the statement below:-

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the Formulation	Pack Size	Price fixed by the Company after increasing it (Rs)	Reduced price after Govt.'s intervention.	% changed
1.	M/s. Serum Institute	ATS 750 IU	7.18	5.48	(-) 25.6
2.	M/s. Serum Institute	-do-	341.90	254.54	(-) 25.6
3.	-do-	ATS 1500 IU	12.42	9.24	(-) 25.6
4.	-do-	-do-	600.50	452.42	(-) 24.6
5.	-do-	ATS 10,000 IU	65.26	48.54	(-) 25.6
6.	-do-	ATS 20,000 IU	127.60	94.95	(-) 25.6
7.	-do-	ATS, 50,000 IU	312.74	232.68	(-) 25.6
8.	-do-	Anti-Snake Venom Serum (ASVS)	126.02	90.00	(-) 28.6

Services of 198 and 199 Public Utility Phones

4302. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the service of '198 and '199' public utility phones is operative;

(b) whether any complaints have been received about the non-functioning of these numbers;

(c) whether calls on these numbers at Chanakyapuri Exchange are not attended; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure that the service of '198' and '199' is truly rendered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, except occasional complaint about 199 service on phone or very rarely in writing.

(c) These services are available to the customers served by the the exchanges located in Chanakyapuri Telephone exchange Building.

(d) However, steps taken are detailed in the statement below:-

STATEMENT*Steps taken to make the service of 198 more effective*

- i) Daily check of all services for proper indication/speech.
- ii) Daily monitoring of service by the officers incharge of the service by frequent test calls during working and by nominated officers outside office hours.

iii) Monthly monitoring of the services by a dedicated group.

iv) Phased computerisation of service.

198/2198 service in Rajpath (38) and Sena Bhawan (301) has been computerised.

The work is in progress to computerise this service in Tis Hazari and Laxmi Nagar exchanges. It is proposed to extend this service to all exchanges progressively.

Steps taken to make 199 service more effective:

- i) Check of 199 service by senior officers by paying frequent visits.
- ii) A training course in behavioural sciences was organised of the operators.
- iii) Plans for computerisation of 199 services.
- iv) Incentive Scheme for staff started.

Export of Molasses

4303. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Molasses under OGL favoured now" appearing in the Financial Express of 4 August, 1988;

(b) If so, whether Government would stick to the earlier policy of export of molasses through the Indian Sugar and General Industry Export/Import Corporation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J.VENGAL RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is still under consideration.

[Translation]

Setting up of Short-wave tower between Mandla and Sabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

4304. SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a short-wave AIR tower was proposed to be set up between Mandla and Jabalpur; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay when the Forest Department has given its clearance for this tower?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Telephone Exchange Building at Katni

4305. SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have acquired land from Madhya Pradesh Government and started the construction of MAX-I Building at Katni;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for the construction of this exchange in 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). A piece of land measuring 6666.6 sq. yards has been purchased from a private party at Katni in M.P. recently. The construction of

building has not yet started.

(c) No funds have been allocated for the construction of this Exchange Building in 1988-89 due to paucity of resources.

HBJ Pipeline contract with Japan

4306. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

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

(a) whether Government have signed a contract with a Japanese firm for the Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur (HBJ) pipeline on which the Gas Authority of India Ltd. is likely to suffer loss; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the loss and the extent of loss suffered on account of the HBJ Pipeline contract either by Government or the Gas Authority of India Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b). GAIL had placed orders for supply of part of the linepipe for the HBJ Project with a Japanese Consortium. The order was placed on the consortium after taking into account all relevant technical, financial and commercial parameters.

Drilling in Krishna Godavari Basin

4307. SHRI SRI HARI RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the position of drilling of the well in Kottur in Alamur Mandal in Krishna Godavari basin;

(b) the quantity of gas and oil being produced from this well; and

(c) the time by which the gas and oil is likely to be available for commercial purposes from this well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) to (c). Exploration drilling of well Mandapeta-I Alamu area is currently under progress. The well was spudded on 14-3-1988 has reached a depth of 4302 metres. The production potential, if any, will be known only after the testing of well is complete.

Compliance of Statutory Provisions Regarding Furnishing of Annual Accounts by Public Sector Companies

4308. SHRI H.M.PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several public sector corporate entities have not been presenting accounts in the format prescribed under section 211(5) of the companies Act, 1956;

(b) whether these public sector corporate entities also do not conform to the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the Companies Act, 1956 while preparing their yearly financial statements; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to reform/ remedy these shortcoming in preparation of yearly financial statements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Section 211(5) of the Companies Act, 1956 has not prescribed any format to present accounts of public sector corporate entities

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

STD Facility at Kanjirapally

4309. SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how much work has been completed

and how much amount has been spent for the STD facility at Kanjirapally Exchange in Kottayam district in Kerala State;

(b) the time by which the subscribers are likely to get STD facility; and

(c) the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Infrastructure at both ends have been made ready. No separate funds are allotted for providing STD.

(b) STD will be provided during 1989-90.

(c) The supply of appropriate Radio equipment has been delayed.

Opening of Information Centre At Vijayawada

4310. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many places of historical, tourist and worship in and around Vijayawada city;

(b) if so, whether there are representations for opening a Information Centre at Vijayawada, and

(c) the reaction of Government in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Vijayawada already has a Branch office of PIB which provides adequate service to Journalists and the newspapers and periodicals published from there.

National Wind Mill Project in Delhi

4311. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Wind Mill Project is running successfully in Delhi as reported in Hindustan Times of 15-4-1988;

(b) the location of other similar projects in the country and their performance; and

(c) whether Government have a system of reporting their findings on new developments through publications within months of such developments?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. 78 water pumping windmills have been installed in and around Delhi and the programme is being implemented successfully.

(b) About 2150 water pumping windmills have already been installed in 23 States/Union Territories under the demonstration programme of the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. The performance of these windmills is generally satisfactory notably in States of Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The major activities in this area which takes into account new findings and developments are reported in the Annual Report and other publications of the Department.

Kolaghat Thermal Power Project

4312. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kolaghat thermal power project set for completion of its second phase is being delayed abnormally for want of funds;

(b) whether the BHEL is lagging behind the schedule date of execution of the project due to non-cooperation of various financial

institutions like industrial Development Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation of India and State Bank of India etc;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to ensure that the project is not further delayed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Low Power T.V. Transmitter for Harda, M.P.

4313. SHRI ASLAM SHER KHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal to set up a low power transmitter in Harda area which is predominantly inhabited by 'Adivasis';

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) to (c). There is no approved scheme, at present, to set up a TV transmitter at Harda in Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh under the Seventh Plan. However, parts of Hoshangabad district including Harda town fall within the service area of the high power (10KW) TV transmitter functioning at Bhopal. Any further improvement of TV service in the area as also other parts of the country similarly placed can be carried out in a phased manner depending upon the availability of resources for this purpose in the future plans for TV expansion.

[English]

Transfer of Technology

4314. SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the technologies developed by the international telecommunications giants can successfully be transferred to India which is a high traffic and low density country; and

(b) whether such transfer of technology will not mar the initiative of Indian technocrats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The transfer of technology is resorted to only in the areas in which indigenous technology is not readily available to meet the country's requirements.

Manuguru Project in Andhra Pradesh

4315. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY:
SHRI V. SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a unit of the National Thermal Power Corporation is going to be installed at Manuguru in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the estimated cost of this unit and the production capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b). The National Thermal Power Corporation (MTPC) have submitted the feasibility report in regard to the proposed Manuguru Super Thermal Power Project Stage-I (2x500 MW) in Andhra Pradesh. The report indicates provisional cost of the project as Rs. 1447. 40 crores for a capacity of

1000 MW. The Project is yet to be approved, as all necessary tie ups, such coal linkage, environmental clearance etc. have not been done.

[Translation]

Daily Wage Workers in Post and Telegraph Offices in U.P.

4316. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of daily wage workers working in the Post and Telegraph Offices in U.P.;

(b) with how many years of service, the workers have been made permanent; and

(c) the time by which all the workers would be made permanent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) There are about 824 full time and 991 part time daily wage workers working in the Department of Posts in UP. The required information pertaining to Department of Telecom. Will be collected and laid on the table of the House.

(b) In the Department of Posts 100% of the vacancies in Gr. D' cadre are reserved for E.D. Agents who fulfil the required age and other conditions prescribed. Only in the event of qualified ED. Agents not being available for filling up Gr. 'D' vacancies, these are offered to eligible daily rated casual labour. Under these circumstances, the question of years of service put in by daily wage workers for permanent absorption does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Supply of Paraffin Wax to Punjab

4317. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL

GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the monthly quota of paraffin wax allotted to the candle manufacturers in Punjab has been cut from 600 tons to 200 tons and subsequently to 100 tons;

(b) if so, the reasons for such drastic cut; and

(c) whether the cut will be restored in view of the special conditions prevailing in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Training of Officers under Colombo Plan

4318. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior officers in the Central Electricity Authority, who are degree holders in Engineering, have not been considered for training abroad under the Colombo Plan;

(b) whether officers having Diploma/Certificate have been selected and sent abroad for training under the Colombo Plan;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the C.E.A has considered engineers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are holding the engineering degree for training abroad under the Colombo Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) No, Sir. Officers of all levels of relevant fields of operation are considered for training abroad.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The officers of the rank of Assistant Directors and above both with degree or diploma in Engineering are considered for training in the relevant field of Power Engineering keeping in view the eligibility criteria in respect of their functional requirement, background experience and levels as prescribed by the Aid authorities under the Colombo Plan.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The officers' belonging to the SC and ST categories are also considered for training abroad under the Colombo Plan depending upon the availability of officers satisfying the eligibility criteria in respect of functional requirement and background experience etc. Out of 28 CEA officers deputed for training abroad under Colombo Plan during the past five years, 2 officers belong SC & ST categories.

Delivery of Telegrams

4319. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the average percentage of telegrams which reach their destination after 24 hours;

(b) whether any internal monitoring is done of such delays;

(c) the machinery available within the Department for enquiring into the reasons for which a telegram is delayed;

(d) whether any guidelines exist for telegraphic confirmation from receiving stations to inform the sender that the telegram has been delivered; and

(e) the steps taken to have a more responsible and reliable system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) On an average, about 13% of the telegrams are reaching their destination after 24 hours.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Delays to telegrams are monitored in all Telegraph Offices on regular basis and cases of abnormal delays are thoroughly got investigated by the Heads of the circles for taking corrective measures.

(d) Yes, Sir. Provisions do exist for obtaining telegraphic confirmation about delivery of a telegram from receiving station at the specific request of the sender and on payment of prescribed charges.

(e) The telegraph network is being modernised to have a mere responsible and reliable telegraph system. Store and Forward Message Switching Systems, Electronic Teleprinters, Electronic Key Boards and stand by power supply units have been planned for introduction in a phased manner.

Electrocution by Naked Wire in Delhi

4320. SHRIMATI PRABHAVATI GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons electrocuted by naked wire in Delhi during the last one year;

(b) the action taken by Government against the responsible officers; and

(c) the steps taken to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) 19 persons were electrocuted in the area of supply of M.C.D. serviced by DESU and one person was electrocuted in the area serviced by New Delhi Municipal Committee between 19.8.1987 to 18.8.1988.

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

(c) To check the recurrence of such events in future DESU and NDMC are taking safety

measures which include provision of adequate guards in the over head system, checking of earthing of all the electrical installations and attending to the weak points. Instructions to adhere to the safety code are also reiterated from time to time in addition to routine maintenance.

Licence to Reliance Industries Limited for manufacture of Paraxylene

4321. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reliance Industries Limited is putting up a new project for manufacture of Paraxylene;

(b) if so, what is the project cost and when the licence for manufacture of Paraxylene was granted to Reliance Industries Limited;

(c) whether Government have given further licences to Reliance Industries Limited to put up a big gas cracker project at Hazira where the investment will be around rupees two thousand crores;

(d) whether the Reliance Industries Limited has been granted licence to manufacture MEG (raw material for Polyester) HDPE, PVC, etc. etc. and if so, what is the total project cost involved; and

(e) the reasons for granting licences to the Reliance Industries Limited in all important petrochemical fields?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). M/s. Reliance Industries Limited hold an industrial licence for manufacture of Pure Terephthalic Acid. Paraxylene is the intermediate for producing Pure Terephthalic Acid for which no separate industrial licence is required when it is capatively consumed. The cost of the PTA project as estimated by the party is around Rs. 550 crores.

(c) At present, no letter of intent has

been issued to M/s Reliance Industries Limited for setting up a Gas Cracker Project at Hazira in Gujarat.

(d) and (e). The Industrial Licences granted to M/s Reliance Industries Limited for manufacture of HDPE and PVC and the Letter of Intent granted to the party for manufacture of MEG has been transferred in the name of M/s. RELIANCE PETRO-CHEMICALS LIMITED as requested by the party. The total cost of the projects as estimated by the party is around Rs. 700 crores. All applications for such industrial licences/ letters of intent including those from M/s. Reliance Industries Limited are considered under the provisions of the Industrial (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. Decision on such applications for industrial licences/ letters of intent are taken on techno-economic considerations. Other industrial houses have also been given licences for such Projects.

Speed Post Service in Orissa

4322. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities and towns in Orissa where Speed post service has been introduced so far;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to introduce speed post service in some other cities and towns in Orissa;

(c) if so, the cities and towns in Orissa where speed post service is proposed to be introduced during 1988-89; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Bhubaneswar and Cuttack are the two cities in Orissa where Speed Post Service has been introduced.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Shifting of Offices of Public Undertakings from Delhi

4323. SHRI KESHORAO PARDHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of public undertakings incurring losses which are not being permitted to shift their offices from Delhi; and

(b) the amount spent by them every year for office accommodation in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Order for Heavy Engineering Corporation at Hatia, Ranchi

4324. SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indigenous products produced by the public undertakings are encouraged with a view to boost up their production and productivity;

(b) if so, the reasons why orders for machinery produced by the Heavy Engineering Corporation at Hatia, Ranchi are not placed by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited; and

(c) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited prefers foreign machinery to indigenous production of the Heavy Engineering Corporation and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. is placing orders on Heavy Engineering Corporation as per requirements.

(c) No, Sir.

Introduction of Remote Areas Business Network

4325. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication has taken steps for the introduction of Remote Areas Business Network;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme prepared therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to implement that scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A project for the Remote Area Business Network has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 15.05 crores. Under the scheme a Master Earth Station will be set up at Sikandrabad, District Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh, which will be able to serve about 1000 subscribers owned Micro Earth Stations called "Micro Terminals" installed at subscriber premises. The 'Remote Area Business Message Network' will provide data communication facilities upto speeds of 1200 bits per second for interactive data communication and facsimile services between the subscriber owned micro terminals located anywhere in the country. The micro earth stations will also be able to access the telex network in the country.

(c) A separate organisation under a General Manager has been set up at NOIDA for implementation of the network. Wide publicity has been given through the prominent newspapers of the country for the registration of the subscribers. Necessary orders for equipment for the Master Earth Station have been placed on M/s. ITI. The Micro Terminals will be manufactured by M/s. ITI Equatorial Satcom Ltd., Bangalore. The subscribers to this network have the

option of buying and installing the Micro Terminals directly from M/s. IESL or through agencies like TCIL or may get it through D.O.T. The Remote Business Message Network is likely to be operational by June, 1989.

Temporary connections in Mayur Vihar Extension, Delhi

4326. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL:
SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:
SHRI P.A. ANTONY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given on 2 August, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 1002 re: supply of power to Cooperative Group Housing Societies in Delhi and state:

(a) whether the DESU proposes to provide temporary electricity connections to flats already constructed in Mayur Vihar Extension Phase-2 area where all the commercial formalities have been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when permanent connection will be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c). According to Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking a formal request from DDA has been received for undertaking electrification of Mayur Vihar Phase-II alongwith similar request for electrification of some colonies from individual co-operative group housing societies. DESU can consider the individual requests for temporary connections for domestic use in the flats already constructed in Mayur Vihar Phase-II after DDA gets the electrification scheme for laying 11 KV peripheral services and electrification scheme of the area along with the scheme for internal electrification of the colonies seeking grant of temporary connection prepared and released for execution. Further, DDA is also required to pay for any temporary augmen-

tation work which may be necessary to meet the load for such temporary connections.

Interim Relief to Workers of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation

4327. SHRIBASUDEBACHARIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited, Durgapur is having a separate independent wing at Nagpur;

(b) whether it is a fact that though the interim relief announced for the workers of public sector undertakings in central sector is applicable for the workers of Nagpur, the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited management is refraining from payment of the same to the workers of Nagpur Branch of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action Union Government propose to take against the erring officials for violating Union Government's directives?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited (MAMC) Durgapur has a small regional workshop at Nagpur.

(b) and (c). Interim relief which has to be absorbed in wage settlements is payable from 1.1.1986 in enterprises on Industrial D.A. pattern where the validity of wage settlements has expired or was to expire shortly. In the case of regional workshop of MAMC at Nagpur, the tripartite wage settlement was valid upto 31.12.1986, viz. full one year after the date from which interim relief payment was announced. Further, the modalities of payment of interim relief are expected to be finalised by the managements of Public Sector enterprises at the unit level. Negotiations for wage settlement between MAMC management and Workers of Nagpur regional Workshop are in progress

and two meetings have already been held.

Encroachment on Land of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited

4328. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total area in terms of acreage given by Asansol Durgapur Development Authority for the purpose of developing township by Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited, Durgapur for their employees;

(b) out of the total area given how much has been forcibly encroached upon by unauthorised occupants;

(c) the number of shacks and jhonpries constructed in the encroached area and whether these constructions are due to failure on the part of management to provide quarters to their employees or due to any racket operating in collusion with some officials of the Corporation;

(d) whether due to this racket, the implementation of 20-point programme in respect of development of jhonpries constructed by the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited workers is not taking place; and

(e) if so, what advice Union Government propose to give to the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited to tighten administrative measures to weed out the jhonpries constructed under the racket and to develop the jhonpries constructed by workers of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The total area given by Asansol Durgapur Development Authority for the purpose of developing township by MAMC Durgapur for their employees is 474.91 acres.

(b) The area encroached by un-

authorised occupants is about 26 acres.

(c) There is no racket operating in the MAMC township and about 1100 nos. of Jhonpries which have been constructed are unauthorised structures.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Collaboration with USA based firm

4329. SHRI SWAMI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Tektronix, a U.S.A. based firm has decided to collaborate with an Indian firm for manufacture of instrumentation systems;

(b) if so, the names of items to be manufactured and other details of the collaboration; and

(c) the total cost of the project and where the project has been located?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). M/s. Hinditron Instruments Pvt. Ltd., Bombay have been granted Government approval for foreign collaboration with M/s. Tektronix Inc., USA for the manufacture of Electronic Test & Measuring Instruments. The project is proposed to be located in the Peenya Industrial Estate in Bangalore District of Karnataka State. The terms approved in respect of individual cases are not revealed in public interest.

[Translation]

Allotment of Industrial plots in Narela

4330. SHRI MOTILAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation had invited appli-

cations for allotment of industrial plots in the Narela Industrial Area and if so, the maximum period within which these plots are likely to be allotted;

(b) the amount of money deposited with the D.S.I.D.C. alongwith the applications;

(c) whether D.S.I.D.C. will pay interest to the applicants on the money deposited by them;

(d) the reasons for delay in the allotment of these industrial plots;

(e) whether it will be possible to allot the plots to all the applicants belonging to scheduled castes/tribes; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. According to Delhi Administration, Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation had invited applications for allotment of 800 Industrial Plots. The allotment is expected to be finalised soon.

(b) A total sum of Rs. 5,75,36,700/- has been received alongwith applications.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The allotment procedure has stipulated evaluation of the applications from technical, pollution and financial aspects by the Evaluation Committee of Experts. Due to the large number of applications the evaluation process has taken time.

(e) and (f). Allotment would depend on the outcome of the evaluation of applications.

[English]

Saving of Power through Conservation Measures

4331. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the analysis carried out by Government the present 10 per cent power shortage can be bridged by saving at least 8% power through conservation measures;

(b) if so, the steps initiated by Government in that direction;

(c) the reports received from various Ministries in that direction; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) During the period January-July, 1988 the gap between the requirement and availability of power was 9.8%. There is sufficient scope for bridging this gap by adopting appropriate energy conservation measures on a sustained basis.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to conserve energy include fixation of annual energy consumption targets for energy intensive industries, conducting energy audits, training of personnel as Energy Managers, demonstration programmes in rectification of inefficient agricultural pumpsets, modification of standards covering electrical appliances, grant of fiscal incentives, launching of a multi-media public awareness campaign and creation of a nodal cell to coordinate and review the progress of energy conservation activities.

(c) and (d). Reports received indicate that reduction in specific energy consumption during 1987-88 has taken place in several energy intensive industrial units viz. steel, fertilizers, refineries, cement, petrochemicals, aluminium, etc.

Mini Hydel Projects in Jammu and Kashmir

4332. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of mini hydel projects

referred by the Jammu and Kashmir Government for clearance by the Union Government;

(b) the potential and the estimated expenditure on each of the projects referred to above;

(c) the names of the projects which have been cleared so far; and

(d) the reasons for delay in the clearance of rest of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d). Only one mini (i.e., upto 2 MW) hydroelectric scheme viz. Brenwar (2 x 1 MW) with a cost estimate of Rs. 7 crores was received in the CEA in May, 1983, for techno-economic clearance. The scheme has been returned to the State authorities in April 1985, for resubmission/revision based on the comments of Central Electricity Authority and Central Water Commission.

Compressed and Associated Gas for Domestic use

4333. SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of gas, compressed and associated, produced if it was all made available only for domestic use; and

(b) the value of gas flared compressed and associated if it was given for domestic use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) and (b). In 1987-88, out of about 11430 million cubic metres of natural gas produced, a quantity of 3423 million cubic metres was flared. The national value of this gas, based on the minimum price of Rs. 500/1000 M³ works out to Rs. 171.15 crores.

Natural gas is being supplied for domestic purposes in Baroda city and Sibsagar town. Commitments of gas for this purpose have been made in Ankleshwar, Bharuch, Surat, Agartala and Bombay city.

[Translation] /

Energy Villages in States

4334. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of energy villages in Bihar for which approval has been granted so far and the number which have been established, the district-wise details thereof;

(b) the total number of villages which are proposed to be converted into energy villages during the current Five Year Plan; and

(c) the State-wise details of the energy villages established in various States?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has sanctioned the following energy village or Urjagram projects in Bihar, which are cur-

rently under implementation:

S. No.	District	Village
1	2	3
1.	Monghyr	Milkychak
2.	Saharsa	Routa
3.	Saran	Harpur
4.	Hazaribagh	Bargaon
5.	Sitamahri	Sirkhiriya
6.	Madhubani	Rahua Sangram
7.	Deogarh	Shyampur
8.	Khagaria	Chandranagar

One Urjagram project in village Rukka, district Ranchi, has been completed.

(b) It is proposed, in the first instance, to establish one Urjagram project in every Parliamentary constituency in the country depending on availability of funds for the programme.

(c) State-wise break-up of Urjagram projects is given below:—

S. No.	State/UT	Completed	Under Implementation
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	6
2.	Bihar	1	8
3.	Gujarat	9	8
4.	Madhya Pradesh	6	15
	Maharashtra	10	23
	Orissa	6	3
	Uttar Pradesh	—	1

1	2	3	4
8.	Tamil Nadu	2	6
9.	Tripura	2	—
10.	Uttar Pradesh	22	24
11.	West Bengal	—	7
12.	Delhi	6	2
TOTAL		67	103

Setting up of Gas Turbine Power Plants in Madhya Pradesh

4335. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government in regard to setting up of gas turbine power plants;

(b) whether the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board has submitted four project reports for setting up of gas-turbine power plants each with a capacity of 450 MW in Rajgarh, Jhabua, Gwalior and Guna districts;

(c) the present position regarding these project reports as also about supplying gas to these power plants from Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur gas pipe line; and

(d) whether Government propose to accord sanction to make natural gas available to these gas turbine power plants from Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur gas pipe line in view of power shortage in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):

(a) Proposals in regard to setting up of gas turbine power plants are examined keeping in view the availability of gas/fuel, the power requirement of the Region concerned and other relevant techno-economic considerations.

(b) to (d). The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board have forwarded four proposals to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in regard to setting up of gas turbine combined Cycle power plants at Rajgarh, Jhabua, Gwalior and Guna envisaging 3 x 100 MW gas turbines and one 150 MW steam turbine, at each location. The proposed schemes could be techno-economically appraised by the CEA after the availability of all the inputs, including gas and water, have been confirmed and requisite clearances have been obtained by the State Electricity Board. Confirmation of gas for the proposed projects would depend on the assessment of its availability through the HBJ pipeline in the Eighth and Ninth Plan periods.

Shortage of LPG in Bihar

4336. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the LPG consumers in Patna and other cities of Bihar always face shortage of LPG; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) and (b). A backlog in supply of LPG refills had developed temporarily in several parts of the country, including in some parts of Bihar, recently on account of shortfall in bulk availa-

bility of LPG apart from movement, industrial relations and other operational constraints. Efforts are being made to maximize indigenous LPG production and also augment supplies to the extent feasible. The situation is being closely monitored by the oil industry with a view to ensuring regular LPG supplies to the consumers.

Production and Export of Typewriters

4337. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of firms which produce typewriters in public and private sectors, State-wise;

(b) the details of the firms which have export potential; and

(c) if so, the quantity exported by them during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) State-wise list of typewriter manufacturing units in the organised sector is given in the Statement below. In addition to the public and private sector units in the organised sector, a number of units in the small scale sector are also manufacturing typewriters.

(b) and (c). M/s. Facit Asia Ltd., Madras have exported 1,506 Nos. machines during 1987. M/s. Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd., Bombay have also exported machines worth Rs. 8.93 lakhs during 1987-88.

STATEMENT

State-wise list of typewriter manufacturing units in the organised sector (public and private)

<i>State</i>	<i>Name of the Unit</i>
Punjab	M/s. Punjab Business Systems Ltd., SAS Nagar, Mohali.
Haryana	M/s. Remington Rand of India Ltd., Gurgaon.
Maharashtra	M/s. Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.
Tamil Nadu	M/s. Facit Asia Ltd., Perungudi. M/s. Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd., Guindy. M/s. Rayala Corporation, Mount Road, Guindy.
West Bengal	M/s. Remington Rand of India Ltd., Council House Street, Calcutta.
Uttar Pradesh	M/s. Indian Communications Network Ltd., NOIDA, Ghaziabad.

Manufacture of prophylactic drugs for allergic diseases

4338. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prophylactic drugs for allergic diseases like asthma are available abroad but are not manufactured in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any applications for manufacture of these drugs have been received; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not approving their manufacture?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). Availability of

drugs abroad is not monitored by this Ministry. Several anti-asthmatic drugs like Ephedrine, Salbutamol and Terbutaline Sulphate are being manufactured in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government have agreed in principle to grant Letter of Intent.

Power Projects In Coastal Areas using Natural Gas or Oil

4339. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to put up a string of power projects in the coastal areas using natural gas or oil as the fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government consider that there are adequate oil and gas reserves for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):

(a) No, Sir.

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

Telecast of Documentaries on Public Sector Enterprises

4340. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the documentaries of public sector enterprises telecast by Doordarshan during 1986, 1987 and 1988 (upto July 31, 1988) indicating their exact title and duration of each; and

(b) the details of the documentaries telecast by Doordarshan on management subjects with particular reference to public sector?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The requisite information is given in the Statement below.

(b) Such documentaries normally deal comprehensively with the subject which include management policies etc. of the Public Sector Undertakings.

STATEMENT

List of Documentaries on Public Sector Enterprises Telecast in the National Programme of Doordarshan with effect from 1.1.1986 to 31.7.1988

<i>Title of the Programme</i>	<i>Duration in Minutes</i>
1	2
1. Towards Progress Bharat Heavy Plasts & Vessels, Vishakhapatnam.	21
2. Two Fifty Years of Naval Dockyard, A documentary on Mazagon Docks	17
3. Small Industrial Sector — A discussion	26
4. 'A Bridge to River Goddess' A documentary on Bridge over Jalgunga near Gangotri	14

	1	2
5. Hindustan Petroleum — A documentary on Hindustan Petroleum Ltd.		26
6. A Nation on the Move — Documentary on Integral Coach Factory.		26
7. Samaya — A Success story of South-South Cooperation — A documentary on IRCON		15
8. Images of change — Andrew Yule & Co.		15
9. Immortal Indu — A documentary on Hindustan Photo Films Ltd.		27
10. NTPC Story — A documentary on NTPC.		20
11. Meetha Bhavishya — A film on National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories		15
12. Doctor Masiha to Nahin — A film on Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.		9
13. Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd. — A documentary		17
14. Low cost, Fire & Cyclone Proof Housing — A programme on Houses for poor.		24
15. Rourkela — The tune with the time — A documentary on Rourkela Steel Plant		30
16. People, Power and Prosperity — A documentary on NLC Ltd.		14
17. Away from House — A documentary on National Highways India		28
18. A programme on Telephones Mahanagar Telephone Nigam		25
19. A TV documentary on Miraj-2000		30
20. Our Telephone Network-Mahanagar Telephone Nigam		30
21. Prantiya Komcha Mela Trade Fair Authority of India		10
22. Production and Protection — A documentary on Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Corporation of India, Bombay		22
23. Productivity a way of life A documentary on Public Sector		49

1	2
24. Will of Steel — A film on Bhilai	18
25. India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan including statement by Mohd. Yunus.	15
26. Quest for Quality — A programme on Quality Control National Centre for Quality Management, Bombay.	14
27. Namrup Fertiliser Plant	22
28. Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited.	26
29. Sericulture in India — A programme on Silk Industry.	25
30. In the Forests — A documentary on West Bengal Forest Development Corpn.	20
31. Looking Back — A documentary on UPTRON	25
32. Documentary on IDPL Rishikesh (Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.)	25
33. Semi Conductor Complex Ltd., Chandigarh	23
34. Chukha Transmission System — Documentary on NTPC	15
35. Dawn of New Era — A film on Computerised Cement Plant	15
36. Pioneers in Manganese Ore: MMTC presented by Doordarshan Kendra, Nagpur	20
37. Hello; Hi Tech Here — Programme on Indian Telephone Industry	20
38. Heritage of Skill — Documentary	11
39. ALT Centre Ghaziabad — Programme on Advanced Level telecommunication Centre Ghaziabad.	11
40. CEERI Towards Self Reliance in Electronics (Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute)	15
41. ALIMCO — Documentary on Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India	29
42. Electronics Corporation of India	15
43. Advanced Technologies Research on Fuel (CSIR)	8

1	2
44. Songs of Neyveli — Documentary on Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.	26
45. Focus — Public Sector Vs Private Sector	29
46. Ushering in Excellence — Hindustan Teleprinters Limited.	21
47. Sach Hua Sapna — Documentary on HUDCO	22
48. The Mission — A programme on Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation.	15
49. Romance with Steel — A documentary on Steel authority of India Ltd.	15
50. Pragati Ke Path Par — A documentary on Punjab Khand Udyog Ltd.	15
51. Unending Quest — A Film on Oil India Ltd.	19
52. Khetri Copper Complex Ltd. — Perspective	24
53. The Golden Fibre — A Documentary on Jute Industry (Jute Corporation)	20
54. The World of Indian Air Lines	14
55. A shining example (Salem Steel Plant)	15
56. This is the Fact (A Programme on Fertiliser and Chemicals — Travancore)	22
57. The Four Million Tonne Pledge (Bokaro Steel Plant)	22
58. Mitra Niketan — A Programme on Transfer of Technology to Rural Areas (CAPART).	13
59. Creating in Wilderness — A Programme on Bokajan Cement Factory of India Ltd.	20
60. Ushering a New Era — A documentary on State Farmers Corporation of India Ltd.	26
61. Fuel for the Nation on the Move (A documentary on ONGC)	27
62. Reliance in Steel (Programme on R & D Centre for Iron and Steel, Ranchi)	25
63. Cochin Refineries	22

1	2
64. Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. "A Dream Comes True"	22
65. Reliability through Quality (C.Q.A.E.) A Programme on Defence Equipment	15
66. Upton Awards — 1986	26
67. Immortal Indu — Documentary on Hindustan Photo Film Manufacturing Ltd.	29
68. Utpadakta Zindagi Ka Ek Tour Tariqua (Parliamentary forum on Public Sector)	35
69. Towards Excellence — A documentary on Bharat Electronics Ltd.	26
70. SAIL and YOU (A programme on Steel Authority of India, Ltd.)	19
71. The Giant Movers — A documentary on Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	25
72. Jute Industry in Orissa	21
73. Jaipur Metals & Electronics Ltd.	19
74. Another Direction Another Step — A documentary on Scientific Research and Innovations.	28
75. Nepal and India: Partners in Progress (Indian Exhibition in Nepal)	10
76. Another Partner in Progress — A documentary on Hindustan Papers Corporation Naugaon Paper Mill	22
77. Nirman — Central Water Commission	22
78. When Villages Awake — Documentary on National Dairy Development	30
79. Nuclear Power Corporation	14
80. Master Builders to the Nation — A film on Mazagon Dock Ltd.	15
81. Towards Progress — Mica Trading Corporation	22
82. Doordrishti — Programme on Banking in India.	18

Modernisation study of small units

4341. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had issued instructions or guidelines regarding sponsoring trade delegations for visiting abroad for modernisation study of small units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Government has issued no instructions or guidelines regarding sponsoring trade delegations for visiting abroad for modernisation study of small units.

Thermal Power Station at Visakhapatnam

4342. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh for locating a 1000 M.W. Thermal Power Station at Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to clear the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) No project report for setting up of a thermal power station at Visakhapatnam has been received in the Central Electricity Authority.

(b) Does not arise.

Study on TV Programmes

4343. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has been putting too much emphasis on entertainment with the result that television is not serving as an instrument of second transformation;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir. Doordarshan telecasts several programmes which are educative and informative besides being entertaining.

(b) and (c). Audience Research is a continuous activity of Doordarshan. Findings of the surveys are used as a guide for better planning of programmes.

Growth rate of major industrial goods

4344. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major industrial goods in the manufacturing sector that experienced declaration in growth rate are paper and paper products, non-metallic mineral products, basic metals and electrical machinery; and

(b) the steps taken to bring back the growth rate in the above industrial manufacturing sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) According to CSO's index of industrial production, the growth rates in respect of selected industry groups during 1987-88 over the previous year were as under:

Paper and its products	1.9 per cent
Electrical machinery	31.6 per cent
Basic Metals & alloys	7.1 per cent
Non-metallic mineral products	(-) 1.4 per cent

The manufacturing sector as a whole recorded a growth of 8.5 per cent during 1987-88 inspite of severe drought being faced by the economy.

(b) Government has been taking a number of measures like reducing customs duty, rationalising excise duty, import of raw materials, provision of basic & intermediate inputs, wherever considered necessary. Government is also taking various steps to ensure that the infrastructure industries perform well to support industrial production.

Investment in Coal Sector

4345. SHRI MOHD MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment in the coal

sector in the country since its nationalisation till date;

(b) the percentage increase in the output per manshift during 1985, 1986 and 1987 and the reasons for decline, if any, in its productivity;

(c) the estimated gap between demand and supply of coal as compared to the supply gap at the end of 1986 due to decline in the productivity of coal; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by Government so far to increase the productivity and the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):

(a) Total investment (Equity + Loan) made in Coal India Limited by the Central Government upto 31.3.1988 was of the order of Rs. 7236.12 crores (excluding the effect of repayment made during 1987-88).

(b) The out put per manshift (OMS) in Coal India Ltd. has been rising during the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 as indicated below:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>OMS (Tonnes)</i>	<i>% increase over the previous year</i>
1	2	3
1985-86	0.92	5.7
1986-87	0.99	7.6
1987-88	1.08	9.00

(c) There was no decline in productivity.

The demand as estimated by the Plan-

ning Commission, the production, despatches and stocks with coal companies at the end of the year for the years 1986-87 and 1987-88 are given below:—

(Million tonnes)

	<i>Estimated Demand</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>Despatches</i>	<i>Stocks</i>
1986-87	176.06	165.79	158.67	28.84
1987-88	192.05	179.75	174.29	33.77

The apparent shortfall in despatches as compared with the estimated demand was due to (a) actual demand being short of estimated level; and (b) constraints in movement to areas located far away from coalfields.

(d) Productivity has been increasing. However, efforts are being made to achieve better results by (i) special attention to selected underground mines; (ii) planning projects with high O.M.S. (iii) restricting manpower increases and resorting to redeployment; and (iv) introducing improved technology.

T.V. Relay Station in Nalgonda, A.P.

4346. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any representation to set up a T.V. Relay Station in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh, if so, the action taken thereon; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to take up this T.V. relay station during Seventh Plan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c). Representations have been received from time to time for the establishment of a TV transmitter at Nalgonda. Large parts of Nalgonda district are already receiving service from the

high power (10 KV) TV transmitters functioning at Hyderabad and Vijayawada. However, any further improvement of TV service in the district would depend upon availability of resources under future plans for TV expansion.

Exploration by Oil India Ltd. and O.N.G.C. in Rajasthan

4347. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:
SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL:

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

(a) whether the Oil India Ltd. or the Oil and Natural Gas Commission have been able to find oil or gas in the desert areas of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the exact location where oil has been struck;

(d) whether any searches are being made by Oil India Ltd. and Oil and Natural Gas Commission to strike the oil and gas in other parts of Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Oil India Limited has discovered gas in the first exploratory well drilled at Tanot and ONGC has discovered gas at Manhera Tibba and

Ghotaru in Rajasthan.

(b) Estimated geological reserves of gas discovered are:

Tanot Well No. 1 : 1000 MMm3

Manhera Tibba : 772 MMm3

Ghotaru : 609 MMm3

(c) The locations of the well are as under:

Tanot — about 145 Kms from Jaisalmer towards North West

Manhera Tibba — about 68 Kms from Jaisalmer towards West

Ghotaru — about 70 Kms from Jaisalmer towards West-North-West

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. OIL will drill additional wells in Western Rajasthan for drilling/production of crude oil/natural gas. ONGC is currently drilling at Ghotaru and another at new prospect namely Ghotaru Fort.

Validity Period of Letters of Intent

4348. SHRI H.A. DORA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow validity period of three years for all letters of intent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All letters of intent issued after

1.6.1985 are now deemed to be valid for an initial period of three years. New letters of intent are also being issued with an initial validity period of three years from June 1988. The cases of extension beyond 3 years, will be brought by the Administrative Ministries before the appropriate approval committee.

(c) This decision was made after taking into consideration the normal time taken for completing effective steps to implement the project, such as arranging foreign collaboration, import of capital goods, finance, land etc.

Proposal for Thermal Power Stations from States

4349. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals submitted by the various State Governments for construction of thermal power stations in their respective States, during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan periods;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what other measures are being taken to increase the power production in the country to meet the increasing demand of power in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAJ): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Selection of Artistes for A.I.R. and Doordarshan

4350. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee has been set up for selecting artistes for the National Programmes of A.I.R. and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the composition of the said Committee and their experience as broadcasters of classical music;

(c) whether the members have the requisite knowledge of programme and planning in broadcasting and telecasting; and

(d) the reasons for constituting the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir. Selection of Artists for National Programme of Music of All India Radio and Doordarshan is done by the Central Music Unit consisting of Senior Officers of All India Radio who are well versed and specialists in the field of classical music (both Hindustani and Karnataka) and also broadcasting. The Artists are selected from Artists graded in the categories of "Top" Grade and 'A' Grade. The approval and grading of dance artists is done by Audition Committees of individual Doordarshan Kendras.

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

Coking Coal Reserves

4351. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether coking coal reserves are unsuitable for steel production and are likely to exhaust early;

(b) whether these coal reserves are costly after blending and beneficiation;

(c) the factors necessitating import of coking coal;

(d) the cost-benefit ratio thereof;

(e) the impact on national economy; and

(f) whether this will promote self-reli-

ance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) India's coking coal reserves are suitable for steel production after beneficiation. While the reserves of prime coking coal are limited, there is no apprehension of coking coal reserves in the country being exhausted in the foreseeable future.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) to (f). Main reasons for import of coking coal are shortfall in availability of prime coking coal from indigenous sources and the advantage that steel plants realise by blending superior imported coking coal with indigenous coking coal. While the import of a part of the requirement of coking coal of the steel industry has no adverse impact on the indigenous coal industry, it helps the steel industry to upgrade the coal which is charged in the Coke Ovens.

Committee on Payment of Crop Compensation to villagers of Nimcha in Raniganj Coalfields West Bengal

4352. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee which was set up to look into the matter of payment of crop compensation to the villagers of Nimcha in Raniganj Coalfields West Bengal has submitted its report;

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

(c) if not, the time by which the report will be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. ZAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c). A committee was constituted by ECL to look into the problems of residents of Nimcha Village for crop compensation at higher rates. The commit-

tee has since submitted its report which is under examination.

T.V. serial on "Lesser Known Tribes"

4353. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make a T.V. Serial on "Lesser Known Tribes" of the country;

(b) if so, what are the names of the lesser known tribes identified in different parts of the country; and

(c) the steps taken to telecast the T.V. serial on such tribes?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c). Doordarshan is already telecasting a series of programmes on lesser known tribes of India in its morning transmission. These programmes are telecast on every Wednesday at 7.35 a.m. for a duration of 14-15 minutes. Doordarshan has so far identified 17 tribes from different parts of the country which are as follows:

1. Rabari	Gujarat
2. Jaunsor Bhabar	Uttar Pradesh
3. Lepcha	West Bengal
4. Bhopa	Rajasthan
5. Ho	Bihar
6. Brihor	Bihar
7. Korba	Uttar Pradesh
8. Kinner	Himachal Pradesh
9. Gaddi	Himachal Pradesh

10. Saharia Rajasthan

11. Karsia Gujarat/Rajasthan

12. Pardhi Madhya Pradesh

13. Agaria Madhya Pradesh

14. Damour Rajasthan/
Gujarat

15. Bhotia Uttar Pradesh

16. Khond Andhra Pradesh

17. Ooorali Kerala

Out of the above 17, Doordarshan has already telecast programmes on subjects mentioned at Serial No. 1 to 10.

Representation from Trade Unions of North Bengal of Chukha Transmission System at Malda

4354. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from different trade unions and mass organisations of North Bengal in connection with prevailing situation in National Hydel Project Corporation Limited, Chukha Transmission system at Malda and other places;

(b) if so, the precise content of such representation; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Besides levelling general allegations of high-handed attitude of Project Manager, corruption, nepotism and malpractices and intimidation of the employees

working in Chukha Transmission System, two specific charges of dismissal from service of the Secretary, NHPC Employees' Union, Malda and victimisation by transfers of office bearers of the union on flimsy grounds have been made in the representations.

(c) The matter has been investigated by NHPC Management. The charges of corruption, nepotism and malpractices against the management are vague and baseless. Regarding dismissal of General Secretary, NHPC Employees' Union, the Union challenged the dismissal orders in the Calcutta High Court and the High Court gave liberty to the Management to remove him from service. This has again been challenged in the Calcutta High Court through a writ petition on technical grounds. The writ is subjudice.

As regards alleged victimisation by transfer of Union leaders, the union challenged the transfer orders through a writ petition in Calcutta High Court which has been dismissed and the concerned employees have been directed by the Court to join their respective places of transfer.

Integrated Digital Network in H.P.

4355. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to install integrated digital network in Hamirpur SSA of Himachal Pradesh, as it already stands sanctioned for over two years now;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely date by which the installation work would be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and whether it would be ensured that the work would be taken in hand during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI

GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the scheme was approved only in December, 1987.

(b) The scheme is being implemented progressively. In the first phase Digital Electronic Exchanges have been allotted to locations qualifying for allotment of available indigenous exchanges. These exchanges are expected to be commissioned progressively by March, 1990.

(c) The work will be taken up in hand during the current financial year.

Neglect of Pahari Programmes by A.I.R. Shimla and Doordarshan Centre, Jalandhar

4356. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received for the neglect of the Pahari language by A.I.R., Shimla and Doordarshan Kendra, Jalandhar in as much no Pahari Kavi Sammelans have been organised by these Stations though the State Government of Himachal Pradesh and the State Academi of Art, Culture and Languages Shimla, have been organising such Sammelans for over 15 years;

(b) if so, the reasons for neglecting the Pahari language, especially when Kavi Sammelans in regional and other languages like Punjabi, Urdu, etc. have been organised frequently by these Stations; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon and whether Government would ensure organising Sammelans in Pahari language during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. A letter from the Hon'ble Member on this subject has been received.

(b) and (c). Poets in the Pahari dialects were featured in the "Sahitya Vela" programme broadcast from All India Radio, Shimla and also in the other dialect programmes. All India Radio, Shimla provided coverage to the Kavi Sammelan organised by State Government in 1988. All India Radio arranges Kavi Sammelans depending upon programme requirements.

Doordarshan Kendra Jalandhar has telecast two Kavi Sammelans in Himachali this year on 23rd May and 13th August, 1988. A recording of Kavi Sammelan in Dogri is scheduled on 5th September 1988. A programme in Himachali is telecast on weekly basis for a duration of 60 minutes every week. This programme features poetry recitation, folk songs, interviews, folk dance etc. apart from excerpts of coverages of festivals held from time to time during the year.

Scrapping of Strowger Exchanges

4357. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased

to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has decided to scrap all old unserviceable Strowger Exchanges and instal rural Electronic Digital Exchanges in their place at the rate of one per day during the current year to improve telecommunication services, particularly in the rural and backward areas; and

(b) if so, the names of places in eastern U.P. where RAXs are likely to be installed during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. Rural Electronic Digital exchanges are being installed progressively to replace old unserviceable Strowger Exchanges. However, it is not possible to replace all old strowger exchanges during the current year.

(b) Information is given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

Allotment of 128 Port C-DOT RAXs for 1988-89

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Station</i>	<i>District</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1.	Salon	Rai Bareilly
2.	Jagdishpur	—do—
3.	Amethi	Sultanpur
4.	M. Khan	—do—
5.	Bilariganj	Azamgarh
6.	Lalganj	—do—
7.	Mphammadabad	—do—
8.	Phoolpur	—do—

1	2	3
9.	Saiai Mir	—do—
10.	Lalgañj	Rai Bareilly
11.	Colonelgañj	Gonda
12.	Nawabgañj	—do—
13.	Tulsipur	—do—
14.	Gyanpur	Varanasi
15.	Raja Talab	—do—
16.	Chandavli	—do—
17.	Jayar	Rai Bareilly

Productivity linked bonus to employees of National Hydro Electric Power Corporation

4358. SHRI GANGA RAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether productivity linked bonus/ Incentive for four years, 1983-84 to 1986-87, has not been paid to the employees of the National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation in the pay scales of Rs. 550-900 and above and the matter has been referred to the High Power Pay Committee for recommendations;

(b) if so, where the Committee has been empowered to make recommendations on issues prior to its constitution; and

(c) if not, how Government propose to settle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). These employees are under the Third Pay Commission D.A. pattern. As per Government's policy any new benefit can be extended to such employees only if they agree to change over to Industrial D.A. Since these employees did not agree to change over and challenged the

Government's decision in the Supreme Court the matter has been referred on the directions of the Supreme Court to the High Power Pay Committee which is yet to give its report. The question of productivity linked payments to the employees on Third CPC has not been specifically referred to HPPC.

Central Investment Subsidy Scheme in Goa

4359. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central investment subsidy Scheme is in force in Goa;

(b) since when the same is in force;

(c) the amount disbursed so far, under the scheme in the State;

(d) till what date the scheme is likely to remain in force in Goa.

(e) whether the State Government, individuals and organisations have asked for the continuation of scheme; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Union Govern-

ment thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Investment Subsidy Scheme, 1971 became applicable to Goa, Daman and Diu with effect from 1.10.1970.

(c) An amount of Rs. 25.77 crores has been reimbursed to Goa, Daman and Diu upto 31st July, 1988. Separate figures for Goa not maintained separately.

(d) to (f). The Central Investment Subsidy Scheme, 1971 as extended from time to time is valid upto 30.9.1988. Government have not decided about its continuance or otherwise beyond this date.

Upgradation of Goa Telecommunication Division

4360. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far regarding upgradation of Goa Telecommunication Division to a full fledged circle; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). Proposal for the Upgradation of Goa Telecom-

munication Division into a separate Telecom. Circle for the State of Goa has already been approved by the Ministry of Communications, and the case for relaxation of the ban for the formation of the Goa Telecom Circle alongwith associated posts is being processed.

Establishment of units by Indian Drug Manufacturers Abroad

4361. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian drug manufacturers have been allowed to establish drug manufacturing units abroad;

(b) if so, the names of these companies and the names of the countries in which they have established their units;

(c) the details of terms and conditions; and

(d) Government's policy to allow industrialists to establish their units abroad?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c). The relevant information is given in the Statement below.

(d) Each case is examined on its merits taking into consideration factors, mainly concerning export potential, foreign exchange earnings, etc.

STATEMENT

Details of Approvals Granted by Government to Indian Companies for Setting Up Joint Venture Abroad

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Name of the country of Joint Venture/Subsidiary	Terms and conditions			
			Equity participation by the Indian Company	Lumpsum technical assistance fee to be charged by the Indian Company	Royalty repayable to the Indian Company	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1.	M/s. Unique Pharmaceuticals Labs. Pvt Ltd.	Nigeria	60% amounting to naira 2,05,737	(a) Consultancy Fee: Rs. 4 lakhs (b) Process know-how fee: Naira 3625 per product	1% on the net turnover of branded products.	
2.	M/s. Ranbaxy Labs. Ltd.	Nigeria	Naira: 2.00 lakhs	—	—	
3.	M/s. Ranbaxy Labs. Ltd.	Nigeria	40% amounting to Naira 4.00 lakhs	2% of the net profit before tax	1% of sale value of products	
4.	M/s. Lupin Labs. Ltd.	Thailand	65% amounting to Baht 195 00 lakhs in the following manner	Rupees 40 lakhs, which Lupin Labs. will capitalize towards its equity participation in the joint venture.	Baht 280.20 lakhs (Projection)	
		(i)	M/s. Lupin Labs.: Baht 175.50 lakhs	(b) @ US dollars 3% of net value of sales for a period of ten years		
		(ii)	M/s. Lupin Agrochemicals: Baht 19.50 lakhs			

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	M/s. Ranbaxy Labs. Ltd	Thailand	26% amounting to Baht 10.40 lakhs	(a) 2% of sales value including exports. 1% sale value	
				(b) Management services fee: 3% of the net profits	
6.	M/s. Sarabhai M. Chemicals	Malaysia	40% amounting to Rs. 13.80 lakhs	Project Fees: Malaysian Dollars: one lakhs	
7.	M/s. Hoechst (I) Ltd.	Nepal (100% subsidiary)	The Indian Co. shall provide loan to the subsidiary amounting to Nep Rs. 3.57 million at terms to be approved by the Reserve Bank of India.	—	
8.	M/s. Ranbaxy Labs.	Malaysia	49% amounting to Malaysian Dollars: 5.88 lakhs	(a) Technical know-how fee: Malaysian Dollars: 3 lakhs	2% of the net sales value for 5 years.
				(b) Licence fee for use of Trade Mark & Trade Name: 1% of net sales of the products sold under trade mark for 5 years.	
9.	M/s. United Chemolide Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Nigeria	51% amounting to Naira 2.55 lakhs	Naira 50,000	1% of net sales for a period of 5 years

National Telecom Network

4362. CH. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country linked to the National Telephone network till 31st January, 1988;

(b) the number of villages expected to be linked during the current Plan period;

(c) the estimate average cost in rupees and foreign exchange for connecting each village including cost of copper cables to be provided; and

(d) what technical options are available to Government in order to minimise the costs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). About 37000 villages have been linked to the National Telephone Network till 31.3.88 (The information is maintained on financial year basis) and 5476 more villages are expected to be linked during the remaining two years of the current plan.

(c) Average cost of providing Long Distance Public Telephones in a village works out to about Rs. 1.5 lakhs

(d) Technical options under consideration for minimising the costs are -

- i) Line sharing system,
- ii) Rural Cordless telephone,
- iii) Radio sharing system; and
- iv) Single channel VHF system.

Setting up of Biogas Plants

4363. CH. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State-wise evaluation of biogas production has been conducted, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether biogas is going waste, as per study conducted in Goa, as reported in the Times of India dated 26 October, 1987 and if so, what corrective steps have been taken;

(c) what has been the total investment on production of biogas so far; and

(d) how many plants have been installed, State-wise till 31 January, 1988 and how many of these plants are actually functioning at present?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) State-wise evaluation survey studies on performance of family type biogas plants were conducted in 1984-85 and it was found that on an all-India basis about 84 percent of the plants installed are functioning at any time. Inspection and checks are being continuously carried out.

(b) No, Sir. The newspaper report refers to an evaluation study of 'Biogas Plant Scheme' implemented by the Directorate of Agriculture, Panaji-Goa, brought out in September, 1986 by the Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation, Government of Goa. The study found 95 percent plants functioning after taking into account the plants revived by the State Government. With regard to the observation made that bigger capacity plants are not being utilised to full capacity for want of adequate quantity of dung, steps have already been taken to promote smaller capacity plants in large numbers by making the quantum of Central assistance more attractive for smaller capacity plants and insisting upon the State Governments to ensure proper selection of beneficiaries and size of plants based on daily availability of dung.

(c) A total sum of Rs. 291.48 crores has been sanctioned to different State Governments and programme implementing agencies, including Khadi and Village Industries

Commission under the National Project for Biogas Development since its inception in 1981-82 to 1987-88 (upto 31.7.1988).

(d) State-wise information for a total of 8,28,768 plants set up during the period

1981-82 to 1987-88 (upto January, 1988) is given in the Statement below. State Governments have got 85,000 plants inspected on a distributed basis during the period April-December, 1987 and the reports indicate that on an all-India basis 86 percent of the plants are functioning.

STATEMENT

State-wise number of family type biogas plants set up from 1981-82 to 1987-88 (upto January, 1988)

S. No. State/Union Territory		Total number of plants set up
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	73281
2.	Assam	3794
3.	Bihar	42279
4.	Gujarat	60013
5.	Haryana	13472
6.	Himachal Pradesh	12090
7.	Karnataka	42930
8.	Kerala	15557
9.	Madhya Pradesh	27492
10.	Maharashtra	234283
11.	Orissa	18486
12.	Punjab	10206
13.	Rajasthan	26064
14.	Tamil Nadu	86176
15.	Uttar Pradesh	140145
16.	West Bengal	19492
17.	Goa	907
18.	Other States/Union Territories	2101
TOTAL:		828768

Installation of Shunt Capacitors in Power Systems

4364. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Electricity Boards in the Northern region have been asked to carry out a time bound programme to instal shunt capacitors in power systems to avoid low voltages and grid failure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the assessment made by the Central Electricity Authority, the requirement of capacitors in the Northern region is about 4800 MVAR, against the present installed capacity (in working order) of about 3000 MVAR. The constituent power systems in the Northern region have been advised to instal the requisite capacitors on a crash basis, in a time-bound manner.

Holding of Newspapers by Business Houses

4365. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the names of business houses which are controlling the chain of newspaper at present?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): As per the information in the annual statements filed with the office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India, a list of organisations in which ownership of more than one newspaper/periodical is vested, is given in the statement below.

STATEMENT

1. Bennett Coleman & Co., Ltd., (Public Ltd.)

Times of India Building,
Dadabhoy Naoraoji Road,
Bombay.

2. Indian Express (Pvt. Ltd., Company)
Express Towers, Nariman Point,
P.B. NO. 867,
Bombay 21.
3. Anand Bazar Patrika, (Pvt. Ltd.),
6, Prafulla Sarkar Street,
Calcutta-700 001.
4. Malayala Manorama & Co.,
Manorma Building, P.B. No. 26,
Kottayam 1.
5. Amrita Bazar Patrika (Pvt. Ltd.),
Patrika House, Calcutta-700 003
6. Hindustan Times & Allied
Publications,
Hindustan Times House, 18/20,
Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi.
7. Hind Samachar Ltd., (Pub. Ltd.),
Civil Lines, Jalandhar (Pb.).
8. Statesman Ltd (Public Ltd.),
4, Chowringhe Square,
Calcutta-700 001.
9. Mathrubhumi Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.,
(public Ltd.), Mathrubhumi
Building, K.D. Kesava Menon Road,
P.B. no. 46, Calcutta-11.
10. Thanthi Trust and Allied
Publications,
46, EVK Sampath Road,
Madras-600 007.
11. Ushodaya Publications (Pvt. Ltd.),
6-3-570, Eenadu Compound
Semajiguda, Hyderabad-500 482.
12. Kasturi and Sons Ltd., (Public Ltd.),
Kasturi Buildings, Anna Slai,
Madras.

13. The Printers (Mysore) Public Ltd.,
75, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore-560 001.
14. Sakal Papers Pvt. Ltd.,
595, Budhwar Peth, Pune-411 002.
15. M/s Jagran Prakashan Ltd.,
(Public Ltd.),
2, Sarvodaya Nagar,
Kanpur-208 005.
16. The Tribune Trust, Chandigarh.
17. The Lok Prakashan Ltd.,
(Public Ltd.),
Gujarat Samachar Bhawan,
Khasipur,
Post Box No. 254, Ahmedabad-1
18. Saurashtra Trust, Janmabhoomi
Bhavan,
Ghoga Street, P.B. No. 62, Fort,
Bombay-1.
19. Blitz Publications (P) Ltd.,
17/17-14, Cowasji, Patel Street,
Fort, Bombay-400001.
20. T. Chandra Sekhar Reddy &
Others (part)
36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secundra-
bad-3.-1.
21. Sandesh Limited (public Ltd.),
Sandesh Bhavan, Ghee Kanta
Road, Ahmedabad-1.
22. The Bombay Samachar (Pvt. Ltd.),
P.E. No. 676, Sayed Abdulla
Brelvi Road,
Nariman Circle, Bombay-400 001.
23. K.C. Kulish & Others (Pvt. Ltd.,
Company)
Rajasthan Patrika, Kesar Garh,
Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg,
Jaipur-302004.
24. R.G. Naheshwari & Sons (Partner-
ship),
P.B. No. 382, Nagpur-440 018.
25. The Newspapers & Publications
Ltd., (Pub. Ltd.)
Mazharul Haque Path, (Praser
Road), Patna-1.
26. Mani Pal Printers & Publishers
(Pvt. Ltd.),
Udaya Vani Building, Tib Factory
Road, Manipal-576 119.
27. Kumar Publications (Trust),
Dinakaran 106-107, Kucheri Road,
Mylapore,
Madras-600 004.
28. The Janamandal Ltd., (Pub. Ltd.),
Sant Kabir Road, Varanasi-221001.
29. Traders Private Ltd.,
Janasatta Bhavan, Mirzapur Road,
Ahmedabad-380 001.
30. Associated Journals Ltd.,
(Public Ltd.),
Nehru Bhavan, 1, Bishwar Nath
Road, Lucknow.
31. Pioneer Ltd., (Public Ltd.),
20, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow-
226 001.
32. Nageswara Rao Estates (Pvt. Ltd.),
14-14-21, Mallikarjuna Rao Street,
Vijayawada-520 003 (A.P.)
33. National Journals (Firms),
Amar Ujala, Secundera Road,
Agra-280 003.
34. Servants of the People Society
(Trust),
Gopa Bandhu Bhawan,
Cuttack-753 001.
35. M/s T.V. Ramasubha Iyer and
others (Regd. Firm)
Palanganatham, Madurai-625 003.
36. Lokmat newspapers (Pvt. Ltd.)
Lokmat Bhawan, Pandit Jawahar Lal
Nehru Marg, P.B. No. 216,
Nagpur-440 012.

37. P.C. Baruah and others (Regd. Partnership), Tribune Building, Guwahati-781 003.
38. M/s D.B. Chaudhary and others (Regd. Firm), Brij Building, Babu Mehalla Kesar Gunj, Ajmer (Raj.).
39. K.C. Agarwalia and others (Firm), 74, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta-700 013.
40. Kesari Maratha (Trust), Mahratha Trust, 568, Narayan Peth, N.C. Kelkar Road, Pune-411 030.
41. Lok Shikshna (Trust), Kopikar Road, Hubli-580 020.
42. Indian National Press (Bombay) Pub. Ltd., Free Press House, 215, Free Press Journal Road, Nariman Point, Bombay-400 0021.
43. Bhaskar Publications & Allied Industries (Pvt. Ltd.), 6, Press Complex, Maharana Pratap Nagar Hobib Ganj Bhopal.
44. Khadilkar and others (Regd. Firm) (Sole Proprietor) 13, Shendiwadi Khadilkar Road, Bombay-4
45. Nav Chetan Smiti (Regd society), Janshakti Bhawan, P.B.No. 124 Amar Nath Road, Patna-1
46. D.S.Patnis (Partnership) P.B.No. 4, Tilk Peth; Nasik-1
47. Pathrakar Prakashan & Allied Publications (Regd. Firm) Desh Bandhu Complex Ram Sagar Para Layout, Raipur-492001.
48. Virehra and Sons (Regd. Partnership), Pratap Bhawan, 5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002.
49. Raisina Publications Pub. Ltd., & United India periodicals Pvt. Ltd. Link House, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.
50. Newsman Associates Limited (Pub. Ltd.) Print House, 1 main Road, United India Colony, Madras-24
51. Anil Narender & K Narender, Pratap Bhavan, 5, B.S. Zafar Marg, New Delhi.
52. Bombay Public Limited, 19-21, Ambala Desha Street, Fort, Bombay.
53. The Chardikala Trust, Chardikala Publication Pvt. Ltd., B-25, 287-Chardikala Marg, Patiala (Punjab).
54. Swadesh, Jayhind Press, Jayendra Ganj, Gwalior (M.P.)
55. Himachal Times Publications, 21-B, Rajpur Road, Dehradun (U.P.)
56. The Nava Samaj Limited (Pub. Ltd.) Nagpur Times, Naya Samaj Building, Ramdas Peth, Nagpur, (M.S.)
57. S.N.Marau & Others (Firm and Partnership). 52-A, Kodambakam High Road, Madras-34.
58. H.M.Ishmail Tabish & Others (Partnership), 25, Meenakshi Koil Street, Bangalore.
59. Janayugam Publications Ltd., (Pub. Ltd.)

4/356, Joseph Road, Vellayil,
Calicut.

60. Prakash Chander Krishna Chander
(Regd. Firm)
Prakash Chander Gupta, 9,
Jagat Narayana Road,
Golaganj, Lucknow.

61. The New Prabhat Publications
Company (Regd. Firm),
Naten Mudranalaya,
Tankaria Road, Ahmedabad.

62. Devi Dayal Dubey (Firm)
Desh Dharama Press, Saban Katra,
Agra-1

63. Naya Sansar Publications
(Regd Firm),
Galshaheed Moradabad (U.P).

64. Acharya Chandamal Gundecha
(Partnership),
2/33, N. Ganj Bazar, Ahmednagar
(M.S).

65. M/s. G.B.Bhosala and Sons
(Regd. Partnership),
H. No. 10879, Marbhat Road
(Sangli South Stars,
Sangli (M.S.)

66. Jai Chandra Arya & others
(Regd. Partnership),
362, Civil Lines, Jhansi (U.P.)

67. Lok Sevak Publishing House
Pvt. Ltd.,

88-A, Acharya Jagdish Chandra
Bose Road,
Calcutta-14.

68. Tamil Murasu Publications,
101, Palam Station Road,
Madurai—2.

69. V.S.Dempo & Co, Pvt. Ltd.
Nav Hind Times, Dempo House,
Canpal, Panaji,
Goa.

Project Proposals for Alternative Sources of Energy from Kerala

4366. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-
CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY
be pleased to state:

(a) the annual demand and availability
of power in Kerala during 1985-86, 1986-87
and 1987-88;

(b) whether any specific proposals for
alternative sources of energy, i.e. other than
hydel power, have been submitted by the
Kerala Government for Central Clearance;

(c) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(d) the decision taken by Union Govern-
ment in respect of each such proposal/proj-
ect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINIS-
TRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI)

(a) The requisite information is as under:-

(All figures in MU Net)

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Requirement	5225	5567	6135
Availability	5225	5146	5196

(b) to (d). The nodal agency for the
implementation of renewable energy pro-
grammes in Kerala had asked for 118 Solar

photovoltaic systems for lighting and 6 such
systems for water pumping which are being
supplied. A 100 KW wind electric generation

system proposed for erection at Alathur is also under commissioning. ~

Installation of Biogas Plants

4367. SHRI MANORAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the target achieved for installation of biogas plants during 1987-88;

(b) the target for 1988-89 and of it how many plants are to be installed in Bihar; and

(c) what promotional measures have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SH. VASANT SATHE) : (a) As against a target of 1,20,900 biogas plants for 1987-88, the achievements was 1,73,659 giving percentage achievement of about 144 percent.

(b) The national target for 1988-89 is 1,50,000 biogas plants of which the target for Bihar is 5,000 plants.

(c) During the current financial year upto July, 1988, a total sum of Rs. 32.73 crores have been sanctioned to various State Governments and Programme Implementing Agencies in the form of subsidy, advance subsidy, service charges, promotional incentives, turn key job fees and also for organising various training courses and field demonstration. BREDA which is the Implementing Agency of the State Government of Bihar has already been provided during this period with a sum of Rs. 65 lakhs as advance subsidy.

BREDA= Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency.

Electrification of villages in Pauri Garhwal District of Uttar Pradesh

4368. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural electrification programme in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh, particularly, in Pauri Garhwal District is far behind the schedule; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b). The progress of Rural Electrification in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh is marginally behind the State level. As on 30.6.1988, 63.2% of the villages in hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh have been electrified against the state Average of 67.5%. However, in Pauri Garhwal district, the level of electrification as on 30.6.1988 is only about 47%. some of the main reasons for slow progress in this area is due to difficult and inaccessible terrain, poor infrastructural facilities (sub-transmission facility etc.

Commission Agents Associated With Singrauli Super Thermal Power Plant

4369. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian agents are associated with the Singrauli Super Thermal Power packages; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the percentage of the package value paid to each agent as commission and how much;

(c) the terms conditions and obligations for each commission agent in lieu of the payment; and

(d) Government's policy and guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (d). The information received from the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) who implemented the project with

World Bank assistance is contained in the Statement below:-

The NTPC bid conditions for procure-

ment of various packages for the project indicated that Indian Agents' fees would be paid in Indian rupees and in accordance with the World Bank's Procurement Guidelines.

STATEMENT*Agent Associated with Singrauli STPP Packages and Commission Paid to Them*

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Package</i>	<i>Name of Agent</i>	<i>% and commission (Payable in terms of contracts)</i>	<i>Terms of Payment</i>
1	2	3	4	5
(i)	Hydrogen Generation Plant	M/s. Eastern Equipment & Sales, N. Delhi.	10% of Supply Portion US \$ 38874.01 *	After receipt of corresponding payment by M/s. Electrolyser Corporation, Canada and upon their authorisation.
				(a) Initial advance — 10%
				(b) On shipment — 60%
				(c) On receipt at site — 20%
				(d) On performance and guarantee test and handling over. — 10%
(ii)	Stock Elevator	M/s. Mekaster, N. Delhi.	10% of FOB Price Price SEK 61000 *	100% after receipt of last shipment.
(iii)	Supply of Power and control Cables	M/s. Electrozaved, Calcutta.	1% of FOB Price J.Yn. 1.5 Million *	90% after shipment. 10% after taking over.

1	2	3	4	5
(iv)	Supply of 132 KV XL PE Cables	M/s. ASEA Ltd., N. Delhi.	2% of FOB Price SEK. 14585.05 *	90% Pro-rata after receipt of each consignment at site. 10% on successful completion of installation.
(v)	CV-CVT	M/s. ASEA Ltd., N. Delhi.	1% of FOB Price of equipment; and 1% of CIF Price of Spares. SEK 39374. 23*	90% on completion of supply. 10% on issuance of taking over certificate.

• Paid in Equivalent Rupees.

Recovery of Overdues By N.T.P.C. from State Electricity Boards

4370. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN:

SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the world Bank has expressed concern over the substantial sums that the State Electricity Boards owe to the National Thermal Power Corporation;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has pointed out that in future funding will be

linked to the recovery of the overdues by the NTPC; and

(c) the total dues of the NTPC against the State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b). The word Bank has expressed concern at the arrears of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in respect of sales of power to the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) etc. and have suggested that an Action Plan may be prepared to liquidate the same.

(c). The total outstanding dues, as at the end of July, 1988 were as follows:-

(a) For sale of power

... Rs. 411.97 crores

(b) Surcharge for delayed payments

... Rs. 144.22 crores

Participation of Private Sector In Power Generation

4371. PROF.P.J.KURIEN :Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in finalisation of the modalities for facilitating private sector participation in power generation;

(b) whether the private sector will depend on the public financial institutions for their capital requirements; and

(c) if not, the sources of their capital for setting up the power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c). The policy with regard to the generation and distribution of electricity continues to be regulated by the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. The expansion of the existing privately-owned utilities or the establishment of new units in the private sector is not precluded under the Resolu-

tion. The modalities for facilitating private sector participation in power generation are being worked out.

Postings and Transfers in Oil Corporations

4372. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy for postings and transfers of senior executives of the Oil Corporation to and from one station where they have served for a long time during their service career; and

(b) the number of officers of Oil Corporations of the rank of District Managers and above posted in Delhi at present alongwith the total period of their service for which they have served in Delhi from time to time in various capacities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) The

policy for postings and transfers of senior executives of the oil marketing companies is governed by exigencies of company work and administrative reasons, and also takes into consideration requests for postings and transfers;

(b) Presently 69 senior executives of the oil marketing companies are posted in Delhi; the total period of their service for which they have been serving in Delhi from time to time in various capacities varies from one month to 34 years.

Agreement Between Bangladesh and India for Extraction of Oil

4373. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agreement between India and Bangladesh to allow the latter to extract oil from India soil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Telecommunication Network

4374. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modernisation of the telecommunication network is being considered;

(b) whether Government are also considering an integrated multi-user national telecommunication network;

(c) if so, the main features of the proposed programme in this regard; and

(d) to what extent the communication network will be improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The existing telecom. network itself is an integrated multiuser national network. It is planned to add 16 lakh Direct Exchange lines besides associated long distance media during the seventh Plan period. With the proposed expansion programme and induction of digital technology the network will improve considerably. About 14 lakh lines will be of electronic switching system by March' 1990.

Import of Coal

4375. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI ANIL BASU:
DR. D.N.REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India which was considered to be a major producer of coal is heading for a new era of increased dependence on imported coal for keeping its industries going;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which the coal is being imported during the current year;

(d) the import made during the last year; and

(e) the steps being considered to improve production of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b). Bulk of the requirement of coal

in the country is met from indigenous sources. Only a part of the requirement of coking coal of steel industry is, however, met through import of low ash coking coal on account of shortfall in availability of prime coking coal from indigenous sources and the advantage steel plants realise by blending superior imported coking coal with indigenous coking coal. Small quantities of non-coking coal are also understood to be imported by industries - mainly by cement industry in the South.

(c) and (d). The total quantity of coking coal imported by Steel Plants during 1987-88 was 3.08 million tonnes. The import of non-coking coal by cement plants during 1987-88 was of the order of 1.31 lakh tonnes.

During 1988-89 the quantities of coking coal to be imported by SAIL, TISCO and Vizag Steel Plants are estimated to be:

Plant	Quantity (m.t)
SAIL	3.43 * (plus 0.33 optional)
TISCO	0.7
VSP	0.4 *

* Contracted quantity as on date

** quantities to be imported till September, 1989.

Import of non-coking coal by cement plants during the period April'88 to June'88 was 0.49 lakh tonnes (provisional).

(e) Steps being taken to improve production of prime coking coal in the country include; opening of new mines, re-organisation of the existing mines, optimisation of machinery and manpower, monitoring of timely completion of new projects, etc.

Losses in State Electricity Boards

4376. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the cumulative losses suffered by the State Electricity Boards during each of the last three years and in the current year so far and how do they compare with the profit/losses of the three power generating stations of the National Thermal Power Corporation and the private sector during same period; and

(b) the steps taken at the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan to stop the burden of the State Electricity Boards' losses on public exchequer and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) The details are given in the Statement below

(b) Some of the measures taken to improve the performance of State Electricity Boards are:-

- (i) Directions have been issued to State Electricity Boards for capitalisation of interest during construction (IDC), as provided in the Electricity (Supply) Annual Accounts Rules, 1985.
- (ii) State Government have been requested to provide equity support to State Electricity Boards to make them financially viable.
- (iii) State Government are being advised to release rural electrification subsidies to SEBs regularly and adequately.
- (iv) A Central Sponsored Scheme for Renovation & Modernisation of thermal power stations has

been introduced.

- (v) Theft of Power has been made a cognizable offence with stringent punishment for the commitment as well as abetment of the offence.
- (iv) Introduction of an Incentive Scheme for reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

These steps have contributed to the reduction of losses.

STATEMENT

The cumulative losses suffered by State Electricity Boards during each of the last three years, after taking into account rural electrification subsidies reflected in the account of its Boards, is as follows:-

<i>As on</i>	<i>Cumulative losses (Rs. crores)</i>
31.3.1986 *	2161.50
31.3.1987 * @	1943.40
31.3.1988 * @	1716.20

* Provisional

@ After Capitalisation of I.D.C.

As the Accounts of State Electricity Boards are not closed on a monthly or quarterly basis, it is not possible to furnish the financial position of the Boards for the current year as on date.

On account of number of factors, the comparison of the profits/losses of State Electricity Boards with that of the top three power generating stations of National Thermal Power Corporation and the private sector would not be appropriate.

Subsistence Allowance to Extra Departmental Employees

4377. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the

Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts had agreed to grant subsistence allowance to Extra Departmental employees under 'Pay off' duty;

(b) to what extent this agreement has been implemented; if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) the number of post offices in the country and how many of them are served by Extra Departmental Employees ; and

(d) the number of Extra Departmental employees at as at present under "pay-off" duty for more than four months and the average subsistence allowance being paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) No, Sir. The question of grant of subsistence allowance to Ed employees put off duty was considered but it was not found feasible.

(b) Does not arise

(c) The total number of post offices in ten country as on 31.3.1988 is 1,44,829 out of which 1,19,648 are manned by E.D. employees.

(d) As on 1.11.1987, the number of ED employees put off duty for more than four month is 3676. No subsistence allowance is paid to ED employees for the put-off duty period.

[Translation]

Tehri Dam Project

4378. SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the multipurpose Tehri Dam Project had been approved by Government in 1972;

(b) if so, the target set for production of power by this project;

(c) whether this project is located only a hundred kilometres away from Chinese border in the North; and

(d) if so, the reasons for allowing construction of this project in that area from security point of view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (d). Tehri Multipurpose Dam Project was sanctioned as a State Sector project in 1972. The project has since been taken up for execution as a joint venture of Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh and the expected date of commissioning is December, 1996. Although the Project is located at about 150 Km. away from the Chinese border, the construction for the project has been cleared after taking into account security aspects.

[English]

Import of power generation and boiler Equipment by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

4379. DR. A.K.PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has been importing power generation and boiler equipment from foreign companies since 1980; and

(b) if so, the details of the equipment imported along with the name of the project, the details of equipment imported, year of import, value in Rupees, foreign exchange component, name of the foreign company and date of commissioning the project?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI. J. VENGALRAO) : (a) and (b). No, Sir, BHEL have not been importing power generating sets or boilers for any power station. However, in the execution of an order placed by

SAIL on BHEL in 1982 for 2 x 60 MW Captive Power Plant for Rourkela Steel Project, the Company imported steam generators of the value of 26,537,220 US Dollars (Rs. 30.6 crores approximately) from M/s. Elektrim of Poland with whom BHEL had formed a consortium. the payment was made in Indian Rupees only and no foreign exchange was involved.

The equipment was supplied during 1984 to 1986. Unit-I was commissioned in December 1986 and Unit-II in March 1988.

Separate Cell for Rural Postal Service

4380. DR. A.K.PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to create a separate cell in the Department of Posts for the betterment of Rural Postal Service and also to improve the service conditions of Extra Departmental employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) No, Sir, The Directorate as at present organised, takes adequate care of these responsibilities.

(b) Does not arise.

T.V. Transmission Centre at Calicut

4381. SHRI V.S.VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are complaints that the location of the T.V. transmission centre at Calicut in Kerala is such that it does not cover the whole district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to shift it to a better place?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING**
(SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, complaints about inadequate T.V. Coverage in Calicut district have been received from time to time. the existing T.V. transmitter at Calicut has a service range of only about 25 kms. and is not therefore expected to provide service to whole of Calicut district.

(c) No, Sir. But it has been decided to set up a high power transmitter (10 KW) at Calicut in replacement of the existing low power transmitter. When completed and commissioned into service, it will not only cover the entire district of Calicut but also adjoining areas.

T.V. Transmission Centre at Malappu- ram, Kerala

4382. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are complaints that the equipment being used in the T.V. transmission centre at Malappuram in Kerala are old and defective;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to remedy these defects?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING**
(SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). A complaints has been received from Commercial Manager, Arya Vaidyassl, Kottakal (Malappuram district) in this regard. Nevertheless, the equipment deployed at TV Centre, Malappuram is in good working condition and is not defective. Performance of the centre suffered during June/July, 88 due to seepage of water into the antenna system, after heavy rains. The antenna system was repaired in July, 88 and the performance of the transmitter normalised. Interruptions in service have, however, been

reported due to frequent power supply failures.

(c) Provision of a Diesel Generator at Malappuram to serve as a standby source of power has been sanctioned. The State Government has also been requested from time to time to make arrangements for providing a reliable and uninterrupted power supply to Doordarshan Installations in the State

More Time for Local Language Pro- grammes in Kerala

4383. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand from Kerala for allotment of more time for programmes in local language; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING**
(SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). All India radio has not received any demand for allotment of more time for programmes in local language. In any case the principle language of broadcast is Malayalam and bulk of programmes broadcast are in Malayalam.

Doordarshan has received demands for more programmes in regional language. Doordarshan Kendra-Trivandrum which is putting out regional programmes would be able to meet this demand as soon as full-fledged production facilities become available.

Setting up of Industries In Andhra Pradesh

4384. SHRI MANIK REDDY:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state.

(a) the number of industries set up with Central assistance in Andhra Pradesh till 31st July, 1988; and

(b) the financial implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) As per the available information there were 12 Public Sector Enterprises with their registered offices located in the state of Andhra Pradesh on 31.3.1987 upto which date only information is available.

(b) Total investment in terms of Gross Block in the State of Andhra Pradesh as on 31.3.1987 was Rs. 6761.52 crores.

Computerisation in Departments of Posts and Telecommunications

4385. **SHRI K. MOHANDAS:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether computerisation has been done in the various functions of the Departments of Posts and Telecommunications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of employees rendered surplus; and

(d) the steps taken to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Posts has taken up computerisation, so far, in the following areas of postal operation and accounting:-

- (i) Money Order Reconciliation work.
- (ii) Savings Bank Accounting work.
- (iii) Postal Life Insurance work.
- (iv) International Airmail Accounting work.

(i) *Money Order Reconciliation work*

The Postal Circles selected for this application are Tamil Nadu and Delhi Circles where a mini computer system has been installed and the money order pairing work is in progress on the computer on experimental basis, along with manual process.

(ii) *Savings Bank Accounting work;*

One mini computer system has been installed in Delhi Circles for the savings bank accounting work of Parliament Street HPO. the work of posting savings bank transaction and the ledger agreement work is in progress on the computer.

(iii) *Postal Life Insurance work*

One mini computer has been installed in Bangalore for work of Postal Life Insurance in Karnataka Circle. The work of posting the PLI premia into the ledgers on the computer is in progress.

(iv) *International Air Mail Accountings;*

The mini computer installed in Delhi, in Postal Directorate is used for the work of International Air Mail Accounting work also and the work of accounting of International mail is being shifted from manual operation to computer operation in a phased manner.

In Department of Telecommunications computerisation has been introduced in the following areas:

- (i) Directory Enquiry.
- (ii) Telephone and Telex Billing.
- (iii) Fault control and analysis; and
- (vi) Pay billing.

(c) Though, no employee in any of the above areas of computer application has been rendered surplus, however, recruitment of certain additional staff who would have been required for coping with the increase in work load has been averted as a result of computerisation.

(d) Does not arise Sir.

Working of Directorate of Field Publicity

4386. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Field publicity has failed to achieve more than 50 per cent of the prescribed norms during 1983-85;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it has also failed to fix norms for its song and drama programmes; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Out of the five prescribed norms viz. (i) Tour Days (2) Film Shows (3) Photo Exhibitions, (4) Oral Communications and (5) Special Programmes, the performance is less than 50% only in the case of 'Oral Communications'.

(b) The reasons for shortfall, in case of 'Oral Communication' was, large number of vacant posts of Field Publicity Officers.

(c) and (d). Song and Drama Division

had prescribed rounds of works for its troupes. Directorate of Field Publicity used to requisition the services of Song & Drama troupes for mounting programmes. Therefore, it was not necessary for Directorate of Field Publicity to prescribe any norms in this regard.

Bilateral Cooperation by Coal Sector with advanced Countries

4387. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal sector is making any effort for bilateral co-operation with advanced countries for improving the planning, designing and management of coal projects to reach international standards in key areas like productivity and safety; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWERS IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) Several countries have shown interest in bilateral cooperation with India, including financial support on concessional terms, for the development of the coal sector. While considering projects for availing such offers of bilateral cooperation, potential benefits of induction of new technologies, improved techniques of project planning and implementation available in foreign countries are particularly taken into account with a view to improving the productivity levels of the Indian coal mines.

(b) A list of sanctioned projects which have so far been tied up for bilateral cooperation is given in the Statement of below.

STATEMENT

<i>Names of the country</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Name of the Company</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Sanctioned capacity (million tonnes)</i>	<i>Sanctioned cost (Rs. crores)</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
U S S R	1. Jhanjira under ground project	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	West Bengal	3.50	134.55 (1982)
	2. Khadia opencast project	Northern Coalfields Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh/ Madhya Pradesh	4.00	400.00 (1985)
	3. Nijahi opencast project	Northern Coalfields Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	4.20	462.39 (1987)
France	1. East Katras-I (Blasting Galleries method)	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	Bihar	0.12	2.56 (1981)
	2. East Katras-II (Sub-level caving)	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	Bihar	0.30	27.00 (1979)
	3. Chora under-ground project	Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.	West Bengal	0.24	6.41 (1984)
FRG	4. GDK-10 under-ground project	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	0.275	18.56 (1987)
	1. Ramagundam-II opencast project	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	2.00	147.16 (1987)

Setting up of Agro-based Sugar Factories

4388. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up integrated agro-based sugar factories like molasses, alcohol, soap, paints, paper, etc;

(b) if so, whether such high cost units are proposed to be set up in the joint sector;

(c) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No such decision has been taken.

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

Collaboration with Japanese Automobile Industry

4389. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese Automobile Industry is looking for new collaboration arrangements for technology induction;

(b) if so, whether it is also extending the product range in collaborative ventures in India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). Most of the Japanese automobile manufacturers such as Suzuki Motor Co., Toyota Motor Corporation, Honda Motor Company,

Mitsubishi Motor Corporation, Mazda Motor Corporation, Nissan Motor Co., Yamaha Motor Company and Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Isuzu Motor Co. etc. are already having collaboration arrangements for technology transfer with Indian companies in the two and three wheelers, passenger cars and commercial vehicle sector. Generally, there is no reservation on the part of the Japanese manufacturers in offering technology for product mix to the Indian partners. However, introduction of new product ranges by the Indian companies would depend on factors like commercial and economic viability, input costs, demand, cost of technology etc.

Construction of New Hydel Projects By National Hydroelectric Power Corporation

4390. SHRI G.S.BASAVARAJU:
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new hydel projects identified by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) which will be taken up for construction during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) the total power which will be added after the completion of the same and the total amount to be spent thereon; and

(c) whether the funds will be sufficient to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b). Besides the hydro-electric projects which would be under construction at the commencement of the Eighth Five Year Plan, the following three new hydro-electric projects have been identified by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation for being taken up for construction during the 8th Plan:-

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	State	Capacity in MW	Estimated Cost
1.	Teesta-III	Sikkim	1200	897
2.	Goriganga-I	U.P.	160	240
3.	Dhauliganga inter-mediate stage	U.P.	380	570
Total :			1740	1707

(c) The Eighth Five Year Plan is yet to be formulated. Efforts would be made to provide sufficient funds for the execution of the projects.

Interaction Between Lower priority Industries in non-core sector and coal Companies

4391. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has underscored the need for effective interaction between low priority industries in the non-core sector and coal companies and other allied agencies to meet the consumers requirements without any individual prejudice;

(b) if so, what other points are being examined by the Coal India Limited in regard to the consumers grievances; and

(c) the steps being taken to meet the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c). Coal India Limited has constitutional Coal Users Consultative Councils to provide a forum to coal consumers in the non-core sector to inter-act with coal compa-

nies and other concerned agencies on problems relating to coal supplies. Other steps being taken by Coal India Limited in regard to consumers grievances include setting up of Quality Control Organisation in each coal company, investigation of quality complaints for corrective action, installation of electronic weighbridges, coal handling and screening plants in a phased manner and segregation of extraneous material manually to the extent possible before despatch from the mines.

Automatisation of Telephone Exchanges

4392. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has set an ambitious target for the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan periods;

(b) if so, whether it has decided to automatise all telephone exchanges during the Eighth Plan period; and

(c) if so, whether any scheme in this regard has been prepared, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The Department of Telecommunications has prepared a perspective plan 2000 with the target of

commissioning 50 lakh Direct Exchange Lines during the 8th Plan period (1990-95) and 95 lakh direct exchange lines, during the 9th Plan period (1995-2000) to provide telephone practically on demand by the turn of the century.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. It envisages automation of about 2.73 lakh lines during the 8th Plan period and projects will be prepared accordingly.

Coal Projects behind Schedule

4393. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI S.M.GURADDI:
SHRI S.B.SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of coal projects sanctioned by Union Government in the past fifteen years are behind schedule;

(b) the total number of projects that are being sanctioned by Union Government under the Coal India Limited;

(c) the total investment made and the extent of coal production expected;

(d) the total number of projects commissioned and the number of those which are still under completion; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Coal India Limited for completing the remaining projects on schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K.JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (d). Since nationalisation of coal projects in 1971/73, Government have sanctioned in all 143 coal projects (mining and non-mining both) for implementation in Coal India Limited at an investment of Rupees 6699.21 crores for achieving an ultimate production of 174.39 million tonnes per annum.

2. Out of 143 projects, 53 coal projects have been completed and 5 projects have been abandoned/withdrawn. Of the remaining 85 projects, 38 projects are presently on schedule and 47 projects are delayed. One of the main reason for delay is acquisition and physical possession of land. The other reasons for delay have been due to delays in supply of plant and equipment, mine development etc.

(e) Various steps have taken by Coal India Limited for implementing the projects in time. some of these are:

- (i) Appointment of Senior Level Officers Incharge of these projects for its implementation;
- (ii) Drawing of detailed construction schedules for constructing the projects;
- (iii) Providing continuity of management by ensuring that Head(s) of the projects are not transferred without compelling reasons;
- (vi) Speedy follow-up with State Governments for land acquisition matters;
- (V) Regular follow-up with machinery manufacturers for timely supply of plant and equipment;
- (vi) Preparation of long terms equipment projections for advance ordering of long lead item of plant and machinery;
- (viii) Holding regular meeting at various levels to review implementation of projects.

Opening of Public Call Offices and Small Telephone Exchanges in Madhya Pradesh

4394. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of rural areas of Madhya Pradesh where small telephone exchanges and public call offices are proposed to be opened during 1988-89; and

(b) the amount of funds allotted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Information regarding small telephone exchanges and public call offices is given in statement I and II below.

(b) Rs. 6.75 crores has been earmarked for the year 1988-89.

STATEMENT-I

Likely places of rural areas where small Auto Exchanges are proposed to be opened during 1988-89 subject to registration of paid demand.

1	2
1. Bomhari	Raisen
2. Bardha	Raisen
3. Burlai	Shajapur
4. Mangalraj	Shajapur
5. Raipura	Jhaboa
6. Uadwasa	Mandsaur
7. Bordea Kala	Mandsaur
8. Kalen	Mandsaur
9. Khaide	Betual
10. Rondha	Betul
11. Masood	Betul
12. Nachenkala	Khandara
13. Moondi	Khandara

1	2
14. Sangakhera	Hoshingabad
15. Tilgara	Hoshingabad
16. Tuvali	Hoshingabad
17. Udenagar	Hoshingabad
18. Pipalawan	Hoshingabad
19. Bamandi	Khargone
20. Jhopali	Khargone
21. Dhulkatgaen	Khargone
22. Rupakhedi	Raipur
23. Sonadin	Raipur
24. Naipur	Raipur
25. Bhanordura	Raipur
26. Kopra	Raipur
27. Kanakha	Raipur
28. Soragarh	Raipur
29. Donik	Raipur
30. Mora	Raipur
31. Dumgaon	Raipur
32. Magarhoad	Raipur
33. Arjunda	Rajnandgaon
34. Kakner	Bastar
35. Dondi	Durg
36. Dampur	Bilaspur
37. Panda Tarai	Bilaspur
38. Beltara	Bilaspur

1	2
39. Sargaon	Bilaspur
40. Rahod	Bilaspur
41. Rajgamer	Bilaspur
42. Bhaisma	Bilaspur
43. Baranwad	Raigarh
44. Ludega	Raigarh
45. Rampur Bagelan	Satna
46. Garh	Rewa
47. Tiker	Rewa
48. Pindarai	Mandla
(Already opened)	
49. Sukhan kedi	Nursingpur
50. Golegaonkala	Nursingpur
51. Bharbeli	Balaghat
52. Hakhoda	Bhind
53. Machhand	Bhind
54. Aswar	Bhind
55. Sarwer	Bhind
(Already opened)	
56. Inder	Bhind
57. Chhatn	Shivpuri
58. Rando	Shivpuri
(Already opened)	
59. Bhatanwal	Shivpuri
60. Banmore	Shivpuri

1	2
61. Eklod	Morena
62. Badagagaon	Morena
63. Bamori Kalan	Guna
64. Chakdukhera	Guna
65. Dhakoni	Guna
66. Jamler	Guna
67. Vijayragarh	Jabalpur
68. Rajnagar	Chhattarpur
69. Ghura	Chhattarpur
70. Basari	Chhattarpur
(Already opened)	
71. Karikhas	Tikamgarh
72. Mohara	Tikamgarh
73. Khudirkalam	Damoh
(Already opened)	

STATEMENT-II

No. of LDPTs proposed to be opened during 1988-89.

Sl.No.	District.	
1	2	3
1.	Balaghat	10
2.	Bastar	10
3.	Bilaspur	10
4.	Betul	10
5.	Bhind	4
6.	Bhopal	5

1	2	3
7.	Chatterpore	10
8.	Chindwara	10
9.	Damoh	5
10.	Datia	5
11.	Dewas	5
12.	Dhar	5
13.	Durg	10
14.	Guna	10
15.	Gwalior	5
16.	Hoshingabad	10
17.	Indore	5
18.	Jabalpur	10
19.	Jhabua	5
20.	Khargone	10
21.	Manda	5
22.	Khandwa	10
23.	Mandsaur	5
24.	Morena	5
25.	Narsingpur	5
26.	Panna	5
27.	Raigarh	5
28.	Raipur	10
29.	Raisen	10
30.	Raigarh	5
31.	Rajnandgaon	10

1	2	3
32.	Ratlam	5
33.	Rewa	5
34.	Sagar	10
35.	Sarguja	10
36.	Satna	5
37.	Seore	4
38.	Seoni	10
39.	Shahdol	10
40.	Shajapur	5
41.	Shivpuri	5
42.	Sidhi	5
43.	Tikamgarh	10
44.	Ujjain	5
45.	Vidisha	10
		328

AIR Broadcasts in Adivasis Languages

4395 SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the minority languages, particularly Adivasis languages included for broadcast in the service area of each station of All India Radio;

(b) The weekly time allotted to each language at the respective stations; and

(c) the total broadcasting time of each station minus the time taken for national programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-

TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) to (c). The information is furnished in the statement laid on the Table of the House [Plaesed in Library See No.LT-6568/88]

Discovery of rare fungus by Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry

4396. **SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL**
SHRI S.B.SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC) in Pondicherry has discovered a rare fungus of immense commercial value which is considered to be a source of a life saving drug in great demand,

(b) if so, whether this discovery has given a chance for Indian drug firms to enter the world market in a big way;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) to what extent this drug will be manufactured in India?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir The Scientists working at the Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry have succeeded in isolating and identifying an active metabolite-Cyclosporine from a fungal isolate. This compound is used as an immuno suppressant to prevent rejection phenomenon in graft-operation. It is an expensive drug and is imported into India. Efforts are underway for commercial production of cyclosporine. As and when it is achieved, it would be possible for the Indian Pharmaceutical firms to enter the world market.

(d) It is difficult to say anything at this stage.

[Translation]

Linking of Mand Collieries with Mand Thermal Power Project, Madhya Pradesh

4397. **SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH**
SHRI ARVIND NETAM

Will the Minister of ENERGY be

pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority has recently informed that the joint Mand Thermal Power Project of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat has not been considered for linking with Mand Collieries upto 1990-95;

(b) whether Government are in a position to reserve surplus coal of these collieries for the above mentioned project which is most essential to meet the increasing demand of power in the western areas of Madhya Pradesh, if not the reasons therefore,

(c) the time by which the coal for this project is likely to be allotted; and

(d) whether Government propose to reserve the coal of this area for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI)

(a) to (d) The Mand Thermal Power Project would be considered for yielding benefits in the time frame of Ninth Plan and beyond.

The logical source of coal supply for the proposed Mand Thermal Power station is the Mano-Raigarh coalfield. The exploration work in this coalfield is in progress and it is expected to take about two years time before a geological report is ready. Thereafter, the feasibility of mining coal has to be established. The question of coal linkage to the Thermal Power Station can be considered only after the completion of detailed exploration, preparation of geological report and establishment of the feasibility of coal production.

Supply of Power to Western Area by Vindhyachal Thermal Power Grid

4398. **SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the time by which arrangements would be made to supply Power to Eastern area by Vindhyachal Thermal Power Grid constructed by the National Thermal Power

Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) With the commissioning of the 400 KV Vindhyachal-Korba transmission line during July, 1988, power from the Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station is already being supplied to the Western region.

[English]

Earnings from Advertisements

4399. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earned from advertisements during the calendar year 1987 and upto July, 1988, separately; and

(b) the details of proposals for making use of these earnings?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) The gross revenue earned from advertisements during the period is given below:

Jan '87	Jan '88
to	to
Dec. '87	July '88
(In crores of Rupees)	
All India Radio 28.18	15.43
Doordarshan 127.20	89.74

(b) Revenues from commercial services of Akashvani and Doordarshan are credited into a fund called the 'Non Lapsable Fund'. The Fund is utilised for incurring recurring and non-recurring expenditure, inter-alia, on the following scheme:-

i) Improvement of software and related facilities.

ii) Improvement of hardware facilities.

iii) Experimentation in new fields of development of electronics and programming.

vi) Implementing schemes which would increase the commercial revenue.

v) Financial assistance to deserving artists.

Action taken by Ministries on M.Ps suggestions during Budget discussion

4400. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to all Ministries to take note of all suggestions and comments made in both Houses on matters concerning their respective Ministries.

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

(c) the total number of suggestions made by members on different subjects during the Budget Session;

(d) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has some criteria to follow-up and co-ordinate with different Ministries on various subjects raised by members in both Houses;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total number of suggestions made during Budget Session on which action has since been taken and the total number of suggestions still pending, Ministry-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENT-

TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir, the Manual for Handling Parliamentary Ministries work in Ministries published by the Cabine Secretariat contains instructions for noting down points raised by Members. The suggestions made are analysed by the different Ministries and important ones are taken into account while replying to the debates.

(d) and (e). This Ministry coordinates work relating to assurances and matters raised under Rule 377 in Lok Sabha and matters raised by way of Special Mentions in Rajya Sabha only. Details in respect of these matters are contained in the Annual Reports of the Ministry.

(f) No count is kept except in respect of matters indicated in answer to (d) and (e) above.

Electrification of Villages in Maharashtra Under Kuteer Jyoti Scheme

4401. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive plan has been drawn up to provide electricity in remote villages of Maharashtra under the Kuteer jyoti Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the scheme for 1988 and 1989 and the areas that will be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c). Under the Kutirjyoti scheme, it is proposed to extend single light point connections to the households of rural families below the poverty line including Harijans and Adivasis in already electrified villages. During 1988-89, under this scheme, one time cost of internal wiring and service connection charges upto a maximum of Rs.200/- per connection would be provided by way of

grant to the State Electricity Boards/State Governments. During 1988-89, an amount of Rs. 58.20 lakhs has been allocated for Maharashtra for providing a minimum of 29,100 connections. Government of Maharashtra/Maharashtra State Electricity Board are finalising the selection of areas/villages for implementation of Kutirjyoti programme.

Transmission Losses in States

4402. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of transmission losses in different States;

(b) whether over the last one decade efforts made to reduce the loss could make a serious dent in the losses and if so, the particulars thereof in general;

(c) whether Government have set up any high level committee of experts to deal with the problem since power saved is equal to power generated; and

(d) when this Committee will furnish its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) A statement given below.

(b) The Central Electricity Authority have issued comprehensive guidelines to the Electricity Supply Organisations for the reduction of transmission and distribution losses. The Indian Electricity Act, 1910 has been amended to make theft of power a cognisable offence. The State Governments/Electricity Supply Organisations have also been advised to intensify surprise inspections of the various consumer installations and to undertake suitable administrative and legislative measures for the prevention of theft of power. However, the transmission and distribution losses in the country continue to be high.

(c) A Committee consisting of representatives from the Central Electricity Authority and state Electricity Boards was set up to go into the problems of high transmission and distribution losses in the country.

(d) The committee has submitted its report, which has been forwarded to the State Governments/Electricity supply organisations for taking follow up action on its recommendations.

STATEMENT

Percentage Transmission and Distribution losses (Including Commercial Losses) in State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments.

Region		State Electricity Board/ Department	Year 1986-87
Northern Region	1.	Haryana	20.62
	2.	Himachal Pradesh	21.01
	3.	Jammu & Kashmir	33.50
	4.	Punjab	17.01
	5.	Rajasthan	23.94
	6.	Uttar Pradesh	20.04
	7.	Chandigarh	18.30
	8.	D.E.S.U	17.50
Western Region	1.	Gujarat	24.00
	2.	Madhya Pradesh	20.76
	3.	Maharashtra	14.46
	4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	19.24
	5.	Goa, Daman & Diu	23.71
Southern Region	1.	Andhra Pradesh	18.48
	2.	Karnataka	22.19
	3.	Kerala	27.50
	4.	Tamil Nadu	18.65
	5.	Lakshadweep Islands	17.72
	6.	Pondichery	20.54
Eastern Region	1.	Bihar	22.05
	2.	Orissa	22.00
	3.	Sikkim	19.60
	4.	West Bengal	23.16
	5.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	19.00
North Eastern Region	1.	Assam	20.99
	2.	Manipur	37.10
	3.	Meghalaya	10.35
	4.	Nagaland	24.12
	5.	Tripura	29.50
	6.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.00
	7.	Mizoram	48.07
All India (Utilities)			21.50

Source:- L(i) PDB & I Dte E.E.A. (February, 1988)

(2) Planning Commission document on Performance of SEBs.

Shortfall in Power Production in Maharashtra

4403. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been a shortfall in power production in Maharashtra during 1987 and if so, the extent thereof;

(b) the annual rate of growth of power generation in Maharashtra vis-a-vis the growth of demand; and

(c) how the shortfall is going to be met

during the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) During the year 1987-88 the total energy generation in Maharashtra was 33859 million units as against the target of 33080 million units, which is 2.3.% more than the target.

(b) The growth rate of power generation in Maharashtra vis-a-vis growth of demand (energy requirement) during the year 1987-88 over the year 1986-87 was as under:-

Percentage growth rate of Power generation	percentage growth of demand
8.3	6.9

(c) In order to increase availability of power in Maharashtra during the Seventh Plan period, various steps are being taken which include expediting of new capacity, optimum generation from the existing capacity, reduction of transmission and distribution losses and implementation of energy conservation and demand management measures.

Coverage of Question Hour on AIR and TV

4404. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exist any guidelines with respect to the coverage of Question Hour in the Parliament by Doordarshan and All India Radio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the 'Sansad Samachar' and Parliament News' generally do not cover question hour and if Doordarshan or All India Radio refers to a reply to a question in the news bulletin, the name of the Member of Parliament asking the question is not mentioned; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such inadequate and incomplete coverage of Parliamentary proceedings?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Certain news policy guidelines have been laid down by the Media Advisory Committee which are also applicable for Parliamentary coverage, which includes the Question Hour. Relevant extracts from the policy guidelines is given below.

Parliamentary Coverage

All India Radio/Doordarshan should give wide coverage to the proceedings of Parliament. The highest standards of accuracy and professional responsibilities are expected in this field. Announcement, statements, and discussions should be judged by their news value and public interest. This will also apply to questions and answers and supplementaries.

(c) and (d). The question hour is covered both in the 'Sansad Samachar' and 'Parliament News' depending upon news value and public interest. It may not always

be possible to give to name of Member of Parliament putting the question in view of the limited news time available, and the large number of questions that are answered in both the Houses.

Demand, Production and Consumption of Power

4405. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the latest estimated demand, production and consumption of power in India,

(b) the names of the power plants set up during the last year and its effect on shortage of power,

(c) whether Government propose to set up some more power plants in the country in near future for removing the shortage of power, and

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINIS-

TRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI)
: (a) The estimated power supply position in the country during 1988-89 is as under:-

(All figures in net MU)

	1988-89
Requirement	229,000
Availability	209,070
Deficit	19,930
(%)	(8.7)

(b) A list of power projects commissioned during 1987-88 is given in the Statement below with the commissioning of additional capacity of 4981 MW during 1987-88, the All India power shortage during 1988-89 is estimated to be around 8.7 per cent as compared to the power shortage of 10.9 per cent during 1987-88. This is in spite of the fact that there would be an increase of about 8.5 per cent in demand for power during 1988-89 over 1987-88.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) The Seventh Plan envisaged an outlay of Rs. 34273.46 crore for the Power Sector

STATEMENT

*New Capacity Addition During 1987-88
(April '87 — March '88)*

Sl No.	Name of the Project & Unit No.	State	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
<i>Northern Region Thermal</i>			
1.	Ropar	Punjab	210.0
2.	Anpara	U.P.	210.0
3.	Tanda	U.P.	110.0
4.	Singrauli STPS	U.P.	500.0
5.	Rihand STPS	U.P.	500.0
	Sub Total	5 units	1530.0 MW
<i>HYDRO</i>			
1.	W.Y. Canal	Haryana	16.0
2	Andhra	H.P.	16.95
3.	Rong Tong	H.P.	1.0
4.	Anoopgarh	Rajasthan	9.0

1	2	3	4
5.	Salal	1, 2, & 3	J & K
6.	Siakna	2	J & K
	Sub Total		
		17 Units	345.0
		22 Units	2.0
			389.95 MW
			1919.95 MW
	<i>Total Northern Region</i>		
	<i>Western Region Thermal</i>		
1	Wanakbori	6	Gujarat
2	Sikka Raplmt	1	Gujarat
3	Vindhyachal STPS	1	Madhya Pradesh
4	Korba STPS	4 & 5	Madhya Pradesh
5	Parli	5	Maharashtra
	Sub Total		
		6 Units	210.0
			1750.0 MW
	<i>HYDRO</i>		
1	Uka, LBC	1 & 2	Gujarat
2	Bhira Tail Race	1	Maharashtra
			5.0
			40.0

1	2	3	4
3	Vaitarna Dam Toe	Maharashtra	1.5
4	Pawana	Maharashtra	10.0
5	Bargi	Madhya Pradesh	45.0
	Sub Total	5 Units	101.5 MW
	Total Western Region	12 Units	1851.5 MW
	Southern Region Thermal		
1.	Mettur	Tamil Nadu	210.0
2	Neyveli Mine cut	Tamil Nadu	210.0
	Sub Total	2 Units	420 MW
	HYDRO		
1.	Pochampad	Andhra Pradesh	13.0
2.	Kadamparai	Tamil Nadu	200.0
3.	Kundah V	Tamil Nadu	20.0
4.	Lower Mettur	Tamil Nadu	30.0
		Tamil Nadu	30.0

1	2	3	4
		St. III U-1	
	Sub Total	Tamil Nadu	15.0
	Total Southern Region	10 Units	313.0 MW
	Eastern Region Thermal	12 Units	733.0 MW
1	Farakka STPS	3	210.0
	Sub Total	West Bengal	210.0 MW
	HYDRO	1 Unit	
1	Upper Kolab	1 & 2	160.0
	Sub Total	Orissa	160 MW
	Total Eastern Region	2 Units	370 MW
	Northern Eastern Region Thermal	3 Units	
	Nil		
	HYDRO		
1.	Kopili (NEEPCO)	1 & 2	100.0
	Sub Total	Meghalaya	100.0 MW
		2 Units	

1	2	3	4
	Total North Eastern Region	2 Units	100.0 MW
	Total All India		
	Thermal	(14 Units)	3910.0 MW *
	HYDRO	(37 Units)	1064.45 MW**
	Grand Total	(51 Units)	4974.45 MW
	Grand Total Inclusive of * & **		4981.25 MW

Note:

* Total Thermal is exclusive of Generating set of 2 MW in Mizoram.

** Total Hydro is exclusive of mini/micro units having total capacity of 4.835 MW.

Setting up of Industries with Central Assistance

4406. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLAYA
GAVIT

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries set up in the country during the last two years with Central assistance, and

(b) the financial implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) Seven Central Public Sector Enterprises were set up in the Country during the year 1986-87 and four during the year 1987-88

(b) The financial implication in terms of Gross Block in the above enterprises as available is Rs. 1049.42 crores

Profit/Loss by Public Sector Undertakings in Kerala

4407. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the number of public sector undertakings functioning in Kerala,

(b) the number out of them running in loss and how many have earned profits during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 respectively, and

(c) the main causes for loss in the public sector undertakings in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) Five Central Public Sector Enterprises were functioning with their registered offices in the State of Kerala as on 31.3.1987.

(b) Out of the Five Central Public Sector Enterprises only two incurred loss while the

other three earned profits during the years 1985-86 and 1986-87. The figures for 1987-88 are not available as the audited accounts of the Public Sector Undertakings will be available only by the end of Sept. 1988.

(c) Main reasons for the losses are inadequate power supply, increase in the cost of inputs shortage of orders etc.

Expenditure by Oil and Natural Gas Commission

4408. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN
SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD
SHRI S. D. SINGH
SHRI NARSING SURYAVANSI

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

(a) whether any study has been made into the expenditure incurred by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) during the last three years,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether any directive has been issued to the ONGC to curb the expenditure,

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the profit earned by the ONGC during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise

(e) The net profit after tax earned by the Commission for the last 3 years is an under:

	(Rs. in crores)
1987-88	1507.53
1986-87	1484.46
1985-86	1302.21

Electronic Components Base for Indian Telephone Industries

4409. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures adopted/suggested for improving the electronic components base in the country to benefit the Indian Telephone Industries; and

(b) what percentage of the Seventh Plan target of the Department has been achieved as on 30 June, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The following measures have been taken to strengthen the base for electronic components industry:

- i) Electronic Components Industry

has been delicensed;

- ii) Foreign collaboration has been allowed wherever needed;
- iii) Electronic Components industry has been exempted from clearance under Section 22 A of the MRTP Act;
- iv) The import duty for the input for the manufacture of electronic components has been substantially reduced;
- v) Import duty on tools, dies and moulds required by the industry has been reduced by 30%;
- vi) a large number of capital goods allowed to be imported on OGL; and
- vii) Import of plant and equipment for project imports allowed at concessional import duty of 30% and for modernisation/balancing at 60%.

Information is given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

Achievement During the Period 1985 — June 1988 in the Department of Telecommunications (For Rs. 4010 CR. Plan)

Item	Unit	7th Plan	Achievements					Achievement	
			1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	31.3.88 to 30.6.88	Quantity	%	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
a) Local Telephone System									
i) Switching Capacity	Lakh Lines	13.04	3.60	3.24	3.40	0.35	10.59	81.21	
ii) * DELs		11.00	2.68	3.24	3.15	0.42	9.49	86.27	
b) Long Distance Switching System									
Tax Capacity	Lines	87900.00	5600.00	7400.00	15900.00	1000.00	29900.00	34.01	
c) Long Distance Transmission									
i) Coaxial Cable Systems	RKMs	8620.00	1507.00	1032.00	1546.00	76.00	4161.00	48.27	
ii) Microwave Systems	RKMs	11184.00	2304.00	1704.00	3036.00	356.00	7400.00	66.16	
iii) UHF Systems	RKMs	12697.00	1605.00	1605.00	1565.00	305.00	5080.00	40.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
iv) Satellite Earth Stations	Nos.	65.00	1.00	1.00	34.00	1.00	37.00	56.92
v) Fibre Optical Systems		5144.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
d) <i>Telegraphs & LDPTs</i>								
i) LDPTS (New Commissioned)	Nos	9000.00	1442.00	1558.00	2018.00	74.00	5092.00	56.57
d) <i>Telex</i>								
Capacity	Lines	32200.00	1580 00	2460.00	3342.00	—	7382.00	22.92

[Translation]

Electronic Technology in Telecommunications

4410. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in adopting electronic technology in the field of telecommunications with details in this regard;

(b) whether till now Government have been dependent on other countries in this regard and if so, the extent thereof; and

(c) the details of the plan contemplated by Government to get rid of this dependence on other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Electronic technology in the field of telecommunications has already been employed in several kinds of equipments, e.g. telephones, switching, transmission satellite communication equipment and other similar equipment which are in use in the department.

(b) and (c). Continuous efforts are made to generate more and more self-reliance by utilising electronic technology in the field of telecommunications. New electronic equipment is being produced in the country through indigenous R&D effort.

[English]

Investment Limits

4411. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:
SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY:
SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to have definition of the medium scale sector, like the small scale sector;

(b) whether the enhancement of the investment limit from rupees twenty lakhs to rupees thirty-five lakhs will harm ninety two per cent of small units with investment of around rupees three lakhs; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to protect these tiny units from the shifting of medium scale units to the small scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) There is no standard definition of the medium scale sector. Projects with investment below Rs. 5 crores generally did not require licence and could be registered with the DGTD. They were commonly referred to as medium scale sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Letters of Intent

4412. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise break-up and details of backward areas to which letters of intent and industrial licences were issued during the years 1985, 1986 and 1987; and

(b) the reasons for fall in percentage of letters of intent and industrial licences issued to backward areas in 1987 as compared to 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) A statement is given below.

(b) The fall in the number of letters of intent and industrial licences issued for backward areas in 1987 as compared to the previous year may be attributed to general

Industrial licences received as a result of de-licensing of a number of industries and introduction of various other liberalisation schemes, such as re-endorsement of ca-

pacities on industrial licences already issued, broad-banding facility and enhancement of capacity under the scheme of minimum economic scale (MES).

STATEMENT

State Wise Break-Up of Letters of Intent (LOIs) and Industrial Licences (ILs) Issued for Backward Areas During the Years 1985, 1986 and 1987

Sl.No.	State/ Union Territory	1985			1986			1987		
		LOIs	ILs		LOIs	ILs		LOIs	ILs	
1	2	3	4		5	6		7	8	
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	2		—	1		—	—	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	88	37		72	22		55	22	
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	6		1	1		1	1	
4.	Assam	12	12		20	5		12	3	
5.	Bihar	7	3		3	3		6	—	
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	2		8	1		3	2	
7.	Daman & Diu	—	—		—	—		1	1	
8.	Goa	15	4		23	2		6	7	
9.	Gujarat	84	34		52	46		25	26	
10.	Haryana	33	13		25	11		13	5	
11.	Himachal Pradesh	29	12		18	9		22	3	
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	18	6		5	4		10	4	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	Karnataka	39	23	30	18	37	14
14.	Kerala	18	15	10	8	9	3
15.	Madhya Pradesh	79	29	48	25	44	12
16.	Maharashtra	78	43	67	28	62	20
17.	Manipur	1	—	1	—	—	—
18.	Meghalaya	1	—	1	2	1	—
19.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	1	—
20.	Nagaland	—	—	4	—	1	1
21.	Orissa	23	6	8	3	8	4
22.	Pondicherry	13	12	12	2	12	1
23.	Punjab	14	15	23	6	8	2
24.	Rajasthan	25	25	32	12	42	7
25.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	1
26.	Tamil Nadu	47	68	48	23	68	14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	Tripura	1	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Uttar Pradesh	105	44	79	34	59	23
29.	West Bengal	31	15	25	9	25	9
30.	State not indicated/ more than one state	6	1	6	3	5	7
Total		774	427	621	278	536	192

Oil recovery Pilots

4413. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the details of nine enhanced oil recovery pilots taken up simultaneously by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the details of three oil re-

covery pilots which have been commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE, OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): The details of the nine Enhanced Oil Recovery Pilot Projects undertaken by ONGC are:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>EOR Pilot</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Plan outlay (Rs. in Lacs)</i>
1	2	3	4
1.	In-Situ Combustion	Lanwa, Gujarat	955
2.	Steam Injection	Balol Gujarat	668
3.	Polymer Flood	Sanand Gujarat	200
4.	Polymer Flood	Jhalora Gujarat	502
5.	Caustic Flood	Sanand Gujarat	355
6.	CO ₂ Miscible Flood	Kalol Gujarat	476
7.	Micellar Polymer Flood	Ankleshwar Gujarat	690
8.	In-Situ Combustion	Balol Gujarat	875
9.	LPG Pilot	Geleki Assam	835

Of the above, following three pilot projects have been commissioned:—

- (1) Polymer Flood Pilot, Sanand — April 1985.
- (2) Polymer Flood Pilot, Jhalora — August, 1987.
- (3) Caustic Flood Pilot, Sanand — December, 1987.

Scheme for Medium and Small Newspapers in Regional Languages

4414. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme formulated to assist the medium and small newspapers in regional languages; and

(b) the extent of implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). An Expert Committee has been set up by the Government to go into the problems of small and medium newspapers. At present the Government is extending a large number of facilities to small and medium newspapers as per Statement given below.

STATEMENT

Facilities extended to small and medium newspapers by various media units of this Ministry

I. FACILITIES EXTENDED BY PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

Newspapers: The Press Information Bureau (PIB), in pursuance of its policy of providing more and more services to the small and medium newspapers, gives a number of special facilities to them. Besides making available its general services such as news releases and features it has been supplying other types of news services such as ebonoid blocks, charbas (for Urdu papers only) and illustrated photo features.

News Services: A number of services tailored to the needs of small papers have been introduced. In-

depth stories written in simple and capsule form covering developments in various spheres such as science, economic growth, agriculture, health and family welfare are prepared and supplied to them in all major languages of the country.

Photo Services: The Bureau also supplies illustrated photo features and ebonoid blocks to small papers. The Charba services, which consist of Zinc block for use in Urdu Litho Print, have become quite popular.

Special Services Cell: The Bureau has set up a special service cell at the headquarters with representatives in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras. The Cell is entrusted with the task of preparing field based development stories and making them available to the language newspapers. The emphasis is on providing locally relevant photographs, cartographs and ebonoid blocks.

Press Parties: Organising press parties to various Central Government projects is another important activity of the Bureau which enables representatives of the press to have first-hand knowledge of the developmental activity going on in different parts of the country. Representatives of different papers are taken at frequent intervals to selected projects for this type of special study. Language and small and medium papers get representation in these conducted tours.

Accreditation: Accreditation rules have been liberalised to extend greater facilities to small and medium papers. As per rules, only newspapers with a circulation of over 5,000 copies are eligible for accreditation. In order, however, to assist the smaller papers, this condition has been relaxed and now two or more small newspapers can

jointly seek accreditation for a common correspondent. The rules also provide that special consideration may be shown to newspapers devoted to science and technology and to those published from hilly or backward areas, or from regions under-developed in terms of information and communication. The Bureau's mailing list now contains a large number of small and medium newspapers as well as correspondents accredited on their behalf.

The above facilities are extended to language newspapers as well.

II. FACILITIES EXTENDED BY DIRECTORATE OF ADVERTISING AND VISUAL PUBLICITY

- i) A newspaper with a minimum paid circulation of 1,000 copies now becomes eligible for securing Government advertisements as against the minimum circulation of 2,000 copies prescribed earlier;
- ii) Papers/periodicals published in backward, remote, tribal areas or in tribal languages and meant primarily for tribal readers are made eligible for securing Government advertisements if their minimum paid circulation is 500 copies. This concession is also available to papers/periodicals published from J & K State.
- iii) Newspapers/periodicals with an uninterrupted publication of four months now become eligible for securing Government advertisements as against the period of six months provided in earlier Advertising Policy.
- iv) The standard print area required for eligibility has also been lowered from 1260 SCcm to 760

SCcm for Weeklies, Fortnightlies, and from 1200 SCcm to 960 SCcm for Monthlies and other publications. No minimum print area has been prescribed for the papers published in backward, border and remote areas or in tribal areas or primarily meant for tribal readers.

- v) Newspapers/periodicals with a circulation of 2000 copies have been exempted from submission of C.A. certificate.
- vi) In the matter of advertisement rates the DAVP rate structure provides an inbuilt weightage for small and medium papers.

III. FACILITIES EXTENDED BY REGISTRAR OF NEWSPAPERS FOR INDIA

- i) Regular newspapers with an annual entitlement of 20Q MTs of newsprint are given the option to take imported newsprint to 100 per cent extent, which is generally cheaper than the indigenous newsprint. This ceiling was 300 MTs during 1987-88.
- ii) Small newspapers are not required to pay any customs duty on the imported newsprint, which is chargeable at the rate of Rs. 550 PMT.
- iii) Newspapers in medium category are required to pay customs duty at the rate of Rs. 275/- as against chargeable rate of Rs. 550/- PMT.
- iv) Newsprint authorisations are issued on quarterly basis so that the newspapers do not face difficulties in regard to payment, and storage, etc. However, newspapers with an annual entitlement of 50 MTs or below are given the option to take the entire quantity in one instalment

or more.

v) 25% of imported newsprint is given from STC's buffer stock. Newspapers with an annual entitlement of 50 MTs or below are given the option to take the entire quantity or part of quantity from buffer stock.

vi) Normally the performance certificate of a newspaper is required to be signed by a Chartered Accountant. However, newspapers with a circulation of 2000 copies or below are exempted from this requirement.

Setting up of New Telephone Exchange in Haryana

4415. SHRI HET RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revamp/modernise the telephone exchanges at Ratia, Rania, Fatehabad, Ellanabad, Tohana and Dabwali;

(b) if so, whether any time schedule for the completion of the work has been fixed;

(c) the number of pending applications for new telephone connections at these stations and the period by which these are likely to be disposed of;

(d) whether there is any proposal to establish modern and new telephone exchanges in the State of Haryana; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). There is a proposal to instal auto exchanges at Dabwali, Tohana and Ratia and the work is likely to be completed as under:—

Dabwali ICP	92-93
Tohana ICP	93-94
Ratia 512 ILT	89-90

(c) Information is given in Statement-I below.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Information is given in Statement-II below.

STATEMENT-I

<i>Name of Station</i>	<i>No. of Pending applications as on 1.4.88</i>	<i>Applications likely to be disposed off subject to technical feasibility</i>
1	2	3
* Ratia	Nil	Nil
* Rania	8	All in 1988-89
* Ellanabad	1	All in 1988-89
* Fatehabad	168	Progressively from next 3 years
* Tohana	53	—do—
* Dabwali	76	—do—

STATEMENT-II***Details of Modern Telephone Exchanges proposed to be installed in Haryana***

1. E-10 B type electronic type electronic exchanges at Faridabad, Sirsa, Ambala, Gurgaon, Hissar, Hansi (RLU), Bahadurgarh (RLU), Yamunanagar and Rohtak.
2. NEAX — 61 S type Electronic exchanges at Samalakhia, Palwal, Daruhara, Sohna, Sampla and Shahabad.
3. ESAX' (PAM) 200 Electronic exchanges at Ferozepur-Jhirka, Assandh, Indri, Dhand, Pundri, Mohindergarh, Barara, Chhachhrauli.
4. C-DOT RAXs at Kalyat, Pilukhera, Nisang, Jundala, Madlander, Babuan, Thel, Bawal, Kanini, Kund, Beri, Kosli, Kharkhoda, Khewera, Rai, Mallana, Saha, Bilaspur, Raipur, Rani and Shahzadpur. (20 Nos.)
5. Mini ILT Exchanges at 15 places.

TV Centre at Sirsa, Haryana

4416. SHRI HET RAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a TV Centre at Sirsa in Haryana, if so, when;

(b) the places where new TV centres are proposed to be set up in Haryana during the current year; and

(c) whether local people would be given

preference for employment in these TV Centres, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) There is, at present, no Scheme for establishment of a TV Centre at Sirsa under the VII Plan.

(b) A low power (100W) TV transmitter is scheduled to be installed and commissioned into service at Narnaul during the current financial year (1988-89), as a part of the VII Plan.

(c) Recruitment and appointment to various categories of posts under the Central Government is strictly made in accordance with the provisions laid down in the relevant recruitment rules.

Revenue Earned by Doordarshan from Advertisements

4417. CH. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the budget of Doordarshan for the financial years 1986, 1987 and 1988;

(b) the revenue earned from all sources including advertisements etc. during 1986, 1987 and 1988 (till date);

(c) whether there is overstating in Doordarshan leading to high administrative expenses; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The Budget of Doordarshan for the financial years 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 is given below:

Budget (Rupees in Lakhs)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
1986-87	12659.93	12892.16	25552.09
1987-88	24454.77	16391.68	40846.45
1988-89	26423.00	16579.90	43002.90

(b) Doordarshan's gross revenue from advertisements and sponsorship of programmes for the years 1986, 1987 and 1988 is as under:

1986-87	Rs. 98.32 crores
1987-88	Rs. 136.29 crores
1988-89 (upto July '88)	Rs. 54.14 crores

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**T.V. Relay Centre at Chhota Udaipur,
Gujarat**

4418. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of Baroda District so far covered by TV;

(b) whether a large area of rural population which is mostly inhabited by adivasis has not been covered by TV so far;

(c) whether there is a demand to establish a TV relay centre in rural areas, particularly in Chhota Udaipur near the Narmada Project;

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard; and

(e) what is the Government policy in

regard to establishing TV relay centres in adivasi areas of the country to educate those people?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). TV
service is, at present, available to about
2400 Sq. Kms. area of Vadodra district of
Gujarat, covering about 43% population of
the district including 30% rural population.

(c) and (d). Requests have been re-
ceived from time to time for the establish-
ment of a TV transmitter at Chhota Udaipur.
However, in view of acute constraint of re-
sources, there is no scheme under the
Seventh Plan of Doordarshan to set up a TV
transmitter there. Extension of TV service to
the remaining uncovered parts of the coun-
try including Chhota Udaipur can be carried
out in a phased manner depending on the
availability of resources for this purpose in
the future plans for TV expansion.

(e) Subject to actual availability of re-
sources, Doordarshan endeavours to
extend TV service to the uncovered parts of
the country at the earliest, with over-riding
priority for extending service to rural, hilly,
backward, tribal, remote, sensitive and bor-
der areas. The Seventh Plan of Doordar-
shan includes a number of schemes for
setting up TV transmitters in such areas. On
completion of these schemes, all the 119
districts under the Tribal Sub Plan Areas in
the country are expected to be covered by
TV service, either wholly or partially.

Working of District Industries Centres

4419. DR B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has made any assessment of the working of the ailing District Industries Centres (DICs) to find out whether the total expenditure incurred thereon is commensurate with the results achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on this scheme since its inception in May, 1978, State-wise, and what is the central monitoring mechanism over the proper and full utilisation of the funds provided for DICs;

(d) whether Government propose to issue fresh guidelines to the States for proper functioning of the DICs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The DIC Programme is being evaluated in 55 DICs all over the country by 5 reputed institutions.

(c) A statement indicating total central expenditure incurred on DIC Programme from 1978-79 to 1987-88 States/UT-wise is given below. The central releases of a particular year is made to the State Govts. only after receipt of statements about proper and full utilisation of funds released to the State/UT Govts. during the previous years.

(d) and (e). The evaluation Reports are expected to indicate whether any fresh guidelines are necessary.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the State/U. T.</i>	<i>Total central expenditure under DIC Programme from 1978-79 to 1987-88</i>
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	764.53
2.	Assam	439.40
3.	Bihar	1142.82
4.	Gujarat	788.20
5.	Haryana	511.64
6.	Himachal Pradesh	438.21
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	589.47
8.	Karnataka	703.27
9.	Kerala	637.97

1	2	3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1408.58
11.	Maharashtra	927.16
12.	Manipur	316.23
13.	Meghalaya	90.58
14.	Nagaland	248.91
15.	Orissa	699.11
16.	Punjab	358.63
17.	Rajasthan	881.50
18.	Sikkim	38.63
19.	Tamil Nadu	747.36
20.	Tripura	103.18
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2072.12
22.	West Bengal	608.36
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	55.84
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	186.30
25.	Chandigarh	39.86
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	41.05
27.	Goa, Daman & Diu	27.72
28.	Mizoram	120.54
29.	Pondicherry	71.34
TOTAL		15058.51

Rationalisation of work-force in Coal India Ltd.

4420. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has submitted a proposal to Government for

the rationalisation of its work-force to cut its mounting costs;

(b) if so, the broad features of this proposal;

(c) the financial implications and how far it would go in cutting down costs and lead

to economy in the Coal India Ltd.; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPANATH RAI): (a) and (b). Coal India has submitted a scheme of Voluntary retirement of its workers for approval of the Government. Under the scheme, an employee, being allowed to opt for voluntary retirement, will be entitled to nominate one of his wards for employment in the company, besides receiving his normal retirement benefits. The scheme shall be open to the restricted categories of workers only in the age group of 45 to 58 years who are engaged on jobs requiring arduous physical labour and who have put in at least 15 years of service. However, in the case of female workers the requirement of length of service or age will not apply.

(c) The scheme has no significant cost reducing financial propensities. Possible savings in current wage bill on account of senior employees being replaced by new hands at lower starting wages will be off-set by the expenditure that the coal industry will have to incur on pre-mature disbursement of terminal benefits to the pre-maturely retiring employees in the form of gratuity, encashment of earned leave, withdrawals from CMPF etc.

(d) The scheme is still under examination.

Acquisition of land for development of new mines by Coal India Ltd.

4421. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is finding it hard to acquire land for development of new coal mines;

(b) whether presently the Coal India Ltd. is finding it difficult to take physical possession of land even where compensa-

tion has been paid to the land owners;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether because of the land acquisition problem, most of the on-going projects are suffering; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to remove these difficulties in the way of the Coal India Ltd?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c). Land acquisition has been identified as a major bottleneck in timely execution of the coal projects. It is also true that occasionally it becomes difficult to take physical possession of the land even after payment of compensation. The main reason for delay in acquisition of land is the demand being put forth by each and every land oustee for employment. It is, however, not possible for the coal companies to meet this demand in view of the surplus manpower they are carrying and the general policy of the Government according to which the Central Government undertakings are under no obligation to provide job to every land oustee on compulsory basis.

(d) It is a fact that quite a few coal projects are getting delayed because of non-availability of land on time. Their progress is also impeded by non-availability of machine and equipment as per schedule and delay in identification of non-forest land for compensatory afforestation.

(e) Constant liaison is being maintained with the State Government authorities to tide over the problem of land acquisition. The feasibility of offering a more liberal rehabilitation package to land oustees is also being examined.

Introduction of C-DOT System in Orissa

4422. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the different places in Orissa where C-DOT system is proposed to be introduced;

(b) whether Baudh, Baligude and G Udaygiri, Belghar, Subarnagiri and Ranaba in Phulabani district of the State are some of those places identified for the introduction of C-DOT system during 1988-89; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) List of stations where C-DOT System is proposed to be introduced is given in the Statement below.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Allotment of C-DOT 128 Port RAXs in Orissa Circle for 1988-89

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Exchange</i>	<i>Name of District</i>
1	2	3
1.	Banki	Cuttack
2.	Kuoanga	—do—
3.	Patamunda	—do—
4.	Tirtol	—do—
5.	Basta	Balasore
6.	Chandubali	—do—
7.	Jaleswar	—do—
8.	Pajnilgiri	—do—
9.	Attabera	Sambalpur
10.	Belpahar	—do—
11.	Deogarh	—do—
12.	Kuohinda	—do—
13.	Ganjam	Ganjam
14.	Gopalpur	—do—
15.	Hinjilikat	—do—
16.	Kabisurya Nagar	—do—
17.	Balimela	Koraput

1	2	3
18. Malkangiri		—do—
19. Maniguda		—do—
20. Umerkote		—do—

Expansion of Telecommunication Services in Orissa

4423. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps for the expansion of telecommunication services in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in that

regard in 1987-88; and

(c) the programme drawn up for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c). Information is given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

Expansion of Telecommunication Services carried out in 1987-88 and that proposed in 1988-89 in Orissa

Sl. No.	Item	1987-88	Expansion during 1988-89 (Proposed)
1.	Telephone exchanges (Nos.)	27	20
2.	Switching capacity (No. of lines)	4135	7000
3.	Direct Exchange Lines (Nos.)	3456	3500
4.	Long Distance Public telephones (LDPTs)	94	160
5.	Telex capacity	20	National telex at 3 places
6.	Trunk Automatic Exchange (No. of lines)	1000	—

Production complex of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in Bangalore

the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

4424. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will

(a) whether there is any proposal to set

up Bharat heavy Electricals Limited's fresh production complex in Bangalore city to manufacture commercial electronics and telecommunication equipment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Installation of Computerised Trunk Manual Exchanges at Bangalore

4425. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to instal Computerised Trunk Manual Exchanges (CTMX) at Bangalore and other places,

(b) if so, whether tenders have been called for the purchase of equipment;

(c) the time by which the equipment will be purchased; and

(d) when will the CTMX be set up at Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir,

(c) Orders for the purchase of the equipment is likely to be made during 1989-90 provided the offers are acceptable

(d) If it is decided to implement the project, it is likely to be commissioned during 1991.

Publication of Bangalore Telephone Directory in Kannada

4426. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone directories of Bangalore telephones given to State Government offices, residences and other public sector undertakings of Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any demand from the Government of Karnataka for the publication of telephone directory in Kannada; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to print the telephone numbers of State Government offices, State Public Undertakings, residences of officers in Kannada separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) One telephone directory is supplied free of charge for each telephone station at the time of installation of the new telephone connection or in replacement of the one supplied earlier. No separate records are maintained for supply of directories to State Government offices, residences and other public sector undertakings

(b) and (c) No, Sir

Self-mixing Petrol Pumps in Bangalore

4427. SHRI V S KRISHNA IYER. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) the number of self-mixing petrol pumps in Bangalore city,

(b) the places where these self-mixing petrol pumps are located, and

(c) whether all the existing petrol pumps in Bangalore city are proposed to be converted into self-mixing petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) and (b). There are no self-mixing petrol pumps in Bangalore city;

(c) No, Sir.

Power Shortage in Kerala

4428. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seized of the acute power shortage in Kerala;

(b) if so, the estimated power shortage in the State by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to cope with the situation in the coming year; and

(d) the new schemes, if any, proposed to be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan for increasing the power generation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):

(a) During the period April, 1988 — July, 1988 the power shortage in Kerala was 14.4% as against the All India shortage of 9%.

(b) The estimated power shortage in Kerala at the end of Seventh Plan i.e. 1989-90 would be about 10.6%.

(c) Kerala is being provided assistance from the unallocated portion of the Central Sector power over and above its allocated share based on the relative % shortage of the constituent States in the Southern Region. With effect from 24.11.87, Kerala has been allocated 30% power from the unallocated portion. Kerala also receives assistance from the neighbouring system of Tamil Nadu depending upon availability and conducive system condition.

(d) The new schemes proposed to be added in Kerala in the Eighth Plan period are as under:—

<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>
1	2
1. Malampuzha (H)	2.5
2. Mudupatty (H)	2
3. Small Hydro (H)	8.5
4. Lower Periyar (H)	180
5. Kakkad (H)	50
6. Chalakutty (H)	280
7. Kayamkulam (T)	420
8. Annkyaam HEP (H)	8
9. Gas Turbine Project (T)	90

Central Investment in Kerala

4429. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of central investment in Kerala has declined from 3.27 per cent in 1974 to 1.62 per cent at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider increasing the central investment in the State in view of the acute unemployment problem in the State?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The percentage of accumulative central investment in terms of Gross Block in the State of Kerala was 3.28 per cent as on 31.3.1974 and 1.58 per cent as on 31.3.1987 when compared with the all India investment.

(b) and (c). Central investments are made taking into consideration the techno-economic viability of projects while keeping

in view the need for overall balanced regional development.

Supply of furnace oil to Kerala

4430. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala had sought for the supply of LSHS/Furnace Oil for the proposed 90 MW Thermal Power Station at Brahmapuram, Cochin;

(b) if so, the response of Govt. thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide oil linkage to the project indigenously or through import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (c). A feasibility report on the proposal has been received in the Deptt. of Power. The question of supply of fuel and its linkage would arise after the proposal has been cleared from techno-economic angle.

Use of Alcohol in Petrol Engines

4431. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil import bill has reached rupees four thousand five hundred crores as reported in the Times of India of 23 July, 1988.

(b) whether Government will reconsider to use alcohol in petrol engines as is done in Brazil; and

(c) whether Government are aware that production of alcohol is possible from sugar, gapicca and other readily available starch sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) The cost of the import of crude oil and petroleum products during the current financial year would depend upon the market conditions which keep on fluctuating. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate precisely at this stage the amount to be spent on these purchases.

(b) Although the technology to blend power alcohol with petrol for use as automotive fuel has been established in India, its commercial use as automotive fuel has not been found feasible as surplus alcohol has not been available on a sustained basis for this purpose. Besides, use of alcohol as fuel has not been considered to be optimum utilisation of this industrial raw material which could preferentially be used for making high value added chemicals in the country.

However, recently on an indication regarding sufficient availability of alcohol given by the Deptt. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, an inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up by this Ministry to reconsider the techno-economic feasibility study on all aspects of blending Methanol and Ethanol for use as fuel in automobiles.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Issue of Letters of Intent

4432. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the companies/firms to whom letters of intent have been issued by Government during 1986, 1987 and 1988 till 31.7.1988;

(b) the number of such letters of intent of which industries will be set up in the backward areas;

(c) the number of companies/firms which have set up their industries on those letters of intent and the reasons for not setting up industries by the remaining com-

panies/firms; and

(d) the details of letters of intent issued to companies/firms who have not yet set up industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVEL-

OPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The table below gives the total number of letters of intent issued during the years 1986, 1987 and 1988 (upto July '88) for setting up industries. The share of centrally declared backward areas in such approvals is also indicated separately:—

Year	No. of Letters of Intent issued	
	Total	Share of Backward Areas
1	2	3
1986	1130	621
1987	989	536
Jan.-July, 1988 (Provisional)	482	255

Details, such as name and address of the undertaking, location of the unit, item (s) of manufacture and capacity etc. in respect of all letters of intent issued are published regularly in the 'Monthly Newsletter' brought by the Indian Investment Centre. Copies of this publication are being sent to the Parliament Library regularly

(c) and (d). Under the existing procedure, a letter of intent is granted with an initial validity period of three years to enable the entrepreneur to take effective steps for the implementation of the project. After the entrepreneur has fulfilled all the conditions of the letter of intent, the same is converted into an industrial licence. The initial validity period of an industrial licence is two years within which the licensee is expected to commence commercial production. As such, it generally takes about four to five years for an industrial project to fructify. Out of the total 2601 letters of intent issued between January, 1986 and July, 1988, 242 have already been converted into industrial licences.

Telephone Connections in Orissa

4433. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications pending so far in different categories for telephone connections in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur and Balasore, city of Orissa separately; and

(b) the steps taken to meet the increasing requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). The total number of applications pending so far in different categories for telephone connections in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur and Balasore cities of Orissa separately are as below:

<i>Name of the Stations</i>	<i>Total applications pending under different categories</i>			
	<i>OYT</i>	<i>NON-OYT</i>	<i>(SPL)NON-OYT(GEN)</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
Bhubaneshwar	482	552	1722	2756
Cuttack	270	342	1879	2491
Rourkela	7	7	152	166
Sambalpur	1	11	126	138
Balasore	12	16	79	107

The objective of the Department during the Seventh Plan is to meet telephone demand by the end of the Plan on an average registered upto 1.4.87 in the case of Main Automatic Exchange (MAX-I), upto 1.4.88 in the case of MAX-II and 1.4.90 in the case of MAX III and Manual Exchanges. The remaining waiting list will be cleared gradually during the Eighth Five Year Plan period. Development plan have been drawn accordingly.

S.T.D. Facility in Jaipur Town

4434. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no S.T.D. facility at Jaipur town in Cuttack district, Orissa;

(b) if so, whether Government will consider to instal an auto-exchange with S.T.D. facility at Jaipur town; and

(c) when it will be provided with this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) This will be considered during the 8th Plan subject to availability of resources:

[Translation]

Private Contractors in Public Sector Industries

4435. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had adopted a system of carrying out works connected with construction etc. in the public sector industries only through the public sector institutions;

(b) if so, the number of such institutions at present which are helping the public sector industries and the details thereof;

(c) whether these public sector undertakings have now adopted a practice of taking less responsibilities upon themselves and putting more share of their work on private contractors;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to do away with this practice; and

(e) if so, from what date and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

432.84 crores.

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

(b) The plant-wise break up of the allocation is given in the Statement below.

[English]

Allocation for Power Generation in Orissa

4436. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation made by Union Government under the Seventh Five Year Plan for power generation in Orissa during the Seventh Five Year Plan amounts to Rs.

(c) and (d). It is too early to say if the amount allocated for each power plant in Orissa would be fully utilised or not during the Seventh Plan period.

(e) As compared to the generation of 3.60 Billion Units in Orissa during the terminal year of the Sixth Plan period, the generation in the State during the year 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 was 3.68 billion units, 4.04 billion units and 3.64 billion units respectively.

STATEMENT

Plant-wise break up of Seventh Plan allocation for power generation programme of Orissa

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Seventh Plan allocation (Rs. crores)
1	2	3
1.	Talcher TPS Extension (Unit Nos. V & VI) — Scheme completed	1.00
2.	Rengali HEP	7.56
3.	Upper Kolab HEP	44.00
4.	Upper Indravati HEP	300.00
5.	Hirakud 7th Unit	15.81
6.	Potteru Small Hydel	5.46
7.	Upper Kolab 4th Unit	18.62
8.	Rengali HEP Stage II	39.39
9.	IB TPS	1.00
		432.84

Kuteer Jyoti Scheme in Orissa

4437. SHRI NITYANANDA MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements have been completed to launch the Kuteer Jyoti Scheme in the remote areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, when this is going to be launched;

(c) what are the details of the scheme approved for 1988 and 1989; and

(d) the names of villages that will be covered and the financial allocations made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d). Under the Kutirjyoti scheme, it is proposed to extend single light point connections to the households of rural families below the poverty line including Harijans and Adivasis in already electrified villages. During 1988-89 under this programme, one time cost of internal wiring and service connection charges upto a maximum of Rs. 200/- per connection would be provided by way of grant to the State Electricity Boards/State Governments. During 1988-89, an amount of Rs. 60 lakhs has been allocated to Orissa, for providing a minimum of 30,000 connections. Government of Orissa/Orissa State Electricity Board are finalising the selection of areas/villages for implementation of Kutirjyoti programme.

Decline in Bulk Drug Production

4438. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bulk drugs production, which is basic to the production of formulations of various drugs, has declined in the country after the announcement of the New Drug Policy; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Majority of the bulk drugs whose production is monitored by this Ministry have registered an increase in production since the announcement of the New Drug Policy.

Requirement of Power

4439. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of requirements of power during the last three months;

(b) the extent to which the demand was met, State-wise;

(c) the estimated demand of power, State-wise, during the next three months; and

(d) the extent to which the demand is expected to be met in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b). The requisite information is given in Statement-I laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See LT. No-6569/88]

(c) and (d). The requisite information is given in Statement-II laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No. LT-6569/88]

World Bank Fund for Import of Polymers

4440. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide funds for the import of polymers;

(b) if so, the details of polymers to be imported and the countries from which it is to be imported;

(c) the total demand of the country during 1988-89 and how it will be met from

the imported polymers; and

(d) the States where the imported polymers is to be distributed, State-wise and when?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). The World Bank has agreed to provide a loan assistance of US \$ 90 million for import of LDPE, LLDPE, PP and HDPE for market seeding programme in the context of impending commissioning of capacities for the manufacture of these products under Maharashtra Gas Cracker Complex. The off-shore supplies of these polymers are likely to be mostly from Brazil, Japan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, USA, Western Europe and Yugoslavia.

(c) The total demand for polymers during 1988-89 is estimated as 646,000 tonnes out of which around 3,39,000 tonnes is likely to be met through imports.

(d) The imported polymers would be made available to Plastic Processing Units spread throughout the country.

Construction of Gas Trunk Pipeline

4441. **SHRI V. TULSI RAM:**
SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL:

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

(a) whether the gas trunkline plant to link the gas fields of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the Oil India Ltd. Assam has been roadblocked;

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

(c) the objections raised by the State Government of Assam and the extent to which Union Government have agreed to them; and

(d) the steps taken by Government so far to remove the obstacles coming in the

way of laying the trunk pipeline and the time by which the entire work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (d). Gas Authority of India Ltd. had prepared a report for an integrated gas grid in Assam, including a pipeline upto Guwahati. Subsequently, after discussions with Government of Assam, it was agreed that the pipeline could be terminated at Jorhat. Government of Assam have requested that the pipeline be constructed by Assam Gas Company on its own or in a joint venture with GAIL. Government of India had suggested that while GAIL could construct a trunk pipeline, Assam Gas Company could undertake the marketing of the gas and construction of distribution lines. This would be in keeping with the policy of central public sector undertaking constructing trunk pipelines and would also ensure effective implementation of the project by way of a reasonable division of the work.

Eighth Plan Proposal for Petrochemicals Sector

4442. **SHRI V. TULSI RAM:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study group on advance action on proposals for the Eighth Plan in the petrochemicals sector has been constituted;

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

(c) the details of projects for which action is being initiated during the remaining period of the Seventh Plan; and

(d) whether the matter of allocation of crude to various refineries during 1995-2008 for aromatics production would also be considered?

THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d). The composition and terms of reference of the study group are as follows:—

Composition

1. Shri Abid Hussain, Member, Planning Commission	Chairman
2. Shri J.S. Baijal, Secretary, Planning Commission	Member
3. Shri H.K. Khan, Secretary, Deptt. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals	Member
4. Smt. Otima Bordia, Secretary, Technical Development	Member
5. Shri Bimal Jalan, Chief Economic Adviser Ministry of Finance	Member
6. Shri s. Vardan, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas	Secretary
7. Shri Vijay Kelkar, Chairman, BICP	Member
8. Dr. S. Vardarajan, Formerly Chief Consultant Planning Commission	Member
9. Dr. Lovraj Kumar, Consultant, Advisory Board of Energy	Member
10. Shri L.K. Chandok, Chairman & Managing Director, EIL	Member
11. Shri M.C. Gupta, Adviser (Industry & Minerals) Planning Commission	Member
12. Shri L.N. Doshi, Joint Secretary, Deptt. of Chemicals Petrochemicals	Member-Secretary

Terms of Reference:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To make an assessment of the additional aromatic/olefins capacities that will be required on the basis of likely demand-supply scenario at the end of the 8th Plan. 2. To examine the feed-stock availability on long-term sustained basis i.e. gas/naphtha/NGL availability for olefinic complexes and allocation of BH crude to various refineries during the period 1995-2005 for aromatic production. 3. To examine the competitive | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> advantage of India in domestic production of olefins. 4. To examine the various alternatives that are available for building up additional capacity, inter alia taking into account the possibility of setting up joint ventures abroad, the benefits of setting up new units vis-a-vis expansion of capacity at existing units, assessment of the available technologies etc. 5. To rank the proposals on the basis of cost effectiveness and recommend specific proposals which should be taken up for meeting the 8th Plan require- |
|--|--|

ments and the proposals on which advance action is to be initiated now.

Further action will arise after the group submits its report.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of TV Tower at Mandla, Madhya Pradesh

4444. SHRI MOHAN LAL JHIKRAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the material for setting up Doordarshan tower at Mandla district headquarters in Madhya Pradesh was sent in March, 1988 but the construction work is yet to start and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the time by which the work of Doordarshan tower will be started and completed;

(c) the reasons for ignoring Mandla district, which is inhabited by the Adivasis, for setting up of TV centre there; and

(d) whether a new Low Power Transmission centre has been opened in Mandla district in Madhya Pradesh but the people are not being benefited properly thereby and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (d). The Seventh Plan of Doordarshan, inter alia, includes the establishment of a large number of TV transmitters for extending TV service to tribal areas of the country. According to frequency planning, a number of such transmitters including the one for Mandla in Madhya Pradesh have been assigned a UHF (Ultra High Frequency) channel of operation. According to supply schedule of this new type of equipment, the TV transmitter at Mandla is expected to be installed and commissioned into service towards the end of the current financial year (1988-89).

TV Centres in Seventh Plan

4445. SHRI MOHAN LAL JHIKRAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where TV centres were to be set up during the Seventh Plan and the places where these centres have been set up so far;

(b) the places where TV centres would be set up during 1988-89; and

(c) the names of places where equipment for installing TV towers have already been sent State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The State-wise names of places where TV centres are envisaged to be set up as part of the Seventh Plan and places where these have been set up so far during the Seventh Plan period are given in the Statement-I laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6570/88]

(b) Besides replacement of low power TV transmitters at Tura, Aizawl and Shillong by high power TV transmitters, augmentation of power of TV transmitters at Delhi (both for primary and second channel services) and Bombay (for second channel service), and establishment of a 10 KW TV transmitter at Madras for second channel service and a 1 KW TV transmitter at Pij (which was earlier closed down), Doordarshan envisages to set up 80 new transmitters and 2 transposers, during the current financial year, 1988-89. The State/Union Territory-wise locations of these 82 new transmitters/transposers are indicated in the Statement-II laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6570/88] Doordarshan have, however, been advised to mobilise resources so that a larger number of new transmitters are set up during the current financial year.

(c) The names of TV centres for which major transmitter equipment has been received and installation/testing works are in progress are given in the Statement-III laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. LT-6570/88]

[English]

Recovery of Overcharged Amount from Therapeutic Industries

4446. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount to be recovered from various therapeutic industries on account of overcharging of prices in terms of para 7(2) and under paragraph 4 and 7(1) of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979,

(b) whether the total amount due

against them has been recovered; and

(c) whether the recovered amount belonging to Drug Prices Equalisation Account has been loaned away and if so, to whom and under what provision?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Information, to the extent available, is given in the Statement below. The determination of amounts and recovery of the same is a continuous process and appropriate action as per the due process of law is being taken

(b) M/s. STC has paid a sum of Rs 1,292 0 lakhs under Para 7(1) of DPCO, 1979 M/s Fulford India Ltd has paid Rs 50 Lakhs as per the direction of the court No other company has paid any amount till date as the parties have disputed the amount

(c) No Sir

STATEMENT

Details of tentative amounts assessed and recoverable under Para 7(2) of DPCO, 1979

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Company</i>	<i>Tentative amount assessed (Rs)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
RIFAMPICIN		
1.	Biochem Pharmaceuticals	34,27,875.95
2.	Lyka Labs	57,56,747 72
3.	Astra IDL Ltd.,	24,10,758 96
4.	Micro Labs	2,23,725 95
5.	Themis Chemicals Ltd	36,30,838 00
6.	Alembic Chemicals Labs	38,72,747 98
7.	Bombay Drug House	1,73,061.00
8.	Pharmed Pvt. Ltd ,	68,00,776.80
9.	Dolphin Labs	18,10,988.20

1	2	3
10.	Albert David Ltd.	3,91,419.00
11.	Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals Ind.	87,99,326.50
12.	Cadila Labs (Pvt) Ltd.,	76,52,433.00
13.	Sarabhai Chemicals	4,13,986.48
14.	Lupin Labs	2,15,89,000.00
15.	Ranbaxy Labs.	47,77,652.40
16.	Wallace Pharmaceuticals	2,82,071.00
17.	Ethico Drugs & Chem. Mfg. Co	1,40,97,889.00
	DIPHYRIDAMOL	
1.	M/s. German Remedies	59,95,039.00
	GENTAMYCIN	
1.	M/s. Fulford India (Court Case)	194.62 lakhs
2.	M/s. Biochem Pharma Ltd.	33.88 Lakhs
3.	M/s. Lyka Labs Ltd.	24.47 Lakhs

**Allotment of LPG/Kerosene/Petrol/
Diesel Dealerships under Discretionary
Quota**

4447. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the persons or institutions with location who had been given licences for diesel/petrol/retail outlet, LPG agencies, kerosene oil agencies under discretionary quota during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government have fixed some criteria or norms for discretionary quota;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the ground on which these licences are issued under the above said quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) The required information is given in the Statement below.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. These are awarded on compassionate grounds;

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) & (c) above

STATEMENT*LPG Distributorships awarded on Compassionate Grounds during 1985-86*

<i>S No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1	Smt Sudesh G B Singh	Chandigarh
2	Smt Veena Devasher	Delhi
3	Smt R J Prakash	Madras, Tamil Nadu
4	Smt Saroj Bhatia	Delhi
5	Smt Jaspal Kaur	Amritsar Punjab
6	Smt Meena Misra	Pune Maharashtra
7	Smt Aruna Nanda	Delhi
8	Smt Raman Kumari Sharma	Delhi
9	Shri M K Kankariya	Pune Maharashtra
10	Shri Mohinder Rampal	Delhi
11	Smt Asha Narula	Delhi
12	Smt Asha	Delhi
13	Shri Mahesh Kumar Dhar	Bari Brahmana, Jammu Tawi J & K
14	Smt Cuckoo Bhatia	Meerut Uttar Pradesh
15	Smt Durgesh Sharma	Kota, Rajasthan
16	Smt Lalita Wadhwa	Delhi
17	Smt Nalini Kapoor	Delhi
18	Smt Hema Parthasarathy	Madras City Tamil Nadu
19	Ms Susmita Bhattacharya	Calcutta (South), W Bengal
20	Shri Mahesh Kumar Bhatt	Delhi

LPG/RO Dealerships awarded on Compassionate Grounds during 1986-87

1	Shri Onkar Nath Martin	Ramshilla Hill, Distt Gaya, Bihar
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1	2	3
2.	Smt. Harjeet N. Vyas	Bombay, Maharashtra
3.	Smt. Usha Rawat	Anupshahar, Distt. Bulandshahar, U.P.
4.	Smt. Chitralekha Bahuguna	Delhi
5.	Shri Sachindra Singh	Lucknow city, U.P.
6.	Shri Rang Bahadur Bhartiya	Bareilly, U.P.
7.	Shri V.K. Bammi	Delhi
8.	Smt. Pramila Singh	Kanpur Bye-pass, U.P.
9.	Smt. Poonam Sharma	Patna, Bihar
10.	Shri Acharya Dipankar	Yamunanagar, Dist. Ambala, Haryana
11.	Mrs. Veena Sharma	Dehradun, U.P.
12.	Smt. Sudesh Suri	Delhi
13.	Smt. Meera Bhalla	Delhi
14.	Shri Ramesh Chand Trivedi	Kanpur U.P.
15.	Smt. Varsha Khullar	Delhi
16.	Smt. Asha Mahanti	Calcutta, West Bengal
17.	Shri Ravinder Paul Singh	Ludhiana, Punjab
18.	Smt. Manju Sharma	Delhi
19.	Smt. Chatar Kali	Delhi
20.	Smt. Nanda Subba	Dehradun, U.P.

LPG/RO Dealerships awarded on Compassionate Grounds during 1987-88

1.	Shri P. Murli	Delhi
2.	Capt. S.L. Sharma	Delhi
3.	Mrs. Meera Sharma	Meerut, U.P.
4.	Km. Rashmi Dutt	Delhi

1	2	3
5.	Smt Shanti Devi	Barraut, Dist Meerut, U P
6.	Smt Sudha Kumar	Delhi
7.	Mrs Kanwaljit Wadhawan	NOIDA, U P
8.	Smt Jasleen Aggarwal	Patiala, Punjab
9.	Smt Chitra Sharma	Pilakhwa, Distt Ghaziabad (U P)
10.	Shri Arvinder Singh	Dehradun, U P
11.	Smt Sarla Mehta	Bijnor, U P
12.	Smt Prabhawati Singh	Jayas, Dist Sultanpur, U P
13.	Smt Gayatri Devi Pandey	Naugarh, Dist Basti, U P
14.	Smt Shanta Jain	NOIDA, U P
15.	Shri P Kannan	Egmore Area, Madras
16.	Smt Surjeet Sahota	Hoshiarpur, Punjab
17.	Km Deepa Bora	Rudrapur, U P
18.	Smt Sumitra Devi Haryana	Narnaul, Dist Mahendergarh
19.	Smt Daleep Kaur	Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab
20.	Smt Sushma Singh	Jaipur, Rajasthan

LPG Agencies to War Widows in Delhi

4448 DR CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) whether certain LPG agencies in Delhi have been allotted to widows of ex-servicemen under priority quota,

(b) whether such gas agencies can be retained by the war-widows after their re-marriage at a later date, and

(c) the rules and regulations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) (a) Some LPG distributorships in Delhi have been awarded on compassionate grounds to widows of defence personnel killed while on duty,

(b) and (c) The terms of award of the distributorship in such cases do not stipulate that the same will need to be surrendered in the event of re-marriage

Joint Ventures for Exploration of Oil and Gas

4449. SHRI S.M. GURADDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is at present examining about 140 proposals from Indian and foreign companies for joint ventures relating to various areas of the ONGC operations;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in such cases; and

(c) in how many cases decision has not been taken and the time by which final decision in respect of all cases is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) and (b). Government have been seeking, from time to time, the views of ONGC on the applications received from Indian industries for foreign collaboration/Joint Ventures, Industrial Licence and Capital Goods import. ONGC have examined more than 200 such proposals since 1984.

(c) As on 23.8.1988, 4 applications were pending examination with ONGC. ONGC normally takes about 3-4 weeks in examining the proposals.

No Objection Certificate from District Authorities under Explosives Rules, 1983

4450. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether No Objection Certificate is required only once from the District Authorities under the Explosives Rules, 1983 at the time of initial grant of fireworks licence;

(b) if so, the reasons why a No Objection Certificate is insisted from the District

Authorities every time for renewal of the licences granted under the Explosive Rules; and

(c) the action taken or proposed by Government to simplify the procedure for renewal of the licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). As per the Explosives Rules, a No Objection Certificate is required from the District Authorities for the grant of licence for the storage and manufacture of fireworks. For renewal of such licences, No Objection Certificates from the District Authorities are being insisted upon as per the executive instructions of the Govt. issued in the year 1960. Considering the safety aspects involved in granting such licences, it has been decided that the requirement of such No Objection Certificates for the renewal of these licences may continue. However, in order to avoid delay in renewal of licences, it has been decided that if the No Objection Certificates are not received from the Distt. Authorities within 3 months of the date of intimation, it is to be presumed that they have no objection to such renewal.

[Translation]

'Jaldhara' Scheme for Bihar

4451. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken in Bihar State under 'Jaldhara' scheme; and

(b) the area of land in Bihar brought under irrigation so far during the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The Jaldhara Scheme would be taken up for implementation after the details of the

scheme are finalised.

(b) According to the Planning Commission, the irrigation potential created in Bihar during the Seventh Plan is as under:—

(In Thousand Hectares)

1985-86 (Actual)	236
1986-87 (Anticipated)	266
1987-88 (Target)	302

Disputed cases of Telecommunication Department

4452. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some disputed cases of Telecommunication Department are under consideration of the Chief Labour Commissioner; and

(b) if so, the details of these cases,

(c) the steps being taken by Government to settle these cases immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). Only one dispute case arising out of an agitation by the Bhartiya Telecom. Technicians Union is pending with the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), New Delhi. The details of the case are given in the Statement below.

(c) The recommendations of the 4th Central Pay Commission as accepted by the Government have been implemented. It is not possible to agree to the proposal of further revision of the pay scales as demanded by the technicians.

STATEMENT

The Bhartiya Telecom. Technicians Union has been agitating very frequently for the past two years for revision of their pay scales. Their demands were precisely as under:

- (i) Revision of pay scales of Technicians to Rs. 1400-2300;
- (ii) Revision of pay scales of technical supervisors to Rs. 1640-2900;
- (iii) One time bound promotion by counting the entire service period as Technicians;
- (iv) For giving effect to the revised pay scale from 1.1.86;
- (v) Existing Technicians/Technical Supervisors may be upgraded without any qualifying test and fitment training;
- (vi) The newly restructured cadre of Technicians to be designated as Junior Engineer instead of Telecom Asstt and higher grade Junior Engineer instead of Senior Telecom Assistant;
- (vii) 50% of vacancies be reserved for promotion to the J.T.O. grade.
- (viii) "Diploma in Engineering" should be prescribed as the minimum qualification for direct entry for the post of Telecom. Assistant; and
- (ix) The pay of upgraded Technicians be fixed as per existing rules of the Department of Telecommunications.

[English]

Wage Revision of Public Sector Employees

4453. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government made a commitment for further negotiations with the Central Trade Unions on wage revision of Public Sector employees; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay in the revision of wages and other allowances in the public sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Hike in sale price of Janata soap

4453-A. SHRI S.D. SINGH:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA
SINGH:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale price of the Janta soap has been increased recently;

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

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw the hike, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The price of Janta Soap has been revised from Rs. 1.38 to Rs. 1.85 per 100 grams w.e.f. 16.6.1988 on account of the

sharp increase in the cost of inputs for the manufacture of soap.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Kerosene Outlets in Orissa

4453-B. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of kerosene outlets is inadequate in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to open more kerosene outlets in the State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMADUTT): (a) to (c). There were 148 SKO-LDO wholesale dealerships in operation as on the 31st July, 1988 in the State of Orissa. Upto the Marketing Plan 1987-88, the Oil Industry has planned to open 20 more SKO-LDO dealerships in the State. Locations situated in unrepresented Tehsil/Block Headquarters in the country and having a minimum viable potential of 75 Kls. per month are identified by the oil industry and included in the respective Annual Marketing Plans. The same parameters hold good for Orissa State.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, I have given Calling Attention Notice on 'sati' mela purported to be held in various places of Rajasthan on the first death anniversary of Roop Kanwar. Necessary urgent measures should be taken to prevent it. (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Ra-

japur): Sir, we are almost at the end of the Session. One of my privilege notices is pending for a long time. Sir, I have already submitted all the documents establishing that Mr. Win Chadha has received commission and he has appeared before the Joint Parliamentary Committee denying that. As a result of that, I have built up a clear case for privilege. I do not know whether the privilege notice has been accepted.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is now too old. It has been reported back.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: No, Sir. About Mr. Win Chadha, it has not been reported back. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Sir, the Advisory Body of the Planning Commission has recommended abolition of M.R.T.P. Act. The M.R.T.P. Act is very valuable for consumers. The Advisory Body of the Planning Commission has recommended abolition of MRTP Act from 8th Plan onwards.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to discuss, please give it in writing.

[*English*]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: I have given notice, Sir. It is a very serious matter.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, I will see to it.

[*English*]

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):

Sir, I have given a Calling Attention Notice. Three thousand officers of the Bharat Coking Coal Company are on strike. The production has been affected.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Calling Attention is not replied here.

[*English*]

It is my prerogative. I will look into it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, I have given a Calling Attention Notice regarding restriction on import of edible oil.

MR. SPEAKER: You can see me, not here.

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: It is a very serious matter, Sir. The price of cotton seed has fallen by 40% within 20 days.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to come to me and tell me. It is my prerogative. I will look into it. It is not to be debated here.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN (Alleppey): Sir, the Prime Minister has sanctioned Rs. 30 lakhs for relief measures in the Poruman train accident where more than hundred persons died. But the State Government have distributed the money.....

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know. We have already discussed it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN. I have given it in writing. At least send it to the Government for enquiry. (*Interruptions*)

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Notification under Essential Commodities Act, 1955

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Kerosene (Restriction on use and Fixation of Price) Amendment Order, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 816 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 1988, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6456/88]

Notifications Under Indian Telegraph Act, 1886

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885:—

- (i) G.S.R. 811 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th July, 1988 containing corrigendum to Notification No. G.S.R. 626 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 1988.
- (ii) The Indian Telegraph (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 812 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th July, 1988. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6457/88]

Notifications Under Companies Act, 1956 and Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) G.S.R. 264 published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 1988 declaring Messrs Chennapuri Mutual Benefit Fund Limited, Madras to be a 'Nidhi'.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 479 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 1988 declaring Messrs Chetpet Saswatha Nidhi Limited, Madras to be a 'Nidhi'.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 515 published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June 1988 declaring Messrs Royapettah Benefit Fund Limited, Madras to be a 'Nidhi'.
- (2) A copy of the Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Third Amendment) Rules, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 763 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 1988, under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6458/88]
- (3) A copy of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (Amendment) Regulations, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 205 in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 1988, under sub-section (3) of section 66 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6459/88]

Notification Under Essential Members' Bills and Resolutions

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S.O. 736 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 1988 rescinding the Tea (Registration of Dealers and Declaration of Stocks) Order, 1984, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

Fifty-Sixth Report

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI (Dharmapuri): I beg to present the Fifty-Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions.

12.041/2 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

[English]

Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

SHRI ARVIND NETAM (Kanker): I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate a member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Sched-

uled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of this House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Prof. N. M. Kamble resigned from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate a member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of this House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Prof. N.M. Kamble resigned from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Matters under Rule 377 — Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Mamata Banerjee goes on record.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): I have been beaten severely by the CPI (M) cadres, but I came only for this special mention.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) Kindly inquire into this incident, Sir.

(Interruptions)

12.05 hrs.

[English]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to declare 11th November 1988, The birthday of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad as a National Holiday**

✓ KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE

(Jadavpur) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was a man of strong determination, pure heart, majestic in appearance, balanced and dignified in expression. Maulana Sahib was an outstanding figure of great courage, fearlessness, integrity and passionate love for freedom. He was a unique figure in our political life for nearly two generations. Even before he joined the Congress in 1920, he was a revolutionary. His political wisdom, patriotic and sacrificial services were recognised early and he was elected the President of Indian National Congress in 1923, a position which he held for a number of years on different crucial occasions. His services to the country as a sagacious statesman, an ardent patriot and a great intellectual are inestimable. As we are going to celebrate the centenary year of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, I urge the Government to declare National Holiday on 11th November, 1988, which is his birthday to pay tribute to Maulana Sahib.

- (ii) **Need to step up indigenous production of "Copper-T" and other contraceptives**

DR CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) Undoubtedly the entire development in the country is very much related to population growth for which the Government is very much concerned. Adopting various measures on one hand and involving voluntary organisation and general public on the other hand and declaring it as a peoples movement indicate the amount of interest taken by Government. Among different measures for arresting population growth Copper-T plays vital role but until now we

have depended exclusively on its import through UNFPA, direct imports or U.S. Aid.

To save foreign exchange, Ministry had initiated steps for its Indianisation 10 years ago. However, no progress has been done except introduction of Testing infrastructure at IIT, New Delhi, with large recurring expenses and capital investment. Technology available in the country has not been used profitably. Ministry had not implemented the recommendation of Director-General of Inspection (Ministry of Defence) as regards the placement of order on the Indian manufacturer. Although these agencies were asked by the Technical Committee of the Ministry to investigate into the manufacturing capabilities of different units and for their recommendations, the Ministry did not use the expertise of the Department of Supplies or Ministry of Defence in introducing import substitute of Copper — T despite their long experience.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to encourage the Indian manufacturer for the supply of Copper T, of course with a condition of approval of samples.

- (iii) **Need to allow Commission to authorised agents on the sale of Indira Vikas Patras and to make N.S.C. more attractive**

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) Mr Speaker Sir mobilisation of resources through different National Savings Schemes is a useful national work as through such schemes, savings of a common man are made available for national reconstruction.

12.10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

This laudable work is done mostly by small authorised agents who generally come from retired Govt. servants. They earn their livelihood by earning small commission on such sales. However, recently due to the

[Sh. Sharad Dighe]

introduction of Indira Vikas Patra, the national savings schemes have become comparatively less attractive than Indira Vikas Patra. Moreover since April, 1987, an investor in National Savings Schemes is debarred from encashing certificates till all the six years are over. This has further affected the sales of National Savings Certificate. Consequently, the poor authorised agents are hard hit.

I urge upon the Ministry of Finance to remove these anomalies and make National Savings Certificate equally attractive and also to allow commission to authorised agents on the sale of Indira Vikas Patra also.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to clear the Chambal Command Area Project Phase-II

SHRI SHANTIDHARIWAL (Kota): The Government of Rajasthan submitted the project report of the Chambal Command Area Phase-II in the year 1987 to the Ministry of Water Resources. This Scheme is meant for Kota and Bundi areas in Rajasthan. But the finance Ministry has not yet forwarded it to the World Bank whereas the World Bank had directed to submit the project report of Phase-II in 1982-83 itself immediately after completion of Chambal Command area phase-I. Due to the delay in its approval, the measures taken for the benefit of farmers under phase-I are losing their utilities. Farmers are now stated to be making several complaints about improper implementation of land reform scheme. Canals are in bad condition. Forty percent of the total water is going waste down the rivers and rivulets. Many villages have become inaccessible due to seepage of water. Land is losing its fertility. The farmers are deprived of the benefits likely to be accrued from this scheme as a result of which they are subjected to lot of misery because of non-implementation of phase-II of the project which would not only have created additional irrigation capacity but supplemented the work executed under phase-I.

I urge the Ministry of Water Resources to clear the Chambal Command Area Phase-II without any delay so that loans from the World Bank could be obtained.

(v) Need to release DA instalment due to the Central Government employees.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): The undue delay in the clearance of DA instalment fallen due to the Central Government employees has been a cause of concern for the employees and they are agitated over it.

The Pay Commission and Supreme Court have accepted the DA as their basic right and from time to time directed Central Government to release the instalments due in time.

I, therefore, urge the hon. Minister to release the DA instalment soon.

[English]

(vi) Need to utilise the services of licensed porters at Vijayawada station for loading and unloading of parcels

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there are nearly 300 licensed porters at Vijayawada Railway Station in South Central Railway. Due to innovations in the making of baggage and attitudinal changes to carry lesser luggage, these porters are not getting adequate earnings. Moreover, many trains which pass through Vijayawada Junction are transit trains which do not involve carriage of much luggage. Under the implementation of decentralisation scheme — drafting of licensed porters for loading and unloading of parcels, there is scope to utilise the services of a good number of these 300 licensed porters for loading and unloading of parcels at Vijayawada Station. This scheme is already under implementation at some stations in South Central Railway. Several of these porters have been working for several

decades and they have no other means of livelihood. I, therefore, suggest to the Railway Administration to provide opportunity to these licensed porters at Vijayawada Station for loading and unloading of parcels to enable them to earn their livelihood.

(vii) Need to undertake the studies into the tidal power potentialities of Sunderbans

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joyngar): The Sunderbans area in West Bengal has been found to be one of three most potential tidal power sources in the country after the Gulf of Cambay and the Gulf of Kutch.

It is unfortunate that Government has no immediate plan to utilise the Sundarbans' potential to generate about 1,000 MW of power, while it is concentrating all its energy and resources on putting up a 900-MW capacity tidal power generation station near the Gulf of Kutch which is also said to have a potential similar to that of the Sunderbans.

The Sunderbans is the most backward and poverty-ridden area in the country though rich in scenic beauty. Even otherwise, the State of West Bengal is very much lagging behind in the industrial set up particularly in the sphere of Central investment. Unemployment is another malady which is haunting the State. In case some feasibility study of the Sunderbans Tidal power is undertaken, it would surely prove a boon for the generation of electricity and also be a source for creating employment potential.

I would, therefore, urge that Government may undertake some expert studies of the Sunderbans tidal power potential particularly when there had been a steady decline in the country's hydro-thermal mix power supply which may further go down unless the trend is reversed by quick and vigorous action.

(viii) Need to establish technological Institutes for rural youth

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL

(Kopargaon): Technical manpower and proper planning is needed for the decentralisation of industry with high technology in rural areas. Technical education facilities should be developed in rural and remote areas with all infrastructure facilities so that the dropouts after 10th and 12th can take advantage to develop their skills through these institutions for building the nation through self-employment and also develop industry with high technology in rural and remote areas. Government should consider seriously to establish technical parks in Rural areas to develop high technology so that self-confidence is created among the boys to establish the industry with sophisticated technology with the help of technical educational institutions.

Government may, therefore, consider Parvanagar or Ahmednagar District Ahmednagar as the site to establish a technical park as this is a highly suitable place for the purpose and all types of technical education facilities are available in this area.

12.18 hrs.

DEFAMATION BILL-Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri P. Chidambaram, on the 29th August, 1988, namely:—

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to defamation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration".

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDRA JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Defamation Bill 1988 introduced and being discussed in the House. I gone through the Bill very carefully and so far I understand clauses 8, 9 and 13 of the Bill are

[Sh. Virdhi Chandra Jain]

very important. From opposition side, much objections has been raised over clause 13. I would also like to express my views on this clause.

I am of the firm view that the freedom of speech and freedom of expression are the basic ingredients of our democracy. I am against the infringement of these basic principles.

[English]

"Further, it is proposed to make publication of imputations falsely alleging commission of offences by any person as an offence"

[Translation]

The Bill provides for punishing the persons who makes such imputations against anybody which are considered as an offence under the proposed Bill.

It is quite in the fitness of thing that in the Bill the onus of proving that the imputation is true and it is for the public good has been laid on the accused. He cannot be convicted if he proves this. Emphasis has been laid that the onus of proving that the imputation is true has been laid on the accused. He is the person who has put the imputation. So he should face the consequences if he makes false imputations. So this provision made in the Bill is totally justified. The complainant will not be in a position to do this if the onus is laid on him. He can never succeed. So the onus of proving innocence should be laid on the accused. Though precautions have been taken that the complainant will also have to give an affidavit in which he has to elaborate in details as to how he has been defamed. Only then the session court will take cognisance of it. This power has been given to the sessions judge and not to the first class magistrate. The sessions court will have to conduct the summary trial and give decision within 3 months. Now a days, a tendency of putting imputations is increasing. Much prominence is given to such imputations in the Press. I would like to mention the allegation made by Shri Sanjay Singh recently—

tations in the Press. I would like to mention the allegation made by Shri Sanjay Singh recently—

[English]

"Dr. Sanjay Singh walking out of the CBI Headquarters here told newsmen that it is nothing but the handiwork of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who is implicating him in the murder case to destabilise the opposition"

[Translation]

Dr. Sanjay Singh has given this statement. This statement is of defamatory nature which comes under the purview of an offence under the Bill. The person who makes such imputations should own the responsibility to prove it. The onus should be laid on Dr. Sanjay Singh. So the Bill after becoming law would be most effective to curb the tendency of the making false and irresponsible allegations against anybody. If this tendency is not curbed, existence of democracy will be threatened. We wouldn't be able to develop national character and good society which form the foundation of democracy. In the light of the facts referred above, the provision made in clause 13 is a step in right direction.

The provision made in clause 8 is a welcome step. I know a newspaper named 'Garib Saathi' which is published from Jodhpur. This paper has made this as its business. Sometimes they publish against some engineer or sometimes against a political leader and their intention remains to pocket some money. If any of these engineers are corrupt, then they have to give money. If they don't give, then action is taken against them. So the persons who bring out such news in the papers, are engaged in an illegal business. So to check this tendency of maligning others, it is necessary that such people are punished and action is taken against them. No newspaper has got any right to malign anybody. Even today they have no right to act indecently. If any newspaper promotes such a tendency or maligns someone or causes defamation of some leader or person

before the society or the country, then the steps taken against them are fully justified

Clause No. 9 is also right. According to it, if any newspaper publishes any matter without an intention of levelling allegations against anybody and also admits that it was published by them innocently and they will amend it and after that if the complainant agrees not to pursue the matter any further, then no action can be taken against that newspaper. But if the complaint sticks to his complaint and the newspaper also does not admit that whatever is published, is their fault, then it will be used to defend the case. Hence this provision is made in view of the convenience and the protection of interests of the newspapers. According to the provisions made in clause 10 and 11, if someone makes fair comments, then there is no punishment for him.

So these provisions have been made in respect of the character assassination or defamation of a person. In England also, there is law of torts, under which action can be taken in respect of the civil rights.

If such provisions are not made against the criminals, then defamation can not be checked. The laws made in this regard, have been made for non-bailable offences and there is no such provision for cognizable offences. Hence while enacting this law, all the precautions have been taken and a consolidated law has been brought forth. All the provisions in the Bill from clause 499 to 502 have been so framed that no one can dare to indulge in the character assassination of another person with a mala fide intention.

So, this is in accordance with the fundamentals of democracy and strengthens its power. With these words I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati)
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I take my stand here to oppose this Bill. I not only oppose this Bill on merit but I oppose the way in which

this Bill has been introduced in this House and is attempted to be passed — and is sought to be hustled through because of the brute majority, without giving us reasonable opportunity even to submit amendments. I also put my strong objection to the way the discussion on the Bill has been projected by the media. I had the opportunity of seeing the T.V. yesterday. In the T.V., not a single word has been mentioned as to why the Opposition has objected to this Bill. Our objection is primarily because, by this, the freedom of expression of the press is being curtailed. And at least a mention of that ought to have been made. But the media projection has been as if the Bill has been introduced to give effect to an amendment of the Indian Penal Code introduced in 1978 and passed by Rajya Sabha and which could not be passed by Lok Sabha because the House was dissolved or to give effect to the Law Commission's recommendations. In fact, the Bill does not give effect to the Law Commission's recommendations and the Bill does not give effect to the various recommendations or to the various provisions of the Bill which was passed by in the Rajya Sabha to which I will make my reference.

Sir, we have seen in this House very unhealthy trends — trends which are dangerous to democracy. We have seen a trend that the Government when it fails to solve any problem come to Parliament for the approval of the preventive detention laws. We have passed umpteen number of preventive detention laws. We are going to pass preventive detention law today also. The discussion on the same is continuing.

There has been an erosion of basic concepts of criminal jurisprudence which has stood the test of time for ages. In the name of Punjab, we have permitted confessions before a police officer to be admissible which I feel is a very dangerous trend. Here we have put the burden of proof on the defence. I am conscious that there are laws in which the burden of proof is put on the defence. We have passed laws, for example, in the Anti-Corruption Act, in the Anti-Adulteration Act, the burden is put on the

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defence. But in what type of cases burden has been put on the defence? Only in those types of cases where the offence is a social evil, a great social evil, only the burden has been put on the defence. But what is the defamation law? The law of defamation is a conflict of two rights — the right of an individual to maintain its honour as against the right of the society to have a free flow of information. Never before in this House, the burden of proof was shifted from the prosecution to defence in order to protect the right of an individual against the right of the society. And this dangerous trend by a change of the criminal jurisprudence is against the very fundamental concept of Indian criminal jurisprudence.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the right of free expression is being curtailed today. First, the right of free expression was curtailed when the Anti-Defection Law was passed when dissent in this House was penalised by a loss of membership. After all, we have Constitutionally guaranteed freedom of expression. Freedom of expression is further enforced in this House that we are not subjected to law of defamation. In the Anti-Defection Law, the freedom of expression was curtailed that if you express your opinion in a particular matter, you will lose your membership. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): On that day, you supported the Bill.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I did not. I was not at that time a Member of this House. I can tell you that the Anti-Defection Bill was first introduced by Shri Umashankar Dikshit as the Home Minister. I was the only Member from the Congress Party at that time who spoke on that Bill and I strongly objected to similar provision and because of my objection, the Bill was referred to the Select Committee. My right of expression here must be unrestrained. Why are you bringing such a legislation? Is it in order to insulate the leader from criticism? Is it in order to save the people in power from exposure? Is it in order to protect Chief Ministers who today are

pursuing defamation cases? Is it in order to protect some leader of the Treasury Benches who has been given a rebuff by the 'Statesman' today? The safety valve of democracy is the free expression. You can insulate a leader. You can put a bulb on the safety valve. But what type of result follows from such actions are seen from experiences of the neighbouring Burma. Today the entire society is crumbling and the price that the Burmese society shall have to pay is something which they will not be able to forget for a long time.

I myself was with the Congress Party. I remember that parliamentary proceedings were censured and were not allowed to go outside. Censorship was clamped. What was the result? The result was that the party on whose interest and leader on whose interest this was done, she not only lost the election but the Congress Party with its hundred years of long tradition was almost put into the dustbin of history. My learned friend, Mr. Chidambaram, has given an impression that this Bill has been brought in order to give effect to the provisions which were introduced in the 1972 Bill, which was passed in the Rajya Sabha. May I ask Mr. Chidambaram, why have you picked up this provision only? Why is it that you have not incorporated clause 490 of that Bill which was an innovation of an offence against privacy? May I point out that one of the most important provisions of that Bill was that:

"490 (1) Whoever, knowing that any artificial listening or recording apparatus has been introduced into any premises without the knowledge or consent of the person in possession of the premises, listens to any conversation with the aid of such apparatus or uses such apparatus for the purposes of recording any conversation, shall be punished with imprisonment..."

If you wanted to give effect to the amendment of the Indian Penal Code which was passed by the Rajya Sabha, you should

have had the guts and the gumption to get this section 490 passed because this was one of the most salutary provisions which was introduced by that Bill.

Your Prime Minister says that the Karnataka Government did a wrong, the Chief Minister did a wrong by phone-tapping. Why did you not have the courage of introducing 490 and making an amendment under 490? Why have you picked up certain provisions of this defamation Act? And even in this Bill, the only thing that was sought to be amended was the punishment for defamation and nothing more and nothing less.

Mr Chidambaram says that this amendment has been brought in order to give effect to the recommendations of the Law Commission. What actually were the recommendations of the Law Commission? This amendment of yours is far wide off the recommendations of the Law Commission. There were very important recommendations of the Law Commission which you have completely ignored. Two important recommendations were that

"Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 may be repealed and substituted by other provisions suited to meet the paramount need of national security

Several countries have enacted legislation to ensure a measure of access to the citizen to official information "

After all, in a country where because of Official Secrets Act and by denial of official information, you prevent newspapers from getting the truth, then the newspapers shall have to go for investigative journalism. And you are trying to put a stop to the investigative journalism. Let us not forget that because of this investigative journalism, a number of skeletons in the cupboard have come to light. It is the newspaper, who brought to light the Antulay affairs. It is the newspaper, who brought into light the Bofors affair. It is the newspaper who brought to light the ONGC deal. It was the newspaper which exposed the corruption of the licence

scandal, etc. Are you trying to protect Lalit Suri, Win Chadha or your Prime Minister from this?

We know that a public man will also face defamation. But let us not forget that a public man lives in a glass-house and this is an occupational hazard that a public man has to face. This is a hazard that you have to face. The people will criticise us. But also let us not forget that because of these criticisms, the power that a public man possesses, many a time is not abused. The moment you put a lid over this type of exposures, rampant corruption grows in a country. If you try to insulate a leader or you try to insulate the people in power from public criticism, you destroy the system itself because that is the strength of democracy. It is the safety valve which protects the country and the system. People have tried in other countries through various ways to insulate the leaders, to put a stop to all types of criticisms. But the result has been that ultimately the leader went into oblivion and the country has to pay the heaviest of prices. We have our own experience — the experience of emergency. We had the experience. And I thought for myself that we have learnt a lesson from it. As I said, defamation is a conflict and in fact my distinguished friend, Mr Chidambaram must have gone through the Law Commission report. In fact, the Law Commission started with this observation. Defamation is a conflict between the right of the society and the individual. And the First Law Commission was asked to decide this question as to whether defamation should go out of the purview of the Indian Penal Code or not and that debate is going on in this country. But the law commissions told that even in the defamation Bill there is conflict between individual's right as against the society's right of free access to information, there should be penal liability as well as civil liability. Now the burden of proof has been put — I can point out that no courageous reporter can be threatened by the law you have brought. But do not forget that there are States run by Opposition Governments and small newspapers expose the Opposition Governments also. I have my own Government in Assam. I would like the

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Government and my Ministers to face criticism and to be in public exposure because I know that the moment public exposure is stopped, there is a possibility of tangible abuse of power. I would have even welcomed some of your provisions if you have the guts to make amendment to the right of information, to provide right of information and to amend Official Secrets Act as has been suggested by the Second Press Commission itself. I will conclude by saying or quoting a particular saying which has been quoted in this Law Commission recommendations; 'Nothing adds to men's hatred of Government than its refusal to let them talk'. Today there is lot of anger, hatred and bitterness against the Government. By your refusal to the journalistic media the people to talk freely, the anger against this Government will grow and you shall have to pay very high price for the law that you are going to pass because you have got the majority and you may get it through in this House by the majority you have got. But to the people of this country, this law will be a black law, a law by which you are threatening the right of expression of the Press and the public which is the essence of the rights of democracy.

SHRI A CHARLES (Trivandrum) Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, defamation is at present an offence under the Indian Penal Code. The Bill now before the House is intended to consolidate and amend the law relating to defamation and matters connected therewith. The question therefore to be considered is whether such a law is necessary or whether there is anything irregular in codifying it as a separate Act. The need for amending the law relating to defamation and for laying down a separate legislation have been well explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons laid down in this Bill. It has been stated that the Law Commission had suggested certain amendments to these provisions. The Second Press Commission also recommended certain amendments for protecting unintentional defamation, fair comment and certain types of privileged statements. A careful study of

the different sections of the Bill clearly shows that these recommendations have been well taken care of in the amendments now proposed in the Bill before us.

I have been listening to all the previous speakers who spoke on this Bill. I am rather sorry to say that most of the hon. Members on the other side have given a totally distorted version of the circumstances on which this Bill has been brought forward. One of the objections raised was that this Bill passed by the Rajya Sabha in 1978 was a comprehensive legislation for amending various sections of the IPC and that there is no justification in bringing an Act to meet the offence of defamation alone. Defamation is a separate offence and there can be no objection if a separate law is enacted to deal with that offence. The 1978 Act passed by the Rajya Sabha included various other offences also. Just now the previous speaker, Shri Goswami referred to various other provisions of that legislation. But it is surprising to me to find why if there are various other offences in that legislation, one offence cannot alone be taken under special circumstances and a law enacted to deal with that offence. No explanation is given for that. Especially people who commit this offence of defamation are not ordinary innocent citizens, ignorant of the laws or rules of the country and who may not even be aware of the damages that would be caused to persons against whom the allegations are made. Often, they are persons who are well-placed in life and who hold responsible positions in public life, and who make deliberate allegations against their rivals solely with the object of bringing them to disrepute and to ridicule and to ruin their career. In a free democracy like ours, if this tendency of character assassination is not curtailed, and if protection is not given to the honour and integrity of persons who hold responsible positions in public life, the very foundation of the democratic institutions will be shattered.

My friend, Shri Thampan Thomas was here just now, but is not there now. As usual, some of the Opposition Members, whenever somebody from this side speaks, they just

conveniently go out. Yesterday, he brought with him the 42nd Report of the Law Commission, but he did not quote. But he was very vociferous in saying that the 42nd Report of the Law Commission had nothing to do with this legislation. I would request the hon. Members who have any doubt to verify it from the proceedings of yesterday. He said, he would quote, but he did not quote. He conveniently expressed his opinion. My friend, Shri dinesh Goswami also took this book and has quoted some irrelevant portions. I would, however, like to quote from Chapter 21 of this 42nd Report

"As the law of defamation is a restriction on the freedom of speech and expression, we had, in our questionnaire, pointedly asked whether defamation as an offence should be retained in the Code. Mostly the answer has been that it should be retained."

Community law is not static. In the forty years of our independence, our Constitution which has been acclaimed all over has had fifty-two amendments. It is to meet the need of the hour. With the passage of time, when the thinking of the community changes, when the situation changes, we have to rise to the occasion. While we are all for freedom for expression of honest opinion, it is our duty to protect the honour, integrity and reputation of those individuals, those people in public life, who are sacrificing their all for the upliftment of the common man.

I further quote from the Report, Chapter 21

"The reason is that, if the sanction of criminal law is removed, the only remedy left to a defamed person would be a suit for damages, which is not only expensive, but also in many cases useless. Many such persons guilty of defamation are men of no substance and nothing can be recovered from them. Further, public servants are being frequently defamed, and the criminal law alone can effectively deal with such law breakers. We are consequently not

suggesting that defamation should cease to be an offence."

That is the recommendation of the Law Commission. Again

"The right of free speech is, we think, sufficiently safeguarded by the several explanations and exceptions added to the definition of defamation in our Code."

Now, Sir, coming to the Bill as such, I will just point out one or two provisions of the Bill. Sir, there are a number of exceptions in Section 4 but nobody from the other side of the House has spoken a word about these exceptions. Section 3 deals with the offences and Section 4 with the exceptions. I will not read out the whole Section 3. I will just point out the crux

intending to harm or knowing or having reasons to believe that such imputation will harm the reputation of a person."

Then there are 10 exceptions. Exception 9 says

"the imputation on the character of another provided that the imputation is made in good faith for the protection of the interest of the person making it, or of any other person, or for the public good."

So, if the imputation is in good faith or if it is for the public good then it is exempted. So, I think what our friends on the opposite side want is simply character assassination. In a democratic country like ours, this is not the freedom of speech. The freedom of speech in this country has stood the test of time. We do not have the unfettered freedom to say anything against anybody.

I was very disappointed to hear the Hon. Member, Mr. Goswami to speak about the occupational hazard in a very light hearted manner. Sir, you may remember the Moiley Tape episode in Karnataka. It was discussed in this august House. That is why I

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am making its reference. The judicial pronouncement was that the person against whom the allegation was made was an innocent person. A pointed question was put to the then Chief Minister, Mr. Rama Krishna Hegde, in whose residence the whole conspiracy was hatched. He was asked, *Whether it was justifiable to defame an innocent person*, and very light heartedly the value-based politician who is being pushed up as an apostle of all values said that it was only an occupational hazard. And now second time, Mr. Goswami in this very House says that it is occupational hazard. Sir, in a democratic country we do not like this sort of view point.

The Law Commission has recommended that the punishment may be simple or rigorous. For the first offence, the same punishment as recommended by the Law Commission has been incorporated but for the second and subsequent offences higher punishment is recommended. There are various aspects of it. A punishment can be deterrent or reformative. So, if a person commits an offence for the first time some concession should be given but if he falls in the habit of committing offences, then the punishment has to be deterrent punishment.

Section 9, 10 and 11 give protection to unintentional defamation, fair comment and various other types of statements. Sir, this Bill has been brought forward to protect the freedom of speech in this country. So, I fully support it and I request the Hon. Members from the other side to give a rethinking to this Bill so that the democracy is preserved in this country and our leaders can keep the unity and integrity of the nation intact.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): Sir, this is a Bill which is going to curtail the freedom of speech and it is a severe blow to the democracy. Sir, indirectly the Hon. Minister through this Bill is going to shut down the mouth of the Opposition. Sir, I am here to give compliment to the Press like Hindu, the Statesman and the Indian Express. They have done a tremendous serv-

ice in exposing corruption at the highest level and for which this Government has no guts to prosecute them. The hon. Minister is bringing forward such a Bill in order to create a fear-psychosis in the Press and the Opposition. After the revelation of corruption with regard to Bofors, the sub-marine deal, the ONGC deal, etc., I really thought that the Government would improve their behaviour. I thought that the Government would see to it that procedures are regularised at the top and that some good would percolate down. On the contrary, they are regularising corruption and to safeguard their position at the higher levels, they are coming up with such type of Bills. I must say that the Government is moving in the direction of dictatorial rule and emergency. The 59th amendment to the Constitution to curtail the fundamental rights of the public, the Terrorist Act, the National Security Act and the Act that we are discussing today in this House are all an indication that you are going to have a dictatorial regime. Yesterday's behaviour of the Treasury Benches also proves that you are going to act like dictators in this House as well. I request the hon. Minister to withdraw this Bill at least even at the last stage.

In the statement of objects and reasons, the hon. Minister has sweetly mentioned about the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1978, which was introduced in the Janata Regime. I have gone through this Amendment Bill. There are 204 clauses and the clause mentioned here is just mentioned at the end of the list in the Amendment Bill. If you are really honest, you should accept all those clauses. One of the important points in that was a new section to punish companies which commit frauds such as diversification of funds and sabotage of property resulting in the closure of lakhs of industrial undertakings, generation of more and more blackmoney, stashing such money outside the country and so on. In Section 67, it has also been suggested that dishonest contractors should be punished as also the government servants who assist them. In this way, there are about 204 suggestions. Are you going to accept all those?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Datta Samantji, I am not amending the Indian Penal Code.

DR. DATTASAMANT: My contention is that while there are so many suggestions, you are picking up only one which suits you.

Now I would like to ask you one question. What action are you going to take against a public servant if he defames somebody? There is nothing in the Bill to deal with this sort of a situation. Public servants are completely exempted. I may mention here that I am one of those men who are defamed by this Government. From 1972 onwards, this Government is trying to defame me. Even after I am acquitted in the court and in spite of the Court's statement that I am innocent, the Government goes on defaming me saying that he is responsible for so many frauds and murders.

You may also take the redent case of Syed Modi's murder as an example. The search was carried out in Ameeta Modi's house at Bombay and they traced some diary. Though Sanjay Singh is a brother of Ameeta Modi, the CBI publishes some love letter and goes on defaming innocent people. And they are doing so because the Government instigated them. It is done with political motive and it is a defamation to get some political advantage. If somebody commits a fraud, you may punish him and we have no objection. But you are using the provisions of this Bill only to defame people. Let me show how the Government carries on this business of defamation. We are organising rallies. We have a rally at Boat Club which was attended by about five lakh people. Shri V.P. Singh held rallies twice at Bombay and about three lakhs of people took part in it. But your media publishes only what Shri Devi Lal and Shri Bahuguna say. You are using your powers, your press and other media to curtail the freedom of the opposition and to defame the opposition.

You indulge in such practices only because you are afraid of the Opposition. It is stated in the Bill that Section 3 does not apply to the expression in good faith of any opinion whatever respecting to be the conduct of a public servant in the discharge of his public functions or respecting his character so far as his character appears in that conduct and no further. In the Bill, you have written eleven times 'No further, No further'. Why? This Government is so shrewd that whatever deeds that are done by the Government, say, for example, the Bofors case, the Submarines case, etc., should not be focussed. They want to defame the officers. They want to prosecute them. They still say 'No further, No further' and so on. I am not going to spare anybody. The corruption is there at the highest level. No Minister is going to issue the licences. It is the public servants who are going to do this thing. In Section 10, you say that "No proceedings for defamation shall be taken or continued by that party against the publisher in respect of the publication in question". So, you want to protect the VVIPs by saying 'No further, No further', who are mainly responsible for these things.

Section 18 says that "Provided that where the accused, being the editor, publisher or printer of a newspaper or periodical is prosecuted for an offence under the Defamation Act, 1988, the Court shall not dispense with his personal attendance if it is proved that he has refused with a reasonable time, to publish any reply of the person against whom any imputation relating to such offence was made, in the same manner and with the same prominence as the imputation was published in that newspaper or periodical." Here, you say that his attendance is required until he expresses his regret. When even a person who commits a murder is allowed to have an advocate for defending his case, why not for Editors, publishers, etc.? In the Penal Code even a man who has done his law can represent in the court. I have this inference from the *Indian Express* case. Here the Editor was given some exemption for not attending the court.

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Section 18(3) says that "where the trial of any offence under this Act is conducted in camera, it shall not be lawful for any person to print or publish any matter in relation to any such trial except with the previous permission of the Court, and whoever prints or publishes such matter without such permission shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine or with both." Here you are banning the publicity. This clearly shows your motive. This is a very-very bad thing. That is why you are treating the publishers, the editors and also the Press as accused people.

Section 7 says that "Whoever sells or offers for sale any printed or engraved substance containing defamatory matter, knowing that it contains such matter, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both." Here at least the Government should use some sense. In what way, the poor people who are selling the newspapers responsible for the defamation?

Section 9 is somewhat reasonable.

Here it says that that "A person who has published any matter alleged to be defamatory of another person may, if he claims that the matter was published by him innocently in relation to that other person, make an offer of amends under this section." Here, if an Editor defames somebody and if he finds that it is wrong and expresses an apology and publishes the apology, you will not prosecute him. This is reasonable. So, you are treating the editors, publishers and the Press as accused people. When you say that they must attend the court, they must stand trial and they must be given two or more years' punishment these are all severe blow to the democracy. If a man like me, who is not an advocate says that Prime Minister is involved in the Bofors' deal, the Defence Minister is involved in the Bofors' deal, you can easily put a stop to such utterances by using this Bill. You can ask the Opposition what evidence have they got? How can I

show an evidence? How can I give a signed copy of the deal that Rs. 64 crores was accepted as bribes? That is the evidence you are expecting. You are coming down to this level. I will condemn any Government—tomorrow it may be the Government of the people on this side, Government of Kerala or Government of West Bengal. I think corruption at the highest level should be exposed. This Bill has been brought in by this Government because they are afraid, because they were exposed last year with regard to Bofors, by the Press.

I request the Government to withdraw this Bill at this stage. You can pass the Bill because of your majority; but the public is going to realize that you will commit more sins in future, if you come back to power once again. You do not want to be exposed by the Press. That is why you are bringing in this Bill. Thank You.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL (Chandigarh): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir: This Bill is a Bill to consolidate and amend the Act relating to defamation. We all know that the law of defamation is already on the Statute Book, and the Indian Penal Code deals with it. The present Bill, in a few clauses, almost repeats whatever is contained in the Indian Penal Code. There are a few clauses which, we can say, are being added. The basic reason for the Government bringing this Bill is that the Law Commission had made certain recommendations, and the Press Commission had also made certain recommendations. Taking them into consideration, to consolidate things, this measure has been brought forward.

According to my experience at the Bar, any person against whom defamatory articles are written, against whom false allegations are made, is afraid to go to a court of law. Why? Why should that be so? My answer is that the law of defamation, in fact is such that a gentleman, a man who feels, 'Why not ignore what somebody is talking?' feels more comfortable in not going to a court of law, rather than exposing himself to further defamation.

According to me, the law of torts in this country should be so amended that exemplary punishments by way of damages should be awarded against those persons who commit the crime of defaming others. Although probably this Ministry will not be dealing with the civil torts, I would say that whenever a person wants to defend his honour, integrity and personality, wants to file a suit for damages, no court fee should be charged from him; or, in any case only a nominal court fee should be charged because people are not in a position to pay *ad valorem* court fee when they want to claim real damages. I am not quite sure, but when the effort was being made to amend the law of court-fee, during my time, lot of effort was made, we went round the whole country and ultimately a report was produced. I do not know what is happening to that report.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Gathering dust!

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: But I am quite clear in my mind that at that time also this matter was raised.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In West Bengal it is Rs. 15/- standard.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: If it is Rs. 15 in West Bengal, I would commend it to be adopted on an all India basis. It should be.

Now, which is the clause which most irritating to my friends on the opposite side? Because, as I said, some of the clauses are almost verbatim copy of Section 500 and 499 of the Indian Penal Code. The clause which according to me, seems to be irritating to my friends, is Clause 13.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): What is the background to Chapter III, you may explain.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: The clause as I say, is Clause 13. Now that clause, I will read for the benefit of the House. The Clause says:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in Chapter II of this Act, whoever, by words, either spoken or intended to be read or by sign or by visible representations, makes or publishes any imputation falsely"

— the emphasis is on the word 'falsely' —

"alleging that any person has committed an offence, or has done or omitted to do any act which amounts to an offence, under any law for the time being in force,...."

Now, do we want to condone it? Can anybody think of condoning an offence of this type? Somebody is levelling an allegation against me of a criminal charge, a false allegation. Well, each one of us should put ourselves in that unfortunate position. You can understand a person's sentiment when he is being accused falsely of having committed a criminal offence and yet he cannot go to a court of law, for saying that "my personality has been completely taken away by this charge, please inquire into it." Again it is not as if somebody when he goes to a court of law he will at once succeed. The section itself says, there is a complete defence. Defence is, the other side can come and say, "That is not a false charge. It is a correct charge" and he will further prove that this charge is levelled for the purpose of public good. Well, surely if both the things are proved, then nobody should have a grievance. But if the other side is not in a position to prove that the charge is correct, then I will say, all civilised people would support this clause.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: 'Civilised'. The word 'civilised' may be emphasised.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: Civilised, obviously. Because, the reason is, it is a civilised person alone who is concerned with his honour, who is concerned with his integrity, who is concerned with his personality as it is being projected to the outside world. And if you want to demolish his per-

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sonality by levelling false charges there can be no more serious offence, no more serious offence, than this. And with respect, I will say, I am not — in spite of the learned speakers who have spoken on the other side — I have not been able to find, after all what is the main objection. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: May I seek a clarification?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is not yielding.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is yielding. After all, he is an eminent lawyer and we want his guidance.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): He is a gentleman yielding.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is the imputation of an offence not covered by Section 3 of the Bill? Why is a separate provision made in this? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): You have to read it along with Clause 15.... (*Interruptions*) Therefore if a man makes bona fide prosecution or a charge (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is a civilised member.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): Why can't there be?.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Today only the Government has come forward with an explanation to Clause 13. Yesterday that explanation was not there. Every complaint in a criminal case, if the accused are acquitted, the complainant has to undergo one month imprisonment. That was the position yesterday. Today an explanation is given. Probably the hon. Member has not seen the explanation, which has been issued in the name of the hon. Minister today.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): The explanation is already there.

SHRI AYYAPU REDDY: Today only it is circulated.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, when the time limit was fixed at 2 PM yesterday, how the new amendment has come. Is it that the Minister has a right of amendment? That was the point we were making yesterday... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Yesterday also I told the Chairman that I have no objection in accepting any amendment at any time from the Members and in fact I made this offer to Shri Ayyapu Reddy also. Let me now also thank Shri Ayyapu Reddy for pointing out to me what was not noticed, what we thought had been covered by Section 79 of IPC. But after going back yesterday, I was satisfied that it was not covered by Section 79 of IPC. Therefore the explanation has been offered. I am grateful to Mr. Ayyapu Reddy for pointing it out. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: That is the danger of bringing a hurriedly drafted bill and getting it through... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the time limit is fixed by the hon. Speaker. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That does not apply to the official amendment... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It applies to this also. The result is, the directions given by the Chair can be supplemented by the Minister at his sweet will and the Members on the opposition are treated as second class members... (*Interruptions*)

We are told that there is a time limit for us. The Minister says 'I will permit'.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: Sir, my friends are under mistake. Official amendments can be moved at any time. That is the practice ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: That was not my point. My point was that the Bill was so hurriedly drafted and you thought that we can give amendments. But the Minister ultimately had to come with an amendment because he was also not perfect even though he had all the time to draft the Bill... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Generally during the discussion, he may come to the conclusion also ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, let me clarify very clearly. There has been convention in all the Houses because the idea is that the Treasury bench should be able to respond to the suggestions made by the Members. Therefore, even in the Anti Defection Bill, in the course of the debate and discussion, they consulted and some amendments were moved and they were accepted. I do concede that they have a right to move the amendment.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Minister has given the time to opposition to submit an amendment. Yesterday we were given lectures... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If Somnathji will make a point, which is valid I will accept it... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No valid point is accepted to them.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: He has given the offer to you. You can make a valid point. He will accept it. Whether it is a valid point or not, it is for him to decide.

My friend Shri Ayyapu Reddy was saying that I have not seen the explanation. Obviously I had not seen it unless he pointed it out. May I read the explanation. It says:

"It is not an imputation under this section to make or publish in good faith an accusation against any person to a Court, Tribunal or other authority which has lawful authority over that person with respect to the subject matter of that accusation."

Well, it is much too obvious where sometimes the draftsmen try to bring an explanation which otherwise may be clear to anybody else. But to make it clear beyond any doubt, they insert explanation.

Sir, I started by saying that if you level a false imputation against a person of a criminal charge that he has committed an offence, surely, that allegation can be levelled to a court always. But if you level it in the press, if you level it orally, if you try to defame a person by telling everybody, here goes a criminal, obviously it is much too serious a thing, according to me. They may not agree.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why this special provision?

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Why can they not agree to amend sections 499 and 500 instead of this Bill?

SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL: I am not yielding to everybody. I yielded to my learned friend for whom I have very great respect.

I have always said that I have the greatest respect for all the hon. friends sitting opposite. Whenever they make any valid comment, I for one will be prepared to accept it. Reason being we are all in a cooperative effort to bring forward such legislation which is really for the good of the society at large. Now defamation is one thing — I must repeat, defamation is one thing from which everybody is so scared because what for one lives. One lives for his personality. One lives

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for what is the sum total of what he is doing. Now if you want to indulge in character assassination, this type of assassination, according to me, is the most scurrilous type of accusation which you can make against a person by branding him as a person who has committed an offence and the allegation, I emphasise, is false. Now, my learned friend, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, says why I bring a special provision. Obviously it is a special type of offence. That is why, you have seen the procedure we have adopted. We have made trial by a Court of Sessions. We have ultimately given all possible safeguards for a person also who has tried to defend himself. The purpose is, there is tendency with some people to try to completely demolish a person's character and escape with it. And this, according to me, I again say, it is entirely for the hon. Members...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please wind up.

SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL: Sir, I have not yet begun.

My submission, therefore, is that this clause which, according to them, is the most irritating and according to me, is the most appropriate amendment which the hon. Minister has brought because time has come when false character assassination must stop in this country if public life has to be led and surely, we cannot permit abuses which may amount to completely demolishing a person's personality. I generally used to say that it needs years and years to build a personality and it needs one minute to demolish a personality, just as we need years and years to build a building and we need only one bulldozer to pull it down. In fact, the House should be grateful that this Amendment has been brought forward because as I started by saying, I am most jealous of my own character and if somebody tries to say 'Mr. Kaushal is a thief', it is a false allegation. Mr. Kaushal's personality is gone, unless Mr. Kaushal goes to a court of law... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am sure you will ignore it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Nobody will believe that.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: Nobody will believe it, I am happy. Prof. Madhu Dandavate, as usual, is always generous to me... (*Interruptions*)

Now let us proceed as to what are the other obnoxious parts of the Bill. As I say, it is something which is already existing in law. Law of defamation is already existing. It is only being consolidated... (*Interruptions*). Mr. Chatterjee may be right that it may even be covered by the main section. It may be. But we all know that when an emphasis has to be given, then to make it as a separate chapter, separate section, it is just for the draftsman to think that way. Therefore, my submission is that this particular section should not be taken to be an obnoxious section. It should not be taken to be that the purpose is to gag. Gag whom? If it gags the person who levels a false allegation of an offence having been committed, then surely we have achieved our purpose. And it is gagging nobody else except those persons. None should hold a brief for such people. Let nobody hold a brief that yes, one should be given a licence to level allegations. Everybody should know this that the law against levelling a false allegation of a crime having been committed by a person is already existing. It is there in all civilised countries — in Britain, in our country, under the civil law, under the criminal law. We are not doing something special. In one sense, we are making it triable by a court of sessions. We are giving the power to the court of sessions to try the case. If the Sessions Judge thinks it is triable, it should be triable summarily. The reason obviously is that either you prove that I have committed an offence or go to jail. You just cannot level an allegation.

My friends have been very eloquent in saying, Bofors, other scandals, submarines.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: ONGC... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: May I again say that nobody till today, in spite of all what the Press and the investigating agencies have done, has been able to pinpoint and bring in any uncontrovertible evidence that he is the person who has committed this offence... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: That can be brought by the Government... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: I am again surprised. You appointed a Committee of this House. That Committee went into the matter. That Committee tried its best to do whatever it could. But if you go on persisting in levelling false allegations, unfortunately, it is a political game. Now this section, you will see, talks of an individual. This section is not talking that the Government will prosecute or do this or that. Shall I read this section once again? The Section is that if an allegation by a person is levelled against another person that he has committed an offence, then obviously that person has been given a chance to go to a court of law and prosecute that person unless he proves it. Now, an objection was taken by some hon. friend the other side that the burden of proof has shifted to the person against whom the prosecution has been launched. Well, anybody who knows the criminal law and anybody who deals with criminal law must know that even in Section 500 itself it is written that the burden of proving an exception will lie on the person who pleads the exception. Surely, the prosecution will not prove the exception also. The prosecution says, 'you are covered by the main Section.' Then he says, 'Sorry, there is an exception'. Then it says, 'then you prove it.' If he proves the exception then obviously in spite of the fact that the prosecution may succeed, but may succeed in what? Prosecution cannot succeed because prosecution can only succeed if it is a false allegation. Now, if the other side comes and says, 'I will prove it is true', now obviously if he succeeds and it is proved, then the Judge will say, although this is an accusation, although this is an imputation, although this imputation

assassinates the character, but it has got to be proved, and if it is proved, then it is followed by acquittal. Then further, the other man says, 'I have not levelled it for the sake of levelling it, it is for public good', then obviously he will get a certificate from the court. Therefore, my submission is that to try to find fault with either changing the burden of proof which we have not changed, although according to me, Sir, in some cases the House has passed, the time has come where even the burden of proof has been changed. According to the prevailing circumstances, Sir, I do not know whether Mr. Somnath Chatterjee practises on the criminal side or not, but at least I know, I have been a Defence Counsel, I have been practising in the courts, but may I tell you the statistics which are very disturbing to me as a citizen? I will be very happy as a Defence Counsel — the statistics are, till the highest courts, only 10 per cent convictions are maintained in 90 per cent people are acquitted. Surely, Sir, nobody is going to say that all those 90 per cent who have been acquitted are innocent, the reason being that the Judge has to find that the evidence is acceptable. In a number of cases evidence does not come, we all know that the Counsels practising in the Courts always tell a person, 'Why are you bothering? Win over one or two prosecution witnesses, you will get acquittal — easiest.' And, Sir, if the society goes on acquitting people who have committed crime on one pretext or the other, the faith of the common will get totally shattered. So, if that happens, we might have to change the burden of proof. We can? Now, remember that well-known sentence, 'Let 10 guilty persons escape, but not one innocent be punished.' I think the time has come when we have to seriously think about it. Why not preponderance of probability? Ultimately it is the judicial mind which has to decide, judicial minds get judicially trained. They know. Sometimes even one circumstance is good enough for conviction, but every time to go on saying, 'Does not matter, go on acquitting people', my respectful submission is, I am told—I have not studied from that angle—in France the burden of proof is one the accused. That is a civilised country, that is a

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democratic country. Now, as I say, who contributes to greater acquittal? The witnesses, the investigating agency, the doctors, all combined together to see that a guilty person escapes. If the society takes up that attitude, then the legislature will have to think of bringing forward such legislations where guilty persons should not escape. It is because, we are as much concerned in punishing the guilty as we are concerned in seeing that innocent is not punished. Here, neither the burden has been changed nor can we find fault with the law of defamation, as it is existing today. As I was saying, according to me, the Law of Torts should be amended. My friend Mr. Chatterjee has said about the Bengal Amendment which is existing there that with a fixed court fee of Rs. 15 we can claim unlimited damages and it is for the court to grant what damages the court will like to grant.

There is another clause to which some objection has been taken and that clause is clause 8. I will again read the first few lines.

"8. Where any matter which is grossly indecent (not only indecent but grossly indecent) or scurrilous or is intended for blackmail is published in any newspaper, periodical or circular, the author of such matter and the printer, publisher and editor of such newspaper, periodical or circular shall, in the case of first offence, be punishable..."

Do we have some sympathy even for blackmailers? I am yet to see a person who is prepared to give some concession to a blackmailer.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: If it is exhibited in film, it is not punishable. But if it is published in film magazine, it is punishable.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: I am talking of the clause itself. Let me again understand. Are we going to condone grossly indecent or scurrilous writing? "Scurrilous" by itself is gross. And then, there is "or is intended for blackmail is published in

any newspaper. I have never expected that we should condone blackmailing also. My god, I shudder to think, if somebody tries to blackmail me. I may accept blackmail to a very small extent. But to say that the man should be allowed to go scot-free, I will not accept.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: There is already provision for that.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: If the provision is already there, why are you afraid if it is made more prominent. What is wrong about it?

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: In the clause, it is said, grossly indecent publication is made punishable. What is grossly indecent" has not been defined in the Act. What is defined and well-known is that obscenity is punishable under the Penal Code. For the first time, we are trying to say, grossly indecent publication is also punishable. Suppose gross indecency is focussed in a film, it does not attract clause 8. But if a cinema magazine publishes that, anybody can say that it is grossly indecent and then he can say it must be made punishable. What is grossly indecent?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Any attack on the ruling Party is grossly indecent. Any attack on the person in authority is grossly indecent (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: I think, hon. Members on the opposite try to satisfy each other. That is all. Don't try to satisfy each other. Try to satisfy this side also.

What I was trying to submit to the hon. House was this. Nobody will condone either a scurrilous writing or grossly indecent matter and nobody will condone the act of a person who is a blackmailer. My learned friend for whom I have very great respect says that if it is in the film, then it is permissible. Who has told him that it is permissible? Who has told him?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Un-

less it is obscene.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: That is what I am saying. Clause 7 makes it punishable. Please see Clause 7.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It does not attract. You don't see films?!

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: I don't see the blue films or other films.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You plead innocence!

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: You don't see now. What I say is that at some point of time you see it.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: At that point of time, they were not in existence.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: This is not a place for confession.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: The only attack which my hon. friends seem to make over again and again is this: this is a curb on the fundamental right of freedom of speech or freedom of expression. You have a right to do your best to defend the freedom of press and the freedom of speech.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: That we are doing.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: We stand for it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Even we stand for it, Kaushalji.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: You think that you are the only custodian. We are as much a custodian of the right of freedom of speech and freedom of expression because the impression I gathered, I should say in very strong words, is that the Opposition is the custodian of morality and of freedom of press and of freedom of speech etc. I am very sorry to say so. I submit that these are the cherished freedoms which have

been enshrined in the Constitution. We are as much anxious to see that those freedoms are maintained because ultimately they are for our benefit. I submit that no fault can be found even against this Clause because this Clause only tries to curb blackmailing. Blackmailing is not a part of either freedom of speech or freedom of expression. All my friends think that once we pass this Act, all people will be sent to jail. It is for the courts to decide in every matter whether it constitutes blackmail and whether it is grossly indecent and whether it is scurrilous and then in spite of everything, all exceptions which can be provided under the law, those exceptions will always be applied by the courts. Therefore, our only effort is to see that the law of defamation—my learned friend was saying that it is already existing—my answer is that this is a consolidating law. So, if it consolidated the law, surely, we should have no objection. There are some Clauses which are welcome. Obviously they should be welcome because those Clauses permit a person to say that "It is an unintentional writing and I make amends." Surely every court, every person, would accept the amends if it is unintentional because nobody is persistently going to the court and say that every man should be punished even though the offence committed is unintentional. I would beg of the Opposition not to try to see rat where it does not exist. Don't try to impute motives where the imputation ultimately has no basis. Now, the purpose of the Government is to bring a law of defamation on the Statute Book in a consolidated manner and then try to see that according to the needs of the society if new offences are being committed to a large extent, efforts should be made to curb those offences. In spite of all this, how difficult it is to get justice in a court of law is known to all of us. It is difficult because of the delay involved, the expense involved, the harassment involved. In spite of our efforts, we have not been able to minimise these things. They are very much there. Most of the people do not go to a court of law. Rather, they sacrifice their rights. I actually said in one seminar that if I have a personal matter, I have horror of the law courts. How difficult

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it is to get justice from the court. Only we know when we pursue the case in a court of law. (*Interruptions*) God forbid, we should not be personally involved. Therefore, my submission to the House is that this should be a welcome measure. We should not try to say that this Bill is being passed either for the purpose of thwarting the freedom of speech or for the purpose of thwarting the freedom of the Press. I will only conclude by saying only one thing. As I said, God forbid, we are not the target of that accusation. But the moment one is the target of that accusation, only then one knows what a torture one feels in his mind that somebody is demolishing one's character

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Are you thinking of extending it to Parliament also?

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL I have been dealing with those matters pertaining to Members of Parliament in the Privileges Committee also. But, anyway, I will not digress from this. My respectful submission is that if at all there is an allegation that this is a delayed Bill, that allegation obviously can be levelled against the Government on a number of matters. My experience, as a former Law Minister also, is so many reports of the Law Commission are with us. On a number of times, we feel we should bring forward legislation. But, somehow we have not been able to bring forward legislation on all of them. If we bring them forward even with delay, that should not be a matter of adverse comments. But, that should only be a matter of suggesting that the Government should have come forward a little earlier. That can be the only thing. One argument was advanced yesterday. I think either the Minister said it or it is found somewhere that identical measure amending the Indian Penal Code was brought and passed by the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS That was not identical...

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South

Central): I have mentioned that there are 204 suggestions on various issues including rape, capital punishment (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL. Anyway, I will not bother. It is for the hon Minister to say about this

SHRI CHARLES (Trivandrum) This is a separate type of offence. You please say after hearing Shri Jagan Nath Kaushal (*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Order, Please

DR DATTA SAMANT You punish a dishonest contractor (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL Therefore, I was saying that instead of trying to say that the intention behind this Bill is to curb either the freedom of speech of the Members or the freedom of speech of an individual, we should try to analyse each and every Clause of this Bill and wherever we feel that a particular Clause is uncalled for, I would request the Minister to amend that Clause (*Interruptions*) Otherwise, my reading of the Bill is that it has very laudable intentions and it is also a salutary legislation

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE Are you suggesting it for circulation for public opinion? I think, you are almost suggesting for eliciting public opinion

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL I thought, if the main Amendments are existing on the Statute Book or some amendments have been suggested by the Law Commission, then obviously circulation would not help us. Otherwise, I am always of this view that each and every Clause should be minutely examined by the hon Members, and any Clause which we feel is going to restrict either the right of an individual or the right of the press, if we can find fault with that Clause, the Minister will have no hesitation in withdrawing that Clause. But I will not accept that blackmail should be permitted; I will not accept that character assassination should

be permitted...

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: I am in full agreement upto Clause 12. Beyond Clause 12, the new additions, have to go for public opinion.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: The public opinion is as reflected in this House, and may I say — I am not fond of saying so — that so long as we are in majority, that is the public opinion...

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: That is correct; the brute majority.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: The majority thinks that way. Therefore, all laws are brought forward by the Government. I say that this Minister is ready to withdraw any Amendment which the Minister thinks is going to usurp or restrict either the freedom of the press or the freedom of the individual.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, freedom of speech is the basis of our democracy and no one will tolerate any curb on this freedom from any corner. But here, what is to be seen is that who is trying to curb this freedom of speech. Are they those people who are misusing the freedom of speech or those who are trying to keep a reasonable check on those who are misusing this freedom. I think that through this Bill, the Government is trying to have a control on those people who are misusing the freedom of speech and this should have been greeted by both the sides of this House, but it is a matter of great regret that on account of some apprehensions on the part of our friends in the opposition they have tried to bring it under cloud. These things, for which they have tried to raise doubts, have no relevance in the context of this freedom of speech or the other questions related to it, but all this is meant only to control the incidence of false allegations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, everyone of us knows that it is the responsibility of the

Government to protect the dignity of the individual. If the dignity of an individual is lowered in any way and we find that the law enacted in this regard is not adequate or capable of safeguarding the dignity of the individual and is not so framed as it was required to be, then it is the responsibility of the Government to bring a new law. I think that this Bill will safeguard the dignity of the individual as well as the social dignity. We all can realise that the government of any civilised country will safeguard the universally acknowledged right of freedom of speech of the individual. The liberty of the individual is subject to the social liberty. Today what we see, is that some persons or some elements are trying to impinge upon this liberty in the name of the freedom of speech of the individual. For political reasons, our opposition friends are knowingly or unknowingly, trying to give them protection.

Perhaps there will not be any Member in this House, against whom the blackmailers have not tried to level some false allegations for their own political reasons. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will agree on this point because, as an hon. Member, almost all the members might have passed through that phase. That is why everyone of us feels that today a trend of levelling allegations against anyone has developed and it is not the responsibility of that person to give fact and figures to prove the allegations. After making allegations, he stands all apart. Proof of innocence is the onus of that person, against whom allegations have been made, even if they are false. It is not the responsibility of that person who has made the allegations and who considers himself to be the champion of the fundamental rights of freedom, to prove that the allegations levelled by him are justified and have some base. When he is not able to prove his allegation, then how can he be kept out of the purview of law

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, everyone knows that there are civil laws to deal with the cases of defamation. But if an allegation is made against me and I go to court against it, then it will take many years and in the meanwhile my political career will be ruined

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

in the effort of proving it that allegations levelled against me are false. I shall have to struggle hard to ward off its ill effects. Even after that it is not certain that I will be getting justice. On the other hand, if the person, who has made the allegations, says in the court that he had made a false allegation and he is apologising for it, then he will be released. Through this Bill, if the hon. Minister is trying to bring such a person within the purview of criminal law, who makes false allegations and is unable to prove it, then he is trying to mitigate the burden of responsibility of lakhs of the people who are thus being deprived of their rights.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we all respect the freedom of the press. I think that these are the press barons who are trying to curb the freedom of expression of the press. They are neither the common man nor the Government, but a few people who do not honour the freedom of expression of the press. They dictate their terms to the press. If the press goes against their dictates, they throw the press people out of their job.

One of my friend was telling that earlier journalism was a sort of mission. They had some cause with them. But, later on, it changed into a profession. so far as the question of mission or profession is concerned, I have no objection to it. This profession has become a business. Consequently, anybody can write against anybody else and spoil the latter's career. Dr. Rajhans told just now that if due regards are paid to the person writing against you, he will immediately settle the matter by publishing a clarification. There is need to check this profession falling into the business category. I think that through this Bill we can achieve this objective.

With these words, I support this Bill and would again appeal to my friends in the opposition to give up their habit of suspecting every thing. They should try and avoid to give it a political colour. It will not serve any purpose. All of us, are aware of the fact that we can speak on any topic in this House.

There is no restriction on what we speak in the House. But even then we are guided by the directions of the hon. Speaker and hon. Deputy Speaker. We cannot cross there limits. Similarly, if efforts are being made to regulate the freedom of expression of the Press, it does not mean that we are snatching the freedom. As the dignity of the House is maintained by keeping a check on the expression of MPs. Similarly, the dignity of the freedom of expression will be protected through this Bill and that is very logical also.

[English]

SHRI HET RAM (Sirsa). Sir, I oppose this Bill because it has been brought forward only to protect the honour and personality of only .01 per cent of the ruling class in our country. India has a society where class conflict is prevailing. In this country, there may be a person who has earned his personality purely due to his own efforts. If he is called a scheduled caste, that is a legal term. In the public, if I am standing and anybody calls me a *Chamar* or I am called a scheduled caste, my total personality is belittled. There is no defence for this in this Bill. It is only to protect big personalities, who earned personalities through the newspapers, engravings and paintings. Some persons and newspapers are eulogising that without a particular leader, India cannot survive. Some had said That India is *Indira* and *Indira* is India. they are merely eulogising such persons.

There is no provision in this Bill to protect a person who may be aggrieved due to some newspaper and things like that. Some newspapers attack the misdeeds of the persons. The eulogy and sycophancy is done only to blackmail a leader. Any or even I can say that such-and-such person is great as compared to someone else. But I am pampering that person. When I come to him, it is but natural that he will show some favours. Anybody who is eulogising would come close to the personalities. In this way, he is able to get the benefits.

I don't want to go into the details of all

this. In our country, the society is based on caste and creed. People are killed for nothing because of caste, because of religion and no protection to life is available.

I would like to suggest that even the sycophancy and eulogy should be banned through this Bill. If such things are going on, stopping defamation will be of no use 33 per cent of the population consisting of the Scheduled Castes cannot dream of honour and integrity in India even after 40 years of independence and that they can be respectable citizens of India and can lead a respectable life. There is no protection in the Bill against the statements which belittle personalities like Shri Jagjivan Ram by calling him a Harijan Leader, Mr. Charan Singh by calling him a Jat leader and now Shri Devi Lal who is called a Jat leader. If anybody is calling me a Harijan leader, I am not representing only harijans but calling me a Harijan leader is belittling my sphere politically. This Bill represents 1 per cent of the population only. The newspapers, paintings, etc. represent only .1 per cent of the society and not 100 per cent of the society. Any Bill coming to the House should represent at least 50 per cent of the population.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, I rise to support the Defamation Bill, 1988 which has been piloted by the hon. Minister. I may submit to the hon. House about the salient features of the Bill. We are to protect the individual reputation and the reputation of the person who is specially working in the social, political and economic life. Not only this, the hon. Minister has taken a very bold step that since 1862, Section 500 of the IPC was not amended, although time and again, it was felt that there is absolute necessity of amending Section 500 and Section 499. But it is for the first time that the hon. Minister has come with those amendments which are very necessary for considering the present set up of the modern society. Although Section 500 was amended by the Rajya Sabha on 23rd November 1978, and this very amendment which has been incorpo-

rated in the present Act was passed by Rajya Sabha. The State Home Minister of the Janata Party at that time which was at the Centre, has said about this amendment of Section 500. I will read from the Rajya Sabha debates, No. 1-9 Shri S.D. Patil has said, "Taking into consideration the demands of the time, I earnestly request all the hon. Members to pass the Bill and that the Bill as amended be passed. The motion was adopted."

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: What was the corresponding law here?

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: I was specifically mentioning that Section 500 was amended by the Rajya Sabha in 1978. The words used when Sections 500 and 499 were amended have been used in the present Act. There is no deviation at all. Some of the Members of the ruling party at that time said that this amendment in the IPC is not sufficient and that there should be a separate law. It was a demand from your party. That is, the ruling party demanded and it is also mentioned here. The Home Minister said, "After doing all this, I do not think that the Bill in any way let the hon. Members desire. According to them, there may be necessity for a special law". This cause was advocated in 1978 that there must be a special law. Now, the hon. Minister has performed the job, performed the task which was desired of him in the year 1978 from the Members of your party and the Home Minister at that time and who belonged to the Janata Party had replied in these terms. He had amended Section 500 which was not approved later on because you lost the Government.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: I do not know whether you are aware or not. Up to Section 12 it is correct, not beyond that.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: Sections 3 and 4 correspond to Sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code. Now, I come to those provisions which have been touched upon by the hon. Members from the opposition and they are Sections 13, 14, 15 and 18.

[Sh. Ram Singh Yadav]

Specially these Sections have been criticised by the hon. Members from the Opposition.

The first point is that Section 13 is very necessary in the sense that because it is not only the question of imputation, but imputation with a specific allegation that certain individual has committed an offence and he used characteristics of that offence. Then, if he publishes such articles that certain individual has committed certain offence, offence of murder, offence of rape, or various other offences of heinous nature, whether shall he be punished? He cannot be punished. Therefore, there was a necessity of the specific Section and that specific Section is 13.

In a free society, the reputation of an individual is not a marketable commodity; it cannot be de-acquired and acquired whenever you like. There is a popular saying that when wealth is lost, nothing is lost, if health is lost, something is lost, but if reputation is lost, everything is lost. When the reputation is lost, you cannot acquire it within a moment, within a specific period of time, because to earn a reputation, it takes a very long time.

The hon. Minister has felt it necessary that there should be a specific Section and that Section 13 is there. It lays down that if any publisher or newspapers publishes that an individual has committed an offence and that he knows it that it is false, then he is liable to punishment.

Now, with regard to the burden of proof which has been put on the accused, I may cite here the report of the Press Commission. In the report, it is stated that it is the duty of the person to prove that the statement made by him was in good faith, and therefore, the Minister has complied with the recommendations of the Press Commission.

I am quoting from page 44 of the Press Commission's Report, Volume 1 and 2:

"Fair Comment.

Comments upon a man's character, conduct or work could be as harmful to his reputation as making false allegations against him and such a comments could be the basis of an action for defamation. However, there is a special defence of fair comment, made in good faith, upon a matter of public interest. To succeed in this defence, the defendant must establish that the view which he expressed on the plaintiff or his conduct was one which he honestly held. He must further establish that the comment was made on a matter of public interest. It has now been provided by Section 6 of the British Defamation Act, 1952."

This is the recommendation of the Press Commission. It is not at the instance of the Minister only. In other words, the defendant shall prove it that whatever he published, he believed it to be bonafide, and he had cogent evidence with him that whatever had been published was genuinely true.

Now, I come to the camera proceedings. When there are malicious, obscene, indecent or scurrilous expressions, whether the publisher or the newspaper has got a right to publish it.

There are some statements. You might have come across some statements. Mr. Chatterjee is quite aware of the fact that when Sessions judge feels that certain statements of a witness in a rape case or in certain other cases cannot be recorded publicly, then he holds judicial proceeding in camera and those proceedings or statements of particular witness are not allowed to be published even today in the ordinary court. Therefore, it was felt necessary that under Section 18 this should be provided. Section 18 (1) says:

"Provided that where the accused, being the editor, publisher or printer of a newspaper or periodical is prosecuted for an offence under the Defa-

mation Act, 1988 the Court shall not dispense with his personal attendance..."

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code, every offence under this Act shall be non-cognizable, and bailable."

And in Sub-Section 3 of Section 18 it is stated that it may be held in camera. The 42nd Report of the Law Commission has submitted:

"A substantially true report of the proceedings of a court of justice is expected by the 4th exception of Section 499. We considered the suggestion that this exception should be limited to the report of the proceeding in open court and should not apply to the proceeding in camera which are not meant to be published. The object of excluding the public from the court is to deny the publicity of any sort to those proceedings and if anyone violates that understanding and gives publicity and defamatory statements, he should not be allowed to avail of the protection of this exception."

So, the Law Commission has already recommended that the proceedings of the case which is defamatory should be held in camera. I don't know why then the hon. Member are saying that if the proceedings are held in camera then the accused who is appearing before the court will be denied the justice.

Now in Section 14, it is stated that in a Sessions court there will be a sessions trial but then he has submitted that it must be like a summons case. When there is a Sessions trial, the case should come in the lower court. So, here some sort of procedural amendment is very necessary. Here you are saying that it must be just like the summons case but you are not following the procedure which has been provided in the Criminal Procedure Code which says that the accused should be brought in the Sessions court. In the Sessions court only the public prosecutor shall

conduct the case. If the Sessions judge is satisfied that this is the *prima facie* case against him then he shall read out the offence and shall frame the charge. If he is satisfied then he shall be assisted by the public prosecutor. Therefore, these things are not clear. I think the Hon. Home Minister will clear it.

Section 13, Sub-section (4) says:

"Where a Court of Session takes cognizance of an offence under this section, it shall cause a notice to be sent to the accused along with a copy of the affidavit..."

So, not only the copy of notice but the copy of the complaint also should go in the summons case. While in the Criminal Procedure Code either the copy of the 'Challan' is given to the accused or copy of the complaint is given to the accused. Therefore, it is not the notice but the copy of the complaint that should be sent

Lastly, Sir, the Sub-clause (4) of Clause 13 says:

"...Calling upon him to appear before it on a date and time to be specified in the notice (not being a date later than four weeks from the date of said notice) along with the necessary documents, materials or other evidence on which he relies for his defence".

As soon as the accused goes to the court, the gist of the offence should be read out, as is done under the procedure laid down in the Criminal Procedure Code. A chance has been given to the publisher to publish the refusal or rebuttal. If he does not comply with that, then and then only personal attendance cannot be exempted. Therefore, this is very much relevant.

Sir, the trial has to be finished within a period of 90 days. If the personal attendance is dispensed with the trial cannot be concluded within the shortest possible time and as you all very well know, justice delayed is

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justice denied.

With these suggestions, I support the Bill and I feel that is one of the most relevant Bills; that have been brought before this House by the hon. Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Janata Party had also introduced a similar Bill in 1979. The same exercise is being repeated today. Janata Party had withdrawn it because of the reaction of the people. The Bill could have been passed by the Janata party had wished it so. But there is a lot of difference between that Bill and this Bill. This Bill could have been passed by introducing it in the Lok Sabha. But they themselves withdrew it because people did not welcome it and their reaction was not favourable. Through this Defamation Bill the Government is trying to keep a check over the press, so that whatever has appeared in the press or is going to appear therein regarding Rajiv Gandhi and Bofors and Fairfax issue, could be prevented. Indirectly this Bill has been introduced by the Government to control the press and to prevent it from bringing the facts to light.

Even the burden of proof has been shifted to the person publishing such material. He will be put behind bars but infact he should not be prosecuted. The intention of the Government is to prevent the press from publishing the facts about Bofors and Fairfax deals where lot of bungling have taken place. The truth will never be disclosed before the people as the policemen, rich people and even the administration is with the Government. Recently, the newspapers disclosed the names of those friends of Shri Rajiv Gandhi who took kickbacks through the Indian Oil. When all this is appearing in the papers, it has to be stopped, and therefore steps were taken to reintroduce a Bill after seven years. If the Government was interested in bringing about this bill, it could have brought it earlier. Why did the Govern-

ment not bring it earlier? Such a Bill is being introduced by the Government to restrict the press from publishing defamatory material on the Bofors and submarines deal which has brought shame to the Congress Government during the last two years.

The Newspapers have published the wrong deeds of the Government and the mal-practices and kickbacks that have been indulged in these deals. Has the Anti-dowry bill served any purpose? Today more dowry is being demanded. Similarly, no body would be taken to task for the Bofors deal. Do you thing that by bringing this Bill you could prevent the Press from what is appearing in the newspapers regarding Shri Rajiv Gandhi and his Government? I, therefore would request Shri Chidambaram to withdraw this Bill immediately. The members of opposition have also pressed for the withdrawal of this Bill which is similar to that of 1979.

I would urge the Government to withdraw this Bill. It is not fair to offer another chance to prosecution to examine witnesses etc. after the evidence is already over. It will do lot of harm to the persons concerned. This is being done to gag the voice of the press and check the fundamental right of freedom of expression. This curb on the press and freedom of expression is not going to help the Government in making the press work in its favour. Therefore I would once again emphasize that Government should withdraw this Bill.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who participated in this debate. Yesterday, it was a time for anger although I thought much of it was stimulated. Today, many hon. Members, particularly hon. Member Shri Jagannath Kaushal, have spoken with considerable erudition and wisdom borne out of experience, both as a public man as well as

a practising lawyer in a court. I cannot however hide my disappointment with two hon. Members of the Opposition from whom I hoped to gain many insights about this Bill. I thought that hon. Member, my good friend Shri Dinesh Goswami and hon. Member Shri Thampan Thomas will speak on the clauses of the Bill, tell us where we have gone wrong, if we have gone wrong and try to improve this Bill. I can only contrast the brief speech made by hon. Member Shri Ayyapu Reddy yesterday which gave me an insight into clause 13 which apparently I had missed. But unfortunately, for reasons which are well known to them, both Shri Goswami and Shri Thomas chose to launch a political attack on the Bill instead of looking at the Clauses of the Bill, comparing them with the existing provisions and trying to help this House make a law. (*Interruptions*)

I didn't interrupt you. At the end I will hear you.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I will not interrupt you.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please hear me. I will answer your questions. I have accepted in good spirit.

Sir, I have looked upon Parliament as essentially concerned with making laws. Certainly there are other objectives which Parliament has to achieve; but the principal task of Parliament is to make a law; and when Government comes forward with a Bill, we certainly do not claim that we have a monopoly of wisdom, or that we will not make any error in drafting the Bill. That is why I think there is a provision that the Government can, at any time, accept the suggestions of the hon. Members of the Opposition or any other hon. Member and come forward with an amendment. In that sense, I would have expected, and I would have been grateful to Mr Goswami and Mr Thomas, if they had sat down last evening, last night, pored over the law books and come and told us how to improve this Bill.

I am afraid I have to speak at some

length on the provisions of the Bill, because we must put an end to any kind of disinformation—what is old in this Bill and what is new in this Bill has to be brought out. We have today in the Indian Penal Code, Section 499 to Section 503. Those who spoke against the Bill and denounced it and said that this Bill must be rejected outright, would kindly go clause by clause of this Bill, and tell the House, and the people through this House, why these clauses should be rejected.

I am sure no one has any serious complaint about clauses 1 and 2. Clause 3 of the Bill is identical to Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code, except sub-clause (b) to Explanation IV. Sub-clause (b) to Explanation IV merely expands on Explanation IV; and since Explanation IV is in the nature of an exception, the expansion of an Explanation IV cannot be seen to be an attack on the freedom of the Press or freedom of speech. There is nothing in Clause 3, about which I have heard any criticism from any hon. Member. Yet, I heard the wholesale denunciation of this Bill.

Clause 4 is identical to existing section 499—exceptions of the Indian Penal Code. Every single exception today in the Indian Penal Code has been retained in Clause 5. And at this stage, I would only invite the attention of the hon. Members to Clause 4, sub-clause (i) which is the equivalent of exception (1) of existing Section 499, because the same theme will recur in two other places of this Bill:

"Nothing in section 3 shall apply to—

(i) the imputation of anything which is true concerning any person, if it be for the public good that the imputation should be made or published and is a question of fact as to whether it is for the public good;"

(*Interruptions*) Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, I know your point. I am coming to that.

This is exception (1) of Section 499. This is the well known defence of truth. This

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is the classic defence which most people will take, if they have made a responsible allegation against a person. Most people who make responsible allegations, will take the responsibility for the allegation and will affirm their allegations by saying: 'It is true, and I have made it in public good.' This is the law since 1860. We have done nothing to change the law; and wherever similar provisions occur, I would like you to refer to clause 4, sub-clause (1). And remember, this is the law since 1860, in India.

To my great surprise, Mr Thomas and Mr Goswami said that we were shifting the burden of proof to the accused. Mr Jagan Nath Kaushal has given a complete answer, and I am sure that when Mr Somnath Chatterjee speaks during the Third Reading, he will agree with me that we have done nothing like that at all. Whoever claims an exception must prove the exception. And this is Section 105 of the Indian Evidence Act which is the law of evidence in this country. And let me read Section 105:

"When a person is accused of any offence, the burden of proving the existence of circumstances bringing the case within any of the General Exceptions under the Indian Penal Code, or within any special exception proviso contained in any other part of the same Code, or in any law defining the offence, is upon him and the Court shall presume the absence of such circumstances."

Clause 4, sub-clause (i) does not shift the burden of proof to the accused. The burden of proof is cast upon the accused under Section 105 of the Indian Evidence Act and we are doing nothing contrary to the present law of evidence. I wish to emphasise this, because two distinguished members, who are equally distinguished lawyers, have said more than once that we are doing something to the burden of proof. But this is wrong and I think we should make it clear here and now that that statement was wrong.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati):

If you yield for a moment, do you mean to say that the burden of proof which is referred to in Section 105 of the Indian Evidence Act and the burden which is worded in Clause 12 is the same, where you have given the right of rebuttal?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will answer that. It is Clause 12 of this Bill which I will come to, starts by saying, "For the removal of doubts,..." It is nothing but the same burden which is cast upon the accused who claims an exception by virtue of Section 105 of the Indian Evidence Act. We have given the right of rebuttal because Section 135 of the Evidence Act gives, today, discretion to the Court to decide the order of witnesses and it is a well-settled principle of law that where the burden is discharged by the defence or the accused for the first time, the court in its discretion has a right to allow the prosecution or the plaintiff to lead evidence in rebuttal. If you wish I will read passages to you about rebuttal evidence.

Clause 12 of this Bill is nothing but a reproduction of the burden which is already there in Section 105 of the Indian Evidence Act and which every accused must discharge if he claims an exception. Whether you call it an exception, whether it is shown as a defence, whether it is shown as a qualified privilege, whether it is shown as an explanation, that is a matter of draftsmanship. All of the them point only to one thing. If you want to claim a qualified privilege or an exception, or a defence the burden is upon him who makes that claim and the law is the law as enshrined in Section 105 of the Indian Evidence Act.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar):
You read Clause 8 also.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will come back to it.

Then we go to Clause 5. Clause 5 is nothing but Section 500 of the IPC with enhanced penalty for a second or subsequent offence. I do not think, any one can

quarrel with the proposition that if a man commits defamation for a second or subsequent time, he should suffer an enhanced penalty.

Clause 5, sub-clause (2) and Clause 5 sub-clause (3) are based upon provisions which were there in the lapsed Indian Penal Code Amendment Bill. And what do we say? We only say that where a person has been convicted of defamation the court may direct that the judgment shall be published in such newspaper and in such manner as it may specify and the cost of such publication shall be recovered from the convicted person. Now, what is wrong with this provision? The court has found a person guilty. It has pronounced judgment, then, it directs, you publish this judgment at your cost. There is nothing wrong with that. Therefore, there is nothing wrong with Clause 5.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Agreed. But why have you brought this Bill? (*interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, Mr. Saifuddin Chowdhary does not read the Bill before it is passed and after it is passed.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): What about Clauses 5 (2) and (3)?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Clause 5(2) and 5(3) are there. I am saying that it is a new provision, Basudebji. I said, that Clause 5(1) is there. Clause 5(2) and 5(3) are new provisions. I repeat. Clauses 5(2) and 5(3) are new provisions similar to the lapsed Bill of 1978 which we are re-introducing here. So, about clauses 5(2) and 5(3) there is no quarrel. All right.

Now I come to Clause 6. Clause 6 is identical to the existing Section 501, but with enhanced penalty for a second or subsequent conviction. I do not think anybody can quarrel with Clause 6. Even Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary does not quarrel with it.

now, we come to Clause 7. Clause 7 is the existing provision of Section 502 of the

Indian Penal Code except that along with imprisonment we are providing an alternative provision of fine. Existing 502 says, imprisonment which may extend to two years or fine or both... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Fine was there.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Fine was there. But we are now limiting it to imprisonment for two years or fine to an extent of Rs. 2,000/- or both. In fact, the fine is being limited by the word two thousand. I do not think anybody can quarrel with Clause 7.

Now, we come to Clause 8. Clause 8 is on the lines of Section 292(A) which was in the lapsed Bill and which was passed by the Rajya Sabha. I have got with me. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are inspired by that Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Wait a minute. You have to wait until I finish this.

Sir, Clause 123 of the lapsed Bill propose to introduce Section 292(A) in the Indian Penal Code. In fact, if I read Section 292(A), you will be left wondering why I have not copied all the provisions sought to be made by 292(A). ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): That was the objection they are making... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That was not their objection. Nobody has read section 292(A). Section 292(A) covers a wide field. Now we see no reason why we should make such a wide provision like 292(A) covering all and sundry. We think, the Legislature is entitled to make a law in respect of the evil it perceives and laws must be made only to curb whatever evil is perceived. Old section 292(A) was introduced by the then Janata Government. I find from the debate—this is subject to correction—that not one hon. Member spoke on the proposed section

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292(A) criticised it. Here I find Mr. Thampan Thomas railing against Clause 8, which is equivalent to Section 292(A) in a modified form and I also find other Members joining in the chorus. Where was all this simulated anger in 1978 when a much wider section was sought to be introduced? In fact, I have excluded many of the clauses. I have confined, Clause 8 only to those portions of the old Section 292(A), where we think there is a perceived evil and it is necessary to meet that evil by making a suitable provision of law.

Clause 8 today deals with grossly indecent, scurrilous or material intended for blackmail. These are the very words which occur in the old Section 292(A). In fact old Section 292(A) goes much further. I have restricted it to only material which is grossly indecent, scurrilous or intended for blackmail and which is published in any newspaper, periodical or circular.

Shri Ayyapu Reddy raised a very pertinent point... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): May I make one point? Upto Clause 12 was there and I have not objected to that. I think you have mistaken it. Beyond Chapter III, I objected... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Okay, I accept your statement that you would support the Bill upto Clause 12. Whereas others have criticised it and denounced it wholesale... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: That was the reproduction of Janata Bill... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Shri Ayyapu Reddy raised a pertinent point, why have I not included pictures, films, etc. Sir, I see the point. But today, is grossly indecent scurrilous or material intended for blackmail within the meaning of defamation? Is it done through pictures? It is not. Is it done through films, it is not... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): If your explanation that grossly indecent publication for blackmailing, that is the condition precedent, that is blackmailing is the main intention then all these follow. The word alternative is there. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is meant in the alternative.

Material which is grossly indecent, material which is scurrilous, material which is intended for blackmail, now this obviously can be through the medium of films, it can be through the medium of video. But we all know that the evil does not lie there. Grossly indecent or scurrilous or material intended for blackmail the material within the meaning of the Defamation Law is not through the medium of films, television and video. It is only through printed matter. That is why we have restricted clause 8 to printed material whereas the old section 292 A covered a much wider ground. And I believe, law must be made only to meet the evil which is perceived and not every imaginary evil. In that sense, clause 8 is not different. It is on the lines of old 292 A and I cannot see any reason why any one should object to clause 8.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will it stand the test of Article 14? If a particular film has projected grossly indecent, scurrilous and intended for blackmail scene and that scene is extracted and published by a cinema pressman, he can be prosecuted under clause 8 but not the person who has made the film.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The hon. Member knows very well that it is a well accepted principle that a Legislature can make a law to meet the evil which is perceived and not every imaginary or notional evil.

Defamatory matter will come under clause 3. What we are talking about in clause 8—this is the answer which I will give to Mr. Somnath Chatterjee who is waiting for me to come to clause 13—all defamatory

matter will fall under clause 3 which is the existing section 499. What we are picking out in clause 8 is a class of defamatory matter which is an evil which is perceived and which has to be taken care of by a law. And defences have been provided. If Saifuddinji will kindly look at the defences which have been provided, Explanation 1 says, what shall not be scurrilous; Explanation 2 says what the court shall have regard to in deciding whether a matter falls within clause 8. Now, this is the principle of qualified privilege. We are giving to the defence a qualified privilege which they can prove and if they prove a qualified privilege, they will be out of clause 8. There is nothing in clause 8 which is objectionable either from the constitutional point of view or any basic jurisprudential point of view.

With regard to clauses 9, 10 and 11, unfortunately those who attacked this Bill wanted to throw the baby along with the supposed bath water. What is wrong with clauses 9, 10 and 11? Clauses 9, 10 and 11 are steps towards liberalising the law relating to defamation. Both the Law Commission and the Press Commission have repeatedly pleaded for provisions similar to clauses 9, 10 and 11. Clause 9 is unintentional defamation. Clause 10 is fair comment. And clause 11 is certain statements not to constitute defamation. I wish I had the time to read to you provisions of British Defamation Act. The British Defamation Act proceeds on the basis of a matter which amounts to defamation. It then provides absolute privilege in respect of certain statements and qualified privilege in respect of certain statements. We have gone one better. Kindly compare the Schedule to the British Defamation Act of 1952 with our provisions 9, 10 and 11. In clause 9 we have provided for an offer of amends. Wherever it is unintentional defamation, if the person publishing defamatory matter makes and offer of amend, we have provided that no proceeding against him shall be resorted to.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Have you accepted all the suggestions given by the Press Commission so far as British Defama-

tion Act is concerned? Why did you not accept them?

SHRIP. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not think it is anybody's case that Government must accept every single recommendation of the Press Commission or the Law Commission. If Mr. Goswami had taken the trouble of going through the recommendations of the Press Commission and the Law Commission and making any suggestion here either in the form of an amendment or drawn our attention during his speech to any particular recommendation and, therefore, he would like us to add this recommendation as a clause, then I can answer him. We have good reason why we have accepted some recommendations. If he wishes that some other recommendations should be accepted, I would have thought that he would have moved an amendment and requested us to accept those amendments. After all, Government is not abdicating its right to the Press Commission or the Law Commission. Press Commission and the Law Commission are recommendatory bodies. We have taken those recommendations which are necessary and integral to a new law of defamation.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Don't say you have done better than the British Defamation Act because you have not incorporated the recommendation which is made by the Press Council.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am willing to stand by that statement. I am sorry, Sir, just because the Press Commission makes a recommendation, that does not mean that the recommendation makes it an improvement on the British Defamation Act. I am willing to stand by my statement that our provisions about qualified privilege and absolute privilege are even better than the provisions of the British defamation Act. Of course, this will again be a matter of interpretation and opinion. But I am willing to stand by that statement. Look at our provisions. In clause 9 we have provided a complete self-contained provision for offer of amends. If today somebody defames anyone

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unintentionally, if he makes an offer of amends, then no proceedings can be taken against him.

Then, Sir, what is innocent publication? We have defined the ingredients of innocent publication. Therefore, it will not vary from court to court. One court will not say yes, this is innocent publication and another court will not say this is not an innocent publication. We have defined here what will be the ingredients before the publisher can establish that he has made an innocent publication. Look at clause 10... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: That clause (5) is so onerous. You have taken away the grease out of the entire clause.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have not. Sir, clause (5) is not onerous. Clause (5) says:

"(a) that the publisher did not intend to publish it concerning that party and did not know of the circumstances by virtue of which it might be understood to refer to him; or

(b) that the matter was not defamatory on the fact of it, and the publisher did not know of the circumstances by virtue of which it might be understood to be defamatory of that party aggrieved,

and, in either case, that the publisher exercised all reasonable care..."

I assume that every printer, publisher and editor exercises reasonable care before what goes into his paper or periodical. You certainly cannot say that the editor will publish it without reasonable care and yet will plead that it is an innocent publication. Sir, it is not an impossible condition. That is the standard of law in America, that is the standard of law in England. You know, Ayyapu Ji very well that reasonable care is a standard by which every person accused of defamation is judged all over the world under Anglo-American jurisprudence.

Clause 10 is regarding 'Fair comment'. We have said that he need not prove the truth of every allegation as long as he proves such of the facts which are necessary to be proved. Kindly read clause 10. It says:

"10. In an action for defamation in respect of any matter consisting partly of allegations of fact and partly of expression of opinion, a defence of fair comment shall not fail by reason only that the truth of every allegation of fact is not proved if, having regard to such of the facts alleged or referred to in the matter complained of as are proved, the expression of opinion is fair comment."

What better section can you have to provide the defence of fair comment to anyone accused of defamation?

Now we come to clause 11. Clause 11 is about privilege. Clause 11 says:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the publication of any of the following statements shall not constitute defamation.."

We have said that the following statements shall not be defamatory statements. In the British Defamation Act, some of the statements are only qualified privilege. Why I say we have gone better is that whereas some of the statements in the British Defamation Act are qualified privileges, we have made them absolute privilege, as far as this Act is concerned. Some are qualified privilege, some are absolute privilege. I think we have done as well as the British Defamation Act, if not better, and I think clauses 9, 10 and 11 will be universally welcomed.

Then we come to clause 12. As I said earlier, clause 12 is no different from the rule of evidence which is enshrined in section 105 of the Indian Evidence Act, read with section 135 of the Indian Evidence Act. We need not provide it here. But we have done so for abundant caution and, as we have said in the opening words, for the removal of

doubts.

Then I come to clause 13. Clause 13 creates a new offence known as the offence of criminal imputation. It is needless to say that defamation is both a civil wrong as well as a criminal wrong, a criminal offence, a crime. You can publish a matter which is defamatory, but which does not carry or contain a criminal imputation. You can publish a matter which is defamatory which contains a criminal imputation. As the law stands today, a defamatory statement with or without an imputation of a criminal offence is a civil wrong. Equally under Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code, a defamatory statement with or without a criminal imputation is also an offence under Section 499. But the punishment prescribed, the procedure and the defences are the same in respect of defamatory matter which contains an imputation of a criminal offence and defamatory matter which does not contain an imputation of a criminal offence. We think the time has come to make a distinction. So long as 'A' alleges against 'B' a matter which is defamatory *per se* we think that the existing punishments enhanced to some extent, existing defences, and existing procedure should continue to apply. But if he goes beyond that not merely defamatory matter, matter which is *per se* defamatory, but charges a person of having committed a criminal offence, I think that is an aggravated form of defamation and an aggravated form of defamation must be punished in an aggravated manner.

Sir, in English law, the imputation of crime is defamatory. I am quoting from Street on law of Torts.

"The crime need not be an indictable one but it must be one for which the plaintiff could be made to suffer corporally, that is, by punishment with at least imprisonment in the first instance. I know enough to put in jail which is therefore actionable *per se*."

I also quote from Winfield on Tort;

"Imputation of a criminal offence is punishable with imprisonment. There must be direct imputation of the offence not merely of suspicion of it, and the offence must be punishable by imprisonment in the first instance. If the slander goes into the details of the offence charged, it is not actionable *per se*, the details are inconsistent with one another, as in Jackson vs. Adams, etc. etc."

I also quote from Clerk and Lindsell on the law of Torts.

SHRI AMAL DUTTA : Why are you quoting all that?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Because somebody asked me where did I get the inspiration for imputation of a criminal offence.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DUTTA : When there is an actionable law, there should be actionable wrong.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Let me complete.

"Imputation of a criminal offence must be clear. Spoken words which convey a mere suspicion when the plaintiff has committed a crime punishable by imprisonment will not support an action without proof of special damage... You have committed an act for which I can transport you has been hold an actionable expression. The facts stated on which the imputation is based must of course constitute a crime. It is not necessary that offence should be indicatable and it can be one punishable summarily. The ground on which words imputing a criminal offence or actionable *per se* is the general oblique which the person defamed suffers and not the fact that he is put in jeopardy of criminal proceedings."

Sir, in Indian law, the imputation of a criminal offence is also actionable and ac-

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tion can be maintained that the words complained of impute the commission of offence which is cognizable.

15.00 hrs

As I said earlier, in India defamation is both punishable as a civil law, as well as punishable as a crime. An imputation of a criminal offence in India today, as the law stands, is punishable both as a civil law as well as a crime under Section 499. But as I said earlier, the procedure, the punishment and the defences open to defamatory matter which carries with it an imputation of a crime as well as defamatory matter which does not contain an imputation of crime is, under the criminal law today, the same. We think the time has come to make the distinction. The distinction is being made because to defame a person is one thing, but to defame a person by charging him with committing an offence punishable with imprisonment, I think, is an aggravated form and therefore, clause 13 deals with a species of defamation, an aggravated form of defamation which is to be dealt with separately in a separate Chapter. Now, if you look at it in that background Chapter III will make sense and the logic of Chapter III will be clear.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : What is the basis for saying that a mere accusation of an offence is an aggravated form of defamation? For instance, if I say your wife is living in prostitution, your daughter is living in prostitution, it is not a criminal imputation. But if I say you are harbouring terrorists, it is a criminal imputation because harbouring terrorists becomes an offence of course. How is this a greater and aggravated form a defamation?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we are convinced in our minds and we are confident we can convince any one who wishes to be convinced, willing to listen to us. Hitherto we have looked upon all defamatory matter in the same manner. I can defame a dancer by writing a scurrilous review of her dance performance. I can also defame a dancer by

saying that she is violating the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. Are the two kinds of defamation in the same class. Mr. Ayyapu Reddy would want us to believe that to defame a person by writing a scurrilous review of her dance is the same as defaming a person by calling her reputation in question by alleging that she is violating the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. Sir, I think we must keep a distinction... (*interruptions*) No, no, we cannot carry on this dialogue, you have to wait.

Sir, he has made a point and I am trying to answer it. There is defamation and defamation. One kind of defamation does not impute to any one a criminal offence. It merely brings down his reputation, it falls under the existing Section 499, which is clause 3, namely, impute anything which will harm the reputation of a person or having reason to harm the reputation of a person or attribute to him a disease or attribute to him something which will bring down his reputation in the estimate of people. But to accuse a person of having committed an offence punishable under law, I think, is a graver form of defamation it is a more aggravated form defamation, it should be tried as a separate offence and in a separate manner. That is why we are providing for Chapter III. If you look at Chapter III, you will find that Chapter III provides for a minimum punishment of one month and for a second offence a minimum punishment of three months' imprisonment.

It will be tried by a court of session, which means it will be tried by a higher court. We have also provided that such an offence shall be tried within a period of three months because I am convinced in my mind, any one who knows the present situation in our criminal courts will agree, delay is the single biggest enemy of trying any case like a defamation case. A man's reputation is injured, he has to go to the court, he has to lead evidence to establish that the defamatory matter has been published, yet the trial drags on for months and months and months while this poor man suffers in silence. We think that if anybody is accused a having

committed an offence and that is a false imputation, either the lie should be nailed within three months or the truth of imputation should be established within three months, so that we know who has committed an offence and who has defamed whom. I cannot see any reason why anyone should oppose a provision which requires that the trial should be completed within three months.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Is it more important than Food adulteration cases, economic offences and smuggling ? In that case, the trial can linger on for years together.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We have also provided the defence. The defence that is provided in clause 15 is identical to the defence which is provided in clause 4 (1) - the defence of truth in public good. It is no different from Exceptions (i) to Section 499. It is carried into clause, clause 4 sub-clause (1). It is also provided in explanation to clause 8. It is also provided in clause 15 (1). It is the same defence. The words that are new are " and only if" If you kindly go back and see clause 9 sub-clause (5), there also you will find the words "if and only if" "If and only" is provided to show that that is the only defence available to a person who accuses a person of having committed a criminal offence and we think, this is right. If I stand up and say up and say that x has committed an offence under law, then I must be willing to come to court and defend myself and say "Yes, I made that statement. I know it is *per se* defamatory. But I will prove the truth of my statement." If a man is not willing to prove the truth of his statement, he should be more responsible, he should be more restrained and he should not make an allegation which amounts to an imputation of criminal offence.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: What is the duty of the Government? Is that not to bring out the truth?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We have provided for an appeal to the High Court both on facts and law and we have enabled the High court to frame rules. Those who wish to take the sword must be prepared to die by the sword. If you are willing to make an allegation. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please Order.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I cannot convince you. Nobody can convince you.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: The Government is not concerned with bringing out the truth. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(*Interruptions*) *

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Truth is not the prerogative of a man who makes an irresponsible imputation of criminal offence and truth will not emerge by responsible imputation of criminal offence.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHAWDHARY. : Whose duty is it to find out the truth?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why are you so agitated ? Please take your seat. Let him finish.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He was calm and quiet so far. But I do not know why he is excited. Whatever he wishes to say, let him tell Mr. Somnath Chatterjee who will say it in the Third Reading.

Sir, truth will not emerge by irresponsible imputation of criminal offence. Truth will emerge if a person making an imputation of criminal charge will stand by that statement. He should come forward and defend himself and say: " I made this statement because it is true; and this the basis of my statement"

* Not recorded.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Whose duty is to find out the truth? There would be no scope to know the truth.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This is Saifuddin Chowdhary Ji's classic method of spreading disinformation, without looking into the Bill, without looking into the points, without meeting argument with argument.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Who will ascertain the truth, you tell me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not allowing you; I will allow.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He is a specially privileged Member.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Go back to Tamil Nadu.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How long more will you take?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will take another 15-20 minutes. Reference was made to the press. It was sought to be painted that this Bill is to curb the freedom of the press.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: We want the truth.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am sure anyone who stands up and without attempting to analyse and look into the provisions of the Bill speaks in the name of freedom of press, will win instant popularity. I am not here to engage either Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary or anyone else in a popularity contest. Nor can I stand up for a beauty contest either!

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: It is not a popularity contest. It is meant to provoke unpopularity because of the exposure of corruption.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You made

all your one liners and I am sure all the one liners are noted by everybody. The point is what is freedom of the press. I will defend until my death the right of a newspaper, or the right of any person to publish the truth, however, unpleasant it may be, as long as it is true. The touchstone on which you must measure a publication is not its unpleasantness but its truth.

A very eminent person, the former Vice-President Shri Hidayatullah said this and I quote:

"The press is a mighty institution wielding enormous powers which are expected to be exercised for the protection and the good of the people. The press must observe self imposed restrictions. Otherwise, there is the risk of public interest being jeopardised. Liberty of the press is not to be confused with its licentiousness. The public function which belongs to the press makes it an obligation of honour to exercise this function only with the fullest sense of responsibility. Without such a lively sense of responsibility, a free press may readily become a powerful instrument of injustice.

Our Social interest ordinarily demands the free propagation and inter-change of views but circumstances may arise when the social interest in public order may require a reasonable subordination of the social interest in free speech and expression to the needs of our social interest in public order."

Dr. Durga Das Basu, another famous commentator, quoting from a judgement of the US Supreme court said this and I quote:

"The extraordinary protections afforded by the First Amendment (in the US constitution) carry with them something in the nature of a fiduciary duty to exercise the protected rights responsibly a duty widely acknowledged but not always observed by the publishers.

"This responsibility is to the society itself which has other public interests to maintain, apart from the freedom of expression. This is the reason why not merely freedom of the press, no constitutional right is absolute even though the first Amendment to the American Constitution is enunciated in absolute terms.

As Story observed, without any limitation whatever, what is an 'Inestimable privilege in a free government' might 'become the scourge of the republic'."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What are the recent instances? May we have them? Let us have instances which have permitted the Government to bring this Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, in 1914 a famous Judge said and I quote:

"There Lordships regret to find that there appeared on the one side in this case the time-worn fallacy that some kind of privilege attaches to the profession of the Press as distinguished from the members of the public. The freedom of the journalist is an ordinary part of the freedom of the subject, and to whatever length the subject in general may go, so also may the journalist, but, apart from statute law, his privilege is no other and no higher. The responsibilities which attach to his power in the dissemination of printed matter may, and in the case of a conscientious journalist do, make him more careful; but the range of his assertions, his criticisms, or his comments, is as wide as, and no wider than, that of any other subject. No privilege attaches to his position."

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Give us the instances.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Which are the instances which have prompted the Government to make a new case for a new offence? (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): Let them ask Prof. Dandavate. The other day he himself cited the instances in the House (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please. Take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Why ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you insisting now at this stage?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. I cannot allow. The Minister may continue.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Please, let him take note of that. What are the instances that made the Government to make this new offence?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, please. What you wanted to say, you have already conveyed. Now it is for the hon. Minister to reply to the debate. I cannot insist on the Minister. I cannot direct the Minister now.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : The ground has not been given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. Only, you can direct him. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is not yielding. How can you interrupt him? I cannot allow.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. The Minister's statement alone will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow. When he is not yielding, how can you interrupt him? I cannot direct him now. Please take your seat.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I think the last passage which I read was comparing the right of the Press and the right of the individual, I applied some paraphrasing, to Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary and to all other hon. Members of the House. I do not know by any special dispensation, he has been given any special privilege which the other Members do not enjoy. *(Interruptions)*.

Yes, I will answer all your questions at the end. I have finished with the provisions of the Bill. I am not yielding... *(Interruptions)* Shri Ayyapu Reddyji, I am not yielding *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.K.PANJA: Whatever the Forward Block and the CPI leaders saying against the CPI (M) Leader in West Bengal are the clear instances.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : This debate has lasted for six hours. At every third sentence, I have to answer a question. I said that I will answer to the questions at the end. *(Interruptions)* I am not as intelligent as you are. I have finished with the provisions of the Bill. Now, I am dealing with the other aspect.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Now you are finishing the freedom of the Press *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Throughout the debate, the refrain was that this Bill is to muzzle the Press, that this Bill is to curb the freedom of the Press. I am answering that charge. I am trying to show that under our laws and our Constitution even the Press has the same right of freedom of expression which the ordinary citizens have and therefore I said that it has to share the same

responsibilities, it has to impose upon itself, the same restraint. This Bill, particularly Clause 13, does not deal with the press at all. This Clause 13 deals with any one who makes a defamatory statement. If a defamatory statement is made orally, if it is made in a circular, if it is made in a poster, if it is made in a newspaper, if it is made in any manner, Clause 13 is attracted. Why should I assume, as they would like to assume, that the press will publish defamatory matter? I believe in the press, I believe in the newspapers of India, that they will not publish defamatory matter. Apparently, the objective is that, even when the press will be responsible and restrained, some people would like the press to be irresponsible and unrestrained, some people would like the press to become the vehicle of their insinuations, allegations, innuendos and imputations..

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You want to keep the truth suppressed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yesterday a specific question was raised and I want to answer it. Mr. Thampan Thomas asked me a question whether Ms. Chitra Subramaniam, the enterprising journalist who wrote in the *Hindu* would be hit by Clause 13. I have great pride in saying that nothing which Ms. Chitra Subramaniam wrote is attracted by Clause 13. I may disagree with her conclusion, I may disagree with the conclusions which the editors of the *Hindu* are trying to draw, but I must say, as a reader of that paper for the last several years, that that paper has never crossed the line of law and made any imputation amounting to an invitation of a criminal offence against any person...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The *Hindu* has been abused on the floor of the House... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : He asked me a question and I am giving the answer.

(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am not yielding at the moment. I am sorry, Sir, I will yield at the end, after I have finished.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No; he is not yielding.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am not yielding.

He asked me a specific question yesterday. I have taken the trouble of looking into those piece which she has written and I am willing to make a statement not that there is nothing in that which is an imputation of a criminal offence. Clause 13 is attracted only if you impute to a person a criminal offence. You may marshal your evidence, you may marshal your documents, you may draw inferences, you may draw conclusions, you may pose any number of questions, but if you want to make an imputation of a criminal offence, I think, that is *per se* defamatory and a person making such an imputation must take responsibility for that imputation and stand by the truth of that statement.

Sir, it is unfortunate that there should be an invisible line dividing this Chamber, separating one section of the people who set store by something known as reputation from the other section which seems to think that reputation is not very important. I can quote...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): It is like the Devil citing the scripture.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Listen to the scripture occasionally even if the Devil cites that.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Is the scripture right or the Devil right?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Those who give up their life when their honour is at stake are like the yak which kills itself at the loss of even one of its hairs. Two thousand years ago, the *Thirukkural* said:.

"Mayirneeppin vazha kavariman
Annar vuyir neeppar manamvarai

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Chidambaram is at his best when he quotes others.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : And he must add, " and does not quote Jaipal Reddy."

" Reputation, reputation, reputation, O I have lost my reputation. I have lost the immortal part of myself, and what remains is bestial.

The purest treasure mortal times afford
Is spotless reputation: That away Men
are but gilded loam or painted clay.

Mine honour is my life; both grow in one;
Take honour from me, and my life is
done"

Reputation is a priceless possession of a person. If you defame a person, you have to take the consequence of the defamation under the law. If you defame a person by imputing to him in a criminal offence, you have to stand by it and you have to prove the truth of it. That is all that the law does. This law does no more. This law does not alter the substantive provisions of the existing law. It improves upon it. It adds upon it, it improves upon it. It does not change the procedural provisions. It does not shift the burden of proof. Therefore, the kind of criticism that has been levelled against this law to spread that kind of idea, to spread disinformation that this law is intended to curb the freedom of speech is in my humble submission the most mis-informed criticism, the most unjustified criticism. This law is the result of patient work over several year, which started ten years ago. This law is a consolidating law and this law is long overdue.

It is easy to convince... (*Interruptions*) It is possible in an argument to convince those who wish to be convinced. It is possible to convince people if they have an open mind, and are receptive to ideas. It is

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not possible to convince anyone who either does not wish to be convinced or who wish to be convinced otherwise because he is today indulging in a self-fulfilling prophecy that by carrying on a campaign of innuendo or allegation, unrestrained by any law, unrestrained by any procedure, unrestrained but any limit, it may lead them to some kind of glory or achievement.

Sir, I commend this Bill and I seek the unanimous support to this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the House agrees, I shall put all the three amendments to the vote of this House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you agree, the three amendments moved by Shri Acharia and Shri Ayyapu Reddy, I shall put them together. *(Interruptions)* I am talking of consideration motion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr Goswami has asked me two questions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati). I put two question. He is prepared to reply to questions. It is not to amend the Official Secrets Act. This right to privacy is a valid right. There was an amendment to it. Why don't you amend it?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have noted his questions and I am answering it. By repeating his questions, he does not make it four questions. In 1978, the Bill that was introduced and passed in the Rajya Sabha was a Bill to amend the Indian Penal Code. Therefore, it dealt with not only Section 499 and 500 dealing with defamation but other provisions of the Indian Penal Code also. I am now introducing a Bill on Defamation. What you are pointing out is almost (i) offence against privacy. That cannot be

provided in a defamation law. *(Interruptions)* Wait a minute. Let me complete. Secondly, on Official Secrets Act, that cannot be provided under the Defamation Act. It has nothing to do with defamation. About the Official Secrets Act, I have already told this House on an earlier occasion that amendments are under consideration.

As regards, offence against privacy, I am not in a position to answer. But I am sure if a suitable question is put to the Law Minister in an appropriate manner, he will answer it. I do not know How do I know? I do not know whether a Bill is under consideration

As far as Official Secrets Act is concerned, amendments are under consideration which is something which I can say.

I cannot answer something for which my Ministry is not responsible.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put all the three amendments to the consideration motion to the vote of the House *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I asked. At that time, you kept quiet.

AN HON. MEMBER: We want to move the amendments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We want to speak on our amendments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: How can you curtail our right? *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, you look at all the proceedings of all the debates. When actually amendments are given? Formally when they are placed before the House, a few observations are allowed. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is only amendment to the consideration motion;

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is general amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not general. We will take afterwards. We have not gone to that. This is only an amendment to the consideration motion. We have never done like that. When we take up clause-by-clause consideration, you can discuss it. I have no objection. It is only consideration motion.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, this is a general amendment..(Interruptions) saying for circulation for public opinion. I am referring to that general amendment, not clause-by-clause amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already we have discussed at length.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I want to speak on my amendments. Nobody speaks on amendments for a longer time. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are creating a new convention now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When we are taking clause -by-clause, at that time, we are allowed to speak on the amendments. But this is not done till now.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Even half a minute...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. You are creating a new convention

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I want to know whether you want to put your amendments separately or all together.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Separately.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You allow me to speak for one or two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. On consideration motion, I will not allow. On other amendments, you can speak. I have no objection. On consideration motion, we have never allowed. On general amendments, you speak.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This is a general amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is consideration of the motion. At this stage, no.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Can I put all together?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Allow us to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No; I will allow when other amendments come clause-by-clause.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whether you want to put all three amendments together ?

MR. E. AYYAPU REDDY : I want to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no.

MR. S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Chidambaram is likely to go down in history for this reason.

(Interruptions)

MR. BASUDEB ACHARIA : I want to speak on this amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. Already Members have spoken on the consideration. We cannot re-open the discussion. When the amendments come, you speak at that time.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the House agrees, I shall put all the three amendments to the vote of the House together.

I shall now put all the three amendments to the Consideration Motion to the vote of the House. The question is :

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon but the 30th November, 1988" (2)

that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st November, 1988." (3)

That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to defamation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto be referred to a Joint Committee of the House consisting of 15 members, 10 from this House, namely :-

- (1) Shri Somnath Chatterjee
- (2) Shri P. Chidambaram
- (3) Prof. Madhu Dandavate
- (4) Shri Dinesh Goswami
- (5) Shri Indrajit Gupta
- (6) Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia
- (7) Shri C. Madhav Reddy
- (8) Shri Amar Roypradhan
- (9) Shri Piyus Tiraky
- (10) Shri Basudeb Acharya

and 5 from Rajya Sabha,

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week

of the next session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make ; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do joint the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 5 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee." (11)

The Lok Sabha then divided.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER Since the machine is not working we are distributing the slips.

15.35 hrs.

Division No. 1

AYES

Acharia, Shri Basudeb
 Basu, Shri Anil
 Biswas, Shri Ajoy
 Chatterjee, Shri Somnath
 Choubey, Shri Narayan
 Chowdhary, Shri Saifuddin
 Dandavate, Prof. Madhu
 Das, Shri R.P.
 Datta, Shri Amal
 Deo, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S.
 Dora, Shri H.A.
 Ghosh Goswami, Shrimati Bibha
 Goswami, Shri Dinesh

Hansda, Shri Matilal

Het Ram, Shri

Iyer, Shri V.S. Krishna

Jhansi Lakshmi, Shrimati N.P.

Kalpana Devi, Dr. T.

Khan, Shri Mohd. Mahfooj Ali

Kurup, Shri Suresh

Mahata, Shri Chitta

Malik, Shri Purna Chandra

Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar

Masudal Hossain, Shri Syed

Misra, Shri Satyagopal

Mukherjee, Shrimati Geeta

Patel, Dr. A.K.

Patel, Shri Shantilal Purshottambhai

Pathak, Shri Ananda

Patil, Shri D.B.

Ram Bahadur Singh, Shri

Rao, Shri A.J.V.B. Maheswara

Rao, Dr. G. Vijaya Rama

Ratnam, Shri N. Venkata

Reddi, Shri C. Madhav

Reddy, Shri E. Ayyapu

Reddy, Shri K. Ramachandra

Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal

Saha, Shri Gadadhar

Samant, Dr. Datta

Shahabuddin, Shri Syed

Tanti, Shri Bhadreswar

Thomas, Shri Thampan

Tiraky, Shri Piyus

Tur, S. Tarlochan Singh

Zainal Abedin, Shri

NOES

Abdul Ghafoor, Shri

Agarwal, Shri Jai Prakash

Akhtar Hasan, Shri

Baghel, Shri Pratapsinh

Bala Goud, Shri T.

Ban, Shri Deep Narain

Banerjee, Kumari Mamata

Basavarajeswari, Shrimati

Basavaraju, Shri G.S.

Bhagat, Shri H.K.L.

Bharat Kumar, Shri

Bhosale, Shri Prataprao B.

Bhumij, Shri Haren

Bhuria, Shri Dileep Singh

Birbal, Shri

Birinder Singh, Shri

Budania, Shri Narendra

Chaliha, Shri Parag

Chandrakar, Shri Chandulal	Jain, Shri Virdhi Chander
Charles, Shri A.	Jatav, Shri Kammodilal
Chaturvedi, Shri Naresh Chandra	Jane, Shri Chintamani
Chaturvedi, Shrimati Vidyavati	Jhikram, Shri M.L.
Chaudhry, Shri Kamal	Jitendra Singh, Shri
Chidambaram, Shri P.	Jujhar Singh, Shri
Choudhary, Shri Nandlal	Kamla Prasad Singh, Shri
Dabhi, Shri Ajitsinh	Keyur Bhusan, Shri
Dalwai, Shri Hussain	Khan, Shri Aslam Sher
Damor, Shri Somjibhai	Khan, Shri Mohd. Ayub
Das, Shri Anadi Charan	Khan, Shri Mohd. Ayub
Das, Shri Bipin Pal	Khirhar, Shri R.S.
Dhariwal, Shri Shanti	Kisku, Shri Prithvi Chand
Digal, Shri Radhakanta	Krishna Singh, Shri
Dikshit, Shrimati Sheila	Kshirsagar, Shrimati Kesharbai
Dube, Shri Bhishma Deo	Kujur, Shri Maurice
Gadgil, Shri V.N.	Kurien, Prof. P.J.
Ganga Ram, Shri	Lal Duhoma, Shri
Gholap, Shri S.G.	Madhuree Singh, Shrimati
Ghosh, Shri Bimal Kanti	Mahalingam, Shri M.
Gohil, Shri G.B.	Mallick, Shri Lakshman
Gomango, Shri Giridhar	Malviya, Shri Bapulal
Gupta, Shri Janak Raj	Mehta, Shri Haroobhai
Hembrom, Shri Seth	Mishra, Shri G.S.
Jagan Nath Prasad, Shri	Modi, Shri Vishnu
Jain, Shri Nihal Singh	Mohanty, Shri Brajamohan

Murmu, Shri Sidha Lal	Qureshi, Shri Aziz
Murthy, Shri M.V. Chandrashekara	Raghuraj Singh, Chaudhary
Naik, Shri G. Devaraya	Raj Karan Singh, Shri
Naik, Shri Shantaram	Rajhans, Dr. G.S.
Naikar, Shri D.K.	Ram Awadh Prasad, Shri
Namgyal, Shri P.	Ram Dhan, Shri
Nawal Prabhakar, Shrimati Sunderwati	Ram Singh, Shri
Nagi, Shri Chandra Mohan Singh	Rana Vir Singh, Shri
Netam, Shri Arvind	Ranga, Prof. N.G.
Odeyar, Shri Channaiah	Rao, Shri K.S.
Oraon, Shrimati Sumati	Raut, Shri Bhola
Panigrahi, Shri Sriballav	Rawat, Shri Prabhu Lal
Panja, Shri A.K.	Sait, Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman
Parashar, Prof. Narain Chand	Sankata Prasad, Dr.
Pardhi, Shri Keshao Rao	Sethi, Shri Ananta Prasad
Paswan, Shri Ram Bhagat	Shankarlal, Shri
Patel, Shri Ahmed M.	Sharma, Shri Chiranji Lal
Patel, Shri C.D.	Sharma, Shri Nand Kishore
Patel, Shri Mohanbhai	Sharma, Shri Nawal Kishore
Pathak, Shri Chandra Kishore	Sharma, Shri Pratap Bhanu
Patnaik, Shri Jagannath	Shastri, Shri Hari Krishna
Poojary, Shri Janardhana	Singh Deo, Shri K.P.
Potdukhe, Shri Shantaram	Solanki, Shri Kalyan Singh
Pradhan, Shri K.N.	Soren, Shri Harihar
Purohit, Shri Banwari Lal	Sparrow, Shri R.S.
Pushpa Devi, Kumari	Sukhbuns Kaur, Shrimati

Sultanpuri, Shri K.D.

Sunder Singh, Ch.

Swami Prasad Singh, Shri

Thakkar, Shrimati Usha

Thungon, Shri P.K.

Tombi Singh, Shri N.

Tripathi, Dr. Chandra Shekhar

Vanakar, Shri Punam Chand Mithabhai

Vijayaraghavan, Shri V.S.

Wadiyar, Shri Srikanta Datta

Yadav, Shri Mahabir Prasad

Yadav, Shri Ram Singh

Yadava, Shri D.P.

Yazdani, Dr. Golam

Yogesh, Shri Yogeshwar Prasad

Zainul Basher, Shri

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Subject to correction, the result of the division is:

Ayes : 46

Noes : 138

The motion was negatived

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I will put the Consideration Motion to the vote of the House.

Let the Lobbies be cleared —

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the lobbies are cleared. I shall now put the consideration motion to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to defamation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House will take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

(Interruptions)

16.00 hrs.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): It is already 4 o'clock, Sir. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Order please...

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): The House may continue with this item, and complete this Bill.. *(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, Sir. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister has given some proposal. It is left to the House...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will have to decide. What can I do? You decide whatever you want to.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): The Motion is in my name, Sir. I have the right to start my speech at 4 o'clock. If the Minister thinks that this Bill is so important,

let us take it up after we finish the discussion under rule 193.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: This discussion under rule 193 can be taken up after that—today if they like, or if they like otherwise, tomorrow. Not this Bill, but the other discussion. (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. (*Interruptions*)

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr Madhav Reddi has a right to insist on starting the discussion at 4 o'clock (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): I am on a point of order, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): The House is supreme. The House can decide it. Are they challenging the supremacy of the House? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why I said: All of you decide, whatever you want.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE: I am on a point of order. I wish to draw your attention to the convention in the House, that if a specific time is mentioned in the Order Paper, and if any change is sought, it is not done by vote, but it is done by the sense of the House; and if the entire Opposition wants that a discussion should be there as mentioned in the Order Paper at 4 o'clock, convention demands that we have to take up the discussion. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: What convention are you speaking of? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): Up till now, the convention has been that so far as the Private Members' time is concerned, it is never compromised. So far as the discussion under rule 193 is concerned, if there is a consensus of all the sides of the

House, the time is sometimes shifted. But never has the time been shifted on the basis of voting, ignoring the opinion of the Opposition, particularly the Member who, after the ballot, gets his right to move a discussion at a particular point of time. If actually all conventions are to be thrown overboard, because of this Bill, we can do it. But there is no precedent; there is no convention, where a discussion under rule 193 had been postponed on the demand of the ruling party, in spite of total opposition by the Opposition. So, the discussion under rule 193 at this point of time, i.e. at 4 o'clock must start now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Revised List of Business is approved by the hon. Speaker; and you will kindly see the footnote which says:

"To be taken up at 4 P.M. or as soon as the preceding items of business are disposed of, whichever is earlier."

That is the decision of the hon. Speaker. Just because Mr Bhagat stands up and proposes something, that decision cannot be changed. Yesterday, we were told that the hon. Speaker's decision that the amendments should be given by 1 p.m. was binding on the House itself, nobody can challenge it. Now how can this decision of the hon. Speaker which is recorded in the Revised List of Business be altered by the hon. Minister just standing up and making a proposal? Everything cannot be bulldozed. Therefore, when this is the decision, this is the clear ruling by the hon. Speaker, if it is attempted to change it, it is nothing but a contempt of the House; and this is what he is guilty of. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: There is no point whatsoever in what they are saying. The House is supreme, if it is within the time, and particularly when we are at the stage of voting. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please, order, order.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Their whole

[Sh. H.K.L. Bhagat]

point is political. There is nothing new, no convention or rules.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: I suggest that we take up this discussion under Rule 193 at 4 o'clock, and that we complete it at 6 o'clock, and after that we can continue this. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It was decided in the Business Advisory Committee that the discussion under 193 should be taken up at 4 o'clock.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Let the House decide it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I did not hear what Mr. Madhav Reddi was saying. Please say it again.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: We take up the discussion under 193 at 4 o'clock as listed in the Business and we go on up to 6 o'clock. After this, we are prepared to sit late. And then even if it goes up to mid-night, we will take up this Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: So, voting is at 6 o'clock. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: If the discussion under Rule 193 is over then you can take it up.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: There is no such precedent, no convention, I do not accept it. But with deference to the wishes expressed by them, if this is the understanding, that at 6 o'clock, voting will take place, I agree... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: No.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Shri Madhav Reddi came forward with this suggestion. Mr. Madhav Reddi is saying that. If you will stick to what Mr. Madhav Reddi says, I will agree. *(Interruptions)* Otherwise, no.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: If the dis-

cussion is not finished by 6 o'clock, what will happen? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The discussion can continue later.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Discussion should be over.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In deference to Mr. Madhav Reddi's wishes, I thought I will request the honourable Mr. Bhagat to agree. But if Mr. Madhav Reddi is not able to convince his colleagues, what can I do?

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Our point is, we should discuss this 193 up to 6 o'clock, and then we take up the Bill, and go on with the clause by clause discussion, and it may go up to 9 o'clock or 10 o'clock, we have no botheration.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: No, no. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar): I am on a point of order. *(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister stated that the House is supreme. There are also conventions which are sacrosanct, as sacred as the rules. When he talks of the supremacy of the House, does he mean that the majority is supreme? What is the sense of the House? *(Interruptions)* Sense of the House should include the views of the Opposition too. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now there are two proposals. One is by the Minister already he gave a proposal. That is, we want to continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: No proposal.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. Please listen to me. Listen to what I am saying.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Let us take up the discussion under Rule 193.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvathipuram): I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: First, let me finish. Listen to me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Discussion should continue up to 6 o'clock.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: The Speaker has taken a decision. In the Revised List of Business it has been stated that this discussion under 193 should start at 4 o'clock. *(Interruptions)* There is no question of any proposal, coming from here or there. At 4 this discussion should start and until the discussion is finished, you cannot take up anything. *(Interruptions)* There have been instances when the time for discussion has been extended.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am giving the proposals. The Members have given the proposal. I have to put them before the House. You have to decide. Please listen to me. There is no point of order

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: One proposal is by Shri H.K.L. Bhagat, that we may continue this discussion and finish it at 6 o'clock, regarding voting. Then you can take

up discussion under 193. But Shri Madhav Reddi gave the other proposal. Now, we may take up discussion under Rule 193 and it will go on up to 6 o'clock. After that we will take up this Bill, which we are discussing. The discussion will continue up to 6 o'clock and voting will be there at 6 o'clock. This is another proposal. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is up to you to decide.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The discussion is for two and a half hours minimum. How can you keep it up to 6 o'clock? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We will continue discussion, and go on *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: You can continue discussion even later on *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Once the discussion starts it will go on until it concludes. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: If they like, up to 6 o'clock they can discuss and they can continue that discussion tomorrow. Start voting again at 6 o'clock, finish the voting today. If they accept Shri Madhav Reddi's proposal, I accept it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Even that side also has accepted.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Up to 6 o'clock we will discuss this 193 and continue the Bill after 6 o'clock, the voting on the Bill. I think this the sense of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen. Now, the proposal is...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRAS. DEO: There is no question of your entertaining any private proposal. Let the discussion start and it will continue.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): There is no urgency for this Bill. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we are taking up discussion under Rule 193. The discussion will continue up to 6 o'clock. After 6 o'clock, we are once again taking up the Bill for voting. I think this is the sense of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: All the speakers must be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: After 6 o'clock if you want to continue the discussion, tomorrow we will continue the discussion.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Let them not waste the time of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The discussion under Rule 193 will go up to 6 o'clock and after 6 o'clock the voting will take place. If at all anything, we are not able to complete the discussion under 193, we will continue later.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: All the speakers under the Rule 193 discussion will have to complete their speeches.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: After 6 o'clock? Up to 6 o'clock.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The discussion under Rule 193 should be finished today. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Shri Madhav Reddi's proposal is accepted. Nothing more than what he has said. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): Should this Bill be passed now? *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I want a clarification, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I want a clarification from you. If the debate under Rule 193 is not completed by 6 o'clock, are you likely to take it up next day, or some other day?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you feel, we will take it up tomorrow. I think that is the sense of the House.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Since the leader, Shri Madhav Reddi has given a proposal, we shall stand by whatever proposal he has made. Till 6 o'clock discussion under Rule 193 will continue. If it is not complete, it may be taken up on another day and after 6 o'clock you can take up the Bill. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Then, that is the sense of the House. Now we will take up the discussion. Mr. Madhav Reddi.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, order.

16.14 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

Memorandum of Settlement on Tripura

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I rise to initiate the

discussion on the statement made by the Minister of Home Affairs in the House on the 12th of August, 1988 regarding the Memorandum of Settlement of Tripura, and comment on the clauses.

This agreement was hailed as a very historic agreement by the Government. While the Opposition supports this agreement, because any agreement which is likely to bring peace and law and order in the troubled State of Tripura, and for that matter any other State, we welcome. We welcome the agreement when it was signed. We supported it. But the circumstances leading to this agreement, the development which had taken place earlier, the part played by the Central Government to bring about this agreement, these are the factors which have been gone into to see whether what all has been done adds to the credit of the Central Government. Sir, this agreement was signed by the Government of India, the State Government and the representatives of the TNV and I am happy Shri Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhawl who was a rebel, who was underground, today says that he accepts India as the motherland. While I agree that it is an historic agreement, but it is possible that the history may be repeated. The history of various accords signed by us — the accord signed with Punjab, the accord signed with Assam, the accord signed with Mizoram and the Tamils in Sri Lanka and many other accords — is going to be repeated in the matter of implementation of these accords because we have been signing these accords sometimes in haste, as has been done in this case. But we have been repenting them in leisure. The haste with which this accord was signed is certainly stupendous. Shri Buta Singh has said clearly that this accord was signed in record time. He said that a lot of hard work has gone into before finally signing this accord which he hoped would bring peace to Tripura. While supporting the accord, I would like to point out certain pit-falls, certain items of the agreement where the Government of India is likely to drag its feet in implementation. I would also like to go into the circumstances finally which led to this accord.

Sir, when the Left front Government was in power in Tripura, the Chief Minister had been repeatedly trying and persuading the Government of India to get the problem settled. When the Government of India said that first he should maintain peace and take strong action against the militants, the TN Volunteers and the Government of India had been accusing the Chief Minister that he has no political will to maintain peace and to settle the terms with the TNVs. Sir, just three days before the elections, whole of Tripura was declared as disturbed area and army was inducted and elections were held. Nowhere in our country so far the elections had been held when the entire State was declared as disturbed area. This was the first time that Tripura was declared as a disturbed area and elections were held immediately. The argument of the Government of India was that there were a lot of killings by TNV. On the 29th January it was declared by the Prime Minister that the TNV have killed hundred people and we cannot tolerate this and we should finish this. And then the area was declared as a disturbed area. Any area which is declared because of killings as a disturbed area, the first thing that any civilised Government would do, is to postpone the elections, because under the Representation of Peoples' Act, when there is arm and rebellion in any part of the country, the elections cannot be held. Even if the election notification has been issued, the immediate step would be, after declaring the area as a disturbed area, to postpone the elections. But that has not been done and elections were held under the shadow of the army which was deployed in all parts of Tripura. Then after the declaration, the immediate effect was that there were many killings by the TNV people till the elections. After the elections, suddenly all the killings have been stopped. Surprisingly there were no killings by the TNV after the Congress Party Government was formed. What does it lead to? What should we think about it? The accusation of the Left Front Government was right from the beginning that the TNV is the child of the Congress Party. I am only telling that was their accusation. It has now later on proved that TNV was the child of the TUVAS,

[Sh. C. Madhav Reddi]
and then TUVAS was a colleague, an ally of
the Congress Party in the elections and also
in the Government. Today they are in the
ruling party.

Now, Sir that proves... (*Interruptions*)

16.23 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI in the
Chair]

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura):
Madam Chairman, I want to give an impor-
tant information. Just now I have been in-
formed that a devastating fire broke out in
the Mathura Refinery resulting in a number
of casualties. The traffic on the highway has
been stopped. I want to inform the House
about this incident. I want the hon. Minister to
inform us about the number of casualties
and whether preventive steps have been
taken in this regard? How far is it true and
what action has been taken?

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):
You direct the Minister to make a state-
ment... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will pass on this
message to the Minister.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad):
The hon. Minister for Home Affairs may
enquire into it and if there is any news, he
may report it to the House. It is a very serious
matter. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sontosh Mohan
Dev, Please take note of this.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Madam,
coming back to the situation obtaining in
Tripura today, after the Congress Govern-
ment was formed there, even though TNV

killings have been stopped, a reign of terror
has been let loose in all the villages. Madam,
I just returned from Tripura. Some thirteen
Members of Parliament had been there to
study the condition and it will be surprising to
you that when we visited villages, we were
prevented from entering the villages to in-
quire into the incident. A few of our compan-
ions were very badly beaten... (*Interrup-
tions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame.
Shame.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI
SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): When Kumari
Mamata Bannerjee was beaten in Calcutta,
there was no shame. If you had been beaten,
I strongly condemn it. I am fully with you. But
equal shame should go to those States
where some Congress-I M.P.s were beaten.
(*Interruptions*)

If this incident has happened and I be-
lieve you, I condemn it. But you should
equally condemn when other Ministers and
MPs are beaten in Left Front governed
States.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: The argu-
ment of the Home Minister is quite illogical.
What he says is since at some other place
MPs are beaten, we have been beaten
there. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: I say,
I fully condemn it. When I had heard about it,
I myself rang up the Chief Minister and said
that action should be taken. And I am fully
with you that such incidents should not
happen. But when you went with them, while
coming to Calcutta you should have also
condemned the incident when other MPs
and Ministers were beaten in Left Front
governed State.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: I do not
know what has happened elsewhere. I am
only telling this House what has happened to
me.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I am passing the information to you.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: But the point is that when the incident of this nature occurs, that only shows what is the law and order situation in that State, how the incidents are happening there, how people are being terrorised. And you will be surprised to know that within a period of about six months, since the formation of the Congress Government there, the statistics that I had collected during my two-day stay there in Tripura are:

About 50 incidents of atrocities on women had been reported but no action has been taken. About 30 incidents of police excesses were there and they were reported but no action has been taken. Raids and attacks in individual houses, economic blockade, about 50 incidents were there and every incident has been reported to the police but no action has been taken. Atrocities on students about 20 cases have been reported but no action has been taken. Attacks on individuals about 150 cases were there. Then atrocities on Government employees, about 30 cases were there. Dismissal of farm labourers about 200 cases were there. Extortion of money from the people, about 30 cases were there. Institution of false cases about 80 cases were there. Attack on the press about six cases were there. Attacks on political party workers about six cases were there.

All these incidents I have investigated. And I have found that there is a lot of substance in those incidents. Every incident is required to be investigated. But the Government of Tripura is not taking any action. The MPs were prevented from going to the villages and they were beaten. Actually the police was standing, but they did not take any action. About six to seven armed constables were with us. They were just standing by and they were not taking any action. One gentleman who was beaten, was bleeding so profusely that we were so scared that we immediately had to cancel everything and took him to hospital. I am telling all this

to show that this type of Government which fails to create conditions of peace and amity in the villages of the State, how can we expect that the accord which promises so many things, is going to be implemented by them properly? The accord says that there should be amity among all sections of the people and everybody should try to create the condition of peace and amity in the State. But how are you going to do that? With this State machinery, can you do that? There are many clauses in the accord which are very difficult to implement.

With regard to land reforms, one of the clauses of the accord says that the land which had been transferred from the tribals to non-tribals should be restored to the tribals. And the land reforms and Land Transfers Act of Tripura should be implemented strictly. For this, when we enquired from various people including officials, they clearly confessed that 'it is very difficult to restore these lands to the tribals because it will certainly open Pandora's Box, no cases could be decided because it is impossible for the restoration of these cases. So far we closed these cases only because it is difficult to implement and today we are now reopening these cases.' How are you going to implement this, I would like to ask. Similarly, about jhuming cultivation, there is a clause about the shifting cultivation. The tribals go on shifting their cultivated land from place to place and cut the forests and many such instances have come to our notice when the jhuming cultivation is going on, on a very extensive scale, and you said you are going to stop it. How are you going to stop it?

About rehabilitation of those people who are going to surrender their arms, Madam, on the 12th August this agreement was signed and today is 30th of August. Already about 18 days have passed. Not a single volunteer has come out and surrendered the arms. You stipulated one month period, during one month they have to come out and surrender the arms. So far they have not done it. What is the scheme that you have to see that these people who are underground come out and surrender the

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arms? The Government has today declared the TNV as a legal party. The ban which was there has been removed, now it is a legal party. There should be no difficulty for these people to come out because no prosecution could be there against them because they belong to the legal political party. Now, that has not been done. What is the plan? How are you going to do it? You must explain to the House how you are going to implement because even though much of the implementation is in the hands of the State Government, but the Central Government is a party to it and the Central Government has to help the State Government to see that these people who are underground come out and surrender their arms and they are rehabilitated. I would also like to ask the Government: How are you going to rehabilitate them? You must have some plan of rehabilitation. Maybe there are 200 people or 400 people, the number differs, we just do not know. According to the official estimates, the number of TNV volunteers is only 200, but it could be anywhere between 1000 and 2000, we just do not know because they are across the border, they cross the border, enter into Tripura and then go back to Bangladesh. That being the case you never know what is the exact strength of these people, what type of arms they are having and whether they are going to surrender all the arms or only part of the arms and then the remaining they are going to keep. We do not know whether some of them are going to remain underground and some of them are going to surrender. You must have a clear policy, a clear programme of rehabilitating these people so that you may ask these people to come out and surrender the arms. Such a scheme is not in existence. I asked the Chief Minister, he also expressed his inability to tell anything because it is all in the hands of the Central Government, they may be having some schemes as to how they are going to be rehabilitated, where they are going to be rehabilitated. Suppose, if you take the plea that this rehabilitation will start after they surrender the arms, after they have come out, then I should say that they are not going to come. None of them is going to surrender

the arms if that is your case. Unless you have a prior scheme of rehabilitation, at what place you are going to rehabilitate them, what employment you are going to give them, how they are going to eke out their living, unless they are convinced of these points, I am sure they will not come out and starve outside. The Government has to make up their mind regarding the rehabilitation schemes. Similarly, madam, about the schemes of helping them financially so that they may set up industry, self-employment and so on and so forth, what are these schemes? Did these schemes not exist? The loans — under what scheme are you going to give them loans? Have you set apart any funds? Is there any scheme under which the financial institutions and the banks are going to give them loans? There are several crafts in Tripura which could be developed and where the people could be rehabilitated. How are you going to develop those handicrafts etc. so that these people could be employed in those centres, guilds where they will be rehabilitated properly? This also has not been made clear. It takes at least a whole day to travel a distance of about 100 kilometres. The condition of the roads is so bad. Also it is a sensitive area, a border area where we have problems of insurgency, where the army movement is there. Roads are so strategic but the road condition is very bad. Tripura is completely isolated from the rest of the country because the land is locked by Bangladesh in between. If you want to come from Agartala to Guwahati, it takes minimum three days to reach there. From Agartala you have to travel by road to a distance of about 200 kilometres and then from there you have to take a train. It is a metre gauge train which will take you to so many places — Talcher etc. — and finally, by the time you reach Guwahati, if you get all connections, it will be three days. The only alternative for them is to go by flight. But what is the condition of the flights? Can the poor people afford to pay air fare? Now we are giving 17 1/2 per cent fare subsidy in the North-Eastern region, if I am correct. 17 1/2 per cent is so low that with that small subsidy it will be impossible for the small people, petty shopkeepers, small government ser-

wants to travel by air to reach Calcutta, which is there centre of economic livelihood. The point is unless you have plans of developing roads, unless you allot sufficient funds for the North-Eastern region so that there is proper maintenance of roads, proper laying of roads so that there is no difficulty for the troops movement and for the people to go, I think it is very difficult for you to bring these people to the mainstream because today they are very near to Burma. They cross the Burma border, they cross the Bangladesh border. Then there are Chakmas also. About fifty thousand Chakmas are staying in the camps. How are you going to solve this problem? With the trouble in Burma today — because Burma is in turmoil — many more Chakmas are likely to cross. How are you going to solve this problem? Already we are over-burdened with these fifty thousand Chakmas camping in our territory. So, these are the problems which have to be tackled with imagination. I have nothing against Mr. Krishna Rao who hails from our State. I have great regard and respect for him as a soldier. He is a very good soldier. But, I am afraid, he is a very bad administrator. He has bungled wherever he has tried to solve the problem. I am sure, he will bungle more even in Mizoram where there is likely to be some trouble tomorrow. So, what we require is a policy of this Government for the North-Eastern region. The Government must have a definite policy. What policy are they going to pursue? How are they going to solve all these problems which are going on and are being created everyday — instability, parties getting split up and ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. G.S. DHILLON: There is a separate Governor in Mizoram, not your man, Mr. Krishna Rao.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Mizoram I mentioned because in Mizoram there is immediate trouble.

Now, the point is that unless you have a policy for the North-Eastern States, a definite policy of helping the States financially and also to see that good administrators are sent there, good Governors, with imagina-

tion, with a drive, with sufficient knowledge of the problems of the local people, are posted there, their problems will not be solved. Several problems, ethnic and others, are there. These problems have to be understood properly before they are tackled. Unless you understand them, you will wound their psyche. Once they have come into the mainstream but again they are likely to go back underground and create troubles for us. So, what I feel today is, the Government is not having a proper policy for the North-eastern region, for its development—economic political and social. With regard to tribals also, you do not have a proper policy. It is very good that we have reserved 20 seats for the tribals under this agreement in Tripura Assembly. I welcome this. But the point is, there is no immediate gain because you cannot do anything about it. It can be done only after the next election, whenever the elections are held, may be after 4 years or 4 1/2 years and till that time, the present strength is going to be maintained. My point is that you must have such a policy which can give immediate results to the tribals.

With regard to district councils, there is a provision in the Accord for exclusion of certain villages which are non-tribal villages and inclusion of certain villages which are tribal villages but which have so far not been included in the council. It is also so vague that we just do not know, how you are going to do it. What is the percentage, on what basis you are going to do it—50%, 25% or 10%. What percentage you are going to take into account? I suggest that it should not be more than 25%. Fixing 50% is too much. If 25% of a particular village has tribals, that should be included in the autonomous district and those villages which are not having at least 25% population of tribals and which are already in the council, autonomous district should be excluded from it. No thought has been given to this aspect as to what is the percentage on the basis of which we are going to decide that particular villages should be excluded or included.

Similarly, the agreement mentions many other things. About infiltration, how are

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you going to stop infiltration? What measures you are going to take so that, there is no further infiltration of the refugees from the Bangladesh side. Well, it is a human problem. You cannot help it because people from Bangladesh have to come to the neighbouring States. They had been coming, whenever there was trouble in Bangladesh. How can you stop it? But you must have a policy that after all, the people in Bangladesh, the Hindus, are not responsible for the partition of this country. They are not responsible for the partition of Bengal. Now, if they are going to be driven out from their country, what are you going to do? Are you not going to take care of them? I do not mean to say that Tripura alone should take the whole burden. What I mean to say is, entire India should take the burden. You cannot just say that we will not allow them to come. They somehow come in. You must have a policy, whenever they come, they have to be treated as refugees and rehabilitated at places which are convenient in all the States, all over India. That is the only way you have to solve the problem. Otherwise, you just cannot put a border and Bangladesh people would not be allowed to come in. The people who are coming are not your enemies. They are Hindus. The conditions are not good there. They cannot live there. They are being driven out; they are beaten; their properties are being looted. What will they do? They will have to come to you, come to the neighbouring States. Now, they should not be concentrated in any particular place like Assam. They got concentrated in Assam because you did not do anything about it. In Tripura also, they got concentrated, because you did not do anything about it. This is happening not now, not during the Left Front Government. This has been happening right from the day when you declared a Centrally administered territory in 1956 when you passed the Reorganisation Bill. They had been coming and at that time, the population was hardly about a lakh and today it is about 15 lakhs. In a period of about 15 years, the population increased to this extent. Now this problem has to be solved. Otherwise you cannot convince the tribals that the Accord is

going to be implemented properly and you will be able to stop the infiltration. Regarding infiltration, you must have a definite policy so that whoever comes, if at all he has to come, has to be rehabilitated in India wherever it is possible.

I do not know what plans you have for strengthening of agricultural credit. The agricultural credit should be strengthened in such a way that more credit may flow from the financial institutions to the cooperative societies or whatever institutions you are going to form. This credit should go to the tribals, to the TNV volunteers who want to rehabilitate themselves. One Clause says that you will send them to another part of the country so that they may get some employment and some training and start some industries there. But you cannot send them anywhere. The TNV people will have to be rehabilitated in their own homeland. Don't think of sending them elsewhere. They will not go. There is no point in telling them that you will give them some jobs in Bhilai or Rourkela and they can go. It is their homeland. They have to be rehabilitated in Tripura itself so that they may feel at home and they come to the mainstream.

The implementation of this accord should not be left to the State Government. I have all the respect for the States. I want that the States should not be interfered with either in the maintenance of law and order or in any other matter with the Central Government but there are certain States where a lot of advice and time to time guidance is required so that your accord, for which you are also a party, is implemented properly and the agreement does not fail. Earlier you failed to do this and suddenly you realise that this is a problem which has to be solved. What all the Government has been telling us is that "We are telling the Chief Minister of the Left Front Government that he should solve his problem, that he should call them, he should invite them and then discuss with them and solve the problem." I found that nothing of that sort has come. Central Government was never interested in the solution of this problem as long as the Left Front Govern-

ment was in power. You wanted to solve it because you knew that it is Central Government alone that can solve the problem and the Congress alone that can solve the problem because Congress is having an alliance with the TUJS. You waited till the time you came to power and then you have decided to solve this problem taking full credit for the solution of this problem and maligning the Left Front Government. It is very bad. It is not only in bad taste but it is highly undemocratic because you are playing with fire. You allowed the people to be killed. You never took any interest. Whenever they wanted more police force, you refused to send them. They wanted five battalions. You sent one platoon. It went on for ten years like that. As a result of this, more than 10,000 people have been killed unnecessarily because of the delay by the Government of India. It was in your hands. The Government of India could have solved this problem long ago. It is a belated agreement but, nevertheless, is an agreement which is aimed at maintaining peace in Tripura and we support it.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur). Madam Chairman, I rise to initiate this discussion from my party side on the tripartite settlement on the TNV problem in Tripura.

This settlement is an additional feather to the crown of our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi because this regime led by him following closely on the heels of the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi has been full of solutions. Of all the solutions, this TNV solution is historic in character and this deserves our fullest appreciation, particularly the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the State Government — the Congress Government there — and the Governor. They deserve the fullest appreciation.

I had listened to the opening speech of Shri Madhav Reddi. There are two aspects of his speech. One is, blaming the Governor for his positive role in the solution and the other one is, in some aspects, blaming the TNV for not coming to this solution during the time of the Left Front Government. Madam,

I agree with some of the constructive suggestions that he had made because I happen to belong to the North-East. My State of Manipur has always gone with Tripura. The Home Ministry, from the day of Independence, had clubbed these two States together for every treatment. When we merged in 1949 with the rest of the Indian Union, we were together as Part 'C' State. Then, after functioning as a Part 'C' State, for some time, of course, we were struggling very hard and Tripura also joined. We became a Union Territory. After that, we struggled together. We attained Statehood in 1972. At every stage as Union Territory and when we had the Territorial Council, we had the same status. Then, we had the Territorial Assembly with some Ministers and we had the same Status. From the point of view of financial facilities, salaries, allowances etc. we shared our happiness and sufferings together all these years and historically also in Tripura, you will appreciate that we have a big Manipuri population and it is next to the original Tripuris. Of course, the majority community is, as we know, mostly Bengali-speaking community the language of which has been there in the Eighth Schedule. If we analyse the Tripura population today on the basis of language and culture, we have 71 per cent people speaking the language which has been recognised in the Eighth Schedule — that means the Bengali population and some other community also. The rest i.e. about 28 and odd per cent represent the other population including the local population, the original Tripuris plus the Manipuris and other Chakmas etc. So, in this way, if we analyse Tripura. Tripura community is a very unfortunate community, suffocated, sandwiched. You know, Madam, Tripura is exposed to the Indo-Bangladesh Border on the two sides. Then, we have the Tripura which is dominated by others. It is so because ours is a democracy based on the strength of the population. The local population, the original population has been totally outnumbered in the North-East. When we speak of our self-defence, self-protection etc. you will observe in Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram, we take the example of Tripura.

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We say to any of our crowds that let us learn something from Tripura; let us see — beyond self-defence — that the immigrant population from outside do not outnumber us and wipe us out on our own soil. This is how we proceed. So, this Tripura today stands in a very precarious position. But then this Accord, to a great extent, has given a fresh lease of life to the ambitious and aspirant young people of Tripura. I thought that Mr. Madhav Reddi would be, very honestly and sincerely, rejoicing himself on that account. But, somehow, he did not find the timing suitable to the Opposition and he did not find the role constructively played by the Governor and certain other officials from the Home Ministry suitable to his political line. This is very unfortunate. As I said the other day when I took part in the debate on Nagaland, these small States should not be subjected to these high level political wranglings because they are not so capable of understanding those things. We have to understand their problem.

Now I come to the problem of the Tripuris, the original people. The Accord has provided protection to the tribals in the Legislative Assembly by reserving a certain number of seats for them and also giving them opportunity for employment, self-employment, and some programmes in the field of agriculture, in the field of tribal-non-tribal relationship, in the field of language, etc. I would like to touch upon those points.

The basic thing I would like to emphasize is that the Accord is not an end in itself, because the Tripura people, who have suffered so long after integration with the rest of India, have not been able to come to power. In any Ministry you will see that the local people are having just a nominal representation, may be the Left Front Ministry or the Congress, whatever it is. I do not consider it from Party point of view because I myself speak from a small community point of view and we deserve this protection. The Tripura people, I think, after this Accord is implemented, will have sufficient protection in the Assembly. This is one very good thing...

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): Now the number is 17; it is being increased to 20.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: According to the proportion of population, 20 is not an unreasonable number. 'Twenty' will provide them good facilities to represent themselves in the Assembly and in the Ministry. It depends upon the ability of the people to rise up in the party politics, in the general politics. For instance, in my State, the tribals who form 30 per cent of the population have 19 Members out of 60 and they have been Chief Ministers, they have been powerful Ministers, they have been powerful officials in the secretariat. So, the tribals do not suffer. It all depends upon how you bring them up. That is what I want to hint at. The Tripura administration has to raise the standard of the people in order to enable them to take part in administration and developmental activities on an equal footing. Merely allowing them to have 20 Members in the Assembly will not do. They must be able to take part in the politics on par with the majority community. It is very painful for me to point out that a very unfavourable atmosphere, unfavourable for tribal and non-tribal relationship, majority and minority relationship, is brewing, of which the Congress Party or the CPM or, for that matter, any other Party, may not be conscious. The steam-roller of the majority is something which we cannot be conscious of but which is destructive. It is just like an elephant which moves very sympathetically and majestically and with love, full of saintly feelings, a tame elephant which moves on the road; it does not do any harm to the people, but as it goes majestically and sympathetically, it tramples upon small creatures and that also unknowingly, majestically and sympathetically, it crosses the minority. You do not know it. What is being felt and experienced by the Tripuris in Tripura is that they are not getting things. If you break up the population both rural-wise and urban-wise, the entire population of the Tripura including the royal family because royal family is also a tribal family and some of their relatives, rest of the local people are in the rural areas. What is the condition of

these local areas? It is pathetic. We do not know how long it will take to come up for these people to the level of the general public in politics, in social matters in economic matters etc. So, what I would like to emphasise upon is that the Accord should be treated as a beginning of a long process. This beginning should be made sincerely and honestly.

17.00 hrs.

Shri Madhav Reddiji has pointed out that the Chief Minister does not know what is going to be the programme and what are the contents. In fact, it is too early to criticise because we have only started and a good beginning has been made. And I do not like to suspect the sincerity and also the sense of dedication of the Prime Minister at this stage because we know, Prime Minister means business in every sphere beginning from the formation of small States. We have felt that these have not been mere gestures. They have been full of contents, historical contents, beginning with the late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I would like to emphasise a few points on the Accord for implementation. TNV is not yet coming out to surrender the arms. This has been mentioned by Shri Madhav Reddiji. I would like to speak from experience. This is just a beginning and the Home Ministry should be having full experience because this is not the only time when they have an Accord. In the early sixties, we had a kind of agitation by extremists in my State. And those extremists were jailed in Tripura and Agartala. And then the Congress Party took the initiative under the leadership of the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi and this was solved by amnesty. And those who were jailed in Agartala Jail, they were released. And these people are now good citizens and they are placed in different professions. Then because of the slight mistake of the local administration by arming a section of such people in order just to counter the remaining supposed extremists, there was a clash and killings. Then around 1979, the PLAs and PREPAK in the North-Eastern Region came up. I must confess it. Although I have been all

along in this Congress Party, I have made my own contribution in making solution after solution. But somehow there has been slight mistake in arming a section of the people for rehabilitation. There was a competition among themselves. Now the Tripura administration under the supervision of the Home Minister and under the leadership of the Prime Minister should not commit this kind of a mistake again.

Public leaders whoever they are, may be CPM, may be from our own party, they should not indulge in encouraging armed young men for their political ends. This is happening in other parts and this is happening to some extent in my State. This was a handicap in the total solution of the insurgency problem in our area. Now, the present administration in Tripura should not indulge in making any division among those who have surrendered. They should be treated objectively, impartially, and on merit. There should be no group which is posted against the other group. This practice should not be there.

It has been suggested in the Accord that they will increase the duration of tribal programmes and more stations will be opened to accommodate the wishes of the tribal people. This is a very sensitive issue because the Tripuri language itself is not yet developed. The majority community have sympathetically spread an atmosphere among the entire population of the State which is not favourable to majority community relationship and tribal and non-tribal relationship.

The other day, a few young people of my community — Manipur pocket is there and a Minister is there in the present Tripura Cabinet — came to me and said: "We are from Tripura and we are Manipuris. We have come on foot. We would like to have some donation from you." I said, I am very happy. But what are your names? They did not mention any Manipuri names. Then, I enquired from them how they were Manipuris. I should not be misunderstood as if I am spreading a communal kind of hazard.

[Sh. N. Tombi Singh]

Somehow, unconsciously I said that. They told me that they have to change their surnames in order to facilitate easy employment and easy access to Government offices and for other economic benefits. They added that if they called themselves Datta, Kamarkar, Mukherjee or Chatterjee, perhaps they could get better attention and patronage. This is how they explained to me.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is not the case.

SHRIN. TOMBI SINGH: They are very much alive. I can present them before you. I am very happy to hear from you that this is not correct. This is not applying to the Manipuri community alone. In fact, we are not also the original people. We had gone there. There is a history about this. In the 15th and 16th century, we started going there on our way to mainstream which was only through the present Bangladesh and former East Bengal. In that way, we have prolonged matrimonial relations between the two royal families and subsequently at the common people's level in Manipur and Tripura. The Manipuris have become Tripuris and they are very conversant with the Bengali language. Some of them have nearly forgotten Manipuri. Even so, the atmosphere that is created is not favourable — as I said a few minutes back — to the relationship between the majority community and the minority community, the tribal community and non-tribal community. It is only through objectivity of the majority community that this kind of atmosphere can be removed.

Coming to the language, I would like to mention that Tripuri language deserves patronage for development. Generally, the languages which do not come up to the status of a written and developed modern language, are considered dialects. Now, some tribal language development Institute in Bangalore is taking pains to develop these dialects in modern languages. Unfortunately, they have no information about a particular language, namely, Manipuri. They have taken Manipuri as a tribal language. It

is absolutely wrong that they are treating our language as a tribal language. Our language is a developing language. As I have said on the Floor of this House the other day, we are demanding the inclusion of this language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. I think that this institute is under the Human Resources Ministry. They have taken our language as a tribal language. Those people do not have any information about our language. The dialects are yet to come up. I am not casting any aspersion on the other dialects. I have good wishes that they should develop quickly. Language is a very sentimental issue and we should be very careful about it. When the Government of India through the AIR and the TV patronises all languages, it should be the policy of the Government that this should be done on merit. I would like to make a reference to small newspapers. A little while ago, when the House was discussing the Defamation Bill, enough reference was made to small newspapers. I do not consider myself as a champion but the circumstances have compelled me to champion the causes of small newspapers, small languages, small cultures, small States and small people. Big states, big languages, big newspapers have enough champions. Small languages have to run small newspapers. In Tripura, small newspapers are there. There is no possibility of big circulation. There is only small circulation. There is no justification in branding small newspapers as blackmailers. In my State, there are so many small newspapers running well. Now big papers also have a possibility of running in various kinds of unhealthy journalism. Therefore, when we encourage through AIR and TV, small tribal languages should be given more accommodation. The Government of India and the State Government should encourage small newspapers and the Bengali newspapers running in Agartala are also small newspapers because circulation is not above 15000. So, these should be given the necessary aid. Small newspapers should be encouraged so that the languages can develop through these papers.

A mention has been made about the

Sixth Schedule... (*Interruptions*)... I am not for any rapists. I condemn them as you do. I do not stand for them. In some cases, there has been wrong reports also. The Government should take proper care into such reports.

Now, the Sixth Schedule is very powerful. If it is wrongly used, it is a separating kind of instrument, a disintegrating element. The Sixth Schedule should be utilised with a view to facilitate tribals and to improve the relations between the tribals and the non-tribals. Because of the disintegrating element in the use of the Sixth Schedule, the separatist tendencies come up and the people of Assam could not contain them. The Sixth Schedule was instrumental in bringing about cohesion. So in this context, in the case of our State, we have opposed the Sixth Schedule to be introduced. The tribals have more or less equal footing. It is a question of nominal difference in the social status and tradition. So, I want to emphasise that this Schedule should be carefully utilised.

To conclude, as I said in the beginning, the Tripura minority community can come up only with the generous patronage not of the Government of India, but the majority community in Tripura. They can bring them up only with all indulgence, with all tolerance, because the competition is not at all a healthy competition.

When we implement this Accord, we would like the Government of India to keep in mind a few factors, namely, the implementation should be done fruitfully, honestly and the local Government should be supervised and directed that they do it properly and mistakes, as I hinted at, like misusing the arms, hangover of the armed youths etc. should not be utilized for the benefit of the overground politicians whichever is the affiliation. This is, how I would like to put it.

I hope the Accord will be implemented sincerely and the peace that has come today will be everlasting. I am very happy about it...(*Interruptions*)

If the TNV did not surrender at the time of Left Front Government, it was because of lack of confidence in that Government... (*Interruptions*)

I was born and brought up in the North-East and I started my public life there and I am still continuing it there. I do not want to shed crocodile tears also and I do not like to put any partisan attitude in my views, but I do not agree with the statement that the Congress Party has followed any wrong policy in relation to these States. It is the Congress Party which has brought Tripura to the mainstream as also other States like Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh etc. If the Congress succeeds, the mainstream succeeds in the North-East.

With these words, I wish the people of Tripura all peace and prosperity.

SHRI. BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East)
: Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Memorandum of Settlement and I convey the deep sorrows of my party, the Communist Marxist Party to the family members of those who have been killed during insurgency of the TNV activists.

Our Party has been trying to solve this problem through all democratic means and while our party Government was there in Tripura, our Party and our Government tried to solve this problem. Today we are discussing the agreement which has been reached among the Central Government, the State Government and the TNV to solve this problem. We had started this process. Some activists of ATPLO, All Tripura People Liberation Organisation had surrendered.

They have now started living a Democratic life and they have started taking part in the process of development of Tripura with the Left Front Government there. The Congress and TUJS stand in the way of surrendering process. The TNV is the child of the TUJS and the child of the Congress (I), they have taken this..

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt him.

SHRI .BAJU BAN RIYAN : Madam, the Congress and the TUJS have even taken steps to overturn the Left Front Government. This is very unfortunate and undemocratic thing. Is this the way the Government should function there? Mr. Vijay Kumar Hrankal was elected as the Assistant General Secretary of Tripura Upjati Julia Sammiti in the Annual Conference of TUJS. In the year 1980 from 12 to 15 March, they held 12 annual conferences at Tuidu wherein they have taken a decision that the people who have come from Bangladesh after the merger of Tripura in the Indian Union, i.e. on 15th October, 1949, they should be declared foreigners and they should be driven out from the Tripura. They have taken this anti-democratic decision in those 12 conferences. Who was the guest in that conference? One of the distinguished guest was Mrs. Vibhu Devi who is now the Revenue Minister in Tripura.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, she is not present here so he cannot take her name.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us hear first what she has to say.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, I am on a point of order. It is the democratic right of the Hon. Member to say in the House whatever he wants to speak. But he has mentioned the name of Mrs. Vibhu Devi, who is the Revenue Minister in Tripura State. So, he cannot take the name of the person who is not present here. If the Hon. Member wants to mention anything against person then he should give in writing to the Chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He did not make any allegations.

MR. CHAIRMAN : She has raised a relevant point. He is not supposed to make any allegation about a person who is not present here.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Nothing has been said against her.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me make an observation. If he has not made any allegation, it is all right. I also observe that he may not make any allegations against a person who is not present here to protect herself without the Chair's permission. Let him not make any allegations.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : What all she has stated in the Conference has already been recorded. It came out in the local dailies also. If some of my friends on the opposite side here have any doubt, they can ask that guest whose name I have mentioned just now. If you still have any more doubt you may ask Mr. Hrankhal who is a good friend of yours.

I may also mention here that Mr. Hrankhal wanted to lead a normal life. But he was not allowed to lead a normal life. He was taken to Bangladesh. He had surrendered himself and confessed many things in a press conference. This is the second time that he has surrendered. As a matter of fact, this was one of the conspiracies of the Congress and the TUJS to break down the Left Front Government. Their purpose was to see that the Left Front Government as well as the Left Front Party would fail. The Left Front Government asked for para-military and other help from the Centre but they were never fully helped. The State police have tried to fight the TNV meance and the TNV activists were arrested. In the court of the first class magistrate, the activists who were arrested by the police along with the help of the para-military forces, had made certain confessions. All their confessions are on record in the court. What did they confess? According to their confession, they had been encouraged by the TUJS and the Congress people to indulge in such things. It is all on record in a court of law. If you want to verify,

you can go to the court and find out. (*Inter-
ruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak only on
the accord, and come to the point.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN For imple-
menting this Accord, first we should keep
this in mind as to how the TNVs were cre-
ated. I can assure from our party-the (CPI(M))
that we will not stand in the way of imple-
menting this Accord. We are very happy and
we shall be very happy if the Accord is
implemented in letter and in spirit. I am very
sorry that the State Government did not take
any help from the Opposition Parties there.
Within one month the process of surrender
was to be started but till today it has not yet
started. Only 12 to 13 days are left for com-
pletion of the deadline but from the State
Government's side there is no attempt made
to involve the Opposition Parties and others.
So, there is scope that all may not surrender.
It came out in the local daily and also in wall
writing that some people from the Congress
are not supporting this Accord. An objection
was raised from the Congress Party. So I am
in doubt whether the Congress leadership
there will be able to implement this Accord or
not. I hope the Central Government will help
them and guide them in solving this problem.
Otherwise the State Government there, I am
in doubt, will be able to implement this Ac-
cord or not. It will also go like the Punjab
Accord and other Accords. Some People
from the ruling party do not want to imple-
ment this Accord. Still there is time to involve
the Opposition parties and try to solve this
problem there. The Central Government is
posing now with the TNV leader Mr.
Hrankhal that they represent the tribals. It is
not correct. They are not representing all the
tribals. TNV and Juba Samithi have never
got support from the majority of the tribal
people there. They are always in minority.
The majority of the tribal people are always
with us. They are the supporters of the Left
Front Government. Just to dislodge the Left
Front Government there, they are trying to
create some acute problems there. Due to all
these things, there was a communal riot
there in 1980. It was their creation. So, if

they are sincere in implementing the Memo-
randum of Settlement, there is still time. It
can be implemented, if they are sincere.

With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol) : Our
Communist friends tried to extend the do-
main of their rule to Orissa and Bihar, but
they failed. Then they tried in Tripura. For
some time, they were successful. But the
local people of Tripura have realized that
these were the people who tried to dominate
and who tried to build themselves up and
who ignored the local population. The TNV is
the baby of these people, but they now want
to disown it.

17.36 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *In the chair*]

Now, as Mr. Bijoy Hrankhal has entered
into an agreement, these people do not
believe that the Accord will work. We have
entered into this Accord with all serious and
with a purpose.

As you all know, Tripura is a border
State. Not only it is a border State, but two
countries with different problems are border-
ing Tripura. It is a hilly State also. In a hilly
State, a few people can create trouble. More
trouble can be created if they have the sup-
port of the local people. They have their own
problems. It was proper on the part of the
local Government to have entered the Ac-
cord and it is the policy of our Prime Minister
to solve the problems through negotiations.
Hence it was proper on their part to have
entered into an Accord; and I have the
confidence that it will be successful, and that
peace will be established there.

Tripura is surrounded by Bangladesh;
and Burma is also nearby. There is an agita-
tion going on in Burma. And Bangladesh is
over-populated; that over-population is not a
local problem for Bangladesh alone. But it is
a problem even for our border States, be-
cause of infiltration.

[Sh. Vijay N. Patil]

While talking about Hindus of Tripura, my friend Mr. Madhav Reddi forgets the support he gives to AASU and to the Mohanta Government in Assam. He does not want infiltration into Assam. Then how he can permit infiltration in Tripura. How is it possible? i.e. Hindus coming from Bangladesh cannot be tolerated by the local people there. We know the examples of the Americans. English people went to America, and the Red Indians were driven out into the hills. These people ruled there. In Tripura, those people had not put forth very big or luxurious demands. Their demands were very simple, as we see them in the Accord. They want a little more representation in the Assembly. They want some commodities which are scarce there, to be supplied at subsidized rates. For example, in the autonomous districts, kerosene, salt and other commodities are to be supplied at concessional rates for three years. It is a good agreement, because instead of keeping more armed forces there and spending more money on them, it would be better to give these people these commodities at concessional rates. These are the very good points of the Accord.

What is the other point? It deals with *Jhoom* cultivation.. We want to establish 2500 families in five centres, to avoid denudation of forests and to avoid deforestation there.

My friend Shri Madhav Reddi was mentioning that it is very difficult to approach Tripura from Guwahati, it takes about two days. He forgets that our friend Shri Namgyal comes from Ladakh. It takes four days to come from Ladakh to Shri Nagar and then one day from Sri Nagar to plain. We have got a big country and our problems are many. Because of the financial constraints, we are made to go slow. Even the progress that we have made under the dynamic leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi is being ignored and you are trying to find out loopholes here and there. He was also mentioning about their not being allowed to enter into the villages in Tripura. He forgets that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is

not being given proper treatment in Bengal. A lady Member of Parliament was assaulted in her own home State. Bengal is a civilised State. What the so-called Civilised Jyoti Bosu Government is doing?...

.(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : We are discussing Tripura now.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : He mentioned that he was not allowed to enter into the village in Tripura. Why he ignored the neighbouring State? What is happening there under your rule? The other day my friend Shri C. Janga Reddy was mentioning that his state is a baby of five days. Five years he calls it as five days. Here, you are telling that nothing has come out of the accord. It is not a baby of five weeks? Not even twenty days have passed after the accord was signed. How can you expect that everything would happen so soon? We have to give some time. We have to sort out the things, and the nodalities Our aim is good, objective is good, purpose is sincere and honest, which we have to look into.

Sir, we are not the people who start agitation for our own political gains. Again I would like to repeat what I said earlier, that we have tried to civilize your baby, i.e. TNV and we hope that it will be Civilised and become to the mainstream of Tripura. They will become good citizens.

With these words I congratulate the Chief Minister of Tripura, our Prime Minister, our Home Minister and also TNV leader, who has shown his courage and tried to bring his colleagues with him to sit across the table and find out a peaceful solution. Let the peace prevail.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : Sir, I welcome the accord. I also congratulate the Opposition leaders who visited there and created the moral impact on the people of Tripura about their rights and also about their political movements.

Whatever things have happened, are all well known to us. All the accords which the Government of India have signed without any hesitation and reservations, the Opposition has welcomed. But I am sorry to tell that the subsequent events have proved that there was no proper background estimation and also the various points which they include in the accord, in the implementation of the various clauses with sincerity and honesty and the way in which it was approached at the beginning are not seen. Take Punjab accord. Sant Longowal had to sacrifice his life. Has the accord fully implemented still? Further what will happen in Punjab and still how many discussions we have to make on this, we don't know. Take Sri Lankan accord. When the Sri Lankan accord was made, we welcomed it. But what is the problem of IPKF, Tamil militants and what ethnic things are going on. Have you made any subsequent analysis on that? Take Assam accord. Again insurgency and violence is creating problems in various parts of Assam. In more than signing the accord there should be sincerity to implement the accord. Government should show the sincerity to implement various clauses which are there in the Memorandum of Settlement which has been reached between the TNV and the Government. This is one of the main aspects in these matters which I see.

Today, the news in the press is about the events in Mizoram. Laldenga came. The Ministry was installed. Election was conducted. Insurgents have said that they have surrendered the arms. And he became the Chief Minister. Today the news is that out of 25 members, 8 have broken away. If 8 members have gone out, then the anti-defection law is to be applied. But instead of applying that law, horse trading is going on. Tomorrow what will happen is that Congress will instal the Government there. If this is the short-sightedness to form the Government of Congress in the north-eastern area and you are entering into an accord, I will say, it will have a very bad result. If you are taking into account the problems of the people and giving due consideration for the tribals who feel that they were discarded hitherto and

their problems were not properly tackled, minority rights were not properly safeguarded and because of the attitude which we had adopted to them, they had gone to the wrong path of insurgency and violence which they believe, will help them, the accords are subsequently made. I will say that the consequence of violating the provisions of the accord will be more serious than entering into an accord. When I support the accord, I say that every clause of the accord should be seen and implement Properly. But you see the background in which it has been arrived at in Tripura you see the whole situation there declaring Tripura as a disturbed area, Congress infiltrating into it, conducting elections in a given circumstance, then capturing power and then trying to alienate mass force there, the mass force of people who are behind the Left Front, if they are being discarded and put to difficulty, if some people feel that having power at the centre they can hold it, they are living in fools' paradise.

The same thing is about the GNLf. The West Bengal Government has welcomed it because it is a problem. Since it is a problem, they say, solve the problem, have an agreement. An accord is reached. Jyoti Basu welcomes it. But at the same time, at the cost of the people if somebody is promoting violence and extremism and putting other people into difficulty, that cannot be tolerated. We cannot support such things.

I would like to say that this is happening not only in Tripura, West Bengal, Nagaland, north-eastern area but also in our part. For a short-sighted view, somebody feels that to put another person out of power, they may help extremism. This has happened in Kerala; Who were the persons who were behind Naxalite movement? Who are the persons who are behind the violence which is breaking out throughout Kerala? Who are the real culprits? Is there any enquiry made in this short-sightedness? When such violence is permitted, it will give a more powerful kick-back and it cannot be retorted. Therefore, my submission is that you should have sincerity to implement it and take the people

[Sh. Thampan Thomas]

into confidence. In that respect what I would suggest is that in the North-Eastern area, the tribal problem has to be dealt with at the national level. A national policy should be there with regard to that. More money should be pumped there. More education should be given to them. More facilities should be provided to them to make them believe that they are part of the mainland. And when they are made part of the mainland, they should also feel that they can exercise their viewpoints and opinions independently. If that due regard and respect for their feelings is given, I think we can hold them along with the mainstream. Otherwise we will be losing them. And losing them will be a great national calamity because these are border areas. We are not having that much of a happy relationship with our neighbors and we have never attempted to create better relationship with our neighbors. We are notorious for keeping such relationships with our neighbors. There is no doubt about it All around we are surrounded only by enemies. We have no friend nearby. If we look at the surrounding areas, all around we are covered by enemies. Then how can peace be maintained? From the neighboring areas, all sorts of terrorism is coming up, all sorts of extremism is coming up, weapons are being supplied. We are not having any hold over that and we cannot prevent it. They all use such ethnic, caste, communal and other divisive forces and feelings to fight against us. This is a very big national calamity. This is a very big danger. I do not know whether these things are being looked into and whether the border areas have been secured in the national interest, with the perspective of holding the people. How did we fail in Punjab? In Amritsar district, if the people were with us and if we were able win over the people, would the extremists and the terrorists have been given shelter by the people? The people will not give shelter to such people if the people's economic problems are properly dealt with. So, what I urge upon, when I support the Accord, is that the economic problems, the social problems and other human problems of the people who live around the area, who are in minor-

ity, should not be ignored but they should be complimented and given due weightage, instead of taking a political advantage out of the given circumstances. I hope this Accord will not be a route to take political advantage out of a situation which is given. It should be sincerely implemented. Both the National Front and the LDF unitedly stand together with the people of Tripura. We stand with them and support it.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the tripartite agreement made on 12.8.88 in Tripura is an important step in the direction of establishing peace in that State. Through this agreement, our Prime Minister has made concrete efforts to put an end to arson, violence and agitation going on in North Eastern region for the last many years. Whether it is the Assam Accord or the Mizoram Accord or the Agreement with TNV, the intention of our Hon. Prime Minister has always been to find a solution to the problems, of the people of north-eastern region who have been cut from the mainstream and had adopted the path of agitation through negotiations. He always wanted to solve their problems by taking into confidence the Government of those States. No importance has been given to the party's viewpoint, or to the political view point in this regard and the Assam, Mizoram and Tripura accords have been made keeping in view the national interest and with the objective of making them join the mainstream of the nation once again. The agreement reached with TNV in Tripura is also remarkable because of the law and order situation in the State under the CPM Government was beyond control. The way law and order situation was deteriorating and broad day light murders were being committed was shocking. Nothing is hidden. It was a matter of shame for all of us. When our Party came to power in February the adivasis of that area became very hopeful. Even the leaders of TNV also became very confident and hopeful and its leader Shri Bijoy Kumar Harangkhawal realised that their co-operation is needed for the development of the State.

Therefore, the Hon. Prime Minister came forward for negotiations which brought about the solution. Shri Bijoy Kumar of TNV himself wrote a letter in the month of May to the Hon. Prime Minister in this regard. It was only then that the Government of India, came forward for negotiations and this concrete steps were taken to implement this agreement. Here I would like to point out that the mentality of our Opposition members is to rake up issues and create conflict. They are unable to understand the importance of an agreement. They can only visualize conflict and confusion behind an agreement. They can never understand the important of an agreement. Their mentality is selected in what they have said in the House Today. I would like to point out here that by making this accord, our leader has shown great sagacity and political skill. He has made efforts to bring the people going on the path of extremism and violent activities into the mainstream of the nation. When the CPM Government was in power, no efforts in this direction were made but now when our Government came to power and made efforts to establish peace in Tripura, they think that there is trouble. You started finding faults with the agreement. We were bound to take some strict steps after our party came to power, because the C.P.M. Government had done many wrong things. I want to make it clear to you that our agreement with T.N.V. does not include only the development of the tribals or restoring their rights and land to them, but it also includes development of agriculture in Tripura. It also includes making avenues of employment available to the unemployed people and bringing back the misled youth during the C.P.M. rule on the right track so as to involve them in the work of nation building. This alone is the reason why our C.P.M. colleagues are finding it inconvenes at the signing of such a good agreement, Shri Thampan said that the rulling party do reach agreements but they are not implemented. I want to tell him that out of 11 points on which Punjab Accord was signed, 8 points have already been implemented and solid steps are being taken to implement the rest of the points. Everything is before you and you have yourself seen the

real situation. If the Assam Accord had not taken place, the people of Assam would have been on the way of agitation and they would not have got the Indian Institute of Technology or the schemes of science and technology there. It is the State Government which is responsible for whatever has happened in Assam since the past 2 to 3 years. But the opposition Members only protect the Assam Government in the House. They try to hide its mistakes because it is natural that a wrong doer always tries to hide the mistakes of another wrong doer. Such a person finds even the right deeds of another person as wrong. It is the farsightendness and liberal approach of our hon. leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi that reflects in all the major decisions whether it is Punjab accord, Assam accord, Mizoram accord, G.N.L.F accord or T.N.V. agreement. He wants that peace should return to the North- Eastern region and the area of insurgency should give way to new horizons of development so that the people could join the mainstream. They should be disscuated from the path of insurgency and violence and engaged in the work of nation building. We hope that the tripartite agreement reached with T.N.V. regarding Tripura, for which we received full-co-operation from the Chief Minister, Shri Majumdar and Governor Shri Krishna Rao, and which has been the result of the efforts and far sightendness of our hon. Home Minister and Hon. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, will be implemented. We want that the people of that State should be enabled to self sufficient and the given their due rights. They should also be provided with opportunity to work in the political, social and economic fields. There is nothing in it which could be misleading. The concern of Central Government for the development of the tribals is much more than that of the Opposition Governments in different States. What happens there is that the assistance in the name of tribals is instead utilised for the party cadre. This is what is happening in West Bengal and Assam. The same was the situation in Tripura too, but the people there have stopped this practice by electing a new Government. The Opposition is facing a problem there. We know that if peace is restored in Tripura, our relations

[Sh. Pratap Bhanu Sharma]

with our neighbouring countries will also improve. As regards my colleague's submission about the neighbouring countries, my submission is that our Government tries its best to improve relations with the neighbouring countries, but you very well know as to how far can our efforts succeed when some nationals are born only to oppose our policies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end I would like to say only this much that we all should try to implement the Government's accord with T.N.V. and Tripura Government effectively. For this purpose, we should rise above political considerations and try to implement it by keeping the national perspective on the top so that whatever policies have been formulated by that Government for the development of the poor and for providing employment to the youth of T.N.V. could be implemented through the Central Government and the august Houses of Parliament.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, statement by the Minister Shri Brahma Dutt.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Sir, what about their discussion under Rule 193?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are containing the discussion tomorrow?

1030 hours today (30.8.88) a major fire broke out in Tank Wagon Loading gantry area of Mathura Refinery. The fire was brought under control and fire extinguished at 1400 hours with the help of 15 fire tenders including refinery and outside agencies. Two persons, one officer from refinery and one casual worker, died and five other received serviced severe burn injuries during the fire. The 5 injured persons have been fused to safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi for immediate treatment. At the time of fire there were 130 tank wagons under loading with naphtha at the two broad gauge gantries. After the fire broke out, majority of tank wagons were detached and pulled out from the gantry and about 35 tank wagons are reported to be affected by fire. The process units, tank farms, power house and pipeline facilities have not been affected. Preliminary indications are that both the broad gauge tank wagon loading gantries have been affected by the fire. Detailed advent of damage and the time to repair and rehabilitate these loading facilities are being assessed. Factory inspectorate and State authorities have been informed. Enquiry Committee to investigate into the incidence of fire is being set up.

2. An Officer from the Oil Industry Safety Directorate also has been deputed to the place. Alternative movement of products by road and through pipeline are being developed to maintain normal supplies out of the refinery. Refinery has not been affected.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fifty Ninth Report

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.NAMGYAL): Sir, I beg to present the Fifty-ninth Report of Business Advisory Committee.

18.02 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : FIRE AT TANK WAGON
LOADING GANTRY AREA OF MATHURA
REFINERY

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : At about

18.05 hrs

DEFAMATION BILL— CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Defamation Bill.

There is no amendment to clause 2. I shall now put clause 2 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clause 2 was added to the Bill

Clause 3 (Defamation)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up clause 3. Shri Amal Datta.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I beg to move:

Page 2, Line 25 —

omit "This caste or" (4)

Sir, in clause 3, Explanation IV (a) says:

"(a) that imputation, directly or indirectly in the estimation of others, lowers the moral or intellectual character of that person, in respect of his caste or his calling or lowers the credit of that person etc."

Now, so far as mention of "caste" is concerned, I think, it should be omitted. This part of the Bill has been taken variation from the original Act, IPC. There, if a person belong to a higher caste was called by somebody that he belonged to lower, caste, that would bring him down in the estimation of the people. The situation today, at least, legally is changed. So, the law cannot now take cognizance of the fact that if a person belongs to

a higher caste and is said to be a person belonging to a lower caste, in that case, he goes down in the estimation of the people. If in the estimation, of some people, he goes down, they are not the right thinking people and we should not be concerned about that. This is the Constitutional, legal position which we have enshrined in this Parliament. We cannot now say that because a person belonging to a higher caste is called as a person belonging to a lower caste, that will be a matter of defamation. This cannot be considered as defamatory at all in any sense.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I accept his amendment.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) Will he accept the repeal of the Bill?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is only the amendment.

Dr. Datta Samant.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): I beg to move:

Page 2, line 7 —

after "Whoever" insert —

"including Government servant and police officer including C.B.I. (12)"

All discussions are there. If somebody defames other persons, he can be prosecuted in the Sessions Court and all this. The whole problem here is that the defamation is not done by the Press or Editors or some persons but sometimes this Government is also involved in the defamation of the Opposition or some of the leaders for political sake. In that thing, though they are not directly involved, the police officers and the CBI and all people are involved to make the

[Dr. Datta Samant]

propaganda against a particular man. I was the major victim with 4 murder cases and all that. But the High Court acquitted me. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please Order.

(Interruptions)

DR. DATTA SAMANT: I am the victim of their propaganda. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHUY DANDAVATE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, that reference might be expunged. Otherwise, he may be hanged tomorrow!

DR. DATTA SAMANT: In bogus murder cases, I was the victim. In 1972 in order to please the Godrej, I was kept behind the bar and it was announced that I would be hanged. The Court has acquittance. This is your political connivance with the Godrej

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT): I have absolutely no intention to stop him but what Prof. Madhu Dandavate has said, I agree with him because that should not go on record, what he has said. Otherwise, I am not saying one way or the other against him or for him. *(Interruptions)* You are free but these cases which are judicial findings should not be discussed. It should not go on record.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: What about a political defamation by the ruling party in order to serve their political influence? *(Interruptions)* **

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will not go on record.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: It is a defamation, Sir *(Interruptions)* **

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. It

won't go on record.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Whatever law is applicable to the average man is applicable to the Government officers and the top people also. Therefore, you add the words "including the Government servants and police officers including CBI."

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have accepted Mr. Amal Datta's amendment to delete the words "his caste or" line 25 page 2. As regards Dr. Datta Samant's amendment, it is hardly necessary for me to say that I do not accept it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I will put the amendment moved by Shri Amal Datta to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"Page 2, line 25 —

omit "his caste or"

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I will put the amendment moved by Dr. Datta Samant to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 12. was put and Negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 (Exceptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I beg to move:

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Page 2, line 32, —

after "Which is insert" "substantially"(5)

Page 2, lines 33 to 35, —

Omi": if it be for the public good that the imputation should be made or published and it is a question of fact as to whether it is for the public good"(6)

I move both of them. The exceptions which are listed in Clause 4 begin like this. "Nothing in Section 3 shall apply to (i) the imputation of anything which is true concerning any person. "Of these, some may be major, some may be minor. If it has to be wholly true, that means, all the major and the minor ones have to be proved to be correct. That may not be possible because the minor allegations sometimes may not be wholly proved. But the major ones can be proved. In all the jurisdictions following British law, the word "Substantially" has been added before the word true so, that the substance of the allegations is proved. That is only the burden of proof on the person who is accused of defamation. The hon. Minister should also accept this because when I was talking about it, he was nodding his head. He may kindly accept it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : This is a provision which has stood the test of time. Courts have interrupted this to mean that you must prove the material part of an allegation, the material facts of allegation. I don't think it is necessary to make any amendment at this stage. This Clause has stood the test of time. This Clause occurs not only in this Act but also it occurs in several other acts. I don't see any reason why we should introduce the word "substantially" and try to create scope for further interpretation. This has stood the test of time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the two amendments moved by Shri Amal Datta to the vote of the House...

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Sir, I have spoken only on the first amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have asked you already. At that time, you should have spoken.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, this amendment at serial No 6 comes out of the Press Commission Report and the Law Commission report. I has explained this to the hon. Minister at the time of my speech. This is every important amendment (*Interruptions*) I hope the Minister will accept it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the two amendments moved by Shri Amal Datta to the vote of the House.

Amendment No 5 and 6 Put and Negatived

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"The Clause 4 stand part of the Bill:"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 (Punishment for defamation)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3,—

after line 38 , insert—

"Provided that if the convicted person informs the court about his intention to prefer an appeal against the judgement, the order for publication of the judgement shall by stayed. (16)"

Sir, this relates to defamation. A Magistrate or a person who tries may order the publication of his judgement in such a manner as he may specify. He may fix the date and say that it must be published within that date. But the accused person wants to prefer an appeal against that judgement. Then, he must be in a position to ask for the stay of this

[Sh. E. Ayyapu Reddy]

direction, to publish it also. That is why my amendment says:

"Provided that if the convicted person informs the court about his intention to prefer an appeal against the judgement, the order for publication of judgement shall be stayed."

It is such an ordinary principle. The judgement will not become final until the Appellate court has disposed of it. Therefore, I don't think there will be any objection for the acceptance of this amendment.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Is it necessary to provide it in the Act? The accused will move the Appellate Court and get stay of operation of that judgement or even move an application before the Magistrate himself and ask for more time so that he can file an appeal. These are provided today. Today fine is imposed. If one does not want to pay fine. One moves the Appellate Court or asks the Magistrate to vary the order. These are not matters which have to be provided in the Act. There are provisions in the Criminal Procedure Code.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the amendment moved by Shri E. Ayyappu Reddy to the vote of the House

Amendment No. 16 was put and Negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In Clause 6, there is no amendment.

The question is :

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clause 6 was added to the Bill

Clause 7 (Sale of printed or engraved substance containing defamatory matter)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : I beg to move:

Page 4, —

after line 5, insert,—

"Provided that the proprietor of a press or the editor of a newspaper shall not be liable for punishment unless it is specifically proved that they had willingly given their consent to the publication containing defamatory matter". (17)

Sir, most of the publications are made without any knowledge by the proprietor. Therefore, I have provided that the proprietor of a press or the editor of a newspaper shall not be liable for punishment unless it is specifically proved that he has willingly given his consent to the publication containing defamatory matter. We normally know that most of the publications are made without going through the details. They may here and there skip through the script and allow its publication. If a bona fide person is not guilty, he should not get punishment. That is the intention of the amendment.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM Sir, Clause 7 is a verbatim copy of the existing Section 502. I have not provided any other mens rea. It is the same mens rea knowledge. If he has knowledge, he will be punished. If he has no knowledge, he won't be punished. I do not see why there should be any amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I put amendment 17 to Clause 7 to vote.

Amendment No. 17 was put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The ques-

tion is:

"The Clause 7 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clause 7 was added to the Bill

8. MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, clause

Shri Amal Datta. Are you moving?

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I am not moving.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"The Clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 8 was added to the Bill

Clause 9 (Unintentional defamation)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Clause
9. Shri Ayyapu Reddy.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : I beg to move:

page 5,—

after line 30, insert—

" (c) That the publisher did not fail to publish the contradiction of the defamatory statement and called upon to do so by the person against whom the imputation was made." (18)

This is one of the matters which must be taken into consideration. Suppose, if a publisher is asked to publish a contradiction and if he publishes the contradiction, this must also be a matter which must be taken into consideration while trying to convict or sentence him. A publisher has not failed to publish the contradiction when desired by the person who has defamed. If he has not failed to do so that must be taken into consid-

eration while awarding the sentence.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is already provided in Clause 9(2) (c) that:

"An offer of amends shall-

(d) include an offer to publish, or join in the publication of, a suitable correction of the matter complained of and a sufficient apology."

This is provided for.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I put amendment number 18 to clause 9 to vote.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : You must permit us. what is this?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot permit. This is not a formal discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can put whatever you can. But after the Minister replies, I cannot allow. I cannot reopen it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him speak whatever he wants to speak. After the Minister replies, how can you once again reopen the case.

(Interruptions)

This is not the way to speak. You have to cooperate with me.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow. You have to cooperate. You should understand others' feeling also. when I allow you, you take five minutes, I have no objection. But after the Minister's reply, I cannot reopen the case.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I Put amendment number 18 to clause 9 to vote.

(Amendment No. 18 was put and Negatived)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 9 was added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER Now, clause 10. There is no amendment to Clause 10

The question is :

"The clause 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

Clause 11 (*Certain Statements not to constitute defamation*)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: I beg to move

Page 7, —

after line 8, insert

" (g) a fair and accurate record of the proceedings of a general meeting of any political party or the press statements issued by any Member of Parliament or Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council or office bearers of a political party." (19)

Sir, I have moved a very important amendment. (Interruptions) I have merely wanted one more clause to be added to the clauses. There are up to (f) about any publication made by a person containing a number of things. What I have added is:

"(g) a fair and accurate record of the proceedings of a general meeting of any political party or the press statements issued by any Member of Parliament or Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council or office bearers of a political party."

Supposing the Press reports fairly accurately the proceedings of a political party or the meeting or the statements made by a Member of the Legislative Assembly or Member of Parliament or any office-bearer of a political party, he shall not be liable to be proceeded for defamation. That is what I wanted to be incorporated

You have merely stated so many things. (Interruptions) He must not be made the scapegoat because he fairly accurately reports the proceedings of a public meeting addressed by so many leaders.

Suppose press statements were issued by political leaders. Why should they be liable? For instance, you have said

"(d) A fair and accurate report of the proceedings of any meeting or sitting of —

- (i) any local authority or committee of a local authority,
- (ii) any commission, tribunal, committee or person appointed for the purposes of any inquiry under a Central, Provincial or State Act by the appropriate government,
- (iii) any person appointed by a local authority to hold a local inquiry in pursuance of any Central, Provincial or State Act;
- (iv) any other tribunal board, committee or body constituted by or under and exercising functions under a Central, Provincial or State Act, ..."

When publication of these shall not be

taken into consideration for the purpose of prosecuting the publisher, why should he be prosecuted if he accurately and fairly reports the proceedings of a political party or the meetings addressed by political leaders or Press releases made by Members of Parliament, MLA's and other persons or office-bearers? That should be included in the same category as you have mentioned in the other categories of (a) to (f).

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, it does not come under the same category. That's why the Press Commission and the Law Commission did not recommend that reporting a statement in a public meeting or in a political meeting should enjoy either absolute privilege or qualified privilege. I think, the whole country knows that standards of public debate, in public meetings and political meetings are not always very high. That's why, I think, the Law Commission and the Press Commission did not make such a recommendation which Mr Ayyapu Reddy is making.

I think, it would be quite incorrect to give either a qualified privilege or an absolute privilege to a statement which is made in a public meeting. I think, it would be quite dangerous and I cannot accept this amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER I shall now put Amendment No 19 to Clause 11 moved by Shri E. Ayyapu Reddy to the vote of the House.

Amendment No 19 was put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER The question is:

"That Clause 11 stand part of the Bill "

The motion was adopted

Clause 11 was added to the Bill"

Clause 12 (Burden of Proof.)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: I beg to

move:

Page, 7, lines 13 and 14, —

omit " and the prosecution shall have the right to lead evidence in rebuttal" (20)

Sir, I have submitted that the words. the prosecution shall have the right to lead evidence in rebuttal, should be omitted. That is the amendment. For the first time, we are introducing this provision. Sometime earlier, the hon. Minister read Section 105 of the Evidence Act saying that the burden of proving the exception is on the accused. I agree with him entirely. The Penal Code has been there and the exceptions have to be proved by an accused. But anywhere has the Criminal Procedure Code provided, at any time, for the prosecution to lead evidence in rebuttal? CPC has been there for more than a century. In almost all the cases, under the Penal Code, including the defamation, the burden of proving the exception is on the accused. But has the Criminal Procedure Code at any time contemplated that the prosecution should have the right to lead evidence in rebuttal? It has not. Why are you introducing a new concept which has not been there at all? If an accused pleads alibi and leads evidence in self-defence, does the Criminal Procedure Code now provide that the prosecution must have a right to lead evidence in rebuttal. How does it stand the test of Article 14 of the Constitution? You are trying to give one type of right in grave offences, and another type of right in lighter offences. After all, defamation is not such a serious offence. If a man is charged with murder and he pleads alibi in self-defence, prosecution is not given an opportunity to lead evidence in rebuttal. This principle that the prosecution must be given an opportunity to lead evidence in rebuttal is a new concept which has not been there. Therefore, this will upset the basic principles of criminal jurisprudence and, therefore, my amendment should be accepted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : While replying to the debate, I pointed out that there is Section 135 of the Evidence Act which en-

[Sh. P. Chidambaram]

ables the court to decide the order in which whiteness are produced and examined. This shall be regulated by the law in practice for the time being applicable to the courts. If the hon. Member will look to the commentary under Section 135, he will find that wherever the accused or the defendant has the duty to lead evidence, then the court may allow either the prosecution or the plaintiff to lead rebuttal evidence. In fact, rebuttal evidence is well known in Criminal law and civil law both. In the election law, there is a specific provision to lead rebuttal evidence, where he takes a particular plea that he should be declared elected. At that stage, he can lead rebuttal evidence. Rebuttal evidence is well known to the courts, both civil and criminal, and that is what we are providing. Since the initial burden of proving that the case falls within the exception lies on the accused, if he discharged that burden, the prosecution must have the right to lead rebuttal evidence. This is consistent with the law today, as I understand, as I have been advised, with Section 135 of the Evidence Act.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 20 to clause 12 to the vote of the House.

Amendment No.20 was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"The clause 12 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12 was added to the Bill.

Clause 13 (Offence of Criminal imputation)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : I beg to move:

"Page 7, the 23, —

Omit "for a term which shall not be less than one month, but"(13)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I Beg to move:

"Page 7,

After line 28 insert—

"Explanation — It is not an imputation under this section to make or publish in good faith an accusation against any person to a Court, Tribunal or other authority which has lawful authority over that person with respect to the subject matter of that accusation." (26)

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I beg to move:

That in the amendment proposed by Shri P. Chidambaram and printed as S.No. 26 in List No. 7 of amendments,—

after the Explanation add —

"Explanation II— In this sub-section, offence shall not include an economic offence." (29)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: I have moved my amendment to delete the minimum term prescribed for punishment as one month. I press for it because fair criticism by any person against any person in office or anywhere will not be available so long as this clause is there. A mandatory provision to send a person for defamation to jail will not allow fair criticism by any individual

If somebody files an affidavit in the court, the court takes cognizance of the offence and tries the case summarily and the magistrate has no discretion to say that it fines Rs. 10 Rs. 100, and minor punishment is given. If the case is genuine, then the punishment should be there at least for a minimum period of one month. Suppose something happened and subsequently a charge is made at the time of . (*Interruptions*)

You should at least have the patience to listen to me.

Suppose there is one case which happened in Japan where at the time of publication it is said that Thanak has taken bribe from the Lockheed Company. Under this law, it is prohibited and it amounts to defamation and so the person who has made this statement should be punished. Subsequently in the later year it was found that he was really the guilty. There are certain basic aspects like intention, motive and *mens rea*. In the criminal cases, the punishment can be invoked only if there is *mens rea*. Absence of *mens rea* means absence of criminal offence. The court is bound to give punishment for a minimum of one month for making a criticism which is known to me. Therefore, At present what I say should be permitted.

Secondly what does the Law Commission recommended? Mr. Chidambaram has made a case, even in the statement of objects and reasons it is stated that this Bill has been based on the recommendations of the Law Commission and the Press Council. The Law Commission has only recommended to give the punishment of rigorous imprisonment for two years or fine. They have never recommended a minimum mandatory punishment of one month jail. So, if he is accepting the amendments of the Law Commission he should accept my amendment also. Therefore, I request the Minister that my amendment may be accepted.

SHRI. E. AYYAPU REDDY : Clause 13 is a totally new concept. The Hon. Minister has himself stated that this is a new type of species of offence. This clause 13 and the subsequent clauses 14 and 15 are intended to stifle, preventer prohibit the investigative journalism which has been picking up in India just now very nicely and vigorously.

Sir, the principles of defamation were enshrined in Chapter 21 of the Indian Penal Code and they offered sufficient protection to one and all. It has served as a safety valve or at the same time a corollary or a controlling agency on the freedom of speech. Sir, the intention to usurp this new space of offence is to deprive the Press of the safe-

guards which have been incorporated in 499 of the Indian Penal Code, which has been now provided in Clause 5. In Clause 5 the ordinary defamation, the exception have been provided. First he has to prove at his loss of reputation. Apart from that there are 10 exceptions. Except Exception 1 all the other exceptions are not made applicable to the criminal imputation. When I pointed out how perversely it will affect even the benafide prosecutor or complaint, the Hon. Minister has today circulated an amendment by way of an exception to Clause 13. Nonetheless, some of the important provisions which govern defamation are not made applicable to this criminal imputation. For instance, certain safeguards are provided in sub-clauses (iv), (ix) and (x) of Clause 4, which are as under:

- (iv) the publication of a substantially true report of the proceedings of a Court or Tribunal or of the result of any such proceedings.;
- (ix) the imputation on the character of another provided that the imputation is made in good faith for the protection of the interest of the person making it, or of any other person, or for the public good;
- (x) the conveying of a caution, in good faith, to one person against another, provided that such caution is intended for the good of the person to whom it is conveyed, or of some person in whom that person is interested, or for the public good.

All these safeguards which are provided in the case of defamation are not made available so far as criminal imputation is concerned. Also, protection given for unintentional defamation provided in Clause 9, 10 and 11 is not available for criminal imputation because this states with clause 'notwithstanding anything contained in Chapter II of the Act.' Therefore, criminal imputation *per se* has been made an of-

[Sh. E. Ayyapu Reddy]

fence. Previously, this was not at all the case. Therefore, even the safeguards provided under Clauses 9, 10 and 11 are not available for criminal imputation. The entire process is to prevent investigative journalism. Supposing a crime is committed and the press makes an investigation into it and publishes the results of the investigation which points out that the offence has been committed by a particular person, then the press is liable under Clause 13. If the press makes any type of investigation about some public scandal or corruption in the Administration or high places, they are likely to be hauled up under Clause 13. The only scope for them to get out is that they must prove under Clause 15 that their report is true and it is for the public good. If they are not able to prove that the investigation made by them is true and accurate and that it is for the public good, they will incur the minimum sentence of one month's imprisonment as has been prescribed under this Act. This clause 13 is brought only to make criminal imputation a new offence and it is mainly intended to stifle investigative journalism, relating especially to public scandals and corruption in high places. Therefore, I oppose Clause 13 tooth and nail.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATERJEE: Sir, I know that this Government has gone berserk. In their occasional lucid moments, I hope they will display some rare sense of political honesty by accepting my amendment.

Sir, Clause 13 is the brainwasher of Shri Chidambaram by which the Government has created a new species of defamation. What is this new species of offence that is being created by this clause? ... any imputation falsely alleging that any person has committed an offence, or has done or omitted to do any act which amounts to an offence. This is the new offence. The intention of this Bill is tell-tale. It is very clear. Whatever the bulldozing majority may try to project, the people have understood and will understand when the real ramifications of the so-called codifying Bill come to the

knowledge of the people with the whole object. You do not say anything. You have not even mentioned anything which may even remotely be construed to refer to an offence or amounting to an offence. Kindly consider when the Bofors thing was first published, the Swedish Radio broadcast was reproduced here. On the basis of that, there was the clearest indication of violation of law where offence has been created. On the first publication itself, Section 13 would have been attracted. Thereafter it has been admitted 'yes money was paid in violation of the law' Even that stage would not come if this law is there. Take the latest case of ONGC disclosure. If this law was there, what *The Statesman* has published could not have been published. Because as soon as it was published, immediately the next day, Mr. Shri could have gone to the court and the onus could have been on *The Statesman* to prove everything which can be proved from the Government records. These records are not forthcoming. Whether there is violation of Income Tax Law or not, one could get an information and or can draw reasonable inference from the facts disclosed or facts known. But actually clinching evidence can only be available from official records to which we have had no access. Nobody will have any access. Now, the defence is sought to be made that it has to be proved. Shri Ayyappu Reddy is absolutely right that the defence of fair comment, defence of unintentional publication, defence of absolute privilege or qualified privilege, nothing will be available in case of offence under Section 13. The offence is to impute an offence or the offence is to impute something which may amount to an offence. Therefore, at the there should, what is the sinister and the mala fide intention of this Bill? It is really to introduce or create a new offence and the only important Chapter is Chapter III. The Minister is right. A part of it is mere codification. Wherever they have tried to depart from the Indian Penal Code, which has stood the test of time, they have made it more unintelligible. I can concede that upto Section 12, you have faithfully, or faithfully copied the old law. But where you have gone and thought of a new thing is

Chapter III. It is an atrocity. I know even the hon. Members on the other side fee very strongly about it. You hare unable to express yourselves- the Members on that side. As Prof. Dandavate says, you are bonded labour, what can you do?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: No, no. Don't insult the bonded labour!

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: They are willing to beliberated!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, this is very very important. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chidambaram, with all his eloquence, with all his knowledge, with his persuasive knowledge, with the knowledge of literature and knowledge of law and Constitution and what not, could think of only one example and that is, if a dancer is dancing, her ability is criticised. That is one thing. But if some imputation is made against her for violation of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, then it is a very serious matter and Section 13 will be immediately attracted. Therefore, it is a matter of the character simpliciter. It is a social crime. That is what I am saying. It is very well, if you want to include social crimes or allegations of commission of a social offence, then have it. It is because you will pass it. But why do you include economic offences? Why can't I allege FERA violations why can't I allege income-tax violations; why can't I allege sales tax violations?

Therefore, has this Government any political honesty solar as maintaining this country free of economic offences? (*Interruptions*) If they do not believe in middlemen, and if they do not believe in commissions, they should accept my amendment-I say that offences coming under the meaning of Clause 13 should not include economic offences. (*Interruptions*).

Even Mr. Shantaram Naik has become quiet. (*Interruptions*) I know it is no good

appealing. They will not go to the people; and when they go, the people will give them their lessons. But let them, even on a rare occasion, show some political honesty; and, therefore, let them accept my amendment. (*Interruptions*) With or without commission, I do not know. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We are prepared to pay commission, if they show that honesty.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: As I said, this is an absolute offence with an absolute punishment. There has to be imprisonment. Nothing less than imprisonment; Plus fine, Imprisonment is amuse, for one year. Against whom is it directed?

Therefore, Chapter I and II are merely thought of, to give company to Chapter III. Hence, in view of the fact that a very limited defence is available, and it is impossible for anybody to prove it in the absence of the official records and documents, they should restrict this offence only to social offences or offences other than economic offences, because this country is being bled white. Moneys are being kept in foreign banks...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: You cannot make a political speech... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please...

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I was saying that this country is bled white. Monneys are being admittedly kept in the Swiss banks and foreign banks. I cannot say now that somebody is keeping money in a foreign bank. I have to prove it from the records of the Swiss banks. Is it possible? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order please

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Somebody is admittedly owning a flat in Switzerland. How can I prove it? They will not give the documents to us. Therefore, here is a deliberate and sinister motive to stop publication of information relating to economic offences, and this is nothing but a very serious move to keep people in darkness. They want extenuation by Chapter III, not on merits not by priving, on the basis of merit. Therefore, I submit that they should restrict it to offences other than economic offences, and that my amendment should be accepted. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. M.R. HALDER (Mathurapur) *

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will not go on record. Mr. Minister, you speak on the points, and also on the amendments. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I was aware that Mr. Somnath Chatterjee was reserving all his ammunition for this stage of the consideration of the Bill.

19.00 hrs

He called us names, he called us berserk. I can only say that it is a mind which suffers from a strange delusion which things that only that mind is lucid and everyone else is berserk. He called us other names, he called us bonded labour and so many other things. *(Interruptions)* To mind which cannot grasp the significance of perestroika and Glasnost, all I need to read is the Politburo resolution of the CPM of Perestroika and Glasnost. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Glasnost and Perestroika!

SHRI. P. CHIDAMBARAM: Let me go back to what I said about Clause 13. Clause 13 is a species of defamation. Imputation of

criminal offence is defamation in English law, and in Indian Law. In Indian law, it is a civil wrong as well as a crime under the law as it stands today. If I did not have Clause 13 then it will still be covered by Clause 3. Then I went on to explain why we have Clause 13. We can conceive of defamatory statements simpliciter and defamatory statements which carry with them a criminal imputation.

Take the very example which Mr. Chatterjee mentioned, Bofors. I am not running away. In Bofors, the first allegation published by the Swedish Radio was not an allegation against any person as having committed an offence. If you will kindly see Clause 13, it is attracted only if an imputation is made, falsely alleging that any person has committed an offence. The Swedish Radio did not make a charge that any person has received a bribe. On the contrary, the Swedish Radio made the charge and that charge has been repeated *ad nauseam* by the members of the Opposition.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: What about Hinduja?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What a minute. I am not speaking about Hinduja. If you want to speak for Hinduja, you may speak for Hinduja. If Hinduja is aggrieved, Hinduja will go to court. If Hinduja goes to court he will get the truth of the allegation.

Where does the Government come in Clause 13? Where do these people come in Clause 13? This is a mind which reads more into Clause 13 than is there. Where does anything come in Clause 13? Clause 13 is intended to punish a person who makes up a false allegation, against another person of having committed a crime, of having committed an offence which is punishable under the law. This is the definition under the law today.

I gave one example. If Hon'ble Mr. Chatterjee wants to give me other examples, I am willing to give him another example. For example, if I say, that X suffers from a loathsome disease, that is defamation under Clause 3. But if I say, that he acquires this loathsome disease or transmitted this loathful disease in a manner by which he has violated some law, certainly that would attract Clause 13. The point is, we have to distinguish between defamation which carries with it a criminal imputation and defamation which does not carry with it criminal imputation. Both are covered under this law, under Section 499. What we are trying to do is covered under Clause 3 and we say that it is an aggravated form of defamation (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What about the exception to it?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We have taken the aggravated form of definition which carries with it criminal imputation and put it in Clause 13 and say, if you make bold to make a specific false allegation against a person, that he has committed a crime, then you must stand by What statement and prove the truth of that statement. I cannot see how this is wrong.

As far as Mr. Thampan Thomas's points are concerned, I am afraid, he is wrong. It will be tried as a summons case, and the discretion to try as a summary case is left to the court and that discretion will be governed by Section 262 to 264 of the Criminal Procedure Code. There is a vast difference between a summons case and trial in a summary way.

Secondly, he spoke about *mens rea*. In Clause 3, there is *mens rea*. Definitely today under the India law this involves *mens rea* in Clause 13 *mens rea* is false allegation. There is a *mens rea*. There is a mental state. He must falsely make the allegation. Clause 3 has *mens rea*. Clause 13 also has *mens rea*.

Then he spoke about Law Commission's recommendations and the Press Commission's recommendations. I did not claim that the Law Commission and the Press Commission have recommended Clause 13. Kindly see the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I said, that the recommendations of the Law Commission and the Press Commission have been incorporated. I have separately mentioned in Paragraph 2(d) of the Statement of Objects and Reasons that we are providing a provision to punish imputations falsely alleging commission by any person of an offence. I did not attribute this to the Law Commission or the Press Commission.

Coming to Mr. Ayyappu Reddy's objections, again Sir, I would like to tell him that if he carefully read the exceptions now incorporated in Clause 4, We will find that exceptions 2,3,5 and 6 are opinions. These four exceptions by their very nature do not apply to Clause 13. Clause 13 does not take into account any opinion. So, exceptions 2,3,5 and 6 are *per se* inapplicable to Clause 13. Then, exception no. 4 is the publication of a substantially true report of the proceedings of a court (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If somebody says that in his opinion, he has committed an offence, then does it apply? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Obviously it cannot... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please order (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Why are they shouting, Sir?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They have not read the Bill. They do not know anything.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please order... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He is going on talking. What is it, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please carry on...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am entirely at the disposal of the House. I have no work today... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I request the hon. Members to cooperate. Please order... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I repeat that exceptions 2, 3, 5 & 6 are *per se* inapplicable to the offence we are creating under Clause 13, which is the offence of making a false imputation of a criminal offence.

Clauses 2, 3, 5 & 6 are *per se* inapplicable. If the hon. Member, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, will in the privacy of his chamber more closely read these four exceptions, then he will find that these four exceptions have no application where a man stands up and makes falsely an allegation that another person has committed a criminal offence.

Now exception 4... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: It is stated that it is all opinion. Suppose if I say, in my opinion he appears to have committed an offence... (*Interruptions*) Because in the course of future interpretation of Clause 13, the debates of Parliament will be taken. Suppose if 'A' says that in his opinion, he appears to have committed this particular offence, then do you mean to say that Clause 13 will not be attracted. Will you allow it to go on record?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am answering you. Do not threaten by raising your voice... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: I am sorry. I apologise... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, he is raising his voice... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): He did so only for emphasising his point... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I understood his point. Let me answer it... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Suppose if anybody says that in his opinion he appears to have committed this particular offence then will Clause 13 not be attracted and will he not liable to answer to Clause 13. If it goes on record, then it is all right. We will be very happy... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, Mr. Ayyapu Reddy has said the same points three times. The point I am trying to answer is this. Kindly look at exceptions 2, 3, 5 & 6. It is not any opinion. Each one is an opinion in respect of a particular matter. When you falsely allege that a person has committed an offence, you are not expressing an opinion but you are making an imputation. You cannot cover it by calling it an opinion. And merely because you say in my opinion, it does not cease to be an imputation nor does it become an opinion. It is an imputation. And to imputation when you falsely allege that a person has committed an offence, Exceptions (ii), (iii), (v) and (vi) are *per se* inapplicable. I have no doubt in my mind that the courts will hold so.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): Suppose, the Court holds so in good faith.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Then I come to Exception (iv). Exception (iv) is publication of a substantially true report of the proceedings of a court of the result of any such proceedings. In publishing a substantially true report of a court, you are not making a false allegation against any person because

there is a true report of the court and the court would have taken responsibility for whatever it says in its judgement or in its order.

Exception (vii) is in good faith any censure on the conduct of a person." Exception (viii) 8 has now been taken care of in the Explanation which I have introduced by an amendment. Exception (ix) is the imputation on the character of another provided that the imputation is made in good faith — conveying of a caution in good faith.

Exception 10 does not apply. For conveying of a caution, Exception 9 applies. Nine is the only Exception which will apply to clause 13. That is why, we have deliberately taken away (ix) because if you make an imputation within the meaning of clause 3 not amounting to criminal offence, you are exempted from clause 3. But if you go further and make an imputation to a criminal offence, then, I think, you should be asked to stand by your imputation. You should be asked to prove your imputation and you must stand or fall by the truth or otherwise of the imputation. If you go through clause by clause, you will find that these exceptions are not applicable.

He said that this curbs investigative journalism. I am sorry that he says so. I think, investigation should lead you to truth and facts. If your investigation leads you to truth and facts, then publish that investigation. But if that investigation leads you to innuendos and insinuations... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When the Minister is not yielding, I am not allowing.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: A question was asked why clauses 9, 10 and 11 are made inapplicable to an offence under clause 13. I thought the answer was obvious because clause 9 deals with unintentional defamation whereas the offence under clause 13 is falsely alleging that a person has committed an offence. You cannot say unintentional and at the same time falsely allege that the person has committed an

offence... (*Interruptions*) When you allege that a person has committed an offence, you do so with all consciousness and do so intentionally... (*Interruptions*) I am not yielding.

As far as clause 10 is concerned, fair comment has nothing to do with a false allegation. How can I make fair comment and a false allegation of a criminal offence... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIV. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Right of information is denied not only to journalists but even to Members of Parliament.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Clause 11 deals with absolute privilege and qualified privilege. Each one of them deals with either the proceedings of a legislature or proceedings of a court or a court of a foreign country or the enquiry commission under an Act. If you go through them, you will find that none of the items which are enumerated in clause 11 has any application to clause 13. It is not sufficient to merely stand up and say: "Why have you not made clauses 9, 10 and 11 applicable to clause 13?" You must go through clauses 9, 10 and 11 and tell me which portion of clauses 9, 10 and 11 will apply to clause 13.

The final question raised by Mr. Somnath Chatterjee is that I should exclude economic offences. It is a very attractive argument. I am not saying that is not an attractive argument... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIV. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Political offences also.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Now you have a suggestion of adding political offence. I wish you define what a political offence is.

Sir, an economic offence is also an offence created by a statute. It is either under the Prevention of Corruption Act, or it is under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, or it is under the Foreign Contribution Regu-

[Sh. P. Chidambaram]

lation Act. There is no such thing as an economic offence. An offence is created by law. The Indian Penal Code creates a basket of offences. There is a number of special laws which create offences. Each offence is triable and punishable according to the law. Each one of them is punishable. That is why I read out the ingredient, Sir. The ingredient is that it must be indictable and it must be punishable. If by definition it is indictable and punishable and if the person has to suffer the charge that he has committed a criminal offence, then again I quote from Clark and Lindsell:

"The ground on which words imputing a criminal offence are actionable *per se* is the general obliquity which the person defamed suffers and not the fact that he is put in jeopardy of criminal proceedings."

Therefore, whether you charge a person of violating an offence created by this statute or that statute, as long as it is an offence, indictable and punishable, it is covered by clause 13 and it should be covered by clause 13. If you want to make an imputation against a person, of having violated a statutory provision which is indictable and punishable, I think you should stand by it. I cannot say how you can make a distinction between an economic offence and a non-economic offence. I am afraid you have not properly read clause 13. I think these distinctions do not exist. These distinctions are attractive but they do not exist on ground.

Sir, as far as my amendment is concerned, once again I acknowledge my debt of gratitude to Mr. Ayyapu Reddy for pointing out to me that exception (viii) under clause 4 should be engrafted in a suitable manner to clause 13. I owe this amendment to Mr. Ayyapu Reddy. I thank him once again and I commend that my amendment be accepted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall put amendment No. 29 to Government amend-

ment No. 26, moved by Shri Somnāth Chatterjee to clause 13, to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 29 was put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Government amendment No. 26 moved by Shri P. Chidambaram to clause 13, to the vote of the House. The question is:

Page 7, —

after line 28, insert —

"Explanation — It is not an imputation under this section to make or publish in good faith an accusation against any person to a Court, Tribunal or other authority which has lawful authority over that person with respect to the subject matter of that accusation." (26)

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I put amendment No. 13 moved by Shri Thampan Thomas to clause 13, to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 13 was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 13, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 13, as amended, was added to the Bill

Clause 14 (Trial of offence under this Chapter)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 8, line 2, —

for "Court of Session" substitute —

"Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate" (14)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 8, —

after line 2, insert —

"Provided that it shall be open to a Court of Session having regard to the nature of the allegations made and the person against whom it is made to transfer a case to subordinate court of appropriate jurisdiction who shall try the case as provided hereunder." (22)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Sir, what I want to say is that you are not making it a Sessions offence. Hitherto, the law of defamation has never made it a Sessions offence. When seven years or more imprisonment is given, then only it is a Sessions offence. But here it is only two years. The normal principle is quantum of punishment. As here it is only two years maximum, which has also been recommended by the Law Commission, I cannot understand the reason for putting it as a Sessions offence. Also in the judiciary, the separation is now being made upto Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, being an authority to decide criminal matters of that nature, say first-class or something like that. So, in Session courts where murder is being tried and offence No. 302 where capital punishment is given, it is not proper to try these offences. I therefore submit that the Chief Judicial Magistrate should be empowered to try such cases.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Sir, I not only move my amendment but I oppose Clause 14. My first objection is to the constitutional validity of Clause 14 along with Clause 13. The procedure that has been now devised for the purpose of trying the offences under Clause 13 is totally unrelated to the purpose for which offence has been

committed. I will illustrate my point. If a citizen is attacked, his hands are cut off, his nose is cut off, his face is defaced, he cannot go and knock at the doors of the Sessions Court. If his kith and kin are murdered, he cannot go and knock the doors of the Sessions court. If his house is burnt and property is robbed, he cannot go to the Sessions Court and file a complaint and get the matter disposed of within three months. So, when his property, liberty and his person is being attacked the ordinary procedure is that he has to make a complaint and then the complaint has to be investigated. The police will file a charge-sheet, the case is then committed to the Sessions Court and a public prosecutor will be there. He will not have the right to have his own advocate. He cannot have his own advocate and prosecute his case in all serious offences and he has no right to go straight to the Sessions court. Either it must be through Police charge-sheet or by filing a private complaint before a Magistrate who requires examination of all the witnesses to be produced by him and then alone it can be committed to the court of Sessions. Now, in this particular case, if a citizen merely says that he has been accused of having committed an offence by another person, he can still go and knock at the doors of the Sessions Court. What is the speciality of this particular offence? When a citizen is being deprived to knock at the doors of the Sessions Court in most serious matters, how can you give this and say that he will be entitled to go and file a complaint and an affidavit and then the case has to be disposed of within three months and the matter has to be taken up day-to-day. Whereas more serious offence will have to go to the court, to the Magistrate and the procedure adopted by the courts is that these cases are not tried day-to-day. Magistrate will not try a case under 307 or 326 or even rape cases day-to-day. Therefore, these Clauses 13 and 14 are conferring exclusive jurisdiction only to a court of Sessions and that too in a light case like this. Did we ever have it like this at any time? In all the cases of defamation, the entire defamation is completely in the region of a first-class Magistrate. So, this is a procedure which has been advised in a very extraordinary manner

[Sh. E. Ayyapu Reddy]
and Article 14 'equality', the test of equality will not stand because there is no rationale as to why a mere allegation of imputation has to be tried by a Sessions court and that too within three months.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I can only quote what I quoted this morning:

"The purest treasure mortal times afford
Is spotless reputation; that away
Men are at gilded loam or painted clay
Mine honour is my life; both grow in one;
Take honour from one, and my life is
done."

If reputation and honour are not to be protected and are to be treated in such a casual way that Mr. Ayyapu Reddy suggests, I can only be sorry. We are giving this to a higher court because on the one hand a man's reputation is at stake and on the other hand, another person is asked to prove the truth of his allegation. I think the case is sufficiently important to warrant a trial by a higher court.

Secondly, I do not think that any one will say that it is an offence and will seek recourse to clause 13 and run to the Sessions court. Nobody likes to go to the court these days. Nobody will go to the court for the pleasure of going to the court. He will weigh it in golden scales, he will go to court only if he has been severely damaged by a false imputation of a criminal offence under clause 13, and in such cases I think the Sessions Court should try it. I do not think the cases would be in dozens or in hundreds. These will be cases where somebody has falsely made an allegation and a man's reputation is damaged. (*Interruptions*) You should have the courtesy to allow me to complete it. I cannot understand at all, he is a senior Member, he is rising before I complete my sentence. I cannot understand it at all. (*Interruptions*). Just because, Sir, we are on this side and they are in Opposition, before I complete my sentence he is rising. I think the matter is important enough to be tried by a Sessions Court. Cases will be few

and far between and I am sure that the trial by a Sessions Court will do justice both to the prosecutor and to the accused.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendments moved by Shri Ayyapu Reddy and Shri Thampan Thomas to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos 14 and 22 were put and negatived

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I wanted to support one and oppose the other. What shall I do?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do you want division?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: No.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put clause 14 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That clause 14 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 14 was added to the Bill.

Clause 15 (*Exceptions and burden of proof*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I move:

Page 8, line 16, —

for "any offence under this Chapter"

substitute —

"an offence under section 13" (1)

Page 8, line 17, —

omit "it is established that" (27)

Page 8, line 21, —

for "establishing" substitute
"proving" (28)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS. Sir, I
move:

Page 8, lines 22 and 23, —

for "accused and the prosecution
shall have the right to lead evidence in rebut-
tal"

substitute "prosecution" (15)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY Sir, I move

Page 8, lines 22 and 23, —

omit "and the prosecution
shall have the right to lead evidence in rebut-
tal" (23)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE Sir,
I move:

Page 8, lines 17 and 18, —

omit "if, and only if, it is estab-
lished that the imputation
made or published by him is
true and" (9)

Page 8, —

omit lines 21 to 23 (10)

Sir, up to now the battle for amend-
ments was being fought between legal lumi-
naries and the Minister. I think it is the only
way now to be in this suspicious company!
Therefore, I am moving these amendments

Sir, between the lawyers there is one
advantage or disadvantage. The time tested
law cannot be contradicted. As far as com-
monsense is concerned, since I am not a
lawyer, I sometimes see that often time-
tested laws also need an amendment.
Therefore, Sir, clause 15 deals with excep-
tions on burden of proof, that is, who will be
exempted as an exception from the accusa-
tion that he has committed as defamation.

This is the fact. Here, yesterday itself I said
that clause 15 does even go one step ahead
of that IPC Section 499. Today I have seen
the official amendment moved by Chidam-
baramji. That is why I have to cover both
while speaking on my amendments. The
phrase here is "a person accused of any
offence under this section 13 shall not be
guilty of the offence.. " Now if Chidam-
baramji take out "if, and only if it is established
that the imputation made or published by him
is true and if it be for the public good that the
imputation should be made or published", I
would not insist on my first amendment. My
contention is that this Exception should have
taken into account two things. One is public
good, another is the question of fact. The
question of truth which even IPC says is
stringent. But you wanted it to be more
stringent saying that it has to be established
and only if it is established that it is true, then
that person can be waived from being prose-
cuted for defamation. My contention is that
you are going one step forward from IPC
when the IPC provision itself was preju-
diced, in my opinion. It is because, the prob-
lem here is this. Yesterday also, I raised the
question of circumstantial evidence. I may
not be in a position to prove today what I am
accusing is true but at the same time, time
may show that it is true. Yesterday, I gave the
examples—most of the Members were not
here at that time—about Ajitabh Bachchan's
case. It was reported that he has a flat in
Switzerland, bank account in Switzerland. At
that time, it was flatly denied by everybody.
Had these two provisions of IPC been im-
posed at that time, then those Press people
who have published it would have been
liable for prosecution. But later on, what has
transpired is quite different. So, they got
certain circumstantial evidence. But it could
not be proved that it is true but it is a fact, and
published in good faith. The point is that
there should not be insistence on establish-
ing the proof. Now, "establishing" has been
taken away by Chidambaramji. I am glad.
But the words, "if, and only if " remain.
Though I am a lay-woman, I can very well
say that even that part of IPC is not in the
right direction but in the left direction. That is
why, I moved my amendment. If Mr Chidam-

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

baram would accept that not only he takes out "establishing" but also take out "if, and only if", for the time being, I may withdraw my first amendment. But "if and only if" remains, I would not withdraw. That is why, I moved it. According to me, even IPC needs amendment on this.

My second amendment is, burden of proof. As far as burden of proof is concerned, every time Chidambaramji here is reading out, it is under the Evidence Act and it is stated so and so, as if Indian Evidence Act is so sacrosanct that it cannot be touched. Well, the Evidence Act as it stands today has to be changed. It has been amended. It can be amended and it should be amended, if the situation so demands. Today the situation that is prevailing is, we are fighting against corruption, as a very special case in our social life. Our law should be suited to that situation encouraging everybody to reveal whatever they know. The people are not fools that they will be taken in by anything and everything. They will also wait and see

You say Glasnost. I do not agree with that. You may accuse Shri Somnath Chatterjee. You cannot accuse me. When you are so enamoured with Glasnost, how is it that you bring this new provision of anti-Glasnost to prosecute people who really are trying to have Glasnosts in our country?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Subject to Perestroika.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Subject to Perestroika. But I need not say Glasnost. Because of this I have brought it. I thought that in the new spirit which is prevailing today, you should accept my amendment.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Why I have moved this amendment is to shift the burden of proof from the accused to prosecutor. The common principle in criminal law is that so long as a case is not proved against a person, he is to be considered innocent. This is the basic concept. When you bring Chap-

ter III Clauses 13 or 14 or 15 imposing burden of proof on the accused, that too without giving an opportunity for concerned parties to express their opinions, it is a negation of that principle. You are taking shelter under 1978 Debate in the Rajya Sabha and the Indian Penal Code Amendment which was put to debate all over the country and all the interested institutions and all persons concerned including the Bar Council and the Press Council gave their opinion at that time. Chapter III Clauses 13, 14 and 15 ask the accused to prove the negative, if an allegation is made against him in a criminal case. Therefore, the burden of proof for prosecution to prove that a false allegation is made, is given a go by. This gives up the opportunity to get the benefit of doubt for an acquittal. Suppose, a person is charge-sheeted under Section 13 or 14 and or 15 in Chapter III, that person cannot get the benefit of doubt from the court even though the principal offender can get an acquittal on benefit of doubt. Therefore, so long as it is a criminal offence, if the burden of proof is put on the accused in this way, that will take away the fundamental basic approach of criminal law. Therefore, I press my amendment.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yesterday, hon. Member Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee pointed out Clause 15 and I noticed that the words "it is established that" are redundant. In fact, the sentence reads quite correctly, if you omit those four words. Therefore, I have, readily come forward with an amendment to delete those four words "it is established that." I am sure that brings some solace to Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee who was reading too much into the words "established" and she said that the word "established" goes far beyond what is there in the earlier provisions of clause 3. Therefore, I have come forward for an amendment to delete those four words.

Similarly, in sub-Section 15 (2), the word "establishing" is really not necessary. We should use the common word "proving."

Hon. Member Mr. Thampar Thomas raised the point once again about the burden

of proof. I answered this point several times. Under the law as it stands today, exception has to be proved by the accused and, therefore, there is no particular merit in that criticism because what is there in Clause 15 is what is there in Clause 4 and is what is there in Exception 1 to Clause 499.

But there is some force in what Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has been pointing out but, I am afraid, she quite correctly characterised herself as a lay person and, that is why, this problem has arisen.

There is one thing known as 'fact' and another as 'proof of the fact.' Both the words 'fact' and 'proved' are defined in the Indian Evidence Act. You can prove a fact even through circumstantial evidence. If you have to prove the material facts which would prove the truth of a statement, you can prove those material facts even through circumstantial evidence. I am sure that if you go to the lawyer to whom you did not go, not to the lawyer when you went yesterday, but to another lawyer, he will explain to you that circumstantial evidence can be let in to prove the material facts which will prove the truth of your allegation. So, Sir, I cannot accept any of these amendments except the amendments which I have brought forward in deference to Mrs. Mukherjee's criticism.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall first put the three Government amendments moved by Shri P. Chidambaram to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"Page 8, line 16, —

for "any offence under this Chapter"

Substitute —

"an offence under section 13" (1)

Page 8, line 17, —

Omit "it is established that" (27)

Page 8, line 21, —

for "establishing" *substitute* "proving" (28)

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the House agrees, I shall now put all the other amendments together to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 9, 10, 15 and 23 were put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 15, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Lok Sabha divided.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The machine is not working. Let the slips be distributed.

19.45 hrs.

[Division No. 2]

AYES

Agarwal, Shri Jai Prakash

Akhtar Hasan, Shri

Ansari, Shri Z.R.

Bagun Sumbrui, Shri

Bairagi, Shri Balkavi

Bajpai, Dr. Rajendra Kumari

Bala Goud, Shri T.

Ban, Shri Deep Narain

Banerjee, Kumari Mamata

Basavarajeswari, Shrimati

Basavaraju, Shri G.S.

Bhagat, Shri H.K.L.**Bhakta, Shri Manoranjan****Bharat Singh, Shri****Bhosale, Shri Prataprao B.****Bhumy, Shri Haren****Bhuria, Shri Dileep Singh****Birbal, Shri****Birinder Singh, Shri****Brahma Dutt, Shri****Budania, Shri Narendra****Buta Singh, S.****Chandrakar, Shri Chandulal****Chandresh Kumari, Shrimati****Charles, Shri A.****Chaudhary, Shri Manphool Singh****Chawan, Shri Ashok Shankarrao****Chidambaram, Shri P.****Choudhary, Shri Nandlal****Dalwai, Shri Hussain****Das, Shri Bipil Pal****Dennis, Shri N.****Dev, Shri Santosh Moha****Dhillon, Dr. G.S.****Digal, Shri Radhakanta****Dighe, Shri Sharad****Digvijaya Singh, Shri****Dikshit, Shrimati Sheila****Dube, Shri Bhishma Deo****Engti, Shri Biren Singh****Gadgil, Shri V.N.****Gadhvi, Shri B.K.****Gandhi, Shri Rajiv****Ganga Ram, Shri****Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya****Gehlot, Shri Ashok****Gholap, Shri S.G.****Ghorpade, Shri M.Y.****Ghosal, Shri Debi****Ghosh, Shri Bimal Kanti****Ghosh, Shri Tarun Kanti****Gomango, Shri Girdhar****Halder, Prof. M.R.****Jaffar Sharief, Shri****Jain, Shri Dal Chander****Jain, Shri Nihal Singh****Jain, Shri Viridhi Chander****Jatav, Shri Kammodilal****Jena, Shri Chintamani****Jharkari, Shri M.L.****Jitendra Prasada, Shri****Jujhar Singh, Shri****Kamla Prasad Singh, Shri****Kaushal, Shri Jagan Nath****Kayur Bhusan, Shri**

Khan, Shri Mohd. Ayub

Khan, Shri Mohd. Ayub

Khirhar, Shri R.S.

Kibwai, Shrimati Mohsina

Kisku, Shri Prithvi Chand

Krishna Singh, Shri

Kshirsagar, Shrimati Kesharbai

Kujur, Shri Maurice

Kunjambu, Shri

Kuppuswamy, Shri C.K.

Kurien, Prof. P.J.

Lachchhi Ram, Shri

Madhuree Singh, Shrimati

Malviya, Shri Bapulal

Manvendra Singh, Shri

Mehta, Shri Harobhai

Mishra, Shri G.S.

Misra, Shri Nityananda

Murmu, Shri Sidha Lal

Murthy, Shri M.V. Chandrashekara

Naik, Shri Shantaram

Namgyal, Shri P.

Nagi, Shri Chandra Mohan Singh

Odeyar, Shri Channaleh

Oraon, Shrimati Sumati

Pandey, Shri Damodar

Pandey, Shri Madan

Panigrahi, Shri Sriballav

Panika, Shri Ram Pyare

Panja, Shri A.K.

Pardhi, Shri Kesharao

Patel, Shri Ahmed M.

Patel, Shri C.D.

Pathak, Shri Chandra Kishore

Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

Panwar, Shri Satyanarayan

Poojary, Shri Janardhana

Potdukhe, Shri Shantaram

Pradhan, Shri K.N.

Prakash Chandra, Shri

Purohit, Shri Banwari Lal

Raghuraj Singh, Chaudhary

Raj Karan Singh, Shri

Rajhans, Dr. G.S.

Ram Awadh Prasad, Shri

Ram Dhan, Shri

Ram Singh, Shri

Rana Vir Singh, Shri

Ranganath, Shri K.H.

Rao, Shri J. Vengala

Rao, Shri K.S.

Rao, Shri P.V. Narasimha

Rath, Shri Somnath

Raut, Shri Bhala

Rawat, Shri Harish

Rawat, Shri Prabhu Lal

Sahi, Shrimati Krishna

Sait, Shri Azeez

Sankata Prasad, Dr.

Scindia, Shri Madhavrao

Sethi, Shri Ananta Prasad

Shah, Shri Anoopchand

Shankarlal, Shri

Shastri, Shri Hari Krishna

Siddiq, Shri Hafiz Mohd.

Solanki, Shri Kalyan Singh

Soren, Shri Harihar

Sreenivasa Prasad, Shri V.

Sukhbuns Kaur, Shrimati

Sultanpuri, Shri K.D.

Suman, Shri R.P.

Thakkar, Shrimati Usha

Thomas, Prof. K.V.

Thungon, Shri P.K.

Tomar, Shrimati Usha Rani

Tombi Singh, Shri N.

Tripathi, Dr. Chandra Shekhar

Vanakar, Shri Punam Chand Mithabhai

Vijayaraghavan, Shri V.S.

Yadav, Shri Ram Singh

Yogesh, Shri Yogeshwar Prasad

NOES

Acharia, Shri Basudeb

Basu, Shri Anil

Biswas, Shri Ajoy

Chatterjee, Shri Somnath

Chowdhary, Shri Saifuddin

Dandavate, Prof. Madhu

Das, Shri R.P.

Datta, Shri Amal

Deo, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S.

Dora, Shri H.A.

Ghosh Goswami, Shrimati Bibha

Hannan Mollah, Shri

Hansda, Shri Matilal

Kamson, Prof. Meijinlung

Mahata, Shri Chitta

Malik, Shri Purna Chandra

Masudal Hossain, Shri Syed

Misra, Shri Satyagopal

Mukherjee, Shrimati Geeta

Murty, Shri Bhattam Srirama

Pathak, Shri Ananda

Raju, Shri Vijaya Kumar

Rao, Shri A.J.V.B. Maheswara

Rao, Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara

Reddi, Shri C. Madhav

Reddy, Shri B.N.

Clause 17 (*Power of High Court to make rules*)

Reddy, Shri C. Janga

Reddy, Shri E. Ayyapu

SHRI E AYYAPU REDDY: I beg to move:

Reddy, Shri K. Ramachandra

Page 8, lines 35 and 36, —

Reddy, Shri M. Raghuma

for "filing an appeal to it under this Chapter"

Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal

substitute

Riyan, Shri Baju Ban

Saha, Shri Gadadhar

"giving effect to the provisions of this Chapter", (24)

Samarit, Dr. Datta

Tanti, Shri Bhadreswar

Thomas, Shri Thampan

Thota, Shri Gopal Krishna

Tiraky, Shri Piyus

Zainal Abedin, Shri

The effect of my amendment would be that the High Court may make such rules for giving effect to this chapter. Even with regard to how the application has to be received by a Sessions Judge, how it has to be disposed of, the High Court has got the overall jurisdiction to frame rules even with regard to subordinate courts. Therefore, I want my amendment to be accepted by substituting 'giving effect to the provisions of this Chapter'.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Subject to correction, the result of division is:

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not find any reason to accept this amendment.

Ayes — 146*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 24 moved by Shri A. Ayyapu Reddy to the vote of the House.

Noes — 39

Amendment No 24 was put and negatived.

The motions was adopted

Clause 15, as amended, was added to the Bill

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is

"That Clause 17 stand part of the Bill".

"That clause 16 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

The motion was adopted

Clause 17 was added to the Bill

Clause 16 was added to the Bill

Clause 18 (*Application of the codes to offences under this Act subject to certain modifications*)

* As corrected.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: I beg to move:

"Page 9, line 1, —

for "shall" substitute "may".(25)

With this, I will close my comments on this Bill. The proviso under Clause 18 reads:

"Provided that where the accused, being the editor, publisher or printer of a newspaper or periodical is prosecuted for an offence under the Defamation Act, 1988 the court shall not dispense with his personal attendance if it is proved that he has refused within a reasonable time, to publish any reply of the person against whom any imputation relating to..."

Usually, the discretion is given to the magistrate and the judicial officer to dispense with the presence of an accused. These are offences which are bailable and non-cognizable. Even in a murder case or dacoity, where the accused is punishable with imprisonment or death sentence, the discretion rests with the judge to dispense with his presence. That discretion is sought to be taken away. That shows the pent up feelings of the treasury benches against the press. Why should this harsh treatment be meted out to an editor, or publishers. Most probably, they had Arun Shourie in mind when they drafted this proviso. My amendment is to substitute 'may' in place of 'shall', so that the court may dispense with their presence in suitable cases. I know of a particular case where an editor was prosecuted on the basis of a private complaint in a remote first class magistrate's court. His presence was insisted. He was a busy person, but in spite of that, he had to make his presence in that remote place causing enormous loss to him. This is nothing but persecution, not prosecution against the press. I hope, my amendment will be accepted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I anticipated that this kind of twist will be given to a provision which has to be read with existing

Section 205 of the Cr. P.C. We are not touching Section 205, Sub-section (1) and (2) of the Cr. P.C. Sub-Section (1) says that whenever a magistrate issues a summons, he may, if he sees reasons to dispense with the personal appearance of the accused and permit him to appear by his pleader and Sub-section (2) says, however, at any stage, he may direct his personal appearance.

20.00 hrs.

This discretion has been given entirely to the Magistrate. All that is being done is in an offence of defamation, the minimum that a complainant is entitled to expect of a newspaper editor, printer or publisher who has published matter which the complainant thinks is defamatory is that the complainant's reply should be published. We are not asking for an apology from the printer, publisher or editor. The complainant's reply to the defamatory matter should be published and if the editor, printer or publisher, within a reasonable time, refuses to publish even a reply, even then should he remain away from the court? It is a very strange case you are pleading for editors, printers and publishers, Mr. Ayyapu Reddy. Kindly read the section. We are not asking the editor, printer or publisher to tender an apology at this stage. He may go and defend himself. We are only saying that if a complainant asks the editor, printer or publisher to please publish his reply and the editor, printer or publisher refuses to do so, and then the complainant goes to the court and sues him for defamation, then we think that the editor, printer or publisher should appear before the court. What is wrong with this? What are you pleading for?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No. 25 to Clause 18 moved by Shri Ayyapu Reddy to the vote of the House.

Amendment No 25 was put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 18 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 18 was added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"The Clauses 19 to 22 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clauses 19 to 22 were added to the Bill

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, Enacting Formula and Long Title were added to the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and Long Title were added to the Bill

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, this Bill which is being passed in an unseemly haste violating the rules of the House is a product of nervousness born out of guilt complex of this Government and is the clearest admission that the Government has no answer on merits to the various charges of corruption which have already been made or are likely to be made. (*Interruptions*)

As can be seen from Chapter III of this

Bill, since their cupboards are full of skeletons and their 'Operation Cover-up' has failed miserably, it is now being followed by 'Operation Intimidation' — intimidation primarily of the press because they had done a great national service by exposing corruption at various levels. Sir, this Bill is an attempt to scuttle exposure and a more appropriate preamble of this Bill would be 'Bill for unrestrained and unlimited corruption'.

With all my respect for Thiru Chidambaram's persuasiveness and eloquence, I would state that this sudden attempt to create a new offence, viz. 'offence of criminal imputation' has been thought of and its object can only be that even a suspicion should not be allowed to be made even on the basis of reasonable material on which an inference can be drawn properly. Today, you want to completely preclude any publication of any set of circumstances from which reasonable inferences can be drawn. A very recent instance which this House had discussed, as I said earlier, was the disclosure made in *The Statesman* on ONGC's deal. It has now appeared that there was a middleman contrary to the Government's own decision, that moneys which had been paid by the Japanese Concern, had been deposited in England in the name of a Panamanian Concern and suddenly this money is repatriated to India. During the discussion the hon. Finance Minister Shri Chavan could not deny that there were charges of violation of FERA — Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. He could not dispute that. He stated that they are looking into it. In future that report can never be published unless the publisher or the editor invites a prosecution immediately. It is because he will be asked to prove to the hilt the truth of it and only defence that is permitted is truth, of complete truth, which nobody can do without the assistance of the Government...

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Why are you making false allegation?

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Why do you want to cover up everything?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is a very serious matter. I am very respectfully submitting that until the hon. Finance Minister's reply had come on that discussion, one could not say that there was any basis of allegation or not. The Finance Minister on the floor of Parliament had to admit that these are matters which require to be looked into. Therefore that stage would not have come. Mr. Chavan, you need not answer any charge in future. No Finance Minister will be required to do that. It is because, he would ask anybody to make a complaint. The hurry with which this Bill is being passed and the Government's insistence yesterday that it must be taken up at any cost without giving proper opportunity to the Members to study, leaves a very bad taste in the mouth. You will be able to pass it. We have no doubt about it. But the question is whether it will be accepted by the people. I have a quotation here. I know it will be of no effect. This quotation may be found acceptable, I do not know. It is a very well-known observation from the judges of Supreme Court in a defamation case filed before it. I quote:

"Those who fill a public position must not be too thin skinned in reference to comments made upon them. It would be made upon public men which they know from the bottom of their hearts were undeserved and unjust; yet they must bear with them and submit to be misunderstood for a time" (Per Cockburn, Chief Justice)

"Whoever fills a public position renders himself open thereto. He must accept an attack as necessary though unpleasant, appendage to his office."

"Public men in such positions may as well think it worth their while to ignore such vulgar criticisms and abuses hurled against them rather than give importance to the same by prosecuting the persons responsible for the same."

I have also personally been a victim of newspaper propaganda. I had gone to the Press Council and Press Council upheld my

charge and it held that the newspaper had acted irresponsibly and it should be censured which the newspaper has failed to publish. But the question is what is being intended? There are the usual laws. All these years, these laws have operated. What you have done under Sections 1 to 12 is you have merely reproduced the Indian Penal Code. What was the sudden necessity for engrafting or taking it out from the Indian Penal Code and putting it in a new Act—we do not understand. But really this has been done in the name of so-called codification, to give company to Chapter III, because if you had come to the House only with Chapter III, you would have been subjected to greater criticism. People now are thinking: "Well it is a codification law. Why are these Opposition people shouting against it?" That is why, without coming before the House only with Chapter III, which is the real law which is being created, you are introducing this in the Statute Book of this country. You have only added Chapters I and II, transplanting them from the Indian Penal Code. Therefore, the real objective is Chapter III. Chapter I or Chapter II has no particular significance, because that is almost the existing law.

Therefore, we feel that the real object is stifling dissent, stifling exposure; and in our country where there are so many economic offenders and so many economic offences are being created and so many laws have been passed—even a preventive detention law has been passed for the purpose of dealing with economic offences—now those economic offenders will not even be suspected to have committed an offence. This will be a very serious thing. That is why I had suggested that at least let the economic offenders not come under Chapter III, if somebody makes an allegation of commission of an economic offence. I am not saying that nobody can proceed against him. You can proceed under Chapter II of this new law. What are you giving here? You are saying that about economic offences, whoever says anything must prove it to the hilt. That is why I said: it is an absolute offence, and you have provided for an absolute pun-

ishment; a minimum jail sentence has been given. I submit that this is a law which even now the Government should reconsider, and not Press it through—at least Chapter III in the form in which it has been drafted.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Since the House has discussed clause-by-clause the entire Bill, and so many amendments have been rejected—of course, one of them has been accepted—I will not like to go at this fag end of the debate, into various clauses. But I would like to make brief, general observations.

Sir: I have always believed that in the governance of the country, it is always better to rely more on the freedom of expression, rather than more constraints and restraints, which are stretched to the extreme.

As far as various crimes and aberrations are concerned, no doubt we have to deal with them; but in dealing with them, it is better to rely more on the existing laws and stringent laws, rather than trying to have a proliferation of more and more laws, and more amendments to the existing laws.

On the question of defamation, it is better to rely on a proper balance between restraint and constraint on the one side, and freedom of expression on the other. Unfortunately, the Bill which has been moved for consideration and passing, do totally ignore the entire history of exposures of various corruption scandals in this country, for a clean political and economic life.

I do not want to stress only on what had happened outside. But I would only very briefly try to refer to some of the episodes which have been actually exposed to the hilt; and in doing that, the forum of Parliament, the forum of the Press and even public debates have been utilized.

In the presence of the Prime Minister, I cannot forget his respectable rather, a great hon. Member of this House, who had exposed, both by campaign outside Parliament and inside Parliament the famous

Mundhra scandal, the LIC scandal, in which initially when all the details came and some of the reports were published in the Press, at that time many voices were raised that those were unfounded rumours.

Only at a later stage almost at the fag end of that, in the debate in the Parliament Mr. Feroze Gandhi was able to produce correspondence between the Finance Minister and the Finance Secretary and some members in the House objected to his laying on the Table the correspondence between the Finance Minister and the Finance Secretary and the then Speaker gave the ruling, "I am not concerned how the documents are obtained by Mr. Feroze Gandhi", and he said clearly in the House that, "Even if the documents are produced by stealth, I am not concerned about it so long as the hon. Member is prepared to authenticate, and I accept the responsibility for the authenticity of the documents." And he said, "Outside also the debates have taken place. Outside, the articles appeared. But I am convinced at this stage that concrete documents have been laid" and the proof came at a fag end.

I would like to point out to you, not only in this country, but elsewhere, if the latitude to the Press was not available and they were trapped in the mesh of defamation laws and levels, no investigative journalism would have been possible.

In the United States the famous Water-gate scandal did not come out first on the floor of the Senate, but the details came through the Press. They were challenged that they were indulging in character assassination but only step by step through investigative journalism they began with a circumstantial evidence and at a later stage the climax was the documentary evidence that was made available, when the members of the party itself said that if he does not resign, in that case, we will have to resort to impeachment, only at that stage the final issue was clinched.

In Japan the Lockheed scandal, first the reports appeared in the Press and those who

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

published the report were not penalised for whatever reports had appeared in the Press. Later on concrete results came. Circumstantial evidence was converted into corroborative evidence, and corroborative evidence was converted into documentary evidence. That is how actually the exposures of those scandals took place.

In my own State of Maharashtra the Linten Commission came at a later stage. But prior to that, inside the Parliament, inside the Assembly, through the various journals number of details were brought out concerning the involvement of one particular Chief Minister in the matter in which the Centre was also involved regarding the distribution of cement. And when a nexus was established at that time he himself alleged that these are defamatory remarks. Later on in one of the cases it was established that concrete evidence came forward.

So, I insist that some latitude is necessary for investigative journalism in this country and the manner in which, they hastily try to go through this Bill, I was surprised that they were not even prepared to put the debate up to tomorrow. Sometimes I got a hunch that if they are insisting that they must go to sleep after adopting the Bill, sometimes I get a suspicion whether they are frightened, that tomorrow morning something is going to appear and probably some one may try to indulge in certain type of allegations. I do not know why this undue haste.

In the past, debates went on and I will also add also one instance which I have forgotten. In this very House Mr. H.V. Kamath had laid on the Table of the House a C.B.I. report about certain deeds. But it came as a climax after the debate went on in journals outside this House and only as a climax Mr. H.V. Kamath demanded that "I know that the CBI report is actually indicating all the evidence" and when the Government was not prepared to lay the CBI report on the Table of the House he produced the report and laid it on the Table of the House. Mr. H.V. Kamath could have been arrested and

prosecuted if at all this Bill were to be passed earlier. Thank God, at that time it did not happen! Mr. Feroze Gandhi could have been prosecuted and he could have been arrested, but thank God, Mr. Feroze Gandhi brought out that particular episode long before the present Government came into being!

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): One minute, Professor.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am not yielding. I am at the flag end. Why do you want to disturb me? In spite of that, if you insist, I will yield. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF: Sir, it is so unfortunate, I do not know whether it is Prof. or many other people, how long they would like to feel that they can carry this kind of a thing. What I am trying to submit is the credibility of the system. You do not have to bother about the people. When the people get the opportunity, they will give the mandate. What happened to your Shah Commission? The character assassination in this country, if you continue with this kind of a trend, then what will happen to the credibility of the system? And you want this system to continue and say that it should follow what you are talking about the previous history.

Mr. Prof. I would request you, let us think of the future and the credibility of the system. Do not talk something. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: All right. He is an old friend of mine. Therefore I wanted to yield. I thought that he will throw some light on what I have been saying. In fact Sir, I do not know during my brief observation... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF: You have not talked about the system... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I lis-

tened to you. I am neither deaf nor am I not in a position not to comprehend what you have said. All that I was pointing out is that I did not cast aspersions on any one. Only I was trying to build a case on the basis of experiences of our political and economic life that in this country investigative journalism worked under political leaders, eminent Parliamentarians like Feroze Gandhi and a number of others both inside the Parliament and outside have actually contributed to exposure of corruption in the country and that was possible because an element of freedom of expression was available. I am sorry to state that the type of Bill that we are likely to pass will take away that freedom and tomorrow, many journalists will be haunted with this fear that if they indulge in an investigative journalism even in a healthy manner, they are likely to come into trouble. Sir, in doing that they have quoted the experience of 1978. As my colleagues have rightly pointed out to you, whatever has been mentioned upto Third Chapter, I can understand that. I only want to go on record that in 1978, under the then Janata Government, Rajya Sabha had adopted a particular Bill and then it could not come to Lok Sabha because by that time, the Lok Sabha was dissolved. I want to go on record that prior to that amendment 204 provisions in the Indian Penal Code in 1978, the Law Commission's recommendations were taken note of; the Press Commission sent its note, they were taken note of; various Bar Councils were consulted; people were asked to give their evidence and on the basis of that certain formulations were done. Throwing away all that, in such an unseemly hurry, our Parliamentary Minister was insisting that whatever may happen, even if we sit up to midnight, today only the Bill must be passed. I feel that they can hurriedly pass this Bill. But the way the public reaction has taken place about the Bill that has been introduced in this House whether it is a pro-Congress journal or an anti-Congress journal, uniformly there were reactions. And I want to join the issue within one second with the Minister, while some of us said that investigative journalists like Chitra Subramaniam would also come into trouble if this Bill were to be passed earlier,

he himself made a statement in the House that 'I went through those despatches and pieces in Hindu, and I do not think that that particular right writings in Hindu by Chitra Subramaniam will attract the provisions of this.' On the contrary, if the very first despatch sent by her, which got a seven column headline in Hindu, in which it was said that "Hinduja connected with PITCO payments", is taken I am sure that on the basis of the Bill that has been already framed, whatever assurance the Minister has given, he will not be able to stand with that particular assurance. Therefore, I feel that since this particular Bill in the manner in which it is being passed, with its provisions, is likely to destroy the freedom of expression. Even at this final stage, I request that wiser counsel should prevail on the Minister and even at this stage, he should declare that he would not press for passing of this Bill. In case he is not able to do it, I would request and appeal to the conscience of the House, which I feel is still not nationalised. Let them use their conscience vote and throw away this obnoxious Bill in defence of freedom and freedom of expression.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor): We are very much concerned that the country is passing through a very difficult situation so far as national calamities like floods, earthquake, etc. are concerned. May I ask the Government: What has necessitated them to bring such a Bill at this juncture when the country is passing through a very difficult situation? Lakhs of people in the country have been rendered homeless and their properties washed away... (*Interruptions*)

Section 499 of the IPC is the verbatim copy of section 3 of this Bill. This is nothing new. Already we are having a law under the Indian Penal Code... (*Interruptions*) Please stop this running commentary. (*Interruptions*) This is their culture what can I do?

Sections 499 and 500 are sufficient to deal with the situation and it is not necessary to bring a new law like the present one.

[Sh. Bhadreswar Tanti]

In the Indian Penal Code, in a murder case, the burden of proof is on the prosecution and not on the accused. Sir here under this Bill if a defamation is made, lighter punishment has been provided but the burden of proof is on the accused. I do not know why this double standard. Even though you are champion of bringing black laws like this, you should be the champion of implementing the laws also. I know, what is in your mind. *(Interruptions)* This Bill is nothing but just to trap an innocent man and put him behind the bars. Suppose, I am in possession of an instrument which constitutes an offence. They will simply go and file a complaint in the court that I have an intention to rap. Should I be punished for that because I am having an instrument which constitutes an offence? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you interrupt him, he will take more time.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: The basic principles of the Constitution cannot be changed and the Supreme Court has upheld so. I have my right under article 19 of the Constitution. But by this black law you are going to curtail my right under article 19 of the Constitution. I request the Government to concentrate its mind on the building of the nation and not to bring such black laws. I request the Minister concerned to withdraw this Bill.

SHRIP. CHIDAMBARAM: I am grateful to the hon. Members who have spoken at the third reading of the Bill although it is a matter of regret that they should continue to repeat the same criticism without regard to the explanations and answers which were furnished during the course of the debate.

The charge was again repeated that the Bill is being introduced in a hurry. Merely because the charge is repeated again and again, it does not become the truth. As we have said earlier, this Bill has been under the consideration not only of this Government but previous Governments also. In fact, on more than one occasion, Ministers have

made statements in this House that we intend to bring a comprehensive law on defamation. The matter was considered by the 42nd Law Commission and the Second Press Commission. Portions of this Bill are on the lines of certain provisions introduced by the then Janata Government in 1978. After most careful consideration and after spending several houses at various levels of Government, this Bill was given notice of to the Lok Sabha on the 22nd of August and was circulated on the 23rd of August. The fact that 24th, 25th and 26th were holidays which Parliament declared unto itself for variety of reasons, is certainly not a factor which can be put against Government because Government has circulated this Bill on the 23rd of August. After we introduced the Bill and we began consideration yesterday, the Speaker allowed only two hours to the Bill. But we immediately responded and said, we had no objection to the Bill being debated as long as they wanted it to be debated. We have spent the full day today and a substantial part of yesterday debating this Bill. And what did we get out of this debate from those who were clamouring so much for time? As I said in my reply to the debate, two hon. Members from whom I expected considerable help, assistance and guidance, did not make any contribution to any clause of the Bill. On the contrary, Mrs. Mukherjee who described herself as a lay person and whom today I am willing to exalt to a position higher than most lawyers, pointed out certain things in the Bill which readily accepted. Mr. Ayyapu Reddy pointed out something which we had overlooked, and I readily accepted. So, the criticism is for the sake of criticism. Perhaps there is a more sinister design in this kind of an orchestrated criticism.

Mr. Madhu Dandavate, for all his long years of opposition politics, can think of no better example than Mr. Feroze Gandhi, who belonged to the Congress Party... *(Interruptions)*.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I do not worry who fights corruption.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: But Mr. Feroze Gandhi and the enterprising journalist who investigated Watergate, investigated the scandals with a tremendous sense of responsibility... (*Interruptions*). Sir, there is a peculiar standard here. We should listen to them without interruption, they should interrupt us without allowing us to speak. Let me finish first. Sir, the two journalists who investigated Watergate — and I am sure you have read their book on how the investigation took place — did so with a tremendous sense of responsibility. At every stage they would check back with the White House and ask the White House if the White House had any comments to make. At every stage he would go back to what was described in the book as 'deep-throat, verified and then only published'. That is why I say this and I maintain this. I maintain the statement I made earlier I disagree totally with Chitra Subramaniam's conclusion. I think her inferences are wrong, her efforts are praiseworthy but her inferences are wrong. The analysis which they seek to make was commendable. But the conclusions are totally misconceived. But knowing that paper. I am willing to make a statement that nothing which Miss Chitra Subramaniam has written amounts to a false allegation or a false imputation of a criminal offence against any person. That is the high-standard which the paper has so far maintained although its conclusions are something in it which I totally disagree. But how many maintain that standard? How many people who make the allegations maintain that standard? And why are we constantly calling in the aid of newspaper? Clause 13 of this Bill has nothing to do with the newspapers. Clause 13 of this Bill has everything to do with a person who makes a reckless allegation, an irresponsible allegation, a false allegation, a criminal imputation against another person which would harm his reputation and will run away with the tail between his legs when challenged to prove the truth.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I would like to point out most humbly that in this very House when Chitra Subramaniam's thesis was read out and quoted, there were voices

in this House which said that those were C.I.A. agents. I want to remind you.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What is the relevance of this intervention to the point I am making? The point I am making is: has she or did she at any time make a false... (*Interruptions*) Sir, this is an intervention in order to divert my trend of thought and interrupt the line of my argument. He asked a specific question and I am answering that specific question. The point that Clause 13 deals with is that you cannot make a false allegation, criminal imputation of an offence against the person, without standing by the truth of that allegation. Mr. Feroze Gandhi would have stood the test of Section 13. But I challenge you to stand the test of Section 13 when you make an allegation. We know what happened between 1977 and 1979. They put up microphones in Patiala House and strung loudspeakers upto Daryagunj and propagated in the streets of Delhi all kinds of malicious, mischievous and vicious allegations (*Interruptions*)

Sir, there is nothing in this Bill against the freedom of the press and I will say this again. I will defend until my death, until my last breath the freedom of press and the right of the newspapers and periodicals to publish what is true. They have the right to publish what is true. Investigations must lead to truth, investigations must lead to fact, investigations cannot lead you to innuendo, investigations cannot lead you to insinuation. Sir, the truth is that the fault is not with the newspapers and periodicals. These newspapers and periodicals or magazines, when they want to take upon themselves investigative work, they will take upon themselves investigative work and if anyone of them crosses the limits of law, I am sure the newspaper editors, printers and the publishers would defend themselves in the court of law. The truth is not that. The truth is that some vested interests would like the newspapers and periodicals and magazines to become the vehicles for their insinuation and innuendo. That is what we say is wrong. The newspapers and periodicals and magazines, freedom of expression and freedom of

[Sh. P. Chidambaram] speech, are not a vehicle of insinuation and innuendo. They say that there is nothing new in this Bill. This is nothing. I pinched myself and I asked myself: what are we doing here for the last 8 hours here? Clause 9, Clause 10 and Clause 11 are absolutely new. They do not exist in today's laws. So much was coincided by every speaker who spoke and yet Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, Prof. Madhu Dandavate and the hon. members would stand up and say that there is nothing new in this Bill. How can you say that? (Interruptions) Whom are you trying to distract and delude by saying that there is nothing new in this Bill? Clauses 9, 10 and 11 are enough affirmation that this Government fully support the freedom of press and is committed to liberalising the law on defamation and that is why Clauses 9, 10 and 11 have been introduced.

Sir, clause 13 is an implacable foe of one person. Clause 13 is the implacable foe of a person who will indulge in mischievous and malicious insinuation and innuendo. I reject the argument that responsible editors, printers, publishers, journalists, correspondents of newspapers in India will indulge in such things. I am sure they understand the responsibility. If here and there is one correspondent or one journalist who strays from the path of law, surely the editor, the printer and the publisher would bring him to the path of law. But the point is, here we have got groups of people, organised groups of people, who have organised themselves. We saw how they have organised as a seven-Party Front and even on a minor matter they would not let Mr. Madhav Reddi make a suggestion; the seven-Party Front crumbled before our eyes here. The seven-Party Front could not agree even on the point whether the debate should be resumed at 6 o'clock. But they would form themselves into fronts, into morchas, and into all kinds of things. Why? To carry on this insidious campaign of innuendo and insinuation. That is what clause 13 is against. Those who have regard for truth, those who have regard for investigation, those who will go step by step, those who will go from one fact to another

fact, those who will go from evidence to fact, to proof, they have nothing to worry. When Mr. Dandavate spoke about circumstantial evidence and concrete evidence, I was only reminded about how Mr. Vinod Dua and Mr. Ram Jethmalani fared against each other in that famous television interview. You almost reflected the words, you almost repeated the words of Mr. Ram Jethmalani. The Evidence Act is there, the Evidence Act defines what a fact is, the Evidence Act defines what 'proved' is, the Evidence Act defines what evidence is. From evidence you go to proof and proof will lead you to fact. Evidence can be circumstantial evidence, evidence can be oral evidence, evidence can be documentary evidence. If you make an allegation, an allegation which is not mere defamation but an aggravated form of defamation, certainly you have to stand by the truth. And then the question is asked that the only defence open to us under clause 13 is truth. It is so even under today's law. Kindly go back and look at clause 3, look at each one of the ten exceptions. None of the nine exceptions after exception 1 will apply to a false imputation of an offence. A false imputation of an offence, Professor Sahib, falls today under Section 499, it also falls under clause 3. But in clause 3 there are ten exceptions. We are carving out one and putting it in clause 13. Ignore clause 13, let us for a moment suspend Chapter III of this Bill and go back to Chapter II, take clause 3. If you make a false allegation of an imputation of a criminal offence, which is the exception which will come to your defence? Only the first exception will come to your defence, no other exception will come to your defence. It is the only exception... (Interruptions). Just a moment, I am answering it. Only exception 1 will come to your defence, exception 2 to exception 10 will not come to your aid even under today's law, even if the offence of a false imputation of a criminal offence is taken under Section 3. What we are doing is bodily lifting the aggravated form of defamation and the only exception which is relevant and applicable is exception 1 and putting it under Section 13 and Section 15 and giving it to a higher court requiring the court to conclude the trial within a period of three months so that either the

man who has committed the offence is exposed to the world or the man who has made a defamatory statement, his lie is nailed. And we are providing for a minimum punishment to one who cannot establish his charge. There is nothing, Sir. If only the lawyers will sit with other lawyers and discuss this Bill, if only lay persons will take the advice of the lawyers, they are taking advice from lawyers like Mrs. Geeta Mukherjee did yesterday —

if you look at the provisions of the Bill, you will find that there is nothing in clause 13 and clause 15, which is different from clause 3, exception 1. Today we are only taking the aggravated form of defamation and saying truth is the defence because truth is the defence today and truth is the defence in the new provision. Sir, I cannot understand why they are running away from truth. For too long... (*Interruptions*). Wait a minute. Every day we stand here, we answer questions, we answer debates, we are not running away from truth, but when we introduce one provision which is nothing different from the existing provision of law and give it to a higher court and say 'within three months' either the lie will be nailed or the man will be exposed, here is the whole Opposition joining together and says: "No, truth shall not be the defence". Sir, I do not know how to make such a law. The only way of pleasing the Opposition is to say that untruth will be a defence; lie will be a defence. Such a law cannot be made by Parliament.

This Bill is brought after careful consid-

eration. This Bill advances the freedom of Press. This Bill introduces clauses 9, 10 and 11 which are liberal provisions, which liberalise the law of defamation and advance the cause of the Press. This Bill will protect reputations which are sacred. This Bill will raise the standard of political debate in this country and this Bill, as a codified Bill, a codification as a measure, I believe, will be welcomed throughout this country.

So, I commend this Bill to the vote of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended be passed."

The motion was adopted

20.45 hrs.

At this stage, Shri C. Madhav Reddi and Some other Hon. Members left the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to re-assemble tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

20.45 1/2 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 31, 1988/Bhadra 9, 1910 (Saka)