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Chaitra 11, 1908 (Saka)

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(Fifth Session)



सत्यमेव जयते

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CONTENTS

No. 25—Tuesday, April 1, 1986/Chaitra 11, 1908 (Saka)

Oral Answers to Questions :

COLUMNS

***Starred Questions Nos. 493 to 498**

1—36

Written Answers to Questions :

Starred Questions Nos. 499 to 505 and 507 to 513

... 36—51

**Unstarred Questions Nos. 4626 to 4658, 4660 to 4696 and
4698 to 4839**

~ 51—298

Papers Laid on the Table

-- 303—305

**Statement Re : Extension of Scheme for Industrialisation
of Backward Areas—**

Shri M. Arunachalam

305—306

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—

(i) Need to commence the financial year on 1st September

Shri Sriballav Panigrahi

306—307

**(ii) Need to increase the procurement of iron ore from
non-captive mines**

Shri Chintaman Panigrahi

307

**(iii) Fixation of price of gas supplied for power generation at
Uran, Maharashtra on coal equivalent basis**

Shri S.G. Gholap

308

**(iv) Financial and technical assistance to Kerala for
development of Mappila Bay, Cannanore, as a
fullfledged port**

Shri Mullappally Ramachandran

308—309

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

COLUMNS

(v) Measures needed to lift the heavy stocks of foodgrains accumulated in Punjab

Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalla . . . 309

(vi) Telephone system in Calcutta

Shri Somnath Chatterjee . . . 310

(vii) Need to expedite the setting up of Fertilizer factories in Jagdishpur, Shahjahanpur, Aonla and Badaun

Shri Madan Pandey . . . 310—311

(viii) Need to direct State Governments to adopt measures for welfare of farmers,

Shrimati Usha Choudhuri . . . 311—312

(ix) Construction of a Railway over-bridge near Alwar Railway Station

Shri Ram Singh Yadav . . . 312—313

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1986-87—Contd.

(i) Ministry of Commerce—Contd. . . . 313—410

Shri Thampan Thomas . . . 313—319

Dr. G.S. Rajhans . . . 319—323

Shri Ram Singh Yadav . . . 323—326

Shri P. Kolandaivelu . . . 326—331

Shri Hafiz Modh. Siddiq . . . 331—333

Shri K.G. Adiyodi . . . 333—336

Shri K. Mohandas . . . 336—337

Shri Dinesh Goswami . . . 338—342

Shri Shanti Dhariwal . . . 342—344

Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas . . . 344—349

Shri Abdul Rashid Kabuli . . . 349—353

Shri R. Jeevarathinam . . . 353—357

Shri C.K. Kuppusamy . . . 357—360

(iii)

COLUMNS

Shri C. Janga Reddy	.	.	.	.	360—364
Shri G.L. Dogra	.	.	.	.	364—368
Shri G.S. Basawaraj	.	.	.	.	368—370
Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee	.	.	.	.	370—375
Shri K.S. Rao	.	.	.	.	375—379
Shri Piyus Tiraky	.	.	.	.	372—382
Shri P. Penchalliah	.	.	.	.	382—385
Shri P. Shiv Shanker	.	.	.	.	385—408
(ii) Ministry of Steel and Mines—	.	.	.	.	411—442
Shri Bhattam Srirama Murty	.	.	.	.	415—423
Shri P.C. Sethi	.	.	.	.	429—437
Shri Purna Chander Malik	.	.	.	.	438—442

STATEMENT CORRECTING EARLIER REPLY TO THE DISCUSSION ON THE DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1986-87
IN RESPECT OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

Shri P. Shiv Shanker	.	.	.	.	437—438
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, April 1, 1986/Chaitra 11, 1908
(SAKA)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Nathpa Jhakri Project

*493. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in completion of Nathpa Jhakri Project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Techno-economic approval for the Nathpa Jhakri Project (1020 MW) was accorded by the Central Electricity Authority in 1980. However, Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board based on certain further optimisation studies is preparing a revised report for a capacity of 1500 MW in consultation with CEA. Government of Himachal Pradesh has applied for clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, for the forest land required for the project. The project would be considered for an investment decision after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

(b) The time schedule for completion can be finalised only after the investment decision, and the funding pattern are determined.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA :

The hon. Minister has been pleased to tell this House that the techno-economic approval for the Nathpa Jhakri Project was accorded by the Central Electricity Authority in the year, 1980. May I know from the hon. Minister as to when the idea of this Project was first mooted ? The approval has been accorded by the Central Electricity Authority about six years back. Then why this delay ?

Is it also not a fact that the then Minister of State for Energy Mr. Vikram Mahajan had actually laid the foundation stone of this Project and the name of Shri Sanjay Gandhi is also associated with this Project known as Sanjay Gandhi Vidyut Project ?

If so, was the foundation stone laid without the clearance of the forest ?

[Translation]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Why do they lay foundation stones 10 times for a project ?

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : During your regime, even more irregularities were committed.

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as the Sanjay Vidyut Project is concerned, it is a different project at different site for about 100 MW capacity which is already progressing. That has nothing to do with Nathpa Jhakri Project which is a major project. It was conceived by the Himachal Government in 1974 at a cost of about Rs. 254 crores then and for about 1,020 MW capacity.

It was the State Government project initially. But then it so happened that they kept on getting clearances and revising the project. They themselves said in 1979 that it will cost Rs. 533.88 crores,

Then in 1984 they said "Now it will cost Rs. 1,139 crores" and, therefore, they said that it was not possible for the State Government to find these funds and requested the Central Government to see that the Project is taken up by the Central Government through its agency, the NHPC. We are, therefore, now examining it as a combined NHPC plus Himachal Government Project and that is how the thing is being worked out and today's cost would come to about Rs. 2,000 crores. It is not possible for any State Government to find such large funds.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the hon. Minister for Energy kindly state whether it is a fact that the Himachal Pradesh Government had entered into an agreement with the Government of Haryana for the completion of this project and there was full agreement regarding the cost to be shared and also the share of energy? If so, does the agreement still stand?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : There was originally an agreement between the Governments of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh that they will make this project as a combined project because the major share of the power will be used not by the Himachal Pradesh Government—their needs are very small—but they will be selling it to Haryana and to the Northern Grid. But, later on, when Haryana Government expressed its inability to put any funds into this project and when the Himachal Government found that they also could not put their funds, Haryana Government withdrew from it and the Himachal Pradesh Government put the entire project for central assistance and asked the Central Government to come in.

[Translation]

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : During the course of his reply the hon. Minister has stated that Rs. 2,000 crores will be spent on Nathpa Jhakri Project. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what would be the share of Himachal Pradesh as the royalty and in the power as per the agreement that is being signed between the Central Government and the Government of Himachal Pradesh? What

would be the quantum of money or power per M.W. to be given to Himachal Pradesh with a view to improve its economic condition? As you have said, an agreement was reached with Haryana for Nathpa Jhakri Project, but both Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have now agreed that the two State Governments are not capable to execute this project. I would like to know as to why don't you provide funds to Himachal Pradesh and Haryana so as to enable them to derive benefit from the power that would be generated?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : There is a common formula that the State where such a project is located is entitled to get 12 per cent electricity free of cost from the project. Now it is upto them whether to utilise their entire quota for their own consumption or to utilise only 2 per cent and to sell out the balance 10 per cent to earn income. Initially, it was decided that they would execute the entire project themselves and would sell power to others to earn income. It would have been a nice thing, had they been able to do so, but there goes a saying that if....

MR. SPEAKER : If the sky falls, we shall catch the larks.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Where from the funds will be mobilised?

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : How much provision has been made for this in the Plan?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Himachal Pradesh Government has not made any provision in their budget. We have made a provision of Rs. 90 crores in the budget for Nathpa Jhakri Project.

[English]

Non-conventional Energy Model Units

*494. **SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are setting up non-conventional energy model units in different parts of the country with different climatic and ecological backgrounds and conditions, including Solar Energy units and Biomass units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such units would also be set up in places such as Salem in Tamil Nadu which represents one such geographical area with special needs and environment?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A number of devices and systems in the area of non-conventional energy sources such as solar thermal energy, solar photovoltaic, wind energy, community/institutional biogas, biomass, small hydro units etc. are being set up throughout the country. These programmes are being expanded based on financial resources made available.

(c) Yes, Sir. 12 villages in Salem district have already been provided with solar powered street lights; solar lighting for eight more villages is under implementation. Solar thermal and wind pump programmes have also been taken up in this district. Some villages in Salem district will also be included in the energy village (Urja Gram) programme depending on technical considerations and the financial resources made available for the programme.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : It is a pleasure to know that the Government has gone in for non-conventional energy resources problem and are solving it stage by stage.

But, however, considering the balance of payment situation and shortage of petroleum products could I ask the hon. Minister whether it is not possible to go in for using another non-conventional form of energy, that is, methyl and ethyl alcohol with petrol and diesel for the purposes of saving the consumption of petrol? The important fact is that this was done in India even during World War II. It is not a new technology. It is possible to adopt it. After all we are talking of saving petrol and saving foreign exchange. It is not necessary that it should come from molasses. It can also be made from cellulose or even beetroots or even tapioca. Would the Minister consider this as another alternate source

of non-conventional energy and would certain funds be allotted for its development?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, any source of energy would be welcome. If this technology is also a proven technology and there are enough raw-material sources which can make this project viable, we will definitely look into it. We will be glad to look into it.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, Salem has not only water shortage and there is drought but also there is energy shortage and energy drought permanently in that district and especially in my constituency. Could the Minister assure not only me but also people of Salem that he will adopt at least one village in Salem as an energy village instead of leaving it to vague technical considerations?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I am happy to tell the hon. Member that not only one village but twelve villages in Salem have already photovoltaic system and we will try to convert them into energy self-sufficient villages in a very short time.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, a commendable work has been done in the development of non-conventional sources of energy and in taking this programme from Lab to Urja Gram. I also had an opportunity to see Urja Gram in Krishi Vigyan Mela organised in Anjora village in Durg district. I would like to know the target set in respect of development of Urja Grams in different parts of the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan and whether necessary budgetary provision has been made for this purpose?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : That is the trouble. There is no provision for necessary funds.

MR. SPEAKER : That is the only trouble, the rest is O.K.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, if I

am asked about energy, I want that the country.....

MR. SPEAKER : The question has been put to you.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : There are 5,000 blocks in the country. Each block should have at least one Urja Gram, but it needs about Rs. 10 lakhs to build one Urja Gram. If this much of funds could be made available, we have the technique and other necessary infrastructure. This can be possible if money is made available.

MR. SPEAKER : It is like a mother-in-law telling her daughter-in-law that everything was her's; only keys are to be under my charge.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, now home-power should come, Now Geetaji.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, in my case my claim on this question is because of my relationship with Kumaramangalam. I would like to ask whether the Minister of Energy would be kind only to Kumaramangalam or also to us including myself to grant certain things in my constituency.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mukherjee and Chatterjee.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Vasantji, if you take care of Geetaji, I am also known as the elder brother of the preacher of Gita. (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Here I cannot say that I can swear by putting my hand on Gita.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You swear by Gita. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : It is enough now.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If she has no objection, you can allow...

[Translation]

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Do not do it lest it becomes Mahabharata.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have equal regards for all, whether one is Chatterjee, Mukherjee or Banerjee.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No special treatment to the speaker even !

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have great regards for all who are covered under "jee" including Jhakarji..... (Interruptions)

The real solution to the energy problem in those villages where conventional energy cannot be carried, lies in these non-conventional sources. The natural sources of energy in such villages can be used. Bio-gas, biomass and solar devices could be used for generation of power. Our country is so rich in solar energy that we can exploit it for making our villages self-sufficient in the matter of electricity and that is our intention.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is exploring the possibility of generating thermo-electric energy by incidence of Sun energy on the thermo couples and in this particular source which is a non-conventional source and for which there will be no need of fuel, the cost of energy generation will also be considerably reduced and at the same time application will be highly useful especially in the scientific fields. So, I would like to know whether the Government will assure us that this particular

source of non-conventional energy will be explored and further utilised.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Wherever it is possible 'Yes'.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, this is a stale answer. He says wherever it is possible, whenever possible and wherever it is necessary...

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Wherever thermo energy is possible, we will utilise it.

Survey of Oil deposits in West Bengal

+

*495. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :**

SHRI AJOY BISWAS :

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

(a) the number of places in West Bengal where drilling operations and surveys by Oil and Natural Gas Commission are being conducted at present ;

(b) whether a huge deposit of gas and oil had been found by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in North Bengal and Contai in Midnapore; and

(c) whether his Ministry proposes to make a move for survey in Sankrail of Howrah Gangetic basin and West Dinajpur District for such possibilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Currently three wells are under drilling and 7 geoscientific survey parties are in operation in different areas in West Bengal.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Surveys have already been conducted around Sankrail area of Howrah district. Geological analysis do not favour extension of survey in West Dinajpur district for the present.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Sir, while we all appreciate the concern of the Government of India, O.N.G.C. and the Geological Survey of India for the steady oil exploration programmes and surveys in West Bengal for the revival of economy there, yet the fact remains that because of not having proper coordination between the Geological Survey of India, the O.N.G.C and the experts also, earlier also and at present also, a lot of possibilities are just being ignored. May I know from the hon. Minister in this background, whether it is a fact that the Soviet Experts who were engaged in West Bengal for such a programme right from the exploration, testing and other things and to give the exact data of the deposit sites in the State, have suddenly withdrawn—as per the newspaper report—from the entire programme and if so who have come to replace them and on what terms and what conditions? This is my first question.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Sir, there is no lack of coordination among the different agencies working in West Bengal and we are trying to intensify our exploration efforts in that area. About the Soviet experts, they encountered numerous problems in respect of Badra Well No. 2 because of high pressure and heavy mud losses.

The term of their contract had expired in December last, but another arrangement was made with them and they are still continuing the work there, although some assistance has been sought from other consultants also. It is not a fact that they have suddenly abandoned their work and gone away. A number of technicians from USSR are still there and are working on that particular well, although it is a difficult drilling because of certain terrain conditions there.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : In comparison to other States, the progress of exploration of oil deposits by ONGC in West Bengal is very slow. I cite one example. From 1982 to 1985, only seven wells were drilled spending about 43 crores of rupees and in comparison to this, in Tripura and other parts, the number is much higher. Will the Minister

examine this? While for the onshore drilling programme, Rs. 66 crores have been allotted in the 7th Plan, Rs. 124 crores have been allotted for the offshore drilling. May I know whether the offshore drilling in the Bay of Bengal, southern part of Bengal, will begin early this year, or if there is any positive direction in this regard to start the work in the present Plan period within the budget provision of Rs. 124 crores, specially in the Bay of Bengal. If so, which are the areas in the southern part of Bengal, where exploration will take place?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Firstly, the financial outlay is much higher than indicated by the hon. Member. The work was started there by the ONGC in 1982. The latest techniques are being adopted and they are continuing with their work there. I have personally given directions to them that both on-shore and off-shore areas in West Bengal should be explored in the Seventh Plan period and the work of drilling is going to start in 1986 itself. I would like to assure the hon. Member that besides the financial outlay which we have indicated in our Plan, our actual programme of work is much higher and we hope that the financial constraints would be overcome and we would be able to undertake much larger programme of exploration in West Bengal than exactly indicated by the financial figure, which is much beyond what the hon. Member has stated in the House.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : The ONGC had started its activities in West Bengal some 15-18 years ago, but it is a very funny thing that during these 15 years, the ONGC could not reach the target of any well. Previously, they started the drilling in Diamond Harbour, but that was abandoned. Recently, the ONGC has shifted one rig which was deployed in West Bengal to another State. There were four rigs; now, there are only three. My specific question to the Minister is why during the last fifteen years, the ONGC was not able to reach the target in respect of any well. Further, at present, three drillings are under operation. What are the targets for drillings? What are the target dates that have been fixed for completion of the drilling?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Sir, the ONGC started exploration in this area as far back as 1962. As I have stated, the latest 'vibrosis' techniques are being adopted and they have a big programme for going ahead with the exploration work in this year. The targeted depth might not have been reached, but I cannot say just now for each drilling operation. But it is possible that they might not have reached the targeted depth because of certain difficulties encountered during drilling, as I mentioned regarding Badra well. But they have a programme and quite a big programme for drilling in West Bengal.

I am not aware whether any rig has been shifted from West Bengal to another area. But I would like to assure the hon. members from West Bengal again that we are intensifying our exploration programme in West Bengal and a far bigger outlay has been provided and even a much larger programme of work has been envisaged in the Seventh Plan period.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : What are the targets ?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Drilling targets for on-land for 1986-87 envisaged by the ONGC are as follows : Gravity magnetic party-1 ; Seismic Parties-9 ; Exploratory Drilling meterage-8300. And for offshore, Exploratory Drilling meterage is 3,500. During the Seventh Plan, it is tentatively proposed to conduct 13025 SLK seismic surveys and drilling of 9 wells with a total meterage of 55,980 metres in West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER : You lay it on the Table of the House.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA : I would like to know whether the recruitment of workers for drilling operations is with the contractors and whether the contractors recruit the workers from only one political party and no one else is allowed to enter the field.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : We do not recruit workers from political parties. They are recruited from the local employment exchanges. But we

shall see that the recruitment does not acquire any political colour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : So far as the exploration in Diamond Harbour is concerned, the hon. Minister does not know the correct picture. The Diamond Harbour bore was dug as far back as 1979-80. Then for four years, there was no work there. Only lately when the work started, it got on for about three or four months. Thereafter there was a break-down and to clear that break-down, it has already taken nine months and yet it is not cleared. If work is done in this fashion, they will take centuries and not decades to finish the exploration.

Secondly, the Soviets and the Americans were given separate contracts for exploration in West Bengal. Both have submitted their reports. It is stated that both have given very favourable reports. I would like to know first whether the Minister will ensure that the drilling which is going on in Diamond Harbour would be completed without any further hitch by providing proper managerial and supervisory staff which is woefully lacking now and secondly whether the reports submitted by the Americans and Russians specify that there is a belt of 200/10 KM extending well into the sea, which has got the richest oil resources that can be found anywhere in the world.

MR. SPEAKER : Can you say that this is a supplementary, Sir?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : This is according to the survey made in West Bengal. If the Minister knows the answer, he should give it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : I assure the hon. Members that we are for accelerating the exploration work in West Bengal ; and I would like to inform him that work over one rig is at present going on in Diamond Harbour. We are not abandoning it ..

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I have not said that you have abandoned it. But the work is not going on at an accelerated pace.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR

SINGH : It is so because they were encountering very difficult conditions in respect of drilling in West Bengal ; but the difficulties will be looked into, will be overcome. We will take the help of the consultants, and try to accelerate the work there.

As far as USSR and the American parties are concerned, I would like to state that earlier, i.e. long back in the late '50s., USSR experts had predicted that West Bengal had very good resources of oil...(Interruptions) Yes ; I said it was so, and it did extend into off-shore areas. But so far, our efforts have not yielded any concrete results. We will continue to do our work there, and we are going ahead with the expectation that our efforts will meet with success.

So far as USSR and Americans are concerned, the former are given the contract. Americans are the consultants. There is no collusion ; there is no conflict between their areas of work. They are there, working wherever necessary in cooperation with each other.

[Translation]

Facilities demanded by small entrepreneurs

*496. **SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Associations of entrepreneurs running small and cottage industries have recently requested Government to provide them some facilities in the context of the changed circumstances; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) and (b). The Government receives from time to time requests from the Associations of Entrepreneurs in the small industries sector for provision of facilities. These requests are examined for appropriate action.

[English]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-

WALIA : There is widespread resentment amongst small and cottage industry entrepreneurs all over the country because of bringing down the slab... *(Interruptions)* from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 7.50 lakhs. They feel that their future is seriously threatened. Is it correct that 700 small scale and cottage industry entrepreneurs belonging to Uttar Pradesh and many others from other States have complained to Government that they are being compelled to close down their units? *(Interruptions)* The All India Lock Manufacturers Association and the All India Small Scale Manufacturers Association *(Interruptions)* have lodged this complaint.

It is also correct that 50% to 70% of the small scale entrepreneurs have demanded that the units which started with a capital of Rs. 3.5 lakhs should be exempted from Excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : A number of representatives from the small scale industries had met us during the last 2 or 3 weeks, and have pleaded for further concession in the light of the recent budgetary announcements.

MR. SPEAKER : A written answer to a written question.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : We have also taken up this matter at the highest level with the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister has also assured that he would look to their interests. During the Open House discussions held with the representatives of the various associations of small scale industries, the Finance Minister has assured them that their representations would be looked into. The Finance Minister has already made a statement yesterday on the floor of the House, and he proposes to make another statement in the first week of this month. I can assure the House and the hon. Member that Government are very serious about the developments, and the role of small scale sector. We will give all possible assistance to them.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-

WALIA : He is not answering to my question.

MR. SPEAKER : At least I am convinced that it was a very apt thing to have one written question, and one written answer. It was a matching grant.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Your observation should be matching.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : Already, my question stands insulted at the hands of the Government, because of very brief and evading answer—you can see the written answer—I am compelled to put a written supplementary. Again, through you, I urge upon the government that my specific emphasis on reducing the low clearance limit from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 7.50 lakhs has not been answered by him. Does the government propose to restore invoice value assessment and extend its applicability to cover all exciseable goods to reduce the scope for disputes? And no. 2.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. 2 cannot be twice. After all, it can only be applied once.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : The ancillary producers who sell their products to big industrialists, who have got good name in the market, are selling the same product at very high prices thus evading the excise duty. What steps is the government going to take to trap those big fish?

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Since the matter pertains to the Finance Ministry, we are taking up the matter with the Finance Minister.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : According to Gandhian philosophy, small is beautiful and according to Marxist philosophy, small is dangerous. Why is it that the small scale industries are not increasing in Bengal and why are entrepreneurs of small scale industries not getting all sort of cooperation from the State

Government? I seek your protection.
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. Absolutely.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :
The number of unemployed youths is now increasing day-by-day. The Central Government recruitment is now banned. The State Government Employment Exchange Offices are now party offices of CPM. The unemployed youths are now crying on the road and they are totally depressed. Is the government planning to increase the number of small scale units all over the country and specially in West Bengal to boost up the morale of the youths and to make them stand on their own feet?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
A very good question. (*Interruption*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Better nationalise CPM!

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI :
I may assure the hon. Member that we are perfectly aware of the employment potential of the small scale industry. Already, the number of employed people in the small industry sector has reached 9 million from 3 million to 9 million in a span of 11 years. I think it is a substantial achievement on the part of the small scale industry. We would like to pursue strengthening of the small industrial sector further and we hope that by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, we will have 2 million small industrial units in the country providing employment to about 14-15 million people; we will continue this policy for the State of West Bengal also and we will be discussing this matter with the West Bengal Government also.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Has it come to the notice of the government that even small truck body building units are also suffering because of the recent decision of the government? Apart from body building units suffering financially, the cost of the truck has been enhanced; already the diesel price and tyre prices have increased; the price of everything is increasing. The truck operators are also suffering very much. In

view of this, will the government reconsider their decision in regard to small body building units and restore them to their previous position?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI :
My colleague has already mentioned that we have taken up this matter for intensive detailed discussion with the Finance Ministry. The Finance Minister himself on many occasions and in many forums and in this House also has mentioned that they will be considering this question of taxation on industries in a little depth. It has already been announced that all the small scale industries will have to pay the same rate of taxation and same duties which were available to them on February 28 for the month of March. The new scheme is under the consideration of the Finance Ministry and at an appropriate time it will be announced by the Finance Minister. It is the privilege and prerogative of the Finance Minister to make announcements in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Due to the fresh excise duty levied in the new Budget on the small industry like shoe industry, in which mostly people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are engaged so much so that all members of a family jointly manufacture five pairs of shoes and earn their livelihood, these small manufacturers will not be able to compete with the big industry and as a result thereof, they will face a number of hindrances. In view of this, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether Government will reconsider their decision so that these people are able to earn their livelihood?

MR. SPEAKER : Manvendraji, I have come to know that you saved the life of a human being. Thank you very much for that.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI :
As the hon. Member is aware that the announcement made by the hon. Finance Minister in the House includes a proposal for exemption upto Rs. 7.5 lakhs. Almost all shoe manufacturers for whom the hon.

Member has expressed his concern are covered in this bracket of Rs. 7.5 lakhs. The case of those shoe manufacturers who are above this limit and are using machines to manufacture shoes like Bata, etc. is of course different and their case will have to be considered from a different angle.

[English]

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I want to contest this on the one hand the Government is expressing its anxiety and concern by announcing recently reservation of 20 more items for the small scale sector. The Small Scale Industries Association represented to the Government last year on the eve of the Budget to raise the exemption limit from Rs. 20 lakhs and the Government said that they would consider it, is it as a result of consideration that they have reduced it from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 7.5 lakhs? Am I to understand that your substantial achievement of 3 million to 9 million will be helped by reducing the limit from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 7.5 lakhs? Or do you propose to recommend to your colleague that at least status quo should be restored if not increased?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Well, my esteemed colleague will agree that this whole matter being under the intensive consideration of respective Ministries, it would not be proper and possible for me to disclose or mention all the details, because it is the privilege, prerogative and the responsibility of the Finance Minister to have a final say in these matters. But as I said, all these matters are under consideration. The fiscal policy which was announced by the Finance Minister, the MODVAT and other related policies mention that small scale industries will be given special dispensation. And lending of support by my esteemed colleague has further strengthened my hands.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The consensus of the House is with you.

[English]

Setting up of Industries in Lakshadweep under 20-Point Programme

*497. **SHRI P.M. SAYEED :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to

state :

(a) whether the policy of setting up industries in the backward and tribal areas as envisaged under 20-Point Programme is being applied to the Union Territory of Lakshadweep;

(b) the industries proposed to be set up in Lakshadweep Islands with a view to generate employment opportunities;

(c) whether in view of certain difficulties in setting up of fullfledged industries, assembling units of various public undertakings viz. ITI, HMT, Electronics and also of Defence production are proposed to be set up there;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (e). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (e). Industrialisation of specific districts/areas is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory concerned. The Central Government supplements their efforts by providing various incentives and concessions. The Union Territory of Lakshadweep has been identified as 'No Industry District' and included in Category 'A', Entrepreneurs setting up industries in this Union Territory are eligible for Central Investment Subsidy at the highest rate i.e. 25% subject to a maximum of Rs. 25 lakhs, Transport Subsidy and Concessional Finance etc. The Central Investments are primarily in large industrial projects of a basic character. The location of such projects has, therefore to be decided on broad techno-economic considerations. Subject to such considerations comparatively backward areas are given preference in location of central projects. Keeping in view the size and eco-fragile nature of the islands, industries based on the locally available raw material such as coconut/Coir, fisheries, and tourism have better chances of development. The

Union Territory has already initiated action for setting up such industries.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : The hon. Minister has given a detailed answer. But he has conveniently and successfully avoided part (c) of my question.

I do not know why. In spite of the highest subsidy rate for the industries to be set up in Lakshadweep and also as the hon. Minister has mentioned that Lakshadweep is a 'No Industry District', people have not come forward, neither from outside nor from within the Territory. Therefore, I have specifically emphasised on setting up of assembling units of various public undertakings, namely, Indian Telephone Industry, HMT, Electronics and also of Defence Production. In spite of all these facilities industrialists are not coming forward to establish industries in this Union Territory because of a number of reasons. Firstly, transport and communications still remain as bottlenecks for any industry to be set up. The hon. Prime Minister, when he visited the Union Territory, assured that this problem would be attended to urgently. Although six months have already passed, the bureaucracy, I accuse, has jeopardised even the existing transport and communications system. There was a helicopter service for the Union Territory but after the Prime Minister's visit, they have stopped it. I am reminded of a saying in Kannada :

Devuru Kottaru Poojari Kodalla

The Prime Minister assures that this problem will be attended to on a war-footing and the bureaucracy stops it.....
(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Shame, Shame.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Therefore, starting of industries in Lakshadweep which is a 'No Industry District'.....
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Ask the question now.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : I am asking, Sir. I have been trying to take you also

to my constituency.....(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Then I would like the Home Minister to accompany me.

AN HON. MEMBER : We will also like to accompany you.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : 55% literacy rate we have achieved in that Union Territory. The latest menacing problem now is that of educated youth. That is why I say that this is the only Union Territory where we do not have any public sector units. I specifically ask the hon. Minister whether they are in a position to initiate now at least HMT, ITI, Electronics and also Defence Production's assembling units in Lakshadweep. I want a categorical answer to this.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, as far as Lakshadweep is concerned, there are so many problems for establishing industries....(Interruption) .

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The name Lakshadweep gives the impression of a very rich island.

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : The Ministry of Defence have now informed that there is no proposal under consideration for setting up of any assembling unit in the Defence sector. Primarily, the reason for it is stated to be the fact that at the moment the capacity of the Defence Production units and the ordnance factories is sufficient to cater to the needs of the country. For the setting up of HMT units also there is no possibility at present.

MR. SPEAKER : Did you get the answer ?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : No, Sir. I have not got the answer. I have specifically asked that.....(Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : What did the Prime Minister say and how this is not done, that part you have not answered.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : The Prime Minister had assured that transport and communications, which is a bottleneck to start industries, will definitely be attended to urgently and the bureaucracy has even stopped the helicopter service which was there prior to his visit. Now six months have passed. Even those people who were prepared to come and start industries, are not coming forward. What is the answer to that ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Prime Minister's visit followed by Estimates Committee's visit.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Yes, hon. Dandavate Ji also paid a visit. He knows.. *(Interruptions)*.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Oh, that is the reason why...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : So, now you know the reason.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Sir, we fully share the anxiety of the hon. Member for the development of Lakshadweep and it has been the Government's endeavour to do whatever is possible for its development keeping in view its ecological and environmental problems and also its beauty and geographical location.

After his recent visit to Lakshadweep the Prime Minister desired that development strategy in the island territory should cater to the local needs and be in keeping with the ecology and environment of this territory. One of the problems has been that Lakshadweep has been included in the list of such areas which need total conservation because of the very fragile nature of the ecology and sensitive nature of the environment. Therefore Lakshadweep Administration is making an in-depth review of the plan schemes. One major step has been taken by sending the Chairman of the Coir Board for development of Coir industry in Lakshadweep because Lakshadweep has a great potential for development of coir industry. This team has recommended specific measures for setting up of defibre unit and improved spinning wheel, provision for employment of villagers, especially women, and then, a scheme for providing

decentralised spinning etc. so that gainful employment opportunities can be given. What I will do is this; I will set up a special group of officers of our Ministry to see what unit, electronic or otherwise, can be set up...

MR. SPEAKER : Choose the officers well.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : So that we can see what further can be done for setting up electronic units.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : After our visit following Prime Minister's visit if the matter has been spoiled we withdraw our visit with retrospective effect !

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : That can only be done when you visit Lakshadweep again !

MR. SPEAKER : For the cancellation of that visit on the spot !

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Sir, my second supplementary is this. There is a strong resentment among the youth, the educated youth, in lakshadweep, the only employment opportunity now available is Government jobs. Even for Government jobs, the Home Ministry has given a directive that class 4 and class 3 should be given to local boys. Now, Sir, in the recruitment policy there, 55% of the police force is drawn from outside. That gives a feeling in their minds that there is something wrong; they feel what is wrong with us that we have been given only 45 per cent, and so on. Even this meagre employment opportunities does not really help them. Even if that is the policy, from defence strategy point of view or whatever it may be, even to that extent, Sir, they feel, 100% of that opportunity must be given to them. In case Government feel so, they can transfer some people from some other Union Territory. I want to know only this from the Government. If employment opportunities are available, that must be given to them.

MR. SPEAKER : That is all right now.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : With the eminent leadership and influential leadership of the hon. Member being available to the youth of Lakshadweep I am sure he will be able to give a healing touch, healing balm. As far as his comments on Home Ministry are concerned on police recruitment, I will convey his feelings to my colleague the Home Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.
Mr. Daga.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : You should direct the Home Minister to do something about it.

MR. SPEAKER : We have already asked the Industries Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already asked the Industries Minister. I have already requested the Industries Minister to look carefully into this. I will ask you all hon. Members here in this House to be very sympathetic to the questions you are putting; because, you just talk on and on so much that it just curtails the number of questions covered. That is very bad. I cannot help it because, if I just butt in all the time, it looks very bad. *(Interruption)* I am not only asking you alone. I am asking other Members also in the House. You have to be pungent and direct. I have said so many times. You just hang on one question. You put a rope around it and hang over one question all the time. It is not the way.

[Translation]

Publication of Law Books in Hindi

*498. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether standard law books in Hindi have been published for use as text books for law courses in universities and as manuals for use of lawyers and the Judiciary ;

(b) if so, the names of such law books published and their year of publication alongwith the total amount spent on them, the total proceeds from their sale and the mode of their usage; and

(c) whether the university students studying law course books in Hindi are allowed to take their examinations in Hindi and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) Yes, Sir. According to available information, the following Universities in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat have allowed their students studying in the Law course to take their examinations in Hindi, besides English.

BIHAR	(1) Magadh
	(2) L.N. Mithila
	(3) Patna

MADHYA PRADESH	(1) A.P. Singh
	(2) Jabalpur
	(3) Jiwaji
	(4) Ravi Shankar
	(5) Vikram
	(6) Indore

RAJASTHAN	(1) Rajasthan
	(2) Udaipur

UTTAR PRADESH	(1) Agra
	(2) Allahabad
	(3) Avadh
	(4) B.H.U.
	(5) Bundelkhand
	(6) Garhwal
	(7) Gorakhpur
	(8) Kanpur
	(9) Kumaon
	(10) Lucknow
	(11) Meerut
	(12) Rohilkhand

GUJARAT	(1) Gujarat
	(2) Sardar Patel
	(3) Saurashtra
	(4) South Gujarat

Statement

Statement showing the details of Standard Law Books printed and sold as on 27th March, 1986.

S. No.	Title of book	Year of Publication	Cost of Production *	Total No. of copies Recd.	Price of the book	Copies sold	Supplied free	Balance copies	Total amount of sold copies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Private Antarrashtriya Vidhi (Private International Law) by Dr. Paras Dewan.	1975	58,508.53	1500	12.50	775	293	432	9687.50
2.	Sakshya Ki Vidhi (Law of Evidence) (1st Edition) by Sh. R.C. Trivedi.	1975	58,270.85	1995	14.50	1725	270	—	25,012.50
3.	Sampatti Antaran Adhinyam, 1882 (Transfer of Property Act, 1882) by Sh. V.M. Shukla.	1976	39,840.88	1970	12.00	1718	252	—	20,616.00
4.	Apkritya Vidhi Ke Sidhant (Principles of the Law of Torts) (1st Edition) by Sh. S.L. Aggarwal.	1976	1,17,498.00	1985	12.50	1706	279	—	21,325.00

5.	Uttar Pradesh Bhudhriti Vidhi (Uttar Pradesh Land Tenure Laws) by Sh. Umesh Kumar.	1976	22,196.83	1004	10.00	840	149	15	8,400.00
6.	Ayakar Vidhi (Income Tax Laws) by Sh. N.L. Jain	1978	23,534.56	1010	14.00	947	63	—	13,258.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh Bhudhriti (Madhya Pradesh Land Laws) by Sh. Shivdayal Parmeshwardayal Srivastava, Retired Chief Justice, Madhya Pradesh High Court.	1979	49,374.73	900	21.00	673	132	95	14,133.00
8.	Nirnaya Lekhan (Judgment Writing) by Sh. Bhagwati Prasad Beri, Retired Chief Justice, Rajasthan High Court	1979	49,120.80	2990	11.00	2278	122	590	25,058.00
9.	Danda Vidhi Ke Sadharan Sidhant (General Principles of Criminal Law) by Dr. R.C. Nigam.	1980	70,556.00	1992	19.00	1888	104	—	35,872.00
10.	Antararashtriya Sangathan (International Organisations) by Dr. Prayag Singh.	1980	24,380.00	2000	23.80	612	138	1250	14,565.60
11.	Chikitsa Nyayashastra aur Vish-Vigyan (Medical Jurisprudence and Toxi-	1980	1,72,507.90	4000	70.00	3862	66	72	2,70,340.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	cology) by Dr. C.K. Parikh, Translated by Dr. N.K. Patoria.								
12.	Prashasnik Vidhi (Administrative Law) by Dr. K.C. Joshi.	1980	61,572.00	2000	16.50	1331	111	558	21,961.50
13.	Shram Vidhi (Labour Laws) by Sh. G.K. Arora.	1981	16,826.91	2000	24.00	1905	83	12	45,720.00
14.	Bhartiya Samvidhan Ke Pramukh Tatva (Constitution of India) by Dr. P.K. Tripathi	1981	34,141.50	3000	36.50	1758	132	1110	64,167.00
15.	Muslim Vidhi (Mohd. Law) by Professor Hafeezul Rehman.	1981	67,655.00	2000	16.50	1928	72	—	31,812.00
16.	Sakshya Ki Vidhi (Law of Evidence) (2nd edition) by Sh. R.G. Trivedi.	1981	61,297.08	3000	33.60	2757	15	228	92,635.20
17.	Dand Prakriya Sanhita (Criminal Procedure Code) by Sh. Mahavir Singh, Retired Judge, Allahabad High Court.	1981	55,983.84	1990	46.50	1867	23	100	86,815.50
18.	Apkritiya Vidhi ke Sidhan (Principles of the Law of Torts) (2nd edition) by Sh. S.L. Aggarwal.	1982	Bill awaited from the Press.	1480	14.50	969	22	489	14,050.50

19.	Company Vidhi (Company Law) by Sh. Surinder Nath	1983	Bill awaited from the press.	1993	30.00	651	23	1319	19,530.00
20.	Samvida Vidhi (Law of Contract) by Sh. R.G. Chaturvedi.	1983	1,00,041.00	2999	24.35	694	89	2216	16,898.90
21.	Antarashtriya Vidhi ke Pramukh Nirnaya (Case-Law book on International Law) by Sh. S.C. Khara.	1983	Bill awaited from the Press.	900	16.70	279	84	537	4,659.30
22.	Sampatti Antaran Adhinyam, 1882 (Transfer of Property Act, 1882) (2nd revised edition) by Shri V.M. Shukla.	10.3.1986	-do-	2995	21.00				(The copies of this edition have been received only on 10.3.1986).

NOTE : 1. The above list includes 18 original books, one translation and three second editions.

NOTE : 2. The following Universities have prescribed some of our text books to their courses of studies :

1. Rani Durgavati Vishvavidyalaya, Jabalpur, M.P. 14 books,

2. Agra Vishvavidyalaya, Agra, U.P. 6 books.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need your protection. Today, he is telling this thing. This scheme was introduced in 1969 and after 16 years the hon. Minister is giving this reply. Shri Asok Sen might not be reading much of Hindi due to paucity of time, but the question is that the Advisory Committee of your Ministry have said in their report that the officer who oversees the work of Law Branch neither knows Hindi nor has any knowledge of law. This is their report, not mine.

MR. SPEAKER : Also ask whether he knows anything at all.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You may ask him for me. When I ask, he does not reply. The second thing which he has said is that the persons who publish these law publications are not legal experts. They are neither L.L.B. nor they have good command over Hindi. You have entrusted the work of publication to them. *(Interruptions)* You have stood up so soon.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K. SEN) : It is 12'O clock now.

MR. SPEAKER : Whose ?

SHRI A.K. SEN : It is 12'O clock now. I have stood up soon, because otherwise it might be construed that we are not ready to reply to the supplementary. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member might have gone into the detailed statement. You can see that 22 books have been published by now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Nobody buys them. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.K. SEN : Sir, the qualitative aspect of these books has also been discussed and the Advisory Committee has appreciated it ; I know it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : The Advisory Committee has not appreciated it. Perhaps, they have put it in a different way. You are not stating the facts in the House.

SHRI A.K. SEN : That I shall send

to you. We have received appreciation from different quarters and I shall send the details to you in this respect. I have myself read it. The very first publication was on Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Allotment of imported raw material to Mysore Soap Factory, Bangalore

*499. **SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the imported raw material was allotted recently for manufacturing soap to Mysore Soap Factory, Bangalore, a public undertaking of Karnataka Government ;

(b) if so, the quantity allotted ;

(c) the conditions stipulated while allotting imported raw material ;

(d) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Karnataka Government Soap Factory re-sold the entire raw material to the private firms in Bombay in violation of the Central excise rules ; and

(e) if so, the action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) :

(a) and (b). It is presumed that reference in this question is to M/s. Karnataka Soaps & Detergents, in which erstwhile Government Soap Factory, Bangalore, was merged in 1980.

The following quantities of imported Split Palm Stearine Fatty Acid (SPSFA)/Palm Fatty Acid Distillate (PFAD)/Crude Palm Stearine (CPS) were allotted to M/s. Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Ltd., during 1984-85 and 1985-86 :—

Year	Allotment		(Tonnes)	
	SPSFA/PFAD	CPS	Lifting SPSFA/PFAD	CPS
1984-85	5726	Nil	5726	Nil
1985-86	5330	3693	3176	1710

(c) Imported raw material is allotted to an Actual User industrial undertaking on the condition that it shall be utilised for the manufacturing process or operations conducted within its authorised premises and not for business or trade in it.

(d) and (e). An allegation was received to the effect that the company resold part of imported raw materials supplied to it to certain private firms in Bombay. The allegation was investigated and found to be incorrect as the item sold by the Company was a processed material on which the applicable central excise duty was paid.

Investment of amount collected by M/s. Lohia Machines Ltd., Kanpur against booking of Vaspa XE Scooters

***500. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :**
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount collected by M/s. Lohia Machines Limited, Kanpur from the public against booking of Vaspa XE scooters, as initial deposit; and

(b) the amount deposited with nationalised banks/public sector undertakings/ public financial institutions/Unit Trust of India and Housing Development and Finance Corporation out of the amount collected as initial deposit mentioned in part (a) above ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) Out of a sum of about Rs. 115 crore received by the Company initially, Rs. 90.78 crore remain with it as on 31st December, 1985.

(b) The company has informed that Rs. 58.37 crore have been deposited with

nationalised banks/public sector undertakings and Unit Trust of India.

Salaries and Allowances of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts

***501. DR. G.S. RAJHANS :**

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision in regard to increase in the salary and allowances and other facilities for the judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) when a Bill to give effect to the decisions taken by Government in the matter is proposed to be brought forward in the parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K. SEN) : (a) to (c). Proposals for improving the service conditions of Supreme Court and High Court Judges, and increasing their salaries, are engaging the earnest attention of the Government and appropriate Bills are expected to be introduced in Parliament as soon as the proposals are finalised.

Laying of Underground Electric Lines by DESU

***502. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :**
SHRI JAGANNATH
PATTNAIK :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether overhead electricity cable system maintained by the Delhi Electric

Supply Undertaking is increasingly becoming fatal and due to it life has become difficult in some parts of Delhi ;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of overcoming this problem, if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to lay underground electric lines ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) DESU has taken a number of steps to strengthen the existing overhead system by providing adequate guards and removal of other weak points in the distribution system. The precautions to be taken by the public to ensure safety and to avoid accidents have also been publicised.

(c) In view of the high cost of laying underground cables, it is not practicable to convert the existing overhead system into an underground system. In a number of DDA and other approved colonies DESU has been carrying out electrification by laying underground cables.

Demand for Gas in Maharashtra

***503. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have demanded approximately five million cubic metres of gas per day for industries, domestic consumption and for textile mills in the State;

(b) if so, the quantum of industrial gas Maharashtra is getting from the Bombay High at present; and

(c) the steps the Union Government propose to take in order to provide adequate quantum of gas to Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND-NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) The Government of

Maharashtra have requested supply of associated gas from Bombay High to the city of Bombay to meet its domestic, industrial and commercial requirements, assessed by them at about 2.20 Million Cubic Metres per day (MMCMD).

(b) and (c). At present, about 8 MMCMD of associated gas is being brought from Bombay High to the Uran Terminal, where processing facilities are limited to this quantity; after meeting the internal requirements and LPG extraction, the entire remaining quantity of gas, to the tune of about 6.8 to 6.9 MMCMD, is being supplied to various industrial consumers in Maharashtra.

Hindustan Paper Corporation Project at Kashipur (U.P.)

***504. SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAV :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the progress of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Project at Kashipur (U.P.) ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : A Project Report for the setting up of a newsprint plant for an annual capacity of 80,000 tonnes, based primarily on bagasse was submitted by Hindustan Paper Corporation. The progress achieved so far with regard to the project is as follows :

- (i) Site for locating the Project has been selected;
- (ii) Negotiations are under progress with the U.P. Co-operative Sugar Factories Federation for obtaining release of bagasse from three sugar mills of the Federation;
- (iii) Government of Uttar Pradesh have agreed to provide 40,000 tonnes of Eucalyptus wood per annum, as required for the project ;
- (iv) Linkage of Coal has been sanctioned by the Department of Coal in consultation with the Ministry of Railways ;
- (v) U.P. State Electricity Board has

agreed to supply the requisite power ;

- (vi) No objection certificate for the disposal of effluent has been obtained from the U.P. Pollution Control Board.

After consideration of various factors, Government have decided that the project should be handled by National Newsprint and Paper Mills Ltd. and that the company should prepare a fresh Detailed Project Report for consideration of Government.

Increase in Prices of Medicines

*505. SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Increase in drug prices round the corner' appearing in the 'Financial Express' of 3 March, 1986 ;

(b) if so, the steps his Ministry is taking to save the consumer from exploitation of drug industry ; and

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to have price control on individual drugs rather than on therapeutic groups ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The new Drug Policy including the Pricing Policy has not yet been finalised. The main objective of the New Drug Pricing Policy would be to ensure the abundant availability of good quality medicines at fair and reasonable prices.

Production of LPG Cylinders in Seventh Plan

*507. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK :

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY

be pleased to state :

(a) the targets set for the production of LPG cylinders in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan ; and

(b) The details of the strategy for the distribution and production schedule of LPG cylinders in the country, region-wise, for the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) :
(a) and (b). The annual requirement of LPG cylinders is estimated at 45-50 lakhs. The cylinders are procured from indigenous manufacturers by the oil companies, commensurate with their requirements.

Government Controls on Drug Industry

*508. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as claimed by the organisation of Pharmaceuticals Producers of India Government Controls have hit the drug industry beyond repair ;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the indigenous drug manufacturers (both Indian and foreign-linked) have not been able to fulfil full drug needs of the country ; and

(d) whether it is due to the emphasis and diversion to the task of drug formulations at the cost of weaker sections of consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) :
(a) It is not true that the controls have hit the pharmaceutical industry beyond repair.

(b) The Govt. have taken up review of the 1978 Drug Policy in order to improve the policy frame and to achieve better the primary objectives of the drug policy, namely, to ensure availability of medicines in abundance at fair and reasonable prices.

(c) and (d). The country has, to a large extent, achieved self-sufficiency in bulk drugs and formulations.

Shortage of soft coke for domestic purposes

*509. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been shortage of soft coke for domestic purposes in the country during last two years ;

(b) if so, the names of the States which are still facing shortage of soft coke ;

(c) whether the problem of transport has any effect on the movement of coal ;

(d) whether any efforts have been made to seek co-operation of transport agencies for the movement of soft coke ; and

(e) if so, the steps Government are taking to make soft coke available for domestic purposes to the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (e). The production and despatch of soft coke during the last two years and during 1985-86 (April-February), have been as under, which shows appreciable increase in 1985-86 :—

(Figures in tonnes)

Year	Production	Despatch
1983-84	14,70,000	15,30,000
1984-85	15,90,000	15,50,000
1985-86 (April-February)	15,90,000	15,30,000

The major soft coke consuming States are West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. There has been marginal shortage of soft coke in the consuming States due to shortfall in production in last two

years. However, whenever reports of shortages are received from any State, immediate remedial action is taken. Soft coke allocation to different States/Union Territories is now being made by the Department of Coal on a monthly basis for a period of six months at a time after discussion in a meeting which is attended among others by the representatives of the concerned State Governments and the Railways. These allocations are based on the assessment made by the State Governments of their requirements and intimated to the Department of Coal.

The coal companies are making efforts to increase the production of soft coke in order to meet the increasing demand of the States/Union Territories. There is no problem in the allocation of wagons for movement of soft coke. In the states of West Bengal and Bihar the movement of soft coke is mostly by road.

Development of Industrial Growth Centres during Seventh Plan

*510. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have asked various State Governments to submit proposals to develop new industrial growth centres in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan period ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how many States have sent their proposals in this regard ; and

(c) the revised norms laid down by Government to identify the new growth centres ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (c). The names of the Growth Centres presently approved for development of infrastructural facilities in "No-Industry Districts" is shown in the Statement given below :

Statement

Approved growth centres for development of infrastructural facilities in 'No Industry Districts'.

Name of the State/UT/District	Growth Centre
1	2
1. Rajasthan	
Sirohi	1. Abu Road 2. Pindwara
Jaisalmer	3. Pokaran 4. Sanu Ramgarh
Churu	5. Churu 6. Ratangarh
Barmer	7. Balotra 8. Barmer
2. Orissa	
Balasore Phulbani Bolangir	9. Balasore 10. Manmunda 11. Balangir
3. Uttar Pradesh	
Banda Jaunpur Jalaun Fatehpur Kanpur Dehat Hamirpur Sultanpur	12. Gureh 13. Satrahiya 14. Orai 15. Malwan 16. Jainpur 17. Sumerpur 18. Tikariya 19. Trisundi
4. Karnataka	
Bidar	20. Bidar 21. Humnabad
5. Madhya Pradesh	
Bhind Mandla Jhabua Dhar Panna Rajgarh	22. Malanpur 23. Manheri 24. Meghnagar 25. Pithampur 26. Purena 27. Pillukhedi

1

2

6. Bihar

Bhojpur
Khagaria
Purnia

28. Arrah
29. Khagaria
30. Purnia

7. Maharashtra

Gadchiroli

31. Kotgal-Navegon
Complex

8. West Bengal

Jalpaiguri
Cooch Behar
Darjeeling
Malda
Bankura

32. Raninagar
33. Cooch Behar
34. Bagdogra
35. Malda
36. Bishnupur

9. Tripura

West Tripura
North Tripura
South Tripura

37. Sokerkote
38. Dharmanagar
39. Takmacherra

10. Nagaland

Tuensang

40. Longleng
41. Noklak

State Governments were given certain guidelines for selection of Growth Centres as follows :—

- (a) Growth Centres should have a population of 50,000 or more as per 1971 Census ;
- (b) They should not be near the existing Centres ; and
- (c) They should have less than 10,000 workers in the non-household manufacturing sector as per the 1971 Census.

However, for sufficient reasons, and subject to the approval of the Central Government, State Governments were given discretion to select Growth Centres not strictly conforming to these guidelines.

The scheme for the development of backward areas, including Industrial Growth Centres, announced in 1983, is being continued until 31.3.1987.

Opening of new Post Offices in small villages of Maharashtra

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

(a) whether there is unofficial ban on recruitment in Telecommunications Department specially in Postal Department because of less allocation of funds in Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(b) whether Government propose to provide more postal facilities in small villages in Maharashtra ;

(c) whether there is a proposal to open new post offices in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) In order to enforce strict economy in government expenditure a ban has been imposed by the Government of India on creation of new posts and filling up of vacant posts. Apart from this, there is no unofficial ban on recruitment enforced in the Departments of Posts and Telecommunications on account of inadequate allocation of funds in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) As it is, postal facilities in the rural areas of Maharashtra are reasonably satisfactory. Whereas in the country as a whole a rural post office serves on average, 4.3 villages, the corresponding figure for Maharashtra is 3.38. However, in the event of the ban on creation of posts being relaxed, the scope for further improvement in the rural postal facilities in Maharashtra as in other States/Union Territories can be considered.

(c) No, Sir. As of now, there are no proposals to open new post offices in the rural areas in view of the continuing ban on creation of posts.

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

Setting up of light diesel and petrol retail outlets during Seventh Plan

('000' tonnes)					
Name of Product	1985-86*	1986-87*	1987-88@	1988-89@	1989-90@
M.S.	2287	2530	2767	3043	3348
LDO	1133	1190	1130	1130	1130
*Estimated	@Provisional				

National Alcohol Authority

***513. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :**

**SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT**

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set

***512. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the target for setting up of light diesel and petrol retail outlets during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) the norms prescribed for setting up of these outlets; and

(c) the estimated consumption of light diesel and petrol during the Seventh Plan period, year-wise break-up thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Based on periodical surveys, the Oil Industry prepares Marketing Plans on a year-to-year basis. No target has been fixed for the Seventh Five Year Plan period.

(b) Opening of new dealerships is based on the demand potential and economic viability in an area after taking into account data relating to volume and distance.

(c) The estimated demand/consumption of LDO and MS during the Seventh Five Year Plan (Year-wise) is as under :—

up National Alcohol Authority in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such Authority will also be set up in the States; and

(d) the time by which the National Authority is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
(SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) :
(a) No Sir.

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

Tallow used in Hindustan Lever Ltd.

4626. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH :
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Lever Ltd. has used the following Tonnage of tallow :—

Year 1977	15,330
Year 1978	11,052
Year 1981	15,420
Year 1982	11,221
Year 1983	15,290

(b) if so, the name/names of the products in which the said tonnage of tallow was used; and

(c) the year-wise tonnage of the product produced and the tallow content thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The company has confirmed that the entire tallow has been used for the production of soap only. Details about production of soap and usage of tallow for production of soap are as follows:

Year	Soap production	Tallow used
1977	1,58,640	15,330
1978	1,63,771	11,052
1981	1,66,246	15,420
1982	1,53,144	11,221
1983	1,70,430	15,290

'Single Window Service' for allotment of cars to journalists

4627. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI :
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'Single Window Service' has been made available to the journalists for allotment of cars; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). There is no Government control over distribution and sale of cars.

[Translation]

Realisation of money from consumers under R. E. C. Scheme

4628. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rural Electrification Corporation schemes in the States are sanctioned under the Central Scheme and there is no provision for realising money from the consumers for this purpose;

(b) whether the Union Government are aware that consumers are forced to deposit money under Rural Electrification Corporation Schemes in some States, if so, the names thereof and the instructions issued to them in this regard; and

(c) the standing guidelines issued to the State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). The schemes of the Rural Electrification Corporation are approved for the States from out of the funds provided to the Corporation by the Centre as per the approved Annual Plan Programme for the States. In the rural electrification schemes financed by the Rural Electrification Corporation, the total cost of the project is provided as loan to the State Electricity Boards, except for a fixed nominal amount which is charged from the consumers by the State Electricity Boards as service connection charges as per the rules prevalent in each State which is also incorporated in the approved scheme report.

(c) No separate guidelines have been issued to the States by the REC in this regard as the matter falls within the purview of the State Governments /State Electricity Boards.

[English]

**Foreign assistance for development
of Collieries in Andhra Pradesh**

4629. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of collaboration agreements concluded by the Department of Coal with foreign Governments for assistance to coal industry ;

(b) whether the schemes are under implementation on schedule;

(c) the projects completed so far with foreign collaboration and the results thereof ; and

(d) whether foreign assistance is being sought for development of collieries in Andhra Pradesh to augment production and also to meet the increasing coal demand of consumers in Southern region ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Schemes for transportation of coal
by Slurry Pipelines**

4630. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a scheme for the transportation of coal by the slurry pipelines in the country from coalfields to the consumers ;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this respect ;

(c) the progress made so far ; and

(d) the time by which this system is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). The preparation of a detailed project report for a demonstration coal slurry pipeline project from New Majri Opencast mine to Chandra-pur Thermal Power Station of Maharashtra State Electricity Board has been taken up. Engineers (India) Ltd. have been engaged to prepare the report. The actual demonstration project will be taken up on the basis of this report.

Setting up of new Industries in Konkan region

4631. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special study has been made by Union Government regarding the setting up of appropriate type of industries in the backward Konkan region of Maharashtra without disturbing the ecological balance in the region ;

(b) if so, what is the nature and degree of industrialisation that has been proposed ; and

(c) what is the concrete time-bound programme evolved ?

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

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

Extraction of Petrol from Coal

4632. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any experiment has been made to extract petrol from coal ; and

(b) if so, the result achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Research and Development on different aspects of conversion of coal to liquid fuels has been

done in the country. A 0.5 tonne coal per day bench scale Unit has been set up at Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad for direct hydrogenation of coal. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur had operated a 500 litres per day unit for Fischer-Tropsch synthesis during the fifties. CFRI, Regional Research Laboratory (Hyderabad) and IIT, Bombay have done work on hydrogenation of tar to middle distillates.

Closure of Barat Dharmebandh Colliery

4633. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Barat Dharmebandh Colliery is lying closed in the area III of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. for a long time if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether it is having a large reserve of good quality of coal and whether any estimate has been made out in this regard ; if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether there is any plan to extract coal in the near future or to reopen that mine ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). After nationalisation, Barat Dharmaband colliery became a part of Dharmaband colliery and is being worked through it. This part of the colliery under Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. is estimated to have a reserve of approximately 28.1 million tonnes, Khar-kharee-Dharmanband Project is being planned for larger production.

[Translation]

Central Projects in Uttar Pradesh

4634. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of the projects under his Ministry being run in Uttar Pradesh giving their names, locations, date

on which started, total estimated cost, yearly expenditure, facilities provided by State Government, total estimated cost, and present position thereof ; and

(b) whether any project report has been prepared in this regard ?

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

[English]

Regularisation of contingent employees by ONGC at Sibsagar

4635. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of employees of Oil and Natural Gas Commission at Sibsagar (Assam) in lower cadres have been working on contingent basis for several years together although contingent recruits in similar levels of service in other regions of the Commission even with lesser tenures of service have been regularised ; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government and ONGC to remove such disparity and to regularise the contingent employees at Sibsagar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Engagement of workers on daily wages basis is resorted to on a limited scale for specific jobs. Eligible persons amongst such workers are considered for regular appointment, alongwith other eligible candidates, by the Commission. The same policy applies over all the regions of the Commission and there is no disparity in this regard between Sibsagar and other regions.

Use of foreign brand names by Companies

4636. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the industrial licence of a number of companies with foreign collaboration, it is specifically stated that no foreign brand name will be used for internal sales ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many companies are using foreign owned trade marks like Vespa, Yamaha, Honda, Suzuki etc ; and

(c) if so, action taken or proposed against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A condition to this effect is being imposed while giving approvals for foreign collaboration. Some companies are using hybrid names like "Hero-Honda", "Ind-Suzuki" etc. which are not foreign owned trade marks.

Expansion of Anjarakkandy Telephone Exchange in Cannanore District, Kerala

4637. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Anjarakkandy Telephone Exchange in Cannanore District, Kerala, is being expanded;

(b) if so, what is the intended capacity to which it is to be expanded; and

(c) whether a permanent building is proposed to be constructed or taken on lease to house the expanded exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present 90 lines MAX-III type exchange is being converted into a 200 lines MAX-II type exchange.

(c) The installation of MAX-II type

exchange at present is being done in a rented building. However, a plot of land about 43 cents has been acquired recently for exchange building. The construction of exchange building will be taken in hand subject to availability of funds.

Status of Employees of Telephone Offices in New Delhi on formation of Metropolitan Telephone Corporation

4638. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided in principle to change the status of the employees of Telephone Offices in New Delhi by transferring them enmasse to the proposed Metropolitan Telephone Corporation (MTC);

(b) whether it has also been decided that the technical and Ministerial staff will be blocked with GMM/GMP for some time and from there they will be selected for the MTC and in case of failure to join MTC both technical and Ministerial staff can exercise option to go to some other nearby circles/districts; and

(c) the reasons for which the employees are not being given a chance to opt for any circle without losing seniority within the whole calendar year 1986 instead of in a few days or months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. It has been decided to treat the present staff of Delhi Telephone District as on deputation to the Metropolitan Telephone Corporation (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam) without any deputation allowance till the corporation finalises its terms and conditions for employment. The staff will continue to belong to the Department till absorbed in the Corporation.

(b) Yes, Sir. It has also been decided that the cadre controlling Authority of Delhi Telephones staff working on deputation with the Corporation until their transfer/absorption by the Corporation,

will be General Manager Maintenance, New Delhi. The Staff now working in Delhi Telephones will also be given an option for transfer to U.P. and North West Circle.

(c) The staff of Delhi Telephones will be given an option to join the Corporation or remain in the Department by giving option to join U.P. or N.W. Circle. Their seniority will be fixed as per rules.

[Translation]

Unauthorised occupation of property of Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Ltd.

4639. SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the assets acquired from British India Corporation Limited by Government at the time of incorporation of Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Ltd., Kanpur in 1969;

(b) the immovable property occupied by the people unauthorisedly; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to get this unauthorised possession vacated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The assets of the North West Tannery and Cooper Allen Branches of the British India Corporation, comprising land, buildings, plant and machinery, office equipments, motor vehicles etc., valued at about Rs. 41.5 lakhs, were acquired in 1969 for incorporating the Tannery & Footwear Corporation of India Ltd.

(b) and (c). At present 79 houses/quarters are under unauthorised occupation. Action has already been initiated under Public Premises (Eviction) Act to get the premises vacated, and in respect of premises forcibly occupied by outsiders, action is being initiated in consultation with the District Administration.

[English]

Agreement for import of Oil

4640. SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of agreements entered into by the canalising agency for the import of crude petroleum during 1986-87 indicating the names of the suppliers, the quantities involved and the per unit cost CIF Indian Port;

(b) whether these agreements have an escalation or de-escalation clause; and

(c) whether Government have decided to meet a part of the import requirements by spot purchases from the international market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) No term contracts have been finalised, to date, for purchase of crude oil in 1986-87.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Tender for second mine expansion of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited

4641. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 423 on 17th December, 1985 regarding the tender for Second Mine Expansion of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Neyveli and state :

(a) to what extent the financial assistance from KFW will be available for meeting the foreign exchange requirements and the total cost of imported equipments envisaged for the second mine expansion project;

(b) whether certain public sector undertakings had participated in the same tender and they have been eased out in preference to some private sector to whom certain awards have already been made

or letters of intent issued for some components of second mine expansion project:

(c) if so, the reasons therefor with details of public sector organisations which participated in the tender and for what components/equipments; and

(d) the action being proposed to support public sector by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Foreign exchange requirements for the Second Mine Expansion Project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited are estimated at DM 380 Million. KFW has agreed in principle to give financial assistance for meeting the foreign exchange requirements in respect of equipment/components to be procured from West Germany.

(b) and (c). Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation, a public sector enterprise, had participated in the tenders for conveyors of 2000 mm and 2400 mm widths. MAMC's offer in both the cases was not only higher (even after allowing price preference) than that of an Indian private company but MAMC could not also furnish a joint deed of undertaking (a necessary condition) from their foreign collaborator, which the Indian private company was able to do. On these grounds, a short letter of intent was issued to the Indian private company.

(d) In accordance with prescribed guidelines, purchase as well as price preference is given by NLC to public sector units subject to the condition that other technical and commercial requirements and the delivery schedule are adequately met in their offers.

Expansion and development of telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

4642. **SHRI S. PALAKONDRA-YUDU :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for the expansion and develop-

ment of telephone exchange in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expansions of Telephone systems in Andhra Pradesh have been planned as follows during seventh Five Year Plan period :—

	Expansions planned (in number of lines)
(i) Hyderabad	26,900
(ii) Vijayawada	3,000
(iii) Other Towns in Andhra Pradesh	62,200
Total	92,100

Unauthorised capacity expansion by multinational drug units

4643. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had carried out around thirteen inspections of multinational drug units during the last few years to check unauthorised capacity expansion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that unauthorised expansion of capacity is punishable under law;

(d) if so, the reasons why these cases were closed without disclosing the facts; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c). A Technical Team was appointed to have on-the-spot inspections of plant and machinery of thirteen companies of which three were FERA Companies. The reports of the Technical Team have been examined by the Government. In the light of the overall Industrial Policy of the Government, it has been decided to re-endorse/recognise the capacities in accordance with the various schemes announced by the Government from time to time.

Setting up of Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Districts of Andhra Pradesh

4644. **SHRI G. SAMBU :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up electronic telephone exchanges at Martur, Bapatla and Chirala of Prakasham District in Andhra Pradesh ; and

(b) the probable date by which the same will be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Supply of defective Bucket wheel Excavators by M.A.N., West Germany to Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited

4645. **DR. V. VENKATESH :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2231 on 3rd December, 1985 regarding supply of defective Bucket wheel Excavators by M.A.N. West Germany to Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and state :

(a) The total cost and expenditure incurred by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited for procurement of the said two Bucket wheel Excavators including

the amount of foreign exchange paid to the supplier ;

(b) whether the examination of the enquiry report has been completed ;

(c) if so, the details of the said report and results of its examination ; and

(d) what further action is being contemplated ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The total expenditure incurred on the procurement of the two bucket wheel excavators was Rs. 21.38 crores. This included foreign exchange payment equivalent to Rs. 9.16 crores.

(b) to (d). Independent enquiries into the accident that occurred in October, 1984 to one of the bucket wheel excavators were held by the Directorate General Mines Safety, a West German Expert and by a committee of officers of NLC. All these enquiry reports had brought out that the cause of the accident was human failure in that adequate precautions were not taken before removing the welds on one of the thrust plates in the excavator. The DGMS has launched prosecution against 5 officials of the NLC under the Mines Act, 1952. As to whether there have been any design deficiencies in the equipment, it appears that there was no deficiency in the structural design. To doubly ensure design soundness in future purchases of such equipment an additional safeguard will be provided in the contracts for vetting of the design as well as inspection by an expert agency.

Production target of coal

4646. **SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total coal bearing areas in the country according to the latest survey ;

(b) the target set for production of coal by the end of the Seventh Plan ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The coal reserves in India as per assessment made by the Geological Survey of India upto June, 1985 is 1,55,901.78 million tonnes, for coal seams of 0.5 metre and above in thickness down to a depth of 1200 metres. The distribution of coal reserves in different states is as under :

	(million tonnes)
(a) West Bengal	28,393.99
(b) Bihar	57,767.40
(c) Madhya Pradesh	25,396.17
(d) Orissa	31,318.45
(e) Maharashtra	3,183.35
(f) Andhra Pradesh	9,000.40
(g) Assam	280.03
(h) Arunachal Pradesh	91.00
(i) Meghalaya	458.94
(j) Nagaland	12.05

(b) and (c). The target of coal production to be achieved in the terminal year of the Seventh Plan has been fixed at 226 million tonnes. Company-wise break-up of this target is as below :—

	(in million tonnes)
(i) Coal India Limited	196.30
(ii) Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	24.00
(iii) Others	5.70
Total	226.00

STD Facility in cities and towns of Maharashtra

4647. SHRI GURDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cities and towns

provided with STD connections in Maharashtra during the last three years ;

(b) whether Government propose to give STD connections during 1986-87 in different towns of the state ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 6 cities/towns have been provided with STD facility in Maharashtra during the last 3 year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) STD facility is likely to be provided to the following towns of the state during 1986-87 :

1. Chanderpur 2. Dhulia
3. Panvel 4. Shirampur (Belapur Road)

Thermal power station at Sagardighi

4648. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2338 on 3 December, 1985 regarding thermal power station at Sagardighi and state :

(a) whether the modified proposal for setting up a Thermal Power Station at Sagardighi in the District of Murshidabad West Bengal has been submitted by the West Bengal State Electricity Board to the Central Electricity Authority ;

(b) if so, whether Central Electricity Authority/Union Government have decided to sanction the proposal ;

(c) if so, the progress in this direction and the tentative time limit by which the scheme is likely to get clearance ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). The modified scheme for setting up a Thermal Power Station, envisaging installation of 5 units of 210 MW and 2 units of 500 MW, at an

estimated cost of Rs. 2078 crores at Sagar-dighi in the Murshidabad district of West Bengal, was received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 27.12.1985. The scheme is being techno-economically appraised in the CEA whose clearance could be accorded only after essential inputs, such as availability of coal and cooling water etc. are tied up necessary clearances, including clearances from the environmental angle and civil aviation aspects etc. become available.

Mining and Allied machinery Corporation Limited

4649. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the composition of the Board of Directors of mining and Allied machinery Corporation Limited including terms of employment of the Chairman-cum-Managing Director and names of other functional and/or non-functional Directors ;

(b) whether the company has earned profit or loss during the last three years, details thereof ;

(c) the efforts being made to modernise the Company's equipments, etc and to adopt new technologies from developed countries ;

(d) the existing collaboration arrangements with companies or firms of foreign origin ; and

(e) the efforts being made to update and utilise in full the installed capacities and to keep the order book full with business ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The required information is given in the statement given below.

(b) The loss incurred by the Company during the last three years has been as under :

1982-83	Rs. 10.07 crores
1983-84	Rs. 7.92 crores
1984-85	Rs. 11.92 crores

(c) and (d). Mining and Allied machinery Corporation (MAMC) have drawn up a programme to modernise their existing equipments and facilities and funds have been provided in the VIIth Five year plan. The Company have existing collaboration arrangements with various firms of international repute of U.K., West Germany, Netherland and Poland. Further import of technologies from developed countries is also planned to upgrade the technologies and diversify the product-mix.

(e) Steps have been initiated to secure long-term orders from Coal and other sectors to keep the order book full and to improve the capacity utilisation.

Statement

Name of the Director on the Board of MAMC	Status
1	2
1. Shri P.S. Gupta, CMD, *	Functional Director
2. Shri C.R. Sen, Director (Finance)	—do—
3. Shri S.C. Dhingra, Adviser (Technical) & Ex-Officio Joint Secretary Dept. of public Enterprises	Part-time non-functional Director
4. Shri Tirlochan Singh Joint Secrerary, Deptt. of Steel	—do—

1

2

5. Shri A.B. Sengupta,
Deputy Secretary (Finance)
Department of public Enterprises

Part-time
non-functional
Director

*Shri P.S. Gupta, the CMD, of HEC, Ranchi, in the pay scale of Rs. 4500-125-5000 is holding additional charge as CMD, MAMC with effect from 6.1.1986.

Achievement of targets by Capital goods Industry

4650. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the capital goods industry is not likely to achieve its production targets of Rs. 30,000 crores in 1989-90 at a growth rate of 8 per cent if the adverse impact of the pressure groups is not adequately checked ;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted to assess the position in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the recommendations and suggestions, so that corrective measures can be taken in time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The Seventh Plan Document specifies capacity and production targets for principal types of industries and not for capital goods sector as such. The production target of Rs. 30,000 crores by 1989-90 at a growth rate of 8 percent and apprehensions about its achievement have presumably a reference to an A.I.E.I. study suggesting certain modifications in licensing, trade and fiscal policies.

The Plan targets are based on realistic estimates and the Government is fully seized of the need to achieve them.

Issue of Bonds by Indian Telephone Industries

4651. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Telephone Industries has sought the Finance Ministry's permission to retain the entire over-subscribed position of its one hundred crore bonds issue ;

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

(c) whether the Indian Telephone Industries can manage its development plans during the Seventh Five Year Plan without going in for public issue of bonds again if this concession is provided to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has approved the retention of over-subscribed amount to the extent of Rs. 16.63 crores through issue of bonds.

(c) No, Sir. Indian Telephone Industries may have to be permitted to float more issues of bonds during Seventh Five Year Plan period.

[Translation]

Development of districts declared as Backward Areas

4652. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of districts in the country which have been declared as backward areas and the details and nature of assistance provided to the State Governments by the Union Government for their

development during the last one year; and

(b) the number of industries set up in such districts during the last one year and the number of persons brought above the poverty line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM):

(a) 300 districts/areas of the country have been identified as industrially backward eligible to various incentives like Central Investment Subsidy, concessional Finance, Interest Subsidy etc.; details are given in the booklet on 'INCENTIVES FOR INDUSTRIES IN BACKWARD AREAS' April, 1984 read with Press Note No. 14/2/83—DBA—I dated 9.4.85, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

During the year 1984-85 a sum of Rs. 82.02 cores & Rs. 2.99 crores were reimbursed to State Governments under the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme and Transport Subsidy Scheme respectively.

(b) During the year 1985, 774 letters of intent, 427 Industrial Licences and 1140 DGTD registrations were accorded for setting up industries in the backward areas. Details such as name of the undertaking, location, item of manufacture etc. are published by the Indian Investment Centre in their "Monthly Newsletter"; copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Information about the number of persons brought above poverty line in these areas is not maintained.

[English]

Dr. Vardarajan Committee Report on Bhopal Gas Leak

4653. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vardarajan Committee's Report on the Bhopal gas leak has held that hydrogen cyanide was not responsible for the deaths caused ;

(b) whether this conclusion contra-

dicts the findings of the Central Air pollution Control Board and several other medical investigations ; and

(c) whether M/s. Union Carbide has failed to provide adequate information on the possibility of cyanide being released from Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Report on Scientific Studies on Factors related to Bhopal Toxic Gas Leakage submitted by a team of scientists headed by Dr. Vardarajan does not record the causes of death or injury. The Report has been chiefly concerned with the conditions that lead to the toxic gas leakage.

(c) Available Union Carbide Reports do not contain detailed information on the behaviour of methyl Isocyanate when subjected to heating and on the formation of cyanide.

Non-Availability of Monotard Insulin in Delhi

4654. **PROF. SAIFUDIN SOZ :**

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that monotard insulin, a life-saving drug for diabetic patients is not available in Delhi ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Doctors prefer imported stuff of the drug and do not prescribe local variety because of its inferior quality; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take to produce standard quality insulin in future and ensure adequate supply of the imported variety as a short-run measure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is difficult to generalise.

(c) There is adequate production of

plain norm of insulin of standard quality in the country. The manufacture of Insulin has already been delicensed and exempted from sections 21 and 22 of the MRTP Act to encourage indigenous production.

M/s. Synbiotics Ltd., the importer and distributor of highly purified Chromatographed insulins, prescribed for patients with fat atrophy or in cases of normal insulin resistance, manufactured by Nova, Denmark, have reported adequate availability of these formulations.

Price of Molasses

4655. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of molasses that can be obtained by crushing one hundred tonnes of sugarcane ;

(b) the cost of molasses so obtained in the open market ; and

(c) whether it is proposed to raise the rate of support price of sugarcane to Rs. 300/- per tonne in the new policy on molasses, taking into consideration the fact that the cane growers are not deriving any benefit from the price of molasses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) The norm of 4.25 tonnes of molasses per 100 tonnes of sugarcane crushed is normally adopted.

(b) As per the molasses Control Order, 1961, the price of molasses is Rs. 60/- per tonne for grade A sugar mill molasses.

(c) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Setting up of thermal power plant at Gorakhpur

4656. SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased

to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for selecting site for setting up of plants for power generation in public sector ; and

(b) whether Government propose to set up thermal power plant at Gorakhpur since the place is directly linked by rail with Dhanbad which is a coal producing area and water is available there in plenty and it is the most backward area where availability of power absolutely necessary for development ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The selection of site for location of a thermal station depends on several factors, such as availability of adequate land for power plant and ash disposal system, adequate quantity of cooling water, availability of coal and broad gauge rail link and nearness to Load Centre etc.

(b) There is at present, no proposal for locating a thermal power plant at Gorakhpur.

[English]

Employees' participation in Management in Maruti Udyog Ltd.

4657. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether production at Maruti Udyog has been affected during February 1986 due to employee rivalries ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether the company has introduced employees' participation in management ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). There was one day's loss of production on account of employee rivalries, however, planned target for the month of February was achieved.

(c) Maruti Udyog have been following employees' participation in management.

**Malpractices by L.P.G. Dealers
in Delhi**

4658. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL :
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by Indian oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation about various malpractices being perpetrated by L.P.G. dealers in Delhi e.g. compelling customers for purchase of L.P.G. stove before providing new connection, late delivery of refills, excess amount charged for refills, less weight and without proper seal etc. ;

(b) the particulars of LPG dealers/agents involved and action taken against them ;

(c) whether Government propose to

consider blacklisting of such agencies and in case of continues complaints, order cancellation of agencies ; and

(d) what other effective steps are contemplated by Government ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA
SHEKHAR SINGH) :** (a) 111 such complaints have been received during 1986.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) and (d). Any malpractices detected are dealt with in accordance with the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines and appropriate action thereunder is taken against erring distributors, ranging from issue of caution/warning letters to termination of distributorship.

Statement

Name of the LPG dealers		Action taken
1	2	3
1.	AMar Gas Service	Distributor cautioned
2.	C. Lal & Sons	—do—
3.	Avtar Gas	—do—
4.	P. Lal & Sons	—do—
5.	Jayant	—do—
6.	Sidhartha	—do—
7.	Nandi Gas	Enrolment suspended
8.	Shakti Entp.	Distributor cautioned
9.	B.N. Gupta	—do—
10.	J. J. Gas Service	—do—
11.	Vijay Rattan Entp.	—do—
12.	Dee pee	—do—

1	2	3
13.	Atul Entp.	Distributor cautioned
14.	Chandra Gas	—do—
15.	Vidya Sagar Gas	—do—
16.	Pearl Gas Service	—do—
17.	Kwic Gas Service	—do—
18.	Priya Gas Service	—do—
19.	Shaeed Subhash Gas	—do—
20.	Zaildar Gas Service	New connections were Stopped in Jan. 1986
21.	A.T.C.	Distributor cautioned
22.	Angad Entp.	—do—
23.	Elite	—do—
24.	Litts Refrigeration	Enrolment stopped
25.	P.N.M.	Distributor cautioned
26.	Citizen Gas Service	—do—
27.	Kiran Gas Sr.	—do—
28.	Raminder Gas	Enrolment stopped
29.	Hem Gas	Distributor cautioned
30.	Surjit Fuel Depot	—do—
31.	Sondhi Gas	Connections were suspended
32.	Aar Kay Entp.	Distributor cautioned
33.	Mohansil Gas	—do—
34.	Prabhat Gas	—do—
35.	Sivanikka Gas	—do—
36.	Kay Aar Ent.	Enrolment was suspended
37.	Ruchika Agencies	Distributor Cautioned
38.	Chanakya Sidhartha Gas Co.	—do—

1	2	4
39. Fairdeals		Warning letter issued.
40. Surya Gas Agencies		—do—
41. Surya Gas Agencies		Distributor Cautioned
42. Mini Gas		Warning letter with Connections stopped for 3 months from march, 1986.

[Translation]

**Employment provided by Khadi and
Village Industries Commission**

4660. SHRI HARISH RAWAT :
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased
to state :

(a) whether there is a big gap in
regard to money invested and employment
provided by the Khadi and Village Indus-
tries Commission in different States during
the Sixth Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, whether the money inves-
ted in Uttar Pradesh during the above
Plan period is the minimum as compared
to other States ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and
the steps proposed to be taken by Govern-
ment to make good this deficiency during
the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNA-
CHALAM) : (a) No, Sir. The investment
made and employment provided by Khadi
and Village Industries Commission in diffe-
rent states upto the Sixth Five Year Plan
is shown in Statement given below.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Statewise disbursement and Employment upto the end of 1984-85.

1	2	Total Disbursement Employment for Khadi and V.I provided under Khadi & V.I.		
		Grant (Rs. Crores)	Loan (Lakh person)	
1	2	3	4	5
1. States				
1. Andhra Pradesh		16.90	34.34	4.32
2. Assam		2.73	6.58	0.96
3. Bihar		35.70	50.27	2.82

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Gujarat	25.75	37.25	0.73
5.	Haryana	3.17	16.05	0.60
6.	Himachal	1.17	8.46	0.53
7.	J & K.	0.92	8.50	0.50
8.	Karnataka	13.28	41.30	1.37
9.	Kerala	11.13	34.25	1.75
10.	M.P.	8.40	16.87	0.51
11.	Maharashtra	28.60	31.46	3.03
12.	Manipur	0.93	1.56	0.18
13.	Meghalaya	0.20	2.20	0.05
14.	Nagaland	0.45	0.18	0.03
15.	Orissa	4.91	14.89	0.74
16.	Panjab	23.61	32.87	1.16
17.	Rajasthan	23.40	52.92	2.39
18.	Sikkim	0.11	0.23	*
19.	Tamilnadu	43.38	77.91	7.35
20.	Tripura	1.15	0.45	0.27
21.	U.P.	75.48	100.91	7.09
22.	West Bengal	9.01	27.00	1.47
Total		330.38	594.45	37.75
II. Union Territories				
1.	A.&N. Islands	0.01	0.13	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.05	-	0.01
3.	Chandigarh	0.02	0.51	0.01
4.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.02	0.04	*
5.	Delhi	4.23	2.25	0.09

1	2	3	4	5
6. Goa, Daman and Diu.		0.11	0.38	0.02
7. Mizoram		0.01	-	*
8. Pondicherry		0.04	0.46	0.01
	Total	4.49	3.77	0.14
	Grand Total	334.87	598.22	37.89

*Less than 500.

[English]

Use of Microwave Towers for Telecommunication system

4661. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether for speedy transmission of telecommunication system, Government have installed microwave towers in the country ;

(b) whether these microwave towers are functioning satisfactorily ;

(c) whether Government are aware that in many advanced countries these microwave towers are used both by Communications and Broadcasting Departments ;

(d) whether the Department of Telecommunications proposes to allow Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to use these micro-wave towers for transmission of their telecast programmes ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. These are instances of use of common tower in developed countries.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The feasibility of TV transmission from microwave towers has been studied and it is seen that with limited availability of infrastructure and facilities of microwave stations, several administrative, operational and technical restrictions will arise, making the proposition complex and impracticable.

Import of Drug Intermediates

4662. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of drug intermediates being imported in the country ;

(b) what are the bulk drugs being produced both from basic stages as well as imported intermediates ; and

(c) since when these drugs are being produced from intermediate stages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Import of drug intermediates is not being monitored by this Ministry.

(b) and (c). About 225 bulk drugs

are being produced in the country. Among those which are produced from basic stages as well as from imported intermediates include semi-synthetic penicillins, chloramphenicol and betamethasone. Production from intermediate stages by small scale/non-FERA Companies is right from the commencement of production which varies from drug to drug.

[Translation]

Attachment of units of Bandhav Thermal Power Station of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board with Collieries

4663. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to attach from 1994-95 one of the units (1 × 500 MW) of Bandhav Thermal Power Station of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board with Singrauli Colliery for the purpose of supply of coal ; and

(b) whether Government propose to make arrangements in regard to attaching all the four units (4 × 500 MW) of Bandhav Thermal Power Station with certain collieries for supply of coal so that Madhya Pradesh could make full advantage of this scheme during the Eighth Plan and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to link one unit (1 × 500 MW) of Bandhav Thermal Power Station of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board to Singrauli Coalfields for benefits from 1992-93.

(b) Coal Linkage to Thermal Power Projects is decided by the Special Linkage Committee (Long term) on Power after the scheme is approved by Central Electricity Authority from techno-economic angle and cleared 'in principle' by the Planning Commission for Coal Linkage. The Special Linkage Committee have not so far considered the coal linkage for the expansion units of Bandhav Thermal Power Station as the Planning Commission has not conveyed the 'in principle' clearance for the same.

[English]

Small Scale Industries in Madhya Pradesh

4664. SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the total number of small scale industries in Madhya Pradesh and particularly in Jabalpur ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): The total number of small scale units registered with the State Directorate of Industries, Madhya Pradesh was 93,798 at the end of December, 1985. Out of this 4,853 units were located in the district of Jabalpur.

Violation of MRTP Act by Wings Wear (P) Ltd., New Delhi and K.M.P. Oil Industries Calcutta

4665. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Economic Times' of 20 February, 1986 wherein it has been stated that Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has been inquiring against Wings Wear (P) Limited, New Delhi and K.M.P. Oil Industries, Calcutta for violation of MRTP Act/Rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). The MRTP Commission has instituted an enquiry against Messers K.M.P. Oil Industries Limited, No. 1-A, Burman Street, Calcutta, on the basis of an advertisement which appeared in various newspapers including Punjab Kesari of Delhi dated 7.7.1985. In this advertisement, the organising of a contest called 'Lakhon Ke Inam Apke Nam' and offering various prizes and gifts were

announced. The Commission considered that the holding of such a contest was an unfair trade practice within the meaning of the MRTP Act, 1969 and has instituted an enquiry in the matter. The case is fixed for further hearing before the Commission on 1.5.1986. Messrs Wings Wear Private Limited, New Delhi, had issued an advertisement in 'Hindustan Times' dated 7.9.1985 announcing the opening of 'Exciting Fashion Centre' at Karol Bagh, New Delhi and offering prizes by draw of lots. In the case, the Commission felt that offering prizes by conducting a Lottery was an unfair practice within the meaning of the MRTP Act, 1969 and accordingly instituted an enquiry. The next hearing in this case is scheduled to be held before the Commission on 29.4.1986.

**Private Companies to set up and operate
Mobile Telephone Exchanges**

4666. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to permit private companies to set up and operate mobile telephones exchanges in Metropolitan cities with royalty to Government;

(b) if so, under what terms and conditions; and

(c) how many companies have so far applied to the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of reply to para (a) above.

Coir Industry in Kerala

4667. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for Coir Industry in

Kerala being on a declining trend ;

(b) the steps taken to save it ; and

(c) the amount of assistance given to Coir Industry by the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Successive years of unprecedented drought in Kerala in 1982 and 1983 and coconut wilt disease had adversely affected production of coconuts and availability of coconut husk, which is the basic raw material for coir industry. However, of late, there are signs of recovery.

(b) The Coconut Board has taken certain measures to eradicate wilt disease. The steps taken to save the situation within these constraints include : relaxation on movement of coconut husk from surplus to deficit areas under Coconut Husk Control Order, grant of cash Compensatory support on f. o. b. value of exports, etc.

(c) Against actual expenditure of Rs. 8.37 crores in the Sixth Plan, a provision of Rs.17.84 crores has been made in the Seventh Plan for the development of Coir Industry.

**Sick units under MRTP and FERA
companies**

4668. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick units controlled by MRTP and FERA companies with names of such units; and

(b) the number of these sick units in the large medium and small sectors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks are collected by the Reserve Bank of India as per the definition of sickness adopted by it. According to the latest data available

from it there were 545 large sick units in the country as at the end of December, 1984, out of which 74 units belonged to M.R.T.P. houses. Data on units controlled by FERA companies or on medium and small sectors sick units controlled by MRTTP companies is not separately furnished by the Reserve Bank of India.

In accordance with the 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 assisted by banks.

Fixation of prices of medicines

4669. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of medicines have been fixed on the basis of higher prices of bulk drugs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that their actual purchase prices are much lower than the prices of bulk drugs taken for the fixation of prices of their formulations; and

(c) the steps taken by his Ministry to reduce the prices of the medicines based on the actual prices of bulk drugs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The prices of formulations are fixed based on the price of bulk drug notified under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 or the claimed price of the bulk drug of individual formulators whichever is lower.

Energy saving measures

4670. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether country has already saved Rs.100 crores (recurring per annum) by adopting energy saving measures in petroleum products as reported in the 'Economic Times' of 7th March, 1986 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the country is now poised to save Rs. 650 crores on paper for the Seventh Five Year Plan ; and

(d) if so, whether the reports and recommendation of the petroleum Conservation Research Association have been studied in his Ministry for implementation by the Companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In 1983-84, Petroleum Conservation Research Association's conservation activities resulted in a recurring saving of around Rs. 100 crores per annum, the product/sectorwise details of which are given below :

Product	Sector	Savings (Rs./crores)
1. LPG	Domestic/Household	1.8
2. SKO	—do—	4.0
3. HSD	Transport & Agriculture	6.0
4. M.S.	—do—	2.0
5. Furnace Oil	Industrial	85.5
Total :		99.3
(or say Rs. 100 crores)		

(c) During the Seventh Five Year Plan conservation activities taken up by PCRA are estimated to result in a saving of petroleum products worth Rs. 650 crores.

(d) While making allocation of the 7th Plan outlay for PCRA, its proposals have been cleared by Govt. for implementation through various agencies.

Requirement of power in Delhi

4671. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi suffers from chronic power shortage;

(b) the anticipated figures for the annual requirement of power in Delhi and

the supply until 1990 and the measures being taken, if any to bridge the gap ; and

(c) the details of the power losses in Delhi because of different factors such as transmission, faulty lines and unauthorised usage etc. and the measures being taken and proposed to be taken to reduce these losses ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to the demand assessment made by Twelfth Electric Power Survey of India, and the availability assessed based on targetted addition in the Seventh Plan document, the year-wise peak requirement and availability in Delhi is expected to be as under :—

(Figs. in MW)

Year	Requirement	Availability	Shortage
1986-87	1045	603	(—) 442
1987-88	1146	679	(—) 467
1988-89	1255	783	(—) 472
1989-90	1373	823	(—) 550

To bridge the gap between demand and availability, DESU is installing six gas-turbine units of 30 MW each and two thermal units of 67.5 MW each. A National Capital Region Thermal Power Station at Muradnagar with a capacity of 840 MW is also being set up. Delhi will also get its share from the new Central stations being set up in the Northern Region.

(c) The present transmission and distribution losses in Delhi are about 18%. It is not practicable to segregate the losses into transmission, faulty lines and unauthorised usage etc. Various measures are being taken by DESU to curb losses which include extensive checks, installation of improved types of meters, sanctioning temporary connections in accordance with actual loads, and levy of a 10% surcharge on consumers who do not instal shunt capacitors when required.

Opening of Public Call Offices and Post Offices in Karnataka

4672. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of public call offices and post offices proposed to be opened in the State of Karnataka in 1986-87 ;

(b) the number of branch post offices and sub-post offices proposed to be upgraded during that year ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 75 long distance public call offices are proposed to be opened in the State of Karnataka during 1986-87. As regards Post Offices, there is no proposal to open new Post Offices on account of ban on creation of posts.

(b) There is no proposal to upgrade branch Post Offices or Sub-Post Offices in Karnataka circle during 1986-87 in view of the ban on creation of posts.

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

**Opening of Regional office of ONGC
at Kakinada or Rajmandry**

4673. SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESHWARA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a regional offices of Oil and Natural Gas Commission at Kakinada or Rajmandry in East Godawari District ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). At present the Oil & Natural Gas Commission do not propose to establish a regional office at Kakinda or Rajamundhry.

**Violation of M.R.T.P. Act by M/s I.T.C.
Limited**

4674. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have prosecuted M/s. I.T.C. Limited for violation of Companies Act and Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act for which cases were launched ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, when the cases are likely to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). In two cases M/s I.T.C. Limited are being prosecuted by the Registrar of Companies, Calcutta. One relates to violation of Section 372 of the Companies Act for M/s. I.T.C. having made investments beyond the prescribed limits in the share capital of M/s. Sumit Investments Ltd. M/s Pinnacle Investments Ltd. and M/s. Sage Investments Ltd. In the other case, prosecution under section 294(2)/294AA of the Act was launched in the matter of appointment of M/s Raisina publications Ltd., Delhi, as sole selling Agents by M/s ITC without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government.

In both the cases the prosecution proceedings launched in July, 1984, are pending before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Calcutta.

(c) Since the matter is before the Court, no specific date for finalisation of the cases can be indicated.

**Conversion of Hailakandi Telephone
Exchange in Assam into manual
Telephone Exchange**

4675. SHRI SUDARSHAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(b) whether the Telephone Exchange at Hailakandi in Assam has been converted into Manual Exchange ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) A manual exchange is already working at Hailakandi for the last few years.

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

Panel on Revitalisation of Paper Industry

4676. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :
SHRI K. V. SHANKARA
GOWDA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up a panel to suggest measures for revitalisation of the paper industry ;

(b) whether the panel has submitted its report to Government in this regard ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the action so far taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Jobs Undertaken by Hydrocarbons India Ltd.

4677. SHRI YASHWANT RAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hydrocarbons India Ltd. (HIL) has formed a consortium with other public sector undertakings to take up turn-key jobs in foreign countries in oil and gas ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and jobs proposed to be undertaken ;

(c) whether these activities will not adversely affect the acceleration of oil production at home ; and

(d) the names of the countries where Hydrocarbons India Ltd. is executing projects or proposes to undertake works ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Oil and Natural

Gas Commission, through its wholly owned subsidiary Hydrocarbons India Ltd., is in the process of forming a consortium with the following public sector undertakings to take turn-key and consultancy jobs in foreign countries in the Oil and Gas Sector :

1. Engineers India Ltd.
2. Mazagon Docks Ltd.
3. Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.
4. Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.
5. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
6. Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.
7. Instrumentation Ltd.
8. Oil & Natural Gas Commission
9. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
10. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
10. Hydrocarbons India Ltd.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Jobs may be taken up in the countries in Middle-East, Africa, Indian Ocean, South Asia and South-East Asia.

Washery at Bharatpur Coal Mines of Central Coalfields Ltd.

4678. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some time back Government considered the plan to instal a washery at the Bharatpur Coal mines of Central Coalfields Ltd. which was to an extent of 600 MW captive power plant of National Aluminium Co. Ltd. at Angul; and

(b) whether it has been dropped and if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). A Coal Washery with a throughput capacity of 3.50 million tonnes of raw coal per annum was proposed at Bharatpur to meet the coal requirements of the captive thermal power station of National Aluminium Co. Ltd. The project has been dropped on considerations of cost of washed coal.

Induction of Thermal Power Plant in Kerala

4679. DR. K.G. ADIYODI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kerala is a deficit State in power generation ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take steps on top priority for induction of a Thermal Power Plant without further delay in the current Plan ; and

(c) if not, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Kerala is, by and large, able to meet its energy requirement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up Khadi and Village Industries in Rural Areas for Generating Employment

4680. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up Khadi and Village Industries in rural areas so as to provide employment and vocation to villagers ; and

(b) the number of Khadi and Village Industries set up in rural areas and the number of persons provided employment therein so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). KVIC implements its programmes for development of Khadi and twenty-six village industries specified in the Schedule to the KVIC Act mainly in rural areas. The work relating to village industries is being implemented generally through State KVI Boards. The number of persons who were employed in these industries during the last three years is as follows :—

Year	Employment in Lakh Persons	
	Khadi	Total in Employment Khadi And V.I.
1982-83	13.61	34.34
1983-84	13.59	35.51
1984-85	13.05	37.89

[English]

Recommendations of Working Group set up to examine Explosives Department

4681. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working group set up to examine the overall regulatory functions of the Explosives Department and to classify responsibilities which can be delegated by the Department to the inspecting Agencies within the stipulated period, i.e. by February 10, 1986 has submitted its report ; and

(b) if so, the principal recommendations and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Working Group set up to examine the overall regulatory functions of the Explosives Department is expected to submit its report by the end of April, 1986.

Production of formulations under Delicensing Scheme

4682. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 236 on 25 February, 1986 regarding applicability of liberalised licensing policy to Drug Industry and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of companies who obtained approvals under delicensing scheme have started production of formulations only ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the approval of formulations is linked with the production of bulk drugs ;

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

(d) whether his Ministry is monitoring the conditions of the approval ;

(e) if so, the names of the companies which have contravened the conditions ;

(f) whether his Ministry has taken any action against those companies ; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) None of the companies which have been issued Registrations under delicensing scheme have reported commencement of production of formulations.

(b) to (d). Under the 1978 Drug Policy, fresh approvals for formulations

are subject to fulfilment of ratio-parameters (Ratio between value of bulk drug production to value of formulations production) which is 1 : 10 for Non-FERA Companies. Compliance with ratio parameters is examined before granting fresh industrial licences.

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

Supply of gas to Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board from Krishna Godavari Basin

4683. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the potentialities of Krishna-Godavari Basin as far as natural gas is concerned ;

(b) where and to what extent the gas was produced after prolonged trial ;

(c) whether the Central Electricity Authority was approached by Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board with a plan for natural gas generation station of 200 M.W. capacity ; and

(d) if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). ONGC is engaged in exploration of hydrocarbons in the Krishna Godavari Basin of Andhra Pradesh. So far, 13 wells in the onland and 28 wells in the offshore areas have been drilled. Out of these, 7 wells in the onland and 6 in the offshore have proved oil/gas-bearing.

The exploration efforts at present do not permit a firm estimation of reserves which will enable steady supply of gas for commercial purposes.

(c) and (d). The Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board had recently informed this Ministry of its intention to set up gas-based power generation facilities of 200 MW capacity. The Central Electricity Authority have now informed us that

they have received a feasibility report from Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board for establishing a 150 MW gas-based power station, and that the same is under process.

Setting up of Petrochemicals Complexes in Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Plans

4684. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the petrochemical complexes which were sanctioned to be set up in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans ;

(b) how many of those have already been set up ;

(c) whether there are any constraints in their setting up ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) The following three petrochemical complexes in the Central Public Sector were sanctioned to be set up in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans :—

- (i) Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL), Baroda, its continuing schemes and expansions ;
- (ii) Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL), Assam ; and
- (iii) Maharashtra Gas Cracker Complex (MGCC), Maharashtra.

(b) to (d). One complex viz. IPCL has already been completed. As for BRPL, its Xylene and DMT units have been commissioned, whereas implementation of polyester staple fibre unit is in progress. The mechanical completion of MGCC is due in 1989.

Interest subsidy to Public Sector Heavy Engineering Units

4685. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose not to provide interest subsidy to five public sector heavy engineering units;

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

(c) whether it would mean that these five units would continue to be deprived of the interest holiday benefit for 1986-87 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No decision has been taken by Government not to provide interest subsidy to any public sector heavy engineering units.

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

Supply of tender and soaked bamboo reeds to Hindustan Newsprint Limited in Kerala

4686. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tender and soaked bamboo/reeds supplied by certain contractors are being accepted by the Hindustan Newsprint Limited, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for accepting such supplies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). Contractors are appointed by Hindustan Paper Corporation for felling and delivering of reeds and bamboos from Forests allotted by the Government of Kerala. Felling operation is supervised by the Corporation's Field Staff as well as by the Forest Department of the State Government. In the interest of the Corporation and availability of

forestry raw material, felling of tender bamboo/reeds is discouraged. The bamboo and reed are accepted at the Mill site on weighment basis after due test of moisture content at the Mill's Laboratory. In case the moisture content is found in excess of the agreed percentage, proportionate deductions are made in order to arrive at equivalent weight of 65% moisture content material.

Oil drilling at Kaikaluru I, II, III Oil Wells

4687. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether drilling at Kaikaluru I was completed, if so, the estimated yield therefrom;

(b) the total amount spent on it as on 1 January, 1986;

(c) the latest stage of the well; and

(d) the progress in respect of Kaikaluru II and Kaikaluru III wells ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (c). Yes, Sir. The well, which on initial testing proved gas bearing, has been temporarily shut till the completion of assessment/delineation of the field through further exploratory drilling.

(b) About Rs. 3 crores.

(d) Kalkalur-II is under testing. Kaikalur-III will be taken up for drilling after testing of Kaikalur-II.

Availability of Ethambutol and other medicines for treatment of T.B. at low prices

4688. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of medicines based on Ethambutol for the treatment of TB patients are very high; and poor TB patients cannot afford to buy them;

(b) whether the price of bulk drug is much lower than the price at which his Ministry has fixed the prices of these medicines;

(c) whether his Ministry is giving the highest mark-up allowed; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to make these medicines available at cheap prices and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) The prices of Ethambutol formulations have been statutorily fixed under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

(b) Manufacturers are free to sell the bulk drug at prices not exceeding the prices fixed by the Government.

(c) Markup on Ethambutol formulations has been allowed in accordance with the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

(d) Ethambutol formulations are already available at fair and reasonable prices fixed under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

Production of bulk drugs and formulations by Companies which got Registration under delicensing scheme

4689. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of companies which obtained registration under delicensing scheme for production of bulk drugs and formulations have started the production of formulations without producing the bulk drugs;

(b) if so, whether such instances have come to the notice of his Ministry;

(c) whether it is also a fact that those companies were granted permission for manufacture of formulations based on their own production of bulk drugs from basic stages; and

(d) If so, the action being taken against those companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). None of the companies which have been issued Registrations under delicensing scheme have reported commencement of production of formulations.

(c) Under the 1978 Drug policy only FERA Companies are subject to the stipulation that fresh approvals for formulations would be granted for related bulk drugs only and that these bulk drugs are produced from the basic stages. The scheme of delicensing does not apply to FERA Companies.

(d) Does not arise.

Full utilisation of idle capacities in Industries

4690. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether idle capacities exist in several industries like paper, wagon building, engineering, chemicals and pharmaceuticals; and

(b) if so, the efforts made to promote full capacity utilisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The capacity utilisation in paper, wagon building, engineering, chemicals and pharmaceuticals would have been higher but for certain factors such as infrastructural and raw material constraints, demand bottlenecks, adverse industrial relations and inadequate technological upgradation, etc.

(b) Optimum utilization of capacity continues to be the cornerstone of Government's industrial policy and several measures have been taken for better utilisation of capacity. This is being secured, *inter-alia*, through suitable changes in industrial licensing and import policies as well

as through monetary and fiscal measures and improvement in infrastructure.

World Bank Assistance for Power Projects

4691. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are a number of power projects in the State sector for which World Bank assistance is being sought by different States ;

(b) if so, the names of the projects including the names of the States ;

(c) the conditions to be fulfilled for obtaining foreign assistance for power plants in the State sector ; and

(d) whether all these projects for which assistance is being sought fulfil those conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). A number of power projects are presently under implementation in the State Sector with World Bank assistance. These include : Bodhghat (M.P.), Upper Indravati (Orissa), Lower Periyar (Kerala), Sardar Sarovar (M.P., Maharashtra and Gujarat) and Chandrapur Extension (Maharashtra). In addition, Narmada Sagar multi-purpose project (M.P.), Kalinadi Stage II (Karnataka) and Nathpa Jhakri (H.P.) are under consideration for World Bank assistance. A pipeline of power projects for World Bank assistance is drawn up from time to time in consultation with the concerned authorities. In selecting the projects, the following objectives are kept in view :—

- (i) The project should be in conformity with the priorities laid down in the Seventh Plan.
- (ii) Sufficient funds have been allocated in the approved Plan for the project.
- (iii) The project should be economically viable and technically feasible.

The final selection of projects is made

within the overall commitment indicated annually by the World Bank at the Consortium meeting.

Indo-U.K. Joint Venture

4692. SHRI K. V. SHANKARA GOWDA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the prospects of more Indo-U.K. joint ventures likely to come up ;

(b) what are the Indo-U.K. joint ventures on which agreement has been reached between the two countries ; and

(c) the projects that Indo-U.K. joint ventures will take up during 1986-87 and the assistance that will be provided by the U.K. Government on such joint ventures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) In the meeting of the Industrial Collaboration Sub-Committee of the Indo-British Economic Committee held in London on 11-13 September, 1985, it was agreed that the potential areas of mutual cooperation were automotive products ; tele-communications ; electronics and software flexible manufacturing systems ; anti-pollution measures ; energy conservation and alternative energy sources, etc.

(b) The Government of India has approved, since 1957, more than 2,000 cases involving collaborations between Indian and U.K. firms/companies. The details of the approved foreign collaborations cases are published by the Indian Investment Centre quarterly and copies of the same are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) It is not possible to project the Indo-UK collaborations for the year 1986-87 as the collaboration approvals are granted in response to the proposals submitted by the entrepreneurs.

Study Regarding Input Requirements of Paper Industry

4693. SHRIMATI USHA CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study is being undertaken for the paper industry about the aspect of its input requirements particularly shortage of forest raw materials ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the study is in progress, no details are available at present.

Use of Non-Conventional Energy Gadgets

4694. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the steps under implementation to accelerate the use of non-conventional energy gadgets and large scale popularisation of the same in urban and rural areas ; and

(b) the incentives available for the manufacture and supply of such equipments in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Steps taken to encourage the use of non-conventional sources of energy devices include technical supports, subsidies and other fiscal incentives for construction/installation, arranging demonstration programmes, training programmes for villagers, spread of awareness through seminars, symposia, radio and TV, accelerated use through Central and State Nodal agencies as well as voluntary organisations. Efforts are being continued to extend the coverage of the existing programmes to more areas and to further reduce costs and improve efficiency of these devices through R&D.

(b) Various incentives are available in the form of exemption from payment of sales tax and excise duty, accelerated depreciation, soft loans, custom duty exemption on certain raw materials and equipment for manufacture and use of non-conventional energy devices. Further, the Government have delicensed the manufacture of equipment for exploitation of additional sources of energy like solar energy, wind power, biomass including biogas, geothermal etc.

Expansion of Costing and Economic Analysis Divisions

4695. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the strength of costing and economic analysis Divisions in the Ministry of Communications, Department of Posts and Department of Telecommunications ;

(b) whether the present structure is capable of coping up with the increasing load of work in these two areas especially in the context of modernisation and technological developments that are rapidly taking place in the communication sector ; and

(c) whether Government propose to expand these Divisions during the Seventh Plan period ; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The strength of Costing Cell in the Department of Posts and Department of Telecommunications is as follows :

Department of Posts

1. Asstt. Director General	1
2. Accounts Officer	1
3. Junior Accounts Officers	2
4. Lower Dn. Clerk	1

The Cell is working under the overall charge of the Dy. Director General.

Department of Telecommunications

1. Director	1
2. Asstt. Director General	1
3. Junior Accounts Officers	2
4. Personal Assistant	1

There is no economic analysis Division in the Department of Posts. The strength of economic analysis Division in the Department of Telecommunication is as under :—

1. Economist	1
2. Sr. Research Officers	4
3. Research Officers	2
4. Jr. Accounts Officers	2
5. Jr. Engineers	2
6. Personal Assistants	2
7. Personal Assistants in CSS Gr. C	1
8. Assistant	1
9. L.D.C.	1
10. Peon	1

(b) and (c). The existing strength is adequate at present. Expansion will be considered as and when justification arises.

Leakage of L.P.G. in Baroda

4696. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that liquified petroleum gas has leaked in Baroda recently;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether this has affected the National Highway No. 8 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). On March 9, 1986, a tanklorry carrying bulk LPG from Bombay Refinery to Jodhpur Bottling Plant developed a leak enroute near Boroda. The lorry was immediately taken off the National Highway to avoid any disruption of traffic and the leak was plugged by experts from Koyali Refinery.

Overloading of telecommunication network

4698. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telecommunications experts of the world have cautioned that India is fast approaching a stage when the telecommunication network will totally collapse because of sheer overload;

(b) if so, the centres where the load factor has become a menacing problem; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Telecommunication services in the country are functioning under severe constraints of scarce resources and overloading of the exchanges, due to large waiting list. However, the problem of over-load is duly taken care of by regular assessment of traffic load on the various stages of equipment and adopting of corrective measures and, as such, telecom. network will not collapse due to this factor.

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

(c) Mainly, the following steps are taken to remedy the situation.

(i) Readings are taken regularly for the traffic load and overflow etc.

These readings are analysed and relief equipment is planned and provided wherever needed. Moreover, re-arrangement is also made in different groups of equipment for the even distribution of load.

(ii) The equipment is kept in working condition by regular maintenance routines.

(iii) Replacement of life expired and worn out telephone exchanges.

(iv) Opening of new telephone exchanges and expansion of the existing network and wiping out the waiting list.

(v) Improvement and expansion of inter-exchange junction network with provision of more reliable media such as cable, PCM and microwave systems.

(vi) Increasing the capacity of inter city transmission media and provision of adequate channelling equipment.

Telephone Facilities in Tribal Areas in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh

4699. SHRI P. SELVENDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal for providing telephone facilities in tribal areas in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for this purpose ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Expenditure will be met from the lump sum grant given to respective circles on yearly basis.

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

Bio-Gas and Improved Chullas in West Bengal

4700. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent in West Bengal during Sixth Plan for bio-gas and improved chullas ; and

(b) the amount allotted for family size bio-gas and chullas for West Bengal during Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The National Project for Biogas Development (NPBD) which caters to family based biogas plants, commenced in November, 1981, and the National Project for Improved Chulha (NPIC) was launched in December, 1983. A sum of Rs. 136.18 lakhs under NPBD, and Rs. 14.37 lakhs under NPIC were released to the state of West Bengal, during the Sixth Plan period.

(b) Statewise targets and release of funds are made on a year to year basis. During 1985-86, Rs. 105.24 lakhs and Rs. 35.70 lakhs have been sanctioned to the state of West Bengal under NPBD and NPIC, respectively.

Transmission losses of Electricity

4701. SHRI D.B. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken in 1985-86 to reduce transmission losses of electricity ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether these steps have resulted in reducing transmission loss ;

(d) if so, to what extent ; and

(e) whether does our country stand in comparison to other countries in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). Detailed guidelines have been issued to the State Electricity Boards for reduction of transmission and distribution losses. A Pilot Project for loss minimisation in 11 KV feeders has also been taken up. The effectiveness of the steps to reduce transmission and distribution losses would be known when power consumption accounts for the year 1985-86 are available and compiled by the respective power authorities.

(e) The transmission and distribution losses in our country are higher in comparison to most of the advanced countries.

Paper Mills in Orissa

4702. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of paper mills set up in Orissa ;

(b) the location of each of these paper mills ;

(c) the number of mills managed by Government and the number of those under private management ; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The details of the units set up in the State of Orissa in the organised sector for manufacture of paper and paper board are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Location	Annual installed capacity
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s. Orient Paper Mills	Brijrajnagar	76,000
2.	M/s. Titagarh Paper Mills Ltd.	Chowdhar	18,000
3.	M/s. Straw Products Ltd.	Rayagada	50,500
4.	M/s. Konarak Paper & Industries Ltd.	Mayurbhanj Distt.	4,800
5.	M/s. Emani Paper Mills Ltd.	Balasore Distt.	6,500
6.	M/s. Sewa Paper Mills	Koraput Distt.	25,000

All the above mills are under private management.

Telephone Connections in Orissa

4703. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections given by his Ministry in different parts of the country in 1984-85 and 1985-86 ;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided in different districts of Orissa in the above two years ;

(c) how many applicants are still on the waiting lists for telephone connections in Orissa ; and

(d) the steps taken to clear the backlog ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The number of telephone connections given in Telephone Districts and Telecom. Circles in the country in 1984-85 and 1985-86 (upto 31st January, 86) is given in the statement-I given below.

(b) The number of Telephone connections provided in different districts of Orissa in above two years is given in Statement-II given below.

(c) The number of applicants on the waiting list for telephone connections in Orissa as on 29.3.86 is 3963.

(d) There are proposals to open new Telephone Exchanges and to expand the existing ones, wherever feasible to clear the present waiting list depending on the availability of resources.

Statement I

NET DELS

NET DELS

Sl. No.	TELECOM CIRCLE	Provided during 1984-85	Provided during 1985-86 upto 31.1.86
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10983	2861
2.	Bihar	3245	1473
3.	Gujarat	7039	2590
4.	J & K	757	555
5.	Karnataka	9764	8025
6.	Kerala	3415	5935
7.	M.P.	7281	2648
8.	Maharashtra	9609	8545
9.	North-East	1402	1086
10.	North-West	8097	4181
11.	Orissa	3672	2225
12.	Rajasthan	3484	2736
13.	Tamilnadu	14211	4257
14.	Uttar Pradesh	12092	2850
15.	West Bengal	2020	726
TOTAL		97071	50693

NET DELS PROVIDED
DURING 1984-85NET DELS PROVIDED
during 1985-86 upto 31.1.86

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT :

1.	Bombay	45420	22418
2.	Calcutta	7509	3338

1	2	3	4
3.	Delhi	25435	18266
4.	Madras	9277	2911
	TOTAL	87641	46933
MAJOR DISTRICTS :			
1.	Ahmedabad	11516	4014
2.	Bangalore	4820	3932
3.	Hyderabad	4386	3146
4.	Kanpur	138	1112
5.	Pune	4441	3834
	TOTAL	25301	16038
MINOR DISTRICTS :			
1.	Bhopal		270
2.	Chandigarh	343	469
3.	Jaipur	3427	618
4.	Lucknow	2107	202
5.	Patna	543	474
6.	Trivandrum	2756	284
7.	Agra	239	—177
8.	Allahabad	324	10
9.	Amritsar	30	31
10.	Baroda	48	788
11.	Calicut	98	—11
12.	Coimbatore	764	181
13.	Ernakulam	944	669
14.	Gauhati	666	623
15.	Indore	3514	728
16.	Jullundur	245	164

1	2	3	4
17.	Ludhiana	48	—39
18.	Madurai	1007	803
19.	Nagpur	1170	391
20.	Rajkot	—1	407
21.	Surat	107	15
22.	Varanasi	284	303
23.	Vijaywada	829	630
	Total	19492	7833
	G/Total	229505	121497

Statement II

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Net telephone 1984-85	Connections Provided 1985-86 (upto 29.3.86)
1.	Balasore	161	259
2.	Bolangir	112	124
3.	Cuttack	485	314
4.	Dhenkanal	302	200
5.	Ganjam	175	508
6.	Kalahandi	72	11
7.	Keonjhar	51	46
8.	Koraput	318	127
9.	Mayurbhanj	122	214
10.	Phulbani	41	56
11.	Puri	1,329	1,179
12.	Sambalpur	218	181
13.	Sundergarh	286	326

Manufacture of L.P.G. Cylinders in West Bengal

4704. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the L.P.G. cylinder plants sanctioned for West Bengal during the last ten years as compared to such sanctions granted for other States during the corresponding period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : No licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act is required for the manufacture of L.P.G. cylinders. However, in the organised sector during the last 10 years, 27 units of West Bengal and 750 units of other States were registered with the Directorate General of Technical Development for the manufacture of L.P.G. cylinders.

Mining of Coal Deposits in Gujarat

4705. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in Gujarat to find out coal deposits ;

(b) if so, the details of survey conducted and when ;

(c) the findings thereof ; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken for mining it ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). Oil and Natural Gas Commission while drilling for oil in Gujarat discovered coal reserves estimated to the tune of 63 billion tonnes in Mehsana-Kalol area at depths varying from 700-1700 metres. These deep coal seams are not capable of being mined by conventional mining methods.

Closure of Kenduadih Colliery of Bharat Coking Coal Limited

4706. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased

to state :

(a) whether Kenduadih Colliery, lying closed in the area No. VII of Bharat Coking Coal Limited has been restarted; if so, the date of restarting the mines, number of workers working in the mines and production of coal from it as on 1 January, 1986, facts in detail ;

(b) whether the original name has been abolished and it has been merged with Bhagabandh Colliery, if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) whether any worker has been taken back after restarting of the mine; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The 18 seam of Kendwadih Incline mine in Area VII was restarted in July, 1975 and production commenced from February, 1981. At present, 259 persons are employed with a daily production of about 160 tonnes.

(b) The original name has not been abolished but the 18 seam of Kendwadih mine has been merged with Bhagaband Colliery for administrative and operational convenience.

(c) and (d). As per available records, no worker was employed in the 18 seam of Kendwadih mine at the time of nationalisation. The operation of this seam had been discontinued by its owners sometime in 1966. Hence question of taking back any worker does not arise.

Enquiries by M.R.T.P. Commission

4707. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has stepped up its tempo of enquiries on the basis of unfair trade practices, specially misleading erroneous advertisements, as reported in 'Economic Times' of 18 February, 1986 ; and

(b) whether MRTP Commission would in all fairness, widely inform the firms/parties through press publicity of the new legislation on unfair trade practices on the lines of similar publicity by Income Tax and Customs Authorities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Enquiries instituted by the M.R.T.P. Commission during 1985 have shown an appreciable increase over the enquiries instituted during 1984 in respect of unfair trade practices which also include misleading and erroneous advertisements.

(b) MRTP Commission issues press releases in all important cases when enquiries are instituted and when final orders are passed. These press releases create awareness among the people about the relevant provisions of the MRTP Act and powers of the Commission.

Increase in Prices of Enzyme Products

4708. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drug companies are increasing the prices of Enzyme products used for digestive purpose ;

(b) whether his Ministry is satisfied with the price increase ;

(c) whether these medicines are under price control ;

(d) if so, whether the manufacturers took permission of increase the prices ; and

(e) if not, whether there is any proposal to control the prices of these medicines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c). Enzyme products are price decontrolled under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979. Manufacturers are, therefore, free to revise

their prices without any price approval of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Existing Drug Policy including provisions relating to pricing are under review.

Outcome of Joint Bipartite Consultative Committee for Coal Industry

4709. DR. B.L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Trade Union Leaders and Chief Executive of Coal India Limited (CIL) companies met during the last month to discuss problems of production, productivity and costs in the industry and to come with remedial measures ;

(b) if so, the outcome of this exercise by the Joint Bipartite Consultative Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI) ; and

(c) the steps being taken for making coal industry professionally sound and financially strong ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) A meeting of the JBCCI was held on 7.3.186 to consider, *inter alia*, problems of production, productivity and costs.

(b) The deliberations were useful and it was decided to hold follow-up meetings of JBCCI regularly to consider matters connected with production, productivity and costs in the coal industry.

(c) Improving the management of coal companies with a view to achieving better production, productivity and financial results is a continuing exercise. The steps being taken in this direction include, investment in new mines, adoption of better technology, fuller utilisation of mining capacity already created, more efficient use and better maintenance of equipments, stricter control of inventory and economy in the use of stores, better use of manpower by controlling absenteeism and enforcing discipline and iden-

tification of surplus workers and their re-deployment after suitable training, better availability of scarce inputs like explosives, timber etc., reduction of pit-head stocks by faster movement and more systematic distribution, expeditious and timely completion of new projects and improvement in the law and order situation and control over mafia activities in Bihar-Bengal coalfields.

Shortage of A-Tubes and Iron Wire

4710. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any shortage of stores especially the A-tubes and iron wire resulting in a setback to the installation of Public Call Offices and Telephone Exchanges in the country ;

(b) if so, the extent of shortage and the reasons for its occurrence at this stage when a decision to involve the private enterprise has also been taken ; and

(c) the likely date by which the shortage would be eliminated and the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no general shortage of stores, especially A-tubes and Iron wire at present.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

Heavy Industries in States

4711. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have ensured the setting up of at least one heavy industry unit in the states which did not have such a unit during the Sixth Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the names of the heavy industry units set up State-wise during the Sixth Plan period along with the locations thereof ;

(c) if not, the reasons for the imbalance and the names of the States which are still without a single public sector heavy industry as on date ; and

(d) whether at least one such unit is proposed to be set up in each State especially when the State Governments concerned and the representatives of the people therefrom have demanded it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). There is no proposal at present to set up any new heavy engineering project in public sector in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan under the Department of Public Enterprises. The States without a central public sector heavy engineering unit are Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalay and Manipur. Setting up and choice of location of new projects is based on techno-economic considerations.

Shifting of Existing Departmental Sub-Post Offices to New Buildings

4712. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts have launched any drive to curtail excessive expenditure especially on the non-plan side, as an economy measure ;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a number of proposals for shifting the existing Departmental Sub Post Offices to new buildings with higher rents have also been taken up in the various Postal Divisions ;

(c) if so, the details of the proposals to shift the sub offices from existing buildings and the increase in the rent in the case of new buildings, for each Postal Division of Himachal Pradesh ; and

(d) whether all such moves would be shelved on account of economy drive ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Post Offices are shifted from one rented building to another rented building taking into consideration various factors such as operational requirements, inadequacy of the present accommodation, persistent demands from the landlords for vacation of the building ; etc.

(c) This information in respect of each Postal Division of Himachal Pradesh is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) No, Sir. Each case will be considered on its merits.

Setting up of Pilot Project for obtaining Fuel from Coal

4713. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether underground coal fires are still raging in our coal mines and reducing our mineral wealth and if so, details thereof and measures taken/proposed indicating estimated losses suffered so far ;

(b) whether a Committee set up under Sir J.C. Ghosh in 1954, had recommended setting up of a pilot project for obtaining fuel from coal as has been done in West Germany and if so, progress made so far ; and

(c) whether the project has not made any progress due to consideration of cost price calculations of the fuel oil on the lines of discontinuation of alcohol in petrol after the Second World War ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT STATE) : (a) 84 fires are repor-

ted to be active at present in underground coal mines in the country. Fires have been active since the beginning of the century. In Jharia coalfield alone a loss of 36 million tonnes of coal has been estimated due to fires. Projects covering 65 fires in various coal companies are under implementation. Projects are being prepared to cover the remaining fires.

(b) The Ghosh Committee (1956) made a proposal for setting up of plants for the production of synthetic liquid fuel from coal.

(c) In general it can be said that the economics of coal to oil conversion is not favourable.

LPG Facility to Port Blair

4714. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had earlier decided to provide Indane LPG gas to all district headquarters including Port Blair, the capital of Andaman & Nicobar Islands ;

(b) if so, the reasons why this facility has not been extended to Port Blair so far ; and

(c) when his Ministry proposes to extend the facility to Port Blair ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). The Oil marketing companies have been advised to accord priority in providing LPG facilities to district Headquarters subject to economic viability. The Andaman & Nicobar Administration and the Indian Oil Corporation are exploring the feasibility of LPG marketing at Port Blair, keeping in view the relevant aspects like transportation arrangements, costs, infrastructural requirements etc.

5000 Line new Telephone Exchange at Port Blair

4715. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal for having a 5000-line new telephone exchange for Port Blair ;

(b) if so, when the proposal was mooted ;

(c) the present stage and the time by which this is likely to be completed ;

(d) whether the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has allotted a site for construction of the same telephone exchange ;

(e) if so, when the allotment was made and what action has been taken for construction of telephone exchange on that land ; and

(f) the target date fixed for giving STD facility from Port Blair and the present position in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). A crossbar automatic exchange with initial capacity of 1500 lines in replacement of the existing stronger exchange has been planned for commissioning at Port Blair. Equipment for the proposed crossbar exchange was allotted in November, 1983.

(c) Project estimate has been sanctioned. The exchange is expected to be commissioned during early period of 8th Five Year Plan.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The land was allotted on 23.5.83. Action on preliminary steps like sanction of building drawings were completed and estimate is under preparation. Building construction is expected to commence within a year.

(f) Switching equipment for giving STD facility has been installed at Port Blair and STD facility is expected to be commissioned during 1986-87 after the availability of satellite channels.

Postal Advisory Committee meetings for Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4716. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of meetings of the Postal Advisory Committee held for Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the last three years ; and

(b) if no meetings have been conducted, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No meeting could be held during last three years. Last meeting was held in December, 1982.

(b) Term of Committee expired on 31.12.83 and new Committees was constituted on 18.7.85. Meeting scheduled on 13.11.1985 could not be held due to unavoidable reasons. Next meeting is due to be held sometime in April 1986.

Use of Foreign Trade Marks by Companies

4717. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether while granting foreign collaboration, a condition is always placed that no foreign Trade Mark will be used ;

(b) the steps taken to ensure that the condition is adhered to ;

(c) the monitoring system available therefor ; and

(d) the details of penal action taken or proposed to be taken in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Government is not permitting the use of Foreign Trade Marks on items meant for internal sales. To enforce this condition, the standard conditions have been amended and instead of stating that foreign trade marks are not ordinarily permitted for use on the products for internal sales, the revised condition now reads :

"Foreign brand names will not be allowed for use on the products for internal sales although there is no objection to their use on products to be exported."

(c) and (d). Follow-up of foreign collaboration approvals is done by the various Administrative Ministries. Action for non-compliance of the condition attached with the approval letter is therefore to be initiated by the Administrative Ministry concerned with the item for which the foreign trade mark is used.

Faulty Telephone Service in Calcutta and Howrah Circles

4718. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been recurring complaints from Calcutta and Howrah Circles in West Bengal regarding faulty working of telephone system making it difficult to get correct local as well as trunk calls expeditiously ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to make telephone system more efficient ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps being taken to make telephone system more efficient are given in Statement given below.

Statement

Steps to improve the Telephone system

- (i) Replacement of life-expired and worn out telephone exchanges and provision of adequate spares for maintenance of serviceable equipment.
- (ii) Improvement and expansion of interexchange junction network with provision of cable PCM and fibre optics microwave systems.
- (iii) Rehabilitation on the external plant which is the weakest link of the system, by use of jelly filled cables, pressurisation of dry cables, providing ducts, formation of public utility co-ordination Boards in major cities and towns.
- (iv) Increasing the capacities of electronic trunk automatic exchanges and phasing out the pentaconta crossbar trunk automatic exchange equipment which is responsible for large scale failure of STD calls.
- (v) Increasing the capacities of inter-metro transmission media and provision of adequate channelling equipment.
- (vi) Computerisation of some of the important automanual services like directory enquiry and trunk booking/enquiry.

New Post Offices in Punjab and Haryana During 1986

4719. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the total number of new post offices proposed to be opened in Punjab and Haryana during 1986 with their location ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : No new

post offices are proposed to be opened in Punjab and Haryana during 1986, as of now, in view of the ban on creation of posts.

Bullock Power and Biogas

4720. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite being one of the pioneers in starting Biogas technology, the country has only 2—3 lakhs Biogas plants actually operating as against over 7 million in China ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are not paying indepth attention to the upgrading of bullock power including bullock cart which has an estimated investment similar to that of the Railways and if so, concrete plans proposed under Seventh Plan ; and

(c) whether Bullock Cart and Bullock Power would be considered as one of the Technology Missions under Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Several improved designs of bullock carts and other animal drawn vehicles as well as agricultural implements have been developed for different agro-climatic zones by different agencies. A National programme on Demonstration of Improved bullock carts is under preparation for the Seventh Five Year Plan. A Centre for draught animal power is also proposed to be established.

(b) No, Sir. Over 5.5 lakh biogas plants have been set up in India and evaluation survey studies conducted by independent agencies indicate that over 85% of the plants set up under the National Project for Biogas Development since 1981-82, are in working order on an all India basis. For China earlier reports indicated installation of about 7 million plants while current reports indicate that about 4.5 million plants are only functioning. However, it is not possible to confirm the authenticity of the information with regard to China.

(c) Some areas have been decided for technology missions as mentioned in the President's Address, and a few more are likely to be added based on suggestions of the Science Advisory Council of the Prime Minister. In addition, sectoral/departmental programmes of importance are proposed to be given as much thrust as possible. Accordingly, it is proposed now to give an impetus to programmes relating to bullock power, upgradation, and wider dissemination of improved techniques consistent with the financial resources made available whether it is included as a technology mission or not.

[Translation]

Shortage of Power in Northern States

4721. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of power in Northern States of the country and as a result of this shortage cut is being imposed on supply of power to agriculture and industries ;

(b) if so, the annual production and consumption of power in these States (Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan) ;

(c) whether in some of these States generation of power is in excess of their consumption ; and

(d) if so, their names and whether any arrangements have been made for utilisation of their surplus power ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Northern Region as a whole was having a power shortage of 11% during the period April 1985 to February 1986. To contain the demand within availability, power cuts/restrictions are imposed by the States on various consumers. However, agriculture is given priority in supply of power.

(b) Requirement and availability of power during the period April 1985 to

February 1986 in the States of Northern Region is indicated in the Statement given below.

(c) and (d). Surplus power on a sustained basis is not available in any

State of the Northern Region. As and when surplus power becomes available on account of low demand etc., efforts are made to utilise such surpluses in the deficit States.

Statement

State/U.T.	Requirement	Availability	Surplus (+)/ Deficit (—) (%)
Haryana			
1985-86 (Upto Feb., 86)	5067	3815	—1252 (24.7)
Himachal Pradesh			
1985-86 (Upto Feb., 86)	703	700	—3 (0.4)
Jammu & Kashmir			
1985-86 (Upto Feb., 86)	1544	1307	—237 (15.3)
Punjab Incl. NFF			
1985-86 (Upto Feb., 86)	9735	8806	—929 (9.5)
Rajasthan			
1985-86 (Upto Feb., 86)	6370	5883	—487 (7.6)
Uttar Pradesh			
1985-86 (Upto Feb., 86)	15943	13961	—1982 (12.4)

Co-Operation of Private Sector for Improvement in Telephone System

4722. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have recently prepared a scheme for securing the cooperation of private sector to bring about improvement in the telephone system ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

Statement

Manufacture of telecommunication equipments

The industrial policy resolution passed by the Parliament in 1956 reserves the manufacture of communication equipment for the public sector. Even within the framework, of this policy, there is a scope for manufacture of large variety of auxillary equipment which are now in short supply by the private sector. In march, 1984, the Government decided the following :—

- (i) The cooperation of private enterprise may be secured in the manufacture of switching and

transmission equipment for communication sector with atleast 51% share being held by the Central/State Governments and the maximum of 49% being held by the private parties. This is permissible under the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956.

- (ii) The private sector may be permitted to take up the manufacture of telecommunication equipment for installation at the subscribers' premises such as telephone instruments, PABX, teleprinters etc. Subsequently, in March, 1985, the Government further liberalised participation of private parties/public in setting up manufacturing capacity of telecom. switching equipment. It was decided that considering limitations of Government resources and the gap in availability which is likely to emerge in switching area, an ESS factory using the technology that is being developed indigenously by Centre for Development of Telamatics (C-DOT) may be set up having investment of the Government to the extent of 26%, investment of the private sector party to the extent of 25% and the remaining 49% would be thrown open to the general public.

2. Government have issued letters of intent/industrial licences to the various public/private sector organisations for the manufacture of electronic PABX/Telephones/Teleprinters etc.

[English]

Oil drilling by Oil and Natural Gas Commission in 1986

4723. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the sites where Oil and Natural Gas Commission would undertake drilling during 1986 ;

(b) the amount earmarked for each such scheduled drilling operation during the same period ; and

(c) the approximate chances of success according to the survey reports in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). The areas where ONGC plan to undertake drilling during 1986-87 and outlay proposed for the purpose are as under :—

Onshore

Area/basin	Outlay proposed (Rs. in lakh)
Cambay	17276
Kutch-Saurashtra	286
Upper Assam	11882
Assam-Arakan Fold Belt	2374
Bengal	3381
Krishna-Godavari	6872
Rajasthan	1844
Himalayan Foothills & Ganga Valley	4293
Cauvery	2066

shore

Bombay High	28091
Kutch & Saurashtra	3479
Kerala-Konkan	318
Bengal	2924
Krishna-Godavari	2901
Cauvery	2863
Andaman	2269

(c) Success in oil exploration is highly probalistic in nature.

Introduction of V.F.T. Co-Axial, Microwave and INSAT System of Communications

4724. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) when VFT, Co-axial, Microwave and INSAT systems of communications were introduced ;

(b) the circumstances under which the above systems were introduced ;

(c) how much amount for equipments etc. has been spent so far in each of the above systems and how much in foreign exchange ;

(d) what arrangements have so far been made in each case to manufacture equipment and parts ; and

(e) how the machinery spared as a result of aforesaid switch over to another system is being utilised in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The years of introduction of these technical systems are as below :—

VET CO-AXIAL MICROWAVE INSAT

1932	1959	1965	1983
------	------	------	------

(b) To cope with the enormous increase in telegraph and telephone traffic and to keep abreast of the fast changing technology, these high capacity systems were brought into use.

(c) VFT : Approximate cost of the equipment in service at present is of the order of Rs. 38 crores. These are procured from M/s. Indian Telephone Industries.

SATELLITE : Total cost of Earth stations is Rs. 95.88 crores out of which cost of imported equipment is Rs. 13.53 crores.

CO-AXIAL : Out of 18,939 Route KMs of Coaxial equipment commissioned so far, 19,989 Route KMs are with imported equipment.

MICROWAVE : Out of 23,000 Route KMs of Microwave equipment commissioned so far, 17,000 Route KMs are with imported equipment.

(d) VFT, Coaxial, Microwave : These are now being manufactured indigenously.

Satellite :

A sizable quantum of equipment including antennas, High power amplifiers SCPC equipment and associated accessories are now being manufactured indigenously.

(e) These systems are introduced generally to augment the existing capacity for providing additional circuits for telephone and telegraph traffic and not for replacement. However, Openwire

Carrier systems which become spare, are diverted and re-used till their life is over.

Exploration of New Coal Fields

4725. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects undertaken to explore new coalfields during the last three years indicating (i) name of place/State, (ii) total expenditure incurred and (iii) whether exploration has been successful or a failure and (iv) whether exploration has been undertaken by private party or State Government ;

(b) whether coal is being explored in sea bed ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) A Statement is given below.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

Statement

Geological Survey of India undertook 11 projects during the period 1982-1985 to explore new coalfields as below :—

State	District
Meghalaya	Khasi Hill
Arunachal Pradesh	Tirap
West Bengal	Birbhum Burdwan
Bihar	Dumka Palamau

Madhya Pradesh

Raigarh
Surguja

Orissa

Sambalpur

Maharashtra

Nagpur
Yeotmal

Pondicherry

Bahur area

The above regional explorations have shown encouraging results in almost all the areas. Expenditure incurred was as follows :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Expenditure
1982-83	87.63
1983-84	103.99
1984-85	109.13

Consumption of Petroleum Products by States and Union Territories

4726. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS, be, pleased to state the details of consumption of petroleum products during the last three years giving yearly figures of each State and Union Territory in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : The details of consumption of petroleum products in each State/Union Territory during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Statewise Consumption of Petroleum Products

Qty. : '000' TONNES

State/Union Territory	1982-83@	1983-84	1984-85*
1	2	3	4
A. State			
Andhra Pradesh	1881	2036	2152
Assam	583	585	688
Bihar	1886	1815	1878
Gujarat	4337	4412	4679
Haryana	1013	1040	1135
Himachal Pradesh	84	92	105
Jammu & Kashmir	163	181	188
Karnataka	1387	1489	1653
Kerala	1119	1169	1295
Madhya Pradesh	1353	1536	1668
Maharashtra	5626	6135	6590
Manipur	49	62	50
Meghalaya	36	51	53
Nagaland	27	32	29
Orissa	632	606	689
Punjab	1704	1838	1965
Rajasthan	1255	1259	1423
Sikkim	9	9	9
Tamil Nadu	3296	3333	3557
Tripura	37	38	40

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	3282	3365	3818
West Bengal	2347	2602	2760
B. Union Territories			
A & N Islands	26	25	29
Arunachal Pradesh	21	17	20
Chandigarh	89	114	124
Delhi	1249	1404	1533
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3	5	3
Goa, Daman & Diu	461	425	589
Lakshadweep	1	3	1
Mizoram	21	17	22
Pondicherry	52	56	63

* Provisional

@ Excluding 604 tonnes sales of Lubes & Greases for which state-wise break-up is not available.

Criteria for opening new Telephone Exchanges in villages

minimum limit of subscribers and other criteria ?

4727. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down by Government for opening new telephone exchanges in villages;

(b) whether any minimum number of subscribers has been laid down as one of the criteria for opening new telephone exchanges in villages;

(c) if so, what is the minimum number and whether that minimum limit is to be followed in all cases; and

(d) the reasons for not opening telephone exchanges in villages of Dahod (Gujarat) when these are said to fulfil the

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The information is given in Statement below.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The minimum limit is to be followed in all cases, the information about minimum number is given in Statement given below.

(d) There is no case pending that fulfills all the stipulated conditions for opening of telephone exchange in Dahod at present.

Statement

Policy regarding opening of new Telephone Exchanges in rural/backward and hilly areas.

Under the normal rules of the Posts & Telegraphs Department, projects for opening of Telephone Exchanges are sanctioned only after carrying out a financial appraisal of the project and ensuring that the annual recurring expenditure does not exceed the anticipated annual revenue. With increasing cost of equipment, stores and labour, however, it has been found that a large number of projects for small exchanges in rural areas prove unremunerative not only in the initial stages but also after the full connectable capacity is utilised. To permit extension of telephone services in rural areas, following liberalised policy for opening expansion of telephone exchanges upto 100 lines capacity has been adopted with effect from 1-4-1980. This is subject to availability of finance and materials.

(i) Small automatic exchanges may be opened and expanded in rural areas upto 100 lines, capacity without insisting on each individual project being remunerative. Instead the opening and expansion of such exchanges shall be governed by the demand for private and public (other than service) telephone connections.

(ii) A 10 lines exchange may be opened, provided there is a minimum telephone demand for 5 (five) such connections in a village or group of villages within a radius of 5 Kms of the central village subject to the anticipated revenue being at least 35 per cent of the anticipated annual recurring expenditure. (This is not applicable for the time being since a 10 lines small automatic exchange is still being developed, reference may also please be made to para (v) below).

(iii) The 10 lines exchanges may be replaced by or a new 25 lines

exchange may be installed if there is a demand for 10 such connections in a village or group of villages within a radius of 5 Kms of the Central village subject to the anticipated revenue being at least 40 per cent of the anticipated A.R.E.

(iv) The 25 lines exchange may to replaced by a 50 lines exchange when the demand reaches 23 and a 50 lines exchange may be expanded to 100 lines when the demand reaches 46 subject to the anticipated revenue being 60 per cent and 70 per cent respectively of the anticipated A.R.E.

(v) In general, the initial capacity of a small automatic exchange at a new station should not exceed 10 lines. However, in view of the fact that development work is still in progress on a 10 lines electronic SAX and the smallest exchange available as on date is of 25 lines exchanges till 10 lines SAXs are available freely, subject, of course to the minimum demand for 10 regular private and public connections (other than service).

The above liberalised policy is applicable for opening/expansion of automatic exchanges.

2. Opening of small manual exchanges involves employment of a minimum of 5 operators to provide round the clock service throughout the week. As such opening of small manual exchanges involves much higher losses. It is, therefore, normally not envisaged that a manual exchange with less than 100 lines should be opened.

3. Thus at present Heads of Telecommunications Circles are sanctioning schemes for opening of 25 lines small automatic exchanges wherever at least 10 prospective subscribers register their demands with prescribed advance deposit of Rs. 100/- For this purpose the prospective subscribers may contact the Sub-Divisional Officer Phones/Telegraphs of the area.

4. The opening of such exchanges involves renting out a suitable building and procurement of exchange equipment, power plant, batteries, cables, line materials etc. It, therefore, may take upto about 24 months for the exchange to be commissioned once the scheme is approved.

**Setting up of second Gas terminal at Usar
Maharashtra**

4728. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during February, 1986 the Union Government had received any proposal from Government of Maharashtra to set up a second gas terminal at Usar in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has since given its approval; and

(c) if so, when the proposed second gas terminal will be set up at Usar in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As there is no provision of funds in the 7th Five Year Plan of ONGC for this purpose it is not possible to set up a terminal at Usar in Maharashtra during the 7th Plan period.

Projects of Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Ltd.

4729. SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state; the progress in the cine colour positive film and X-Ray

graphic arts film projects of M/s. Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Ltd. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : The Government have since cleared the X-Ray and Graphic arts film project of M/s. Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

It has not been found possible to clear the cine colour film on account of resource constraints.

Import of Mobile Phone Exchanges

4730. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have imported Mobile Phone Exchanges;

(b) if so, the countries which have supplied these Mobile Phone Exchanges;

(c) how many Mobile Phone Exchanges have been imported; and

(d) where they will be installed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Netherland.

(c) 25 Numbers of Mobile Telephone Exchanges with total capacity of 60,000 lines have been imported.

(d) (A) 19 Mobile Telephone Exchanges have been commissioned at the following stations.

<i>State</i>	<i>Station</i>
1. Andhra Pradesh	(i) Kurnool
2. Assam	(i) Dibrugarh (ii). Tinsukia
3. Bihar	(i) Gaya
4. Gujarat	(i) Gandhi Dham (ii) Mehsana (iii) Porbandar (iv) Veraval
5. Haryana	1. Gurgaon 2. Sirsa
6. Karnataka	1. Gulbarga 2. Udipi
7. Kerala	1. Changancherry
8. Manipur (UT)	1. Imphal
9. Goa (UT)	1. Margao
10. Punjab	1. Khanna
11. Rajasthan	1. Beawar 2. Pali Marwar
12. Tamil Nadu	1. Karur

(B) Six mobile telephone exchanges at the following stations are under installation.

<i>State</i>	<i>Station</i>
1. Assam	Jorhat
2. Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar
3. Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
4. Maharashtra	Kalamboli
5. Punjab	Abohar
6. Rajasthan	Alwar

**Shifting of Wireless Monitoring station
from Jayanagar, Bangalore**

4731. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to
shift the Wireless Monitoring Station
located at Vth Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore
to some other place; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No,
Sir.

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

**Automatic telephone exchange at Dharm-
asthala**

4732. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of Dharmasthala
being a famous pilgrim centre, where
hundreds of devotees including VIPs pay
visit every day, Government propose to
set up one single automatic telephone
exchange covering Bethangady, Ujire and
Dharmasthala with STD facilities ; and

(b) if so, the likely date by which
it will be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND THE MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No,
Sir.

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

Late delivery of telegram in Bihar

4733. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE
PATHAK : Will the Minister of COM-
MUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received

about non-delivery or very late delivery
of telegrams in Bihar State during last
three years; and

(b) the remedial measures Govern-
ment have taken in this regard to improve
the service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI
RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The
number of such complaints received during
the last three years in Bihar Telecom
Circle are given below :—

Year	No. of Complaints	
1982-83	..	235
1983-84	..	308
1984-85	..	356

(b) Suitable instruction have been
issued to concerned officers. Action is
also taken against erring officials. Refunds
are also considered in justified cases for
returning the cost of telegrams.

**Closure of Large Scale Industries during
1984-85**

4734. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE
PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUS-
TRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of large scale indus-
tries which were closed during 1984-85;
and

(b) the number of persons rendered
unemployed on account of such closures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNA-
CHALAM) : (a) and (b). Information
regarding the industrial units lying closed
in the country is centrally collected by
the Ministry of Labour in respect of fac-
tories registered under the Factories Act,

1948, and is published in the Indian Labour Journal, which is a monthly publication of the Labour Bureau, Government of India. Copies of the publication are available in the Parliament House Library.

Waiting list for new telephone connections in Saharsa District, Bihar

4735. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new telephone connections sanctioned in Saharsa District in Bihar during the period from 1 January, 1985 to 28 February, 1986;

(b) the number of applications received for new telephone connections during this period;

(c) the number of persons on the waiting list in Saharsa District till 31 January, 1986; and

(d) the names of places in Bihar for which there are proposals for modernising telephone system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The number of telephone connections provided in Saharsa District in Bihar from 1st January, 1985 to 28th February, 1986 is 21.

(b) The number of applications received for new telephone connections from 1st January, 1985 to 28th February, 1986 is 100.

(c) The number of persons on the waiting list in Saharsa District till January, 1986 is 47.

(d) There are proposals to instal Electronic telephone exchanges in Bihar at :—

1. Hazipur
2. Madhubani
3. Purnea

4. Nawadah

5. Dumka

6. Patna

7. Ranchi

(Electronic exchange has already been installed at Gaya in February, 1986.)

L.P.G. Supply to consumers in Bihar

4736. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any shortage of L.P.G. cylinders in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the supply position and to ensure supply of L.P.G. cylinders to the consumers same day or next day ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Owing to operational and distribution problems, there has recently been a shortage of LPG supplies in certain markets in Bihar.

(c) While supplies from Barauni and Haldia have been stepped up to the affected markets for the present situation, a bottling plant is being set up at Jamshedpur for ensuring adequate supplies in the long run.

Creation of Coal Companies and Divisions

4737. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any increase in the number of coal companies and coal divisions in the country in 1985-86;

(b) if so, the names of the companies and the divisions newly created;

(c) the basis of creation of such companies and divisions;

(d) whether there is any demand for creation of a coal company and division in Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (e). In view of the projected increase in production and investment contemplated for Central Coalfields Ltd. and Western Coalfields Ltd., the extensive geographical areas over which those two companies operate, the managerial, technical and communication problems etc. being encountered, the Government of India approved the formation of two new companies as subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, by splitting the Central Coalfields Ltd. and Western Coalfields Ltd. The two new companies, namely Northern Coalfields Limited with headquarters at Singrauli (M.P.) and South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. with headquarters at Bilaspur (M.P.) have been incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 w.e.f. 28.11.1985.

There have been representations for having a separate company/Division for Orissa. Since Ib Valley area, formerly under Western Coalfields Ltd. and Talcher area, formerly under Central Coalfields Ltd. have been put under the jurisdiction of South Eastern Coalfields Ltd., the interest of both these areas as also of the State of Orissa would be better subserved under the unified control of this company. There is no need at present to have a separate coal company for the coalfields in Orissa as the production level is not sufficient to justify formation of a separate company.

**Letters of Intent and Industrial Licences
Issued to Madhya Pradesh Government
Undertakings**

4738. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Letters of Intent/

Industrial Licences issued by Government to the State Government Undertakings in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years upto 15 March, 1986;

(b) the number of those which have come into production and the progress of implementation of other projects;

(c) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh have also entered into joint sector with some private entrepreneurs to implement those projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Between January 1, 1983 and March 15, 1985, 16 letters of intent and 7 industrial licences (including 2 carry-on-business licences) were granted to the State Government undertakings, including the State Industrial Development Corporation, in Madhya Pradesh. Since it generally takes about 3 to 4 years for an industrial project to fructify, the projects covered under these letters of intent/industrial licences would presently be at various stages of implementation.

(c) and (d). As per the guidelines issued by the Central Government, the SIDCs can associate competent private sector parties in implementing the industrial licences issued to them. However, details about such industrial projects as are being implemented by the State Industrial Development Corporations in association with private entrepreneurs are not being maintained centrally in the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals, Ministry of Industry.

**Industrial Growth Centres approved for
Madhya Pradesh during Sixth Plan**

4739. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new industrial growth centres approved by Government for Madhya Pradesh during the Sixth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the details of total financial aid given to develop the infrastructure in these areas;

(c) whether Government have checked that the grant given to the State has been fully utilised; and

(d) if so, the details of expenditure incurred to develop various facilities in these growth centres during the Sixth Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). During the Sixth Five Year Plan period, the Government of Madhya Pradesh had not identified any Growth Centre in the 'No-Industry Districts'. However, in September, 1985, the State Government identified six Growth Centres, one each in the 'No-Industry Districts' of Bhind, Mandla, Jhabua, Dhar, Panna, and Rajgarh and they have been approved by the Central Government. The State Government is yet to prepare the necessary project Reports.

Quality of Production of soft Coke

4740. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of soft coke has been steadily falling for the last one decade;

(b) if, so, the break-up of the figures of production each year with causes for the same;

(c) whether along with the fall in production the quality of soft coke produced has not improved during that period; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to improve both production and the quality of soft coke ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). The production of soft coke in Coal India Ltd. during the last 10 years has been as follows :

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Year	Production
1976-77	32.5
1977-78	29.3
1978-79	23.0
1979-80	24.2
1980-81	22.6
1981-82	22.9
1982-83	17.4
1983-84	14.7
1984-85	15.9
1985-86 (April-Feb.)	15.9

It would be seen from the above figures that though production declined from 1976 to 1983-84, the same has started improving from 1984-85 onwards. There has been a declining trend in the consumption of soft coke in big cities due to preference for other fuel for cooking like kerosene oil and LPG etc. Coal India Ltd. is making efforts to increase the production of soft coke in order to meet the overall demand of the States/Union Territories.

Steps have also been taken to improve the quality of soft coke by using better quality coal and by mechanising production of soft coke.

Effect of increase in coal price on end users

4741. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the annual consumption of coal by the railways, power plants, steel plants and fertiliser plants as per the consumption of each of these units during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what would be the additional financial burden on each one of these sectors because of the price rise;

(c) how much of it will be required to be borne by end users; and

(d) whether each of these industrial

sectors will be required to increase the price of their products further ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The despatches of coal to Railways, Power plants, steel plants, and fertiliser plants during the last three years were as under :—

(Figures in million tonnes)

Sector	Despatches during			
	1982 83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86 (upto Dec. '85)
Railways	10.98	10.39	9.53	6.83
Power Plants	49.56 +(2.05)	56.11 +(2.00)	62.20 +(2.15)	53.83 +(1.57)
Steel Plants	23.20	24.42	23.75	17.71
Fertiliser Plants	4.15	4.21	3.89	2.84

(Figures in bracket indicate middlings)

The coal despatches to Steel sector are in terms of raw coal only.

(b) to (d). While considering the recent revision of coal prices, its impact on major—Consuming Sectors and on the economy of the country, as a whole, was kept in view. Its impact on major consuming sectors like, Power, Steel and Railways were estimated as under :—

Consuming Sector	Increase in the cost of Production/Operation (in full-year)
Power	Rs. 1.33 paise per unit (about 3%)
Steel	Rs. 191.00 per tonne (about 2.83%)
Railways	Rs. 39.60 crores (about 0.9%)

The average increase in the price of coal produced by Coal India Limited has been distributed in such a manner that the lower grades of coal which are mainly used by the public utilities like power houses, have to bear only 50% of the increase.

Digitalisation of national network

4742. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether while presenting the annual accounts for 1984-85, it was mentioned in the report that the Indian Telephone Industries intended to provide necessary equipment and system for the overall digitalisation of the national network and helping to establish the Integrated Service Digital Network enabling the transmission and reception of data, voice and facsimile through the simple telephone line to the subscriber;

(b) if so, the progress made during 1985 to achieve the above objective; and

(c) the plans for 1986 which the Indian Telephone Industries has set for itself in this sphere ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) Ltd. has already started manufacturing Digital Electronic Switching Equipment and Digital Trunk Automatic Exchange Equipment during 1985-86. A Digital Integrated Local-cum-Trunk Exchange (ILT) has also been designed and the first unit is working on trial basis in Udayamperur. Certain transfer of technology tenders are under process for establishing the manufacture of Digital Transmission Equipment.

(c) ITI proposes to manufacture Digital ILTs of 500 lines capacity in large numbers in 1986-87. They have also proposed to manufacture 30 channel PCM Mux Equipment. About one lakh twenty thousand lines of Digital Electronic Switching Equipment is expected to be produced during 1986-87. Extended field trials are expected to be conducted for the Digital Microwave Equipment developed by them.

Cost of Passenger Cars before and after Budget

4743. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the cost of passenger cars and trucks before the presentation of Budget proposals for the year 1986-87;

(b) the cost of above vehicles after presentation of the Budget proposals for the year 1986-87;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of all types of motor vehicles will go up as a result of increase in excise/custom duties; and

(d) which are the motor vehicles exempted from the proposed excise/customs duties due to fuel economy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

(c) and (d). Increase in levies will have consequential effects on prices of all the vehicles.

Statement

The information in respect of major manufacturers of passenger cars and trucks is as under :—

Make & Model	Ex-factory retail price inclusive of excise duty (Rs.)	
	Before Budget	After Budget
Passenger Cars		
1. Ambassador Mark-IV	69389	73730
2. Contessa (Petrol)	84366	91195
3. Premier Padmini (Standard)	66602	72614
4. Premier-118-NE	85747	92592
5. Standard-2000 (excluding Air-conditioner)	164520	177668
6. Maruti-800 (Standard) (White & Blue)	49950	57100
Truck Chassis		
1. TELCO (Tata-1210SE/42)	193756	197385
2. Ashok Leyland (Comet-176)	192517	195178

Assistance to Orissa for Development of Infrastructure for Industry

4744. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per guidelines issued by Union Government, the Orissa Government had selected Balasore, Bolangir and Phulbani districts in Orissa as 'No Industry Districts' and growth centres in these districts have been approved by Union Government;

(b) whether despite the fact that the Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation had submitted project reports for these three districts long back, the Union Government have not so far granted necessary assistance to the State

Government to take up infrastructural development;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to make available the requisite assistance for the said 'No-Industry districts' ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). According to the guidelines on the subject and the eligibility, a sum of Rs. 2 crores for development of infrastructure facilities in the 'No Industry Districts' of Balasore, Bolangir and Phulbani in Orissa has already been released.

Contract given for Oil exploration in Puri, Cuttack and Balasore districts of Orissa

4745. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil India had floated a tender in July, 1985 for a contract to drill nine exploratory wells in Puri, Cuttack and Balasore Districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, the name of the company whose bid for drilling exploratory wells for Oil India in Orissa onshore areas has been or is likely to be accepted;

(c) the estimated capital outlay involved in this contract;

(d) when the work is likely to be started and completed; and

(e) how the chances for oil find are rated in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The offers are being evaluated.

(c) The estimated outlay involved in the proposed drilling contract is about Rs. 4.77 crores.

(d) The work is likely to be started in the middle of 1986-87 and is expected to last for one year.

(e) The possibility of finding hydro-

carbons can be assessed only after drilling the first few wells.

Number of Judges required in High Courts for Disposal of pending cases

4746. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of judges in each High Court, court-wise;

(b) the details of pending cases in each High Court; and

(c) the number of judges required to be appointed to meet the requirements of each High Court for early disposal of pending cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) The requisite information is given in the Statement-I given below.

(b) The requisite information is given in the Statement-II given below.

(c) The number of judges required to be appointed in each High Court is determined having regard to the institution and pendency of cases and the need to dispose them of within a particular period of time, using the standard arithmetical guideline and the norms of disposal of cases per judge, and also having regard to the financial, physical and other constraints of the State Governments. Based on these considerations, the Central Government have agreed in principle, to the creation of 80 new posts as indicated in the Statement III given below.

Statement—I

S. No.	Name of High Court	No. of Judges in position as on 31.3.1986
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	47
2.	Andhra Pradesh	18
3.	Bombay	40

1	2	3
4.	Calcutta	38
5.	Delhi	21
6.	Gauhati	8
7.	Gujarat	17
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	6
10.	Karnataka	21
11.	Kerala	18
12.	Madhya Pradesh	24
13.	Madras	20
14.	Orissa	9
15.	Patna	32
16.	Punjab and Haryana	16
17.	Rajasthan	21
18.	Sikkim	2
Total		364

Statement—II*Number of cases pending in various High Courts*

S. No.	Name of the High Court	Number of cases pending (as on 31-12-1985)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	90,617
2.	Bombay	1,12,088
3.	Delhi	68,240

1	2	3
4.	Gujarat	41,750
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	30,022
6.	Karnataka	87,608
7.	Kerala	1,18,112
8.	Orissa	31,362
9.	Patna	56,904
10.	Punjab and Haryana	40,285
11.	Sikkim	63
		(As on 30-6-1985)
12.	Allahabad	2,42,379
13.	Calcutta	1,42,757
14.	Himachal Pradesh	9,768
15.	Madhya Pradesh	52,463
16.	Madras	1,49,469
17.	Rajasthan	49,102
		(As on 31-12-1984)
18.	Gaubati	14,379

Statement—III

S. No.	High Court	Present sanctioned strength of Judges/Addl. Judges	No. of new posts of Judges/Addl. Judges agreed to be created
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad	60	2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	26	10
3.	Bombay	43	17

1	2	3	4
4.	Calcutta	41	9
5.	Delhi	27	2
6.	Gauhati	9	2
7.	Gujarat	21	9
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	4
10.	Karnataka	24	6
11.	Kerala	18	3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	29	2
13.	Madras	25	—
14.	Orissa	12	—
15.	Patna	35	4
16.	Punjab & Haryana	23	3
17.	Rajasthan	22	6
18.	Sikkim	3	—
Total		431	80

Production of Chloroquine Phosphate

4747. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of Chloroquine Phosphate which is an anti-Malarial drug ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the private sector drug companies are producing this drug successfully but public sector undertaking is unable to produce this drug ; and

(c) the reasons for non-production of this essential drug by public sector when there is a big demand in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A Public Sector Company is already producing Chloroquine Phosphate.

[Translation]**Installation of Public Call Offices in
Border Hill Areas**

4748. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for installing Public Call Offices in the border hill areas of the country during the Seventh Plan ;

(b) whether Public Call Offices are proposed to be installed in accordance with the said criteria in Pangu, Peepli, Sukhidhang, Swala, Reetha Sahib, Bardakhan, Bankot, Khwankot and Baram in Pithoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh ;

(c) if so, by what time ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Policy regarding opening of Long Distance Public Telephones in rural, backward and hilly areas is given below in the statement. There is no separate criteria regarding border hill areas.

(b) Long Distance Public Telephone at Baram is proposed to be installed under the hexagonal scheme. There is no proposal for providing LD PTs in Pangu, Peepli, Sukhidhang, Swala, Reetha Sahib, Bardakhan, Bankot and Khwankot.

(c) Long Distance Public Telephone at Baram is planned to be opened by March, 1989.

(d) The places Pangu, Peepli, Sukhidhang, Swala, Reetha Sahib, Bardakhan, Bankot, Khwankot do not qualify for the facility under the policy of the Department.

Statement**Ministry of Communications P&T Board****Revised policy for opening of Long Distance
Public Telephones (LDPTs)/ Combined
Offices (COs) in Rural Areas**

The present policy of the Department for opening of Long Dis-

tance Public Telephones/ Combined Offices on loss basis during the 6th Plan period (Annexure I), has been under consideration of the P&T Board for some time. The studies undertaken in this regard reveal that the policy of opening long distance public telephones without stipulating minimum revenue on the basis of population will result in disparity in the extension of this facility in the rural areas, particularly in hilly and sparsely populated regions of the country. After a careful review of the present policy and with a view to ensuring a more uniform penetration of telecom. facilities in the rural areas of all States with greater emphasis on reliability of service, the P&T Board has decided as follows :

(i) While the present policy as detailed in Annex-I will continue, the establishment of LDPTs accessible within 5 Kms. of most habitations in the country may be adopted as a policy objective to be achieved progressively by 1990 beginning from the current year. Stipulation of minimum revenue as a pre-condition for providing and LDPT may be removed for LDPTs required for meeting this objective of spatial distribution.

(ii) Multi-Access Radio Telephone System may be adopted as the technology to establish LDPTs to improve reliability and availability in hilly, coastal, forest and desert areas as well as tribal and scheduled areas and other regions where power induction makes the open-wire line unsuitable and in plains where the place is connected by road beyond a distance (route length) of 20 Kms. and in all cases, where the Multi-Access Rural Radio System tends to be cost effective also.

(iii) Non-Departmental LDPT agents may be employed wherever necessary, either due to non-availability of Post Offices or where the working hours of the Post office is inadequate. The selection of Non-Departmental LDPT

agents will be decided by the G.M.T. of the Territorial Circle.

- (iv) The remuneration for the Non-Departmental LDPT agent may be 40 (Forty) paise per call subject to a maximum of Rs. 250/- (Two Hundred and Fifty) per month and the working hours of the LDPT may be atleast 8 hours. The remuneration so received shall not constitute the main source of income to the LDPT agent except in the case of handicapped persons.

The P&T Board have also directed that the entire country may be divided into clusters of villages forming hexagonal areas (with a symmetrical hexagon of 5 Kms. side), leaving out, of course, areas which are uninhabited like mountainous regions, rivers, lakes, deserts etc. and that the village to serve as be focal point in each cluster, where the LDPT can be

located may be identified. The task of identifying village clusters for the establishment of LDPTs to achieve the 5 Kms. accessibility objective has been entrusted to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), whose report with detailed maps, would be made available to the Circles for planning purposes.

On receipt of the detailed maps with the requisite data for location of LDPTs for the village clusters as per study by NCAER, Heads of Circles will arrange to draw up a detailed annual programme for opening of future LDPTs both on open-wire system and Multi-Access Radio System with a view to implement the above decision of the P&T Board.

The Project Estimates for the opening of LDPTs under the Multi-Access Radio System should, however, continue to be referred to the Directorate for the purpose of allotment of equipment etc.

ANNEXURE

Policy for Provision of PCOs on loss

Categories of Stations

1. District Headquarters.
2. Sub-Divisional Headquarters.
3. Tehsil Headquarters.
4. Sub-Tehsil Headquarters.
5. Block Headquarters.
6. Places with a population of 5000 or more in ordinary areas and 2500 or more in backward or hilly areas.

Condition for Provision of Public Call Offices.

Will be provided progressively irrespective of loss and without any condition of minimum revenue.

Conditions for Provision of combined offices.

Will be provided progressively irrespective of loss and without any condition of minimum revenue.

-
7. Places with police Stations under the charge of Officer of the rank of a Sub-Inspector of Police or above.

Condition for Provision of Public Call Offices.

The anticipated revenue should be at least 25% of the ARE (Annual recurring expenditure) in ordinary areas, and 15% of ARE in backward areas, and 10% of ARE in hilly areas.

Condition for Provision of Combined Offices.

The anticipated revenue should be at least 25% of the ARE in ordinary areas, and 15% of ARE in backward areas and 10% of ARE in hilly areas.

8. Out of the way places.

(a) Should be beyond 40 Kms. (radial distance) from an existing exchange.

(a) Should be beyond 20 Kms. (radial distance) from an assisting Telegraph Office.

(b) The anticipated revenue should be atleast 25% of ARE in ordinary areas, 15% of ARE in backward areas & 10% ARE in hilly areas.

(b) the anticipated revenue should be at least 25% of ARE in ordinary areas, 15% of ARE in backward areas and 10% of ARE in hilly areas.

(c) The anticipated loss should not exceed Rs. 2000/- p.a. in ordinary areas and Rs. 5000/- p.a. in backward/hilly areas.

9. Condition For Provision of Public Call Offices.**Condition for Provision of Combined Offices.**

(a) The anticipated revenue should be at least 25% of ARE in ordinary areas, 15% of ARE in backward areas and 10% of ARE in hilly areas.

(a) The anticipated revenue should be atleast 25% of ARE in ordinary areas, 15% of ARE in backward areas and 10% of ARE in hilly areas.

(b) The anticipated loss should not exceed Rs. 2000/- p.a. in ordinary areas and Rs. 5000/- p. a. in backward/hilly areas.

10. All other stations.**Condition for Provision of Public Call Offices****Condition for Provision of Combined Offices.**

On the basis of financial viability or in the case of loss on rent and guarantee basis.

On the basis of financial viability or in the case of loss on rent and guarantee basis.

NOTE :

1. (a) For considering the population figures, the population of the town or village alone should be taken into account and not that of a group of towns or villages except in the case of tribal areas where a group of villages within a radius of 10 Kms. from a central village, can be considered. No two Public Telephones can be opened under this relaxed condition within a distance of 10 Kms. from each other.
- (b) When identifying important central villages for provision of Public Telephones, preference will be given in the following order :
 - (i) Tribal Development Block Headquarters.
 - (ii) Places where LAMPS (Large Sized Multipurpose Co-operative Societies) are established; and
 - (iii) Centres identified by the Local Tribal Development Departments for development of rural industries and/or irrigation projects for intensive agricultural development.
2. No Telegraph Office should be opened on loss if another telegraph office is already working within 8 Kms. of the proposed office.

**Letter of Intent to M/s. Hindustan Lever
for Detergent Powder**

4749. SHRI HARISH RAWAT :
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that letters of intent were issued to M/s. Hindustan Lever for detergent powder manufacturing projects at Chalthi in district Pithoragarh and Uttar Kashi in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, when these letters of intent were issued ;

(c) whether this company has applied to convert these letters of intent into industrial licence; and

(d) if so, when construction work is likely to be started on these projects at these places ?

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

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

Development of villages in U.P. as alternative energy centres

4750. SHRI HARISH RAWAT :
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Uttar Pradesh which have been developed as intensive alternative energy centres till the Sixth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the number of additional villages proposed to be brought under this programme during the Seventh Plan and the amount of expenditure proposed to be incurred on it; and

(c) the amount of Central assistance out of the estimated expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Village level energy projects (Urja Gram) based on a combination of non-conventional energy sources, have so far been completed in 7 villages in Uttar Pradesh. Such projects are under different stages of implementation in 15 more villages in the State. Many more villages in U.P. are planned under this programme but the

exact number of villages that can be covered in the Seventh Five Year Plan in different States will depend on the availability of financial resources.

(c) The expenditure on such projects would depend on the different non-conventional energy components comprising each project. The norms for providing central assistance and counterpart funding vary for different systems. According to present norms, central assistance constitutes a substantial part of the expenditure.

Increase in Salaries of Judges of Subordinate Courts

4751. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether at the Conference of Chief Ministers, Law Ministers of the States and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in August-September 1985, it was decided that at all levels of subordinate courts there is a great need for improvement in the pay-scales, facilities and service conditions of judges and that action may be taken accordingly; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this connection in States/Union territories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b). The Joint Conference of Chief Justices, Law Ministers and Chief Ministers held on 31st August and 1st September, 1985 in New Delhi resolved that the salaries and emoluments of the subordinate judiciary and their conditions of service need considerable improvement. As the State Governments are primarily concerned with the Subordinate Judiciary, the recommendations of the Joint Conference have been forwarded to the State Governments/Union territories for appropriate action.

[English]

Gas filling station and bottling plant in village Shahpura in Jabalpur

4752. SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND

NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the budget allocation for gas filling station and bottling plant in village Shahpura in Jabalpur for 1985-86; and

(b) the time required for its completion and progress thereof made so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has allocated Rs. 7.98 crores in 1985-86 for the proposed LPG filling plant at Bhitoni, near Shahpura Village (District Jabalpur).

(b) The targetted date for completion of this project is September, 1987. The progress made so far is as under :—

50% of the civil construction work has been completed; erection of storage spheres has commenced; imported equipment has been received at the site; and procurement of indigenous equipment is nearing completion.

National Programme for electronic telephones

4753. SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a plan to introduce national programme for electronic telephones in the country; and

(b) if so, the time by which this scheme is likely to be introduced in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A 5000 lines electronic exchange has been planned for commissioning at Jabalpur by the end of 7th Five Year Plan subject to availability of resources.

DVC supply to West Bengal State Electricity Board

4754. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether over the years supply from Damodar Valley Corporation to the West Bengal State Electricity Board has been falling gradually;

(b) whether under the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, it is obligatory on the Damodar Valley Corporation to cater to the power needs of the Valley area; and

(c) whether Damodar Valley Corporation's failure to meet additional requirements of power in the valley area falling within Burdwan District has been causing serious problems to all consumers, particularly to new industries and cold storages ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The decrease in supply is because the loads in Purulia and Kolaghat areas outside Damodar Valley were taken over by West Bengal State Electricity Board in May, 1983 and April, 1984 respectively.

(b) Section 18 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948 provides that subject to some exceptions, no person shall, without the permission of the DVC, sell electrical energy at 30,000 volts and above and generate power with an installed capacity of 10,000 KW and above inside the Valley area.

(c) Damodar Valley Corporation has been supplying more energy to West Bengal State Electricity Board over the years in Burdwan substation, part of which is distributed by the Board to outside valley areas.

Supply of Defective LPG Cylinders

4755. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that defective

LPG cylinders are being supplied to the consumers by the gas dealers resulting in the leakage of gas from the cylinders;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, whether Government are aware that deaths have occurred due to the leakage of gas from LPG cylinders at various places;

(d) if so, whether any inquiry has so far been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action Government have taken against defaulters responsible for providing defective LPG cylinders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (e). Several checks including about leakage, are carried out before LPG cylinders leave the bottling plants. Besides, distributors are under instructions to check the cylinders before supply to consumers. Nevertheless, leakage from cylinders at consumers' premises as a result of handling/mishandling during transit and otherwise does occur. While separate data about leakage at consumers' premises is not maintained, accidents, including fatal ones, have taken place on account of LPG leakage. Each LPG accident is enquired into by the oil company concerned and a report sent to the Chief Controller of Explosives. Remedial action as necessary is taken in the light of these reports.

Legal System Designed to ensure Economic Justice

4756. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been urged to take necessary steps to bring about a vibrant legal system to ensure socio-economic justice to the millions living in poverty in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken or contemplated in this matters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b). The Government is engaged in a constant review of the need for judicial reforms as the reforms in judicial administration is a continuous process. The Government have entrusted the Law Commission with a comprehensive study of the judicial reforms and make its recommendations available to the Government as early as possible. The terms of reference for this study are given in the statement given below.

Statement

Terms of Reference in the context of studying Judicial Reforms

1. The need for decentralisation of the system of administration of justice by—

- (i) establishing, extending and strengthening in rural areas the institution of Nyaya Panchayats or other mechanisms for resolving disputes;
- (ii) setting up of a system of participatory justice with defined jurisdiction and powers in suitable areas and centres;
- (iii) establishing other tiers or systems within the judicial hierarchy to reduce the volume of work in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

2. The matters for which Tribunals (excluding services Tribunals) as envisaged in Part XIV-A of the Constitution need to be established expeditiously and various aspects related to their establishment and working.

3. The procedural laws with a view generally to disposing of cases expeditiously, eliminating unnecessary litigation and delays in hearing of cases and reform in procedures and procedural laws and particularly to devising procedures appropriate to the terms envisaged in items 1(i) and 1(ii).

4. The method of appointments to subordinate courts/subordinate judiciary.

5. The training of judicial officers.

6. The role of the legal profession in

strengthening the system of administration of justice.

7. The desirability of formulation of the norms which the Government and the public sector undertakings should follow in the settlement of disputes including a review of the present system for conduct of litigation on behalf of the Government and such undertakings.

8. The cost of litigation with a view to lessening the burden on the litigants.

9. Formation of an All India Judicial Service; and

10. Such other matters as the Commission considers proper or necessary for the purposes aforesaid or as may be referred to it from time to time by the Government.

Power requirement in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4757. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the present power requirement in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, island-wise;

(b) the present power generation capacity in different islands; and

(c) the power requirement projection by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan and the action Government contemplate to meet the power requirement in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). The maximum demand of power and power generating capacity during the first year of the Seventh Five Year Plan in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Island-wise) is given in Statement-I given below.

(c) The total requirement of energy by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan has been projected at 99.43 Mkw and the corresponding peak demand would be 22.14 MW. A number of schemes for augmentation of Diesel Generating capacity in various islands have been prepared and are at various stages of clearance. The details are indicated in Statement II given below.

Statement I

The island-wise position regarding maximum demand and the present power generating capacity in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Sl. No.	Name of Islands	Maximum demand of Power in KW	Present Power Generation Capacity in KW
I. Andaman group of Islands			
1.	South Andaman (Port Blair)	7040	7720
2.	Middle Andaman	992	888
3.	North Andaman	513	375
4.	Rutland	6	—
5.	Little Andaman	246	113
6.	Neil Island	55	48
7.	Havelock	50	139
II. Nicobar Group of Islands			
8.	Car Nicobar	720	515
9.	Chowra	11	—
10.	Teressa	13	—
11.	Katchal	125	204
12.	Kamorta	250	72
13.	Champion	8	39
14.	Kondul	1	—
15.	Great Nicobar	620	514
Total :		10650	10627

Statement II

Names of Power generation Schemes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands at different stages of clearance

1. Establishment of Power House ($3 \times 45/50$ KW) at Rutland Island at a cost of Rs. 40.54 lakhs.
2. Establishment of Power House (3×50 KW) at Teressa Island at a cost of Rs. 51.57 lakhs.
3. Establishment of Power House (3×50 KW) at Chowra Island at a cost of Rs. 23.24 lakhs.
4. Establishment of Power House ($2 \times 15/20$ KW) at Kondul at a cost of Rs. 5.47 lakhs.
5. Augmentation of DG capacity (5×312.5 KVA) at Little Andaman at a cost of Rs. 200.84 lakhs.
6. Augmentation of DG capacity (3×1000 KVA) at Car Nicobar at a cost of Rs. 190.40 lakhs.
7. Augmentation of DG capacity (2×1000 KVA) at Port Blair at a cost of Rs. 64.20 lakhs.
8. Augmentation of DG capacity in South Andamans by 10/12 MW at a cost of Rs. 702.60 lakhs.
9. Augmentation of DG capacity (3×50 KW) at Nancowrie.
10. Augmentation of DG capacity in North Andaman 3×1000 KVA.
11. Augmentation of DG capacity in Great Nicobar 3×1000 KVA.

Financial Assitsance to Free Legal Aid Boards

4758. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government and the State Governments are providing financial assistance to the Free Legal Aid and Advice Boards functioning in various States;

(b) the names of the States where these Boards are functioning; and

(c) the details of the financial assistance provided by the Union and respective State Governments to these Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

According to the information furnished by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes—

(b) The State Legal Aid and Advice Boards are functioning in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and the Union Territories of Delhi, Goa, Daman and Diu, Pondicherry and Mizoram.

(c) The Delhi Legal Aid and Advice Board is being funded exclusively by the Union Government. The financial assistance provided by the Union Govt. and the budgetary allocations made by the respective State Governments to the State Legal Aid and Advice Boards, during the last two years i.e. 1984-85 and 1985-86 is furnished in the Statement given below,

Statement
Financial assistance Provided by Union Government and Budgetary Allocations made by respective State Governments/Union Territory to the State Legal Aid and Advice Boards for the last two years i.e. 1984-85 and 1985-86.

Sl. No.	Name of State Legal Aid and Advice Board	Union Government		State Government/Union Territory	
		1984-85	1985-86	1984-85	1985-86
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	5,000/-	10,00,000/-	Not yet released
2.	Assam	—	—	Not available	Not available
3.	Bihar	—	—	15,00,000/-	15,00,000/-
4.	Gujarat	—	1,00,000/-	8,78,000/-	7,81,000/-
5.	Haryana	—	24,500/-	—	5,00,000/-
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	Not available	Not available
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	20,00,000/-
8.	Karnataka	40,000/-	50,000/-	25,00,000/-	25,00,000/-
9.	Kerala	—	7,000/-	5,00,000/-	5,00,000/-
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1,57,500/-	—	—	—
11.	Manipur	—	—	1,00,000/-	1,00,000/-

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Meghalaya	50,000/-	—	Not available	Not available
13.	Maharashtra	35,000/-	25,000/-	25,00,000/-	25,00,000/-
14.	Nagaland	—	—	Not available	Not available
15.	Orissa	—	1,00,000/-	6,00,000/-	5,00,000/-
16.	Punjab	—	—	9,16,000/-	8,23,000/-
17.	Rajasthan	—	—	5,00,000/-	5,00,000/-
18.	Sikkim	—	—	80,000/-	—
19.	Tamil Nadu	—	50,000/-	34,00,000/-	38,00,000/- (up to 31.8.85)
20.	Tripura	—	—	Not available	Not available
21.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—
22.	West Bengal	—	—	Not available	Not available
23.	Delhi	4,65,000	5,40,574.20	Funded Exclusively by Central Govt.	
24.	Goa, Daman & Diu	—	—	Not available	Not available
25.	Pondicherry	—	—	40,000/-	—
26.	Mizoram	25,000/-	—	—	—

**Cases of Land Losers pending with
Bharat Coking Coal Limited
and Eastern Coalfields
Limited, Bihar**

4759. **SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases of land losers pending before Headquarters of the Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Eastern Coalfields Limited from Dhanbad District, Bihar indicating the period for each case ;

(b) the reasons for long delay in disposing of land losers cases ; and

(c) the steps taken to dispose of the cases ?

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

Economy in Non-plan Expenditure

4760. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any effective steps have been taken by the Departments of Posts and Telecommunications to effect economy in non-plan expenditure during the past three years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of curtailment of expenditure to the total non-plan expenditure in each Department as also in absolute terms ;

(c) whether care has been taken to see that the very purpose of economising is not defeated by shifting the Postal or Telecommunication institutions like Post Offices or Telephone Exchanges from existing building with modest rents to new buildings with higher rents ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A number of steps have been taken to effect economy in Non-Plan expenditure.

(b) As a result of various steps taken by the Department of Posts to curtail the non-plan expenditure by reorganisation of work and procedures, the growth rate in non-plan expenditure (without DA/ADA) has been brought down from 10.58% in 1982-83 to 7.72% in 1983-84 and to 5.90% in 1984-85. In respect of Department of Telecom. the growth rate has been brought down from 18.4% in 1982-83 to 12.5% in 1983-84 and to 12.9% in 1984-85.

(c) and (d). Offices are shifted from one rented building to another rented building taking into consideration various factors such as operational requirements, inadequacy of the present accommodation ; persistent demands from the landlords for vacation of the building etc.

Manning of Delhi and Bombay Telephone Corporations by Professionals and Management Experts

4761. **DR. T. KALPANA DEVI :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to put business management experts and other professionals in command of the proposed Corporations for Delhi and Bombay Telephones separately and give them a totally free hand including the staff employment ; and

(b) whether Government also propose to put users on the Board of Management of the said Corporations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). No Sir. Not initially changes in the management structure can be considered subsequently after the Corporation has been in operation for some time.

Purchase of Oil from International Market

4762. DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

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

(a) whether oil experts are predicting that crude oil prices will soon fall in the spot market ;

(b) if so, the quantity of crude oil which Government propose to purchase in the falling market and from which countries ; and

(c) the energy conservation measures proposed to be adopted to save fuel during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) The spot prices of certain crudes have fallen in the recent months. However, the oil market situation continues to be fluid.

(b) It is proposed to import 14.6 million tonnes of crude oil during 1986. No term contracts with any country has been concluded so far and negotiations are still under way.

(c) Conservation measures proposed during the Seventh Five Year Plan include intensification of education campaign to popularise fuel efficient cooking appliances and other equipment, setting up of model depots in the State Road Transport Corporations, organising Driver Training Clinics, advancing loans for conversion to fuel efficient systems, promoting use of re-refined lubricants, and long-life lubricants and greases etc.

Repercussion of delay in third bid on Oil Exploration Programme

4763. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATU-

RAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the third round of bidding for off-shore oil exploration by foreign oil companies has been deferred in view of the highly disturbed international oil market ;

(b) if so, its repercussion on India's oil search programme during the current year ; and

(c) the areas—both on the Western and Eastern coasts—affected by this putting off ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Bids for the third round have already been invited on March 20, 1986.

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

New Projects of Coal India Ltd.

4764. DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has decided to commence work on fourteen projects in 1986-87 ;

(b) if so, the details of these projects, mines washeries, ongoing to those new ones to be undertaken and the capital outlay involved in each case ; and

(c) how far it will result in improving the financial viability of the Coal India Ltd. ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Shariat Courts

4765. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in some parts of the country a demand has been

made for the establishment of Shariat Courts ;

(b) if so, the nature and structure of the Shariat Courts suggested ; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the demand for Shariat Courts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Government has not received any specific demand for the establishment of Shariat Courts.

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

Assistance by France for Industrial Infrastructural Projects

4766. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether France has agreed to give assistance for a wide range of industrial infrastructural projects and for the exploration as well as enlargement of its market for Indian goods ;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the fields in which France has agreed to assist India and the projects that will be covered under the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) In the fifth meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation held at New Delhi on the 5th - 6th December, 1985, several areas for mutual cooperation were discussed. These include Electronics, Power, Mining, Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Tele-communications, Water resources, Agriculture, Coal, Civil Avia-

tion, Housing and Building, Transport, Steel, Oil and Gas and Renewable Sources of Energy and Environment. Mechanism to increase export of Indian goods to France was also discussed at the meeting.

(b) to (d). During the Joint Committee meeting held in December, 1985, no M.O.U. or agreements were signed. However, earlier M.O.U. & Agreements have been signed in the fields of Agriculture & Rural Development, Advance research, Recovery of energy from Urban & Agricultural Waste and refuses, Coal, Oil & Gas, Electronics, Computers and Informatics etc.

Industrial Growth

4767. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether lower industrial growth rate during the current year has been attributed to power cut and slippages in mining sector ;

(b) if so, whether growth picked up during November and December in comparison to the period of April to October, 1985 ;

(c) if so, the latest position of industrial growth now ;

(d) whether the slow pace of industrial growth has aroused concern at various levels of the economy ; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken during the next financial year to improve power supply to the Industrial Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). According to CSO Index of Industrial Production, the sector-wise growth rates of industrial production during April-October 1985, November 1985, December 1985 and April-December, 1985 were as under :-

Sector-wise growth rates of Industrial Production

Sectors	Growth Rates (per cent)			
	April-October 1985	Nov. 1985	Dec. 1985	April-December 1985
Mining	2.6	5.2	3.1	3.0
Manufacturing	6.4	6.9	5.9	6.3
Electricity	8.7	6.7	6.3	8.2
General Index	6.3	6.6	5.6	6.2

The rate of industrial growth during April-December, 1985 would have been higher but for deceleration in rates of growth in electricity and mining sectors.

The Government has been taking several steps to stimulate industrial production through appropriate changes in industrial licensing and import policies as well as through monetary and fiscal measures and improvement in infrastructure.

(e) In order to improve the power supply position in the country, a generation target of 190 BU has been fixed for the year 1986-87. A capacity of about 3460 MW is proposed to be added during the year 1986-87.

Agreement with Canada for purchase of Oil Drilling Equipment

4768. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Canada has agreed to give India 200 million dollar credit for the purchase of sophisticated oil drilling equipment for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission ;

(b) if so, whether any agreement was signed in this regard ;

(c) If so, the main features of the agreement ; and

(d) the equipment that will be supplied and to what extent it will be helpful in oil drilling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (d). A protocol was signed on 18th December, 1985 with Canada relating to Canadian assistance for purchase from Canada of goods and services related to Oil and Gas exploration and development. For this purpose, Canada has agreed to provide a total amount of C\$ 198 million. Of this, C\$ 75 million would be provided by Canadian International Development Agency and C\$ 123 million by Export Development Corporation. The requirements of ONGC and other end users for the import of capital goods for oil and gas exploration and development and services are also expected to be funded out of this assistance.

Canadian aid in Power Sector

4769. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Canada has offered assistance for setting up 800 MW to 1,000 MW capacity in the power sector ;

(b) whether the sites for the same have been agreed upon ;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard was reached between the two countries ;

(d) if so, the details of the agreement ; and

(e) to what extent Canada has agreed to provide and assist aid in power sector ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (e). Besides the on-going projects, Canadian organisations have evinced interest in setting up additional power generating capacity in India. No formal agreement regarding such assistance, the total capacity to be installed, and the sites has been reached so far for any specific project.

Liquidation of Companies

4770. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) how many companies were under liquidation as on 31 March, 1985 ;

(b) the total number of companies where such liquidation proceedings are pending for more than ten years ; and

(c) the steps the Company Law Board are contemplating for early completion of the pending liquidation proceedings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Total number of companies under liquidation as on 31.3.1985 was 3041.

(b) Details regarding number of such companies are not readily available.

The time, money and energy that will need to be spent in collection and compilation thereof are also not likely to be commensurate with the desired results.

(c) In case of companies which are wound up by the Court, the liquidation proceedings are conducted by the Liquidators under the direction and supervision of the concerned High Court. These processes are sometimes, time-consuming entailing litigation in settling claims of creditors, realisation of assets, including those of debtors, etc. For the present there is no proposal to change the existing procedure of liquidation proceedings.

Proposals from West Bengal for new power Projects

4771. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has submitted proposals for new power projects to the Union Government for approval ; and

(b) the details of the proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). The Government of West Bengal/State Electricity Board have submitted 9 new generation schemes for clearance in the last few years. Out of these, one scheme has been accorded techno-economic clearance and awaits investment approval of the Planning Commission, three schemes are under appraisal in the Central Electricity Authority and five schemes have been returned to the State authorities with comments of the Central Electricity Authority. Details are given in the Statement below.

Statement

I. Scheme accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority but awaiting investment decision of the Planning Commission.

Scheme	Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. Cr.)
1. Bakreshwar Thermal Station	3 × 210	682.58

II. Schemes under appraisal in the Central Electricity Authority

Scheme	Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. Cr.)
1. Ramman Hydro-electric Project St. I	2 × 15	30.12
2. Durgapur Projects Ltd. Unit-7	1 × 210	220.68
3. Murshidabad Thermal Station (Revised)	5 × 210+ 2 × 500	2078.00

III. Schemes returned to the State authorities with comments of the Central Electricity Authority

Scheme	Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. Cr.)
1. Durgapur Projects Ltd. II Phase Extension.	2 × 110	97.81
2. North Bengal Thermal Station (Dhumdangi site)	4 × 60	113.52
3. 6th G.T. Unit at Haldia Fertilizer Plant	1 × 20	566.80
4. Santaldih Thermal Station Ext.	2 × 120	136.51
5. Mungpoo mini hydel project	4 × 1.25	6.72

**Expansion of Telephone Exchanges
in Bhubaneswar**

4772. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state :

(a) the present capacity of the Bhubaneswar Telephone Exchange ;

(b) whether Government are considering to expand the present telephone exchange ;

(c) if so, the number of lines likely to be increased after expansion ;

(d) whether a large number of applicants are waiting for telephone connections ;

(e) if so, their number, category-wise ;
and

(f) what steps are being taken by the Government to meet the requirement of telephone connections during the Seventh Five Year Plan in Bhubaneswar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a)
7000 lines.

(b) & (c). No, Sir, in view of no space for switching equipment.

(d) & (e). A total of 1056 applicants are on the waiting list as on 1.3.86. Cate-

gory-wise break-up of the waiting list is as follows :-

OYT (Special) :	97
OYT (General) :	50
Non-OYT (Spl.) :	228
Non-OYT (Gen) :	681

(f) A 4000 lines electronic exchange has been planned for commissioning by 1988-89 subject to availability of resources. Demand registered upto 1.4.87 is expected to be met with the commissioning of this exchange.

Instructions to gas stove Manufacturers for adopting Safety Measures

4773. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of LPG stoves being sold through LPG retailers do not conform to the safety requirements ;

(b) if so, the action contemplated in this respect ;

(c) whether Government propose to consider issuing of precise instructions to the gas stove manufacturers for adopting essential safety measures in their products and make it binding on them to follow these instructions strictly ;

(d) whether it is a fact that if some parts in a gas stove are not serviced periodically, there is likelihood of the gas leaking ; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to make it obligatory for the stove manufacturers to issue necessary service instructions to the consumers at the time of sale ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). LPG distributors of the oil marketing companies are authorised to sell only ISI certified

stoves. They are also under instructions to ensure, while releasing a new connection, that the consumer has a stove of ISI certification. Such stoves are manufactured with in-built safety characteristics.

(d) and (e). Inadequate maintenance of an LPG stove can create safety hazards. According to the relevant ISI specification, a new gas stove has to be accompanied by an instruction card about installation and regulation etc. Besides, advice about safety practices is tendered to consumers at the time of releasing new connections.

Providing jobs to local people at Oil Wells

4774. SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that jobs are being given to the people of other States instead of giving to the local people ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to give jobs to the people of local area in these oil wells ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). Posts at lower levels, the maximum of whose pay scales is less than Rs. 1250, are filled up by the ONGC from amongst the candidates sponsored by the local Employment Exchanges. Other posts are advertised and recruitment is effected on an all India basis from amongst the candidates who respond to the advertisements.

Drilling of Wells in Godavari-Krishna Basin

4775. SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) how many wells are being drilled in Godavari and Krishna Basin;

(b) whether success has been achieved in those wells;

(c) if so, the time taken for operating the successful wells;

(d) whether there are any proposals for the new wells; and

(e) if so, the location thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). Currently, 4 wells are under drilling. The oil/gas strikes in this basin are only exploratory and their extent will be determined after further exploration.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) 20 locations in onshore and 17 in offshore have been released for drilling in future in Krishna-Godavari basin.

Delhi-Bhubaneswar Demand Dialling facility

4776. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi-Bhubaneswar Demand Dialling facility has been withdrawn; if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) whether it is the policy of the Ministry to provide this facility from New Delhi to all State Capitals; and

(c) if so, when this facility will be restored ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The service was withdrawn due to paucity of traffic on the route.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Facility has been restored with effect from 31.3.1986.

Clearance to Hydro-electric Projects in Orissa by Central Electricity Authority

4777. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-NAIK : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hydro-electric projects in Orissa cleared by the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) the number of hydro-electric projects executed in Orissa during Sixth Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of hydro-electric projects in Orissa which are pending for clearance before Central Electricity Authority; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) 7 hydro-electric projects of Orissa have been cleared by Central Electricity Authority and Planning Commission for execution.

(b) No hydro-electric project was commissioned in Orissa during the Sixth Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d). The Project Report of Manibhadra Multi-purpose Project (24×40 MW) has been received in the CEA for techno-economic clearance and the same is under their consideration.

Construction of Telephone Exchange building at Hailakandi

4778. SHRI SUDARSAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hailakandi Telephone Exchange in Assam is working in a rented house; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken for construction of the Telephone Exchange building at Hailakandi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No,

Sir. The telephone exchange is working in a departmental building at Hailakandi in Assam.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

Direct Telegraph and Telephone Channels to link Hailakandi with Guwahati and Karimganj

4779. SHRI SUDARSAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hailakandi, a sub-division town in Cachar district of Assam has no direct telegraph or telephone link with Guwahati, the State Capital and Karimganj, the neighbouring district headquarters; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to install direct telegraph and telephone channels to link Hailakandi with Guwahati and Karimganj ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The position regarding Telegraph and Telephone links from Hailakandi is as under.

Telegraph Links :

Hailakandi is not connected to either Guwahati or Karimganj. It is connected to Silchar which is the Head Quarters of Cachar District.

Telephone Link :

Hailakandi has a direct trunk circuit to Karimganj. There is no direct trunk circuit to Guwahati.

(b) Telegraph

As per the plans for modernisation of Telegraph Network in North-Eastern Telecom. Circle, Hailakandi is to be provided with an Electronic Keyboard which will give it direct access to not only Gauhati but all other telegraphs offices in

the Circle and the country through other inter-connected systems.

Telephone :

A direct trunk circuit between Hailakandi and Guwahati is not justified as the trunk traffic is low at present.

Dhaleswari Hydro-electric Project

4780. SHRI SUDARSAN DAS : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether investigation for the proposed Dhaleswari Hydro-electric Project in Mizoram has been completed; and

(b) if so, when the construction of the project will be undertaken ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The detailed Project Report for Dhaleswari Hydro-electric Project, prepared by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation, is under techno-economic appraisal of Central Electricity Authority. The construction of the project would be taken up after the project is cleared by Central Electricity Authority and the investment decision is taken.

Oil drilling by USSR in West Bengal Himalayan foothills and Dhansiri Valley

4781. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADKAR PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Soviet Union have been offered drilling of certain areas in West Bengal, Himalayan foothills and Dhansiri Valley;

(b) if so, whether drilling has been started; and

(c) the details thereof and the results achieved thereby ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA

SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). No areas in West Bengal, Himalayan Foothills and Dhansiri Valley have been offered for drilling to the Soviet Union. However, in pursuance of the Working Programme agreed between the two countries, Soviet experts will drill a location Cheri in Himalayan Foothills for geological prospecting. The drilling has not yet commenced.

ISI marking on LPG stoves and inspection by gas agencies

4782. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any rule of inspection of gas stove, if not purchased from L.P.G. agency, in case of release of new L.P.G. connection;

(b) whether it is a fact that LPG Agencies/Dealers as well as concerned officials of Indian Oil Corporation can compel consumers and charge some extra gratification without any receipt for getting the stove inspected in spite of production of an I.S.I. marked stove's receipt;

(c) if so, the reasons for not mentioning such clauses in the allotment letter to the consumers for new LPG connection;

(d) if not, the number of complaints received by the LPG Companies or by Government during the period from 1.10.1985 to 28.2.1986; and

(e) the action taken against the dealers/agencies involved in such type of complaints ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. The distributors are authorised to charge a testing fee of Rs. 10/- only in such cases; and are expected to issue a receipt for this recovery from the consumer.

(d) The oil industry does not maintain a separate record of the complaints pertaining to the inspection of gas stoves.

(e) All specific complaints are investigated and action is taken against the erring distributors under the Market Discipline Guidelines.

[*Translation*]

LPG based production units

4783. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up LPG based power production units keeping in view the shortage of electricity in the country;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the names of the places where these will be set up along with their capacity and the time by which these will be set up; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up such a power generation unit in Mathura also ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[*English*]

Autonomy to public sector undertakings in their financial policy matters

4784. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to grant full autonomy to various public sector undertakings in their financial policy matters and their day to day functioning;

(b) whether opinion of different administrative Ministries has been sought in this connection; and

(c) if so, whether they have also approved this proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The Government is of the view that the public enterprises at present enjoy sufficient degree of autonomy required for them to function as commercial organisations commensurate with their accountability and the Government's own accountability to Parliament. However, in a fast changing situation, the adequacy or otherwise of the powers delegated is under constant review.

Microwave link between Veraval and Una in Gujarat

4785. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a great demand to instal microwave link between Veraval and Una in Gujarat;

(b) if so, since long this proposal is pending before the Government; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and when it will be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) There is a request to instal microwave link between Veraval and Una in Gujarat.

(b) The proposal came up during April 1985.

(c) A proposal for a UHF link has been examined from technical and financial points of view. With the present constraint in the resources, it, has not been found feasible to be included in the 7th Plan.

Import of power generating machinery in public sector units in Gujarat

4786. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased

to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Gujarat is one of the States which are facing problem of power;

(b) whether Gujarat Government or some public sector units in Gujarat have approached the Union Government for permitting them to import power generation machinery;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of other States which have requested the Government in this regard;

(e) the action taken by Government thereon; and

(f) what is the Government's policy to permit the State Government or individuals to import power generating machinery ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Gujarat has been, by and large, meeting its energy requirement.

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

Relief to sick Cement Units

4787. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to grant relief to the sick cement units in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of sick units;

(c) the details of the assistance proposed to be given to them;

(d) whether all the sick units will be covered in 1986-87; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL

DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNA-CHALAM) : (a) to (e). Only those units which satisfy the criteria laid down for the purpose, are declared 'sick' units. Accordingly, 15 units have been declared as 'sick' for varying periods from 1985-86 to 1989-90 as indicated in the Statement

given below. Such units are required to supply only 40% of their actual production of cement as levy cement as against 60% of actual production to be supplied against levy quota by the existing units (namely units which were in production before 1.1.82).

Statement

Statement showing details of cement units declared as 'sick' for the purpose of relief in the form of levy quota

Name of the Plant	Period upto and for which sickness concessions recommended. (Respective financial years of Companies).
1. ACC, Dwarka	1987/88
2. ACC, Lakheri	1989/90
3. ACC, Sindri	1986/87
4. India Cements, Sankarnagar	1987/88
5. Jaipur Udyog	1986/87
6. Kalyanpur	1985/86
7. Sone Valley	1986
8. Tamil Nadu, Alangulam	1987/88
9. Tamil Nadu, Ariyalur	1987/88
10. UPSCC, Churk	1987/88
11. UPSCC, Dalla	1987/88
12. ACC, Khalari	31.12.1986
13. ACC, Sevalia	31.12.1986
14. CCI, Charkhi Dadri	31.12.1986
15. Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	31.12.1986

Reservation for SC/ST in Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation

4788. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bureau of Public Enterprises had issued instructions to the public sector undertakings not to conclude agreement (with recognised unions) which are not in conformity with the directives issued by Government on reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employees;

(b) whether he is aware that in violation of such instructions, the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited has concluded an agreement called 'Promotion Policy' with the trade union; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take for restoration of reservation in promotion in Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation and when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Bureau of Public Enterprises have issued guidelines to the administrative Ministries/Departments advising them to ask the public sector undertakings under their control to modify subsisting agreements entered into with Trade Unions of workmen, in accordance with the provisions of the law, wherever the agreements are not in conformity with the Government policy on reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

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

Utilising head of Bhimnapalli-I Well at Modi-I and release of Bhimnapalli-II

4789. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the head of Bhimnapalli-I well was cut and utilised at Modi-I

by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) if so, whether due to this Bhimnapalli-I well had to be abandoned and Bhimnapalli-II was released in its place ; and

(c) the total amount spent on Bhimnapalli-I and Bhimnapalli-II as on 1 January, 1986 and the estimated yields from them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) About Rs. 3.210 crores was spent on drilling well Bhimnapalli-I. The testing of Bhimnapalli-II was completed only in January 1986 and, therefore, the amount spent on it as on 1 January, 1986 cannot be estimated.

The Bhimnapalli structure is in exploratory stage and the production potential will be known after it is delineated completely.

High increase in the price of hormone medicines

4790. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of hormone medicines have gone up by 200 to 400 per cent during the last few years ;

(b) if so, the reasons for such high increases; and

(c) the steps being taken by his Ministry to bring down the prices of these medicines to reasonable level ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c). Hormones are exempt from price control under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979. Manufacturers of these medicines are,

therefore, free to increase their prices without any prior approval from the Government. Drug Policy is under review presently.

Development of telephone exchanges in Cannanore district in Kerala

4791. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of programme for development of telephone exchanges in the district of Cannanore in Kerala;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges presently functioning in the district to Cannanore;

(c) whether there is any plan to start new exchanges in the said district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The information is given at Statement-I given below.

(b) 46 telephone exchanges are presently functioning in the district of Cannanore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The information is given at Statement-II given below.

Statement-I

Proposals for 1985-86.

1. Expansion of 11 exchanges during 1985-86.
2. 3 new exchanges opened during 1985-86.
3. Expansion of 3 more exchanges during the remaining period of 1985-86.

Proposals for 7th Plan

1. Automatisatation of Telecherry Manual exchange.
2. Conversion of MAX-III exchanges at Alacode, Payangodi, Shrikantapuram, Panoor and Edakkad into MAX-II type exchange.
3. Expansion of MAX-II exchanges at Taliparamba, Baliapatnam and Kothuparamba.
4. Expansion of Cannanore Exchange.

Note : The above works are proposed to be taken up subject to avallability of equipment and other stores.

Statement-II

Plans for setting up of new exchanges.

1. Aunhimangalam
2. Kudiayanmana

— 45 lines MAX-III

— 25 lines -do-

3. Vanakanakkai

— 45 lines MAX-III

4. Perumbagadu

— 45 lines -do-

5. Panakodi

— 25 lines -do-

The exchanges will be set up subject to fulfilment of stipulated conditions contained in policy for opening of new small telephone exchanges.

**Enquiry Committee on fire accident at
Cochin Refinery**

(d) On 27th February, 1986 there was a fire in the Cochin Refineries Ltd.

4792. PROF. K.V. THOMAS :

(e) Three persons died.

SHRI K. MOHANDAS :

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

(a) whether an enquiry committee was constituted to study the fire accident in March, 1984 at Cochin Oil Refinery;

(b) whether the committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the recommendations of the committee;

(d) whether there was a fire on 28th February, 1986 also at Cochin Oil Refinery;

(e) how many people died in this fire accident; and

(f) what effective steps have been taken to prevent fire accident at Cochin Oil Refinery ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The committee recommended review and improvement of fire fighting facilities, process facilities and procedures, layout, administrative procedure and training of the personnel.

(f) In pursuance of the recommendations mentioned at (c) above, instrumentation control systems were improved, minimum qualification for operating personnel was upgraded, training was arranged, a high level central safety Committee was formed, fire fighting facilities were improved and gas monitors, which detected the leak causing the fire of 27.2.86, were installed.

**Contract labourers in Bharat Heavy
Electricals Limited**

4793. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of contract labourers in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Delhi Office and the categories of jobs in which they are working;

(b) whether Government propose to make them permanent employees of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited ; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) There are 228 persons engaged on Job Contract basis in BHEL

offices located in Delhi to attend to the following categories of jobs :

<i>Category</i>	<i>No. of workmen</i>
Sanitation of office premises	81
Office maintenance and catering	60
Other jobs, such as, Plumber, Electrician, Carpenter	10
Security	77
Total :	228

(b) and (c). Contract labourers are employed for specific work from time to time depending on the exigencies of work, whereas permanent employees are recruited following well-established policies and procedures.

Hiring of Drilling Ships for off-shore exploration in Andaman and Nicobar Island

4794. SHRIMATI KISHORI SIHNA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission are getting drilling ships for off-shore exploration on hire;

(b) whether a Belgian rig ship has been hired for use in Andamans;

(c) whether cost of hire is as high as 33,500 dollars per day;

(d) whether on-shore supply base for this is yet to be arranged; and

(e) if so, whether the drilling rig will remain unutilised for several days entailing loss to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHRA SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes Sir. Oil India Ltd. has finalised a contract for charter hiring

a D.P. drillship from M/s Offshore Europe, Belgium, at an operating day rate of US \$ 33,500.

(d) No Sir. Supplies for the 3 well exploratory drilling programme of Oil India Ltd. in the Andaman basin would be made available from a ware ship, the contract for the charter hire of which has already been finalised. Thus Oil do not propose to have full fledged onshore supply base for these operations.

(e) No Sir.

Hiring of Oil carriage at higher rates

4795. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen the report in the 'Economic Times' of February 26 wherein it has been stated that the Indian Oil Corporation can save Rs. 40 crores a year if it does not favour Shipping Corporation of India for its oil carriage;

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

(c) whether private Indian shippers have offered more favourable rates; and

(d) if so, the reasons for paying more to Shipping Corporation of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Tankers for crude transportation whether of SCI or other Indian Flag Vessels are paid on cost plus basis. Two Indian private shipping companies are also engaged on the same pricing basis. The employment of SCI vessels in preference to other Indian Flag Vessels is on the basis of priorities laid down by the Government. The issue of reduction in the freight rates by the SCI is constantly engaging the attention of the Government.

Vasai and Virar under Metropolitan Telephone Corporation

4796. SHRI ANOOP CHAND SHAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Vasai and Virar people want to come under the new Metropolitan Telephone Corporation of the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) whether he has received any representation in the matter; and

(c) the Government's stand in this matter as Vasai and Virar are on suburban action of Bombay and closely connected with the city of Bombay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The jurisdiction of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited as far as Bombay is concerned will cover only areas falling under the three Municipal Corporations of Bombay, New Bombay and Thana Vasai and Virar neither from part of Bombay telephone system nor fall within the limits of the three Municipal corporations referred to above. Hence they cannot be included in the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited.

Capacity utilisation of Electricity Boards

4797. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the latest capacity utilisation of the different Electricity Boards in the country;

(b) the percentage of improvement achieved during 1985 over the previous year;

(c) whether there was any scheme for special incentive to the Electricity Boards producing excellent results; and

(d) if so, the names of the Boards which get such incentive since inception of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). A statement showing the State-wise plant load factor during the period 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 (April 85 to February 1986) is given in the statement given below.

(c) and (d). Government had started an Incentive Scheme for the State Electricity Boards during 1983-84. The Boards/Organisations who got the reward during 1983-84 were as under :—

1. Neyveli Lignite Corporation.
2. National Thermal Power Corporation.
3. Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board.
4. Punjab State Electricity Board.
5. Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

The scheme for rewarding the Electricity Boards was discontinued from 1984-85 with the introduction of R&M scheme.

Statement***State-wise Plant Load Factor***

PLF (%)

	1983-84	1984-85	Apr. 85-Feb. 86.
Delhi	48.4	51.1	49.7
Haryana	31.1	34.7	32.4
J & K	1.5	—	—
Rajasthan	72.3	57.2	56.0
Punjab	57.0	64.3	59.9
U.P.	39.2	39.7	46.6
Gujarat	57.9	56.0	54.5
M.P.	54.1	51.8	56.9
Maharashtra	53.3	50.3	54.7
Andhra Pradesh	54.6	54.9	66.0
Karnataka	—	—	37.7
Tamil Nadu	51.4	58.7	62.1
Bihar	32.8	30.5	34.3
D.V.C.	48.1	48.6	49.1
Orissa	33.2	32.2	30.3
West Bengal	39.1	40.0	43.0
Assam	34.2	29.6	27.1
All India	47.9	50.1	51.9

Allocation to ONGC for Oil exploration

4798. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a drastic reduction in the allocation to the Oil and

Natural Gas Commission for oil exploration this year;

(b) if so, the demand put forth by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and actual allocation; and

(c) how it is going to affect the oil exploration work in the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b). As against an outlay of Rs. 3205 crores originally proposed by ONGC, the approved outlay for 1986-87 is Rs. 2250 crores.

(c) Due to reduction in outlay, ONGC has proposed a corresponding reduction in drilling metrage.

Asia-Pacific Microwave Conference

4799. SHRI K.V. SHANKARA GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the first Asia-Pacific microwave conference was held in New Delhi on 24 February, 1986 ;

(b) if so, whether in the conference he had urged the engineers to develop low maintenance rugged equipment and low cost power systems for rural and remote areas ; and

(c) if so, the other steps discussed in the conference and decisions arrived at and whether the Ministry has started implementing the suggestions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Minister urged those present to put in effort to develop low cost rugged and low power consumption equipment for rural and remote areas.

(c) The Conference attended by engineers from countries of Asia Pacific Region exchanged knowledge in the field of Microwave Communication and no specific decision regarding above subject was taken. However, Ministry of Communication is already working towards development of such equipment for rural and remote areas.

Corporations for Monetary Support to power Projects

4800. SHRI K.V. SHANKARA GOWDA :

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether two new corporations have been set up to give monetary support to power projects and renewable energy schemes ; and

(b) if so, the projects for which the power Finance Corporation will provide funds and the projects for which Renewable Energy Development Corporation will provide funds and what is the total amount that these two new bodies have decided to finance power projects during 1986-87 ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). The one new body for financing Power projects which Government have decided recently to set up is the Power Finance Corporation. The Corporation is expected to be incorporated in 1986-87. It will, inter-alia, provide term finance to thermal, hydel and transmission projects, schemes of renovation and modernisation, system improvement schemes etc., and it is expected that through additional resource mobilisation effort the Corporation will be able to disburse loans amounting to about Rs. 3500 crores in the Seventh Plan period.

Round Table Conference on Energy Problem

4801. SHRI K.V. SHANKARA GOWDA :

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether at the meeting of the round table conference on the energy problem, a number of suggestions were put forward for tapping new energy sources ;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government are considering the suggestions of the experts ; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to implement them ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). The discussions on rural electrification options brought forward a variety of suggestions to give an impetus to the use of non-conventional energy sources. A small group of experts has been constituted by the Government to formulate a plan of action which would inter-alia include identification of measures which are capable of immediate implementation within the existing framework and those which have long term implications on which Government would need to take policy decisions.

Shortage of Industrial Alcohol

4802. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the alcohol-based chemical industry is facing a major crisis in the country these days owing to an acute shortage of industrial alcohol ;

(b) whether the capacity utilisation of alcohol based chemical units has thus dipped to just 50 per cent ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The indigenous availability of alcohol is not sufficient to meet the domestic demand for different purposes, including industrial use. This could have affected the production of some of the alcohol based chemical units. However the actual capacity utilisation of some important alcohol based chemicals like acetic acid, acetone and acetic anhydride is estimated to be higher in 1985-86 than in the previous year.

(c) In order to improve the availability of industrial alcohol for alcohol-based chemical industry, duty free import of alcohol (denatured) has been permitted to them.

Working of cross country Transporter Conveyor System

4803. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Cross Country Transporter Conveyor System (TTPS) of the coal mines supplying coal to power units in Orissa has become age old causing non-supply of adequate coal and resulting in less power generation ;

(b) whether the Central Electricity Authority was appointed as consultants to the renovation scheme having been approved by the Union Government earlier and if so, whether it has recommended a duplicate TTPS ; and

(c) the reasons for not including it as a Central Sector Scheme and the reason why duplicate coal conveyor system has not been included in the Central Sector, although it also concerns power generation ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Central Electricity Authority were appointed as consultants for renovation/augmentation of coal conveyor system of Talcher Thermal Power Station. They have recommended a duplicate conveyor system from mine end upto 'D' house (1.6 Km. length) from where the main conveyor for Talcher thermal power station starts. Besides, CEA have also suggested certain other renovation/augmentation/modifications in the coal handling system.

(c) Out of the total estimated cost of about Rs. 35.7 crores for the Renovation and Modernisation scheme of Talcher Thermal Power Station, Central loan assistance to the extent of Rs. 24.09 crores is

being provided. However, with the limited resources available for the Centrally sponsored renovation and modernisation scheme, it has not been found feasible to provide funds under the Central Plan for duplicate coal conveyor system.

**Waiting List for Telex/Teleprinter
Circuit at Bhubaneswar, Cuttack
and Sambalpur**

4804. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS :

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of cases registered/wait-listed for Telex/Teleprinter circuit at Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Sambalpur and steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide the connections ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : The number of cases of Telex and Teleprinters on the waiting list at Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Sambalpur as on 25.3.86 is given below :

	Telex	Teleprinters
Bhubaneswar	40	13
Cuttack	7	4
Sambalpur	8	2

Expansion of telex exchange at Bhubaneswar from 150 lines to 200 lines is in progress and the pending telex connections are expected to be provided by October, 1986. The pending telex connections at Cuttack are expected to be provided by June, 1986. A 20 line telex exchange is proposed to be installed at Sambalpur and the pending telex connections are likely to be provided by October 1986.

The pending teleprinter circuits at Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur are expected

to be provided by June, 1986. The pending teleprinter circuits at Cuttack are expected to be provided by end of April, 1986.

Review of Price and Purchase Preference Policy for Public Sector

4805. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to review the price and purchase preference policy for the public sector ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the new public sector units will be provided some protection to enable them to stand competition in the market ; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is still under examination, and the details of the revised policy will be available as soon as a final decision is taken by the Government.

**Setting up of Hydel Projects with
Belgian Aid**

4806. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up some hydel projects in the country with Belgian aid ;

(b) if so, the number of hydel projects proposed to be set up in the country with Belgian aid ;

(c) the names of the States where such Belgian-aided hydel projects are going to be set up ; and

(d) to what extent assistance is proposed to be given by Belgian for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) One of the Belgian Companies has recently shown interest for turn-key execution of some hydel projects. However, there is no detailed proposal under consideration.

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

Expansion of Rural Telecommunications in Seventh Plan

4807. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the approach towards expansion and strengthening of rural telecommunications in the country during the 7th Five Year Plan period ;

(b) the plan allocations made for this purpose ; and

(c) the targets fixed for expanding rural network in the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) For the expansion and strengthening of rural telecommunications, the Government has liberalised the policy for opening of small capacity exchanges and long distance public telephones. These facilities are being provided under this policy on a subsidised basis. Opening of exchanges and LDPTs would depend on fulfilling the criteria laid down under this policy.

(b) The plan allocations are met out of the lump sum grant provided to each telecommunication circle. However, about Rs. 100 crores for long distance public telephones and approximately Rs. 100 crores for the small capacity exchanges are provided.

(c) In the 7th Five Year Plan approximately 1.80 lakhs of lines and 9000 long distance public telephones are proposed

to be provided, subject to availability of the demand and equipment.

Opening of Electronic Exchanges during Seventh Plan Period

4808. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the policy relating to the sanction of Electronic Exchanges in general and to the industrial and growth centres situated in various parts of the country in particular ; and

(b) the targets fixed for opening Electronic Exchanges during the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Electronic exchanges are allotted to—

(i) Metro Telephone Systems

(ii) Major Telephone Systems

(iii) Places where digital Trunk Automatic exchanges are justified and getting installed.

(iv) Heavy telephone growth areas where large telephone demands to the extent of 10000 lines are to be met.

(b) Subject to availability of electronic exchange equipments from the ITI, Manakpur factory, about 147 exchanges are expected to be opened during the 7th Plan. In addition, 67 small electronic exchanges will also be opened during the 7th Plan.

Construction of Earth Stations to Link Units of ONGC and NTPC through Satellite

4809. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received requests from Oil and Natural Gas Com-

mission and Natural Thermal Power Corporation for construction of earth stations for their exclusive use to establish links with their units through satellite ;

(b) the basis on which the requests have been made ; and

(c) whether the benefits to be derived would be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requests have been received from ONGC for meeting the requirements of Voice, Telemetry and high speed data traffic among their project sites.

Requests have been received from NTPC for meeting the requirements of Voice, Facsimile and data traffic among some of the Super Thermal Power Stations and Corporate Office.

(c) Telecommunication is an essential infrastructure for the development and smooth functioning of large public undertakings like ONGC and NTPC. The telecommunication links sought through the use of the satellite communication network are to provide vital arteries of communication between the various units of those undertakings distantly located in various parts of the country. With this background provision of reliable communication network are considered beneficial for requirements of these undertakings.

Oil drilling in Gujarat

4810. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GEAKWAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of locations in Gujarat earmarked by Oil and Natural Gas Commission to drill for oil and gas during 1986-87 ;

(b) the number of wells being drilled in Gujarat for exploitation of oil and gas at present ;

(c) prospective Five Year Plan for drilling of wells for oil and gas in Gujarat ; and

(d) the extent of oil and gas likely to flow from these wells ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) 119 wells are planned to be drilled by ONGC in Gujarat during 1986-87.

(b) Currently, development drilling activities are going on at 7 locations in Gujarat.

(c) 741 wells have been tentatively planned to be drilled by ONGC in Gujarat during the 7th Plan period.

(d) It is not possible at this state to estimate the extent of oil and gas likely to be available from these wells, as it would depend on the results of drilling.

Telephone system in Orissa under Telephone Corporation

4811. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are afoot to change the Telephone Districts Circles into public sector corporations one by one on the lines of the Telephone Corporation starting from 1 April, 1986 ;

(b) by which time these will be converted ;

(c) whether Government are aware that changing the telephone system in the States into corporations, will block the progress of development of the rural areas as the profit making corporations may not like to spend and lose huge money required for cable laying/infrastructure and manning the system in rural areas ; and

(d) whether the telephone system in Orissa is proposed to be brought under a corporation in the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Corporate structure for Telecommunication field units being a new idea, it is initially being tried in a limited way. Bombay and Delhi telephone system are chosen for this. The question of having public sector corporation for other Telephone Districts/Circles can be considered only after the results of the corporation functioning for Bombay/Delhi are assessed.

(b) No time limit can be prescribed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no proposal at present.

LPG consumers and retail outlets in Orissa

4812. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of domestic LPG consumers city-wise and waitlisted upto 31st January, 1986, city-wise in Orissa; and

(b) number of retail outlets city-wise in Orissa existing and proposed to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Details are given in Statement-I given below.

(b) Details are given in Statement-II given below.

Statement—I

S. No.	Location	No. of Customers	Wait List
1	2	3	4
1.	Bolangir	1500	500
2.	Brijrajnagar	1200	650
3.	Paradeep	1000	560
4.	Rourkela	14842	5195
5.	Phulbani	3100	750
6.	Chatrapur	1200	480
7.	Cuttack	15561	4058
8.	Dhenkenal	1796	1062
9.	Bhubaneswar	17208	3491
10.	Jatni	1100	760
11.	Balugaon	700	330

1	2	3	4
12.	Korapat	500	500
13.	Baripada	700	150
14.	Titlagarh	300	310
15.	Kronjhar	300	320
16.	Kendrapara	300	410
17.	Balasore	5433	2700
18.	Puri	5715	1460
19.	Sambalpur	4934	1949
20.	Burla	1500	1600
21.	Jeypore	2100	1300
22.	Aska	2000	2100
23.	Berhampur	10455	6812
24.	Rayagada	2000	1425
25.	Sunabeda	2100	2000
26.	Damanjodi/Nalconagar/ Vikrampur	1700	1530
27.	Bhavanipatna	1689	625
28.	Angul	1584	585
29.	Jharsukhada	656	10
30.	Barbil	946	235
31.	Rajgangpur	449	62
32.	Zinc Nagar	101	—
33.	Sundergarh	660	10

Statement—II

S. No.	Location	No. of existing Retail outlets
1	2	3
1.	Balasore	7
2.	Baripada	5
3.	Bhadrak	3
4.	Karanjla	1
5.	Angul	1
6.	Cuttack	16
7.	Chandikohl	1
8.	Dharamsala	1
9.	Torul (Jagatpur)	1
10.	Nimpur (Jagatpur)	1
11.	Jajpur Road	4
12.	Kujang	1
13.	Pardeep	2
14.	Dhanmandal	1
15.	Tangi	1
16.	Talcher	2
17.	Dhenkanal	3
18.	Boinda	1
19.	Soro	1
20.	Rairangpur	1
21.	Badampahar	1
22.	Puri	5
23.	Bhubaneswar	14

1	2	3
24.	Rambha	1
25.	Berhampur	10
26.	Balugaon	1
27.	Jatni	1
28.	Khurda Town	2
29.	Rasulgarh	1
30.	Jeypore	2
31.	Koraput	1
32.	Rayagada	2
33.	Semliguda	1
34.	Kesinga	1
35.	Bhawanipatna	3
36.	Barbil	3
37.	Banspani	1
38.	Joda	1
39.	Keonjhargarh	2
40.	Rourkela	13
41.	Rajganpur	1
42.	Bamra	1
43.	Bargarh	5
44.	Sambalpur	15
45.	Jharsuguda	3
46.	Kuchinda	1
47.	Bolangir	6
48.	Kantabanji	1
49.	Brajaraj Nagar	

1	2	3
50.	Kendgjhar	1
51.	Bhub	7
52.	Phulbani	1
53.	Sundergarh	2

Retail outlets proposed to be opened

S. No.	Location	No. of Retail outlets proposed to be opened
1	2	3
1.	Behrampur	— 2
2.	Koraput	— 1
3.	Kendgjhar	— 2
4.	Rourkela	— 2
5.	Baragarh	— 1
6.	Cuttack	— 2
7.	Bhubneswar	— 1
8.	Paradip Port	— 1
9.	Phulankara	— 1
10.	Khandagiri	— 1
11.	Athgarh	— 1
12.	Kurda Chowk	— 1
13.	Panposh	— 1
14.	Angul	— 1
15.	Baliguda	— 1
16.	Sohela	— 1
17.	Tirtol	— 1

1	2	3
18.	Jeypore	— 1
19.	Patnagarh	— 1
20.	Rajamunda	— 1
21.	Hindol Road	— 1
22.	Pattangi	— 1
23.	Atabira	— 1
24.	Kuanrmunda	— 1
25.	Begudu	— 1
26.	Jagatsinghpur	— 1
27.	Disapahandi	— 1
28.	Taluganj	— 1
29.	Chandaneswar	— 1
30.	Bhuban	— 1
31.	Dembri	— 1
32.	Dhamangark	— 1
33.	Kakriguma	— 1
34.	Kanasbahal	— 1
35.	Kendra By pass	— 1
36.	Pattamundei	— 1
37.	Patammundi	— 1
38.	Dunglrapatli	— 1
39.	Khukia	— 1
40.	Dharamgarh	— 1
41.	Glrisola	— 1
42.	Keshpur	— 1
43.	Saintala	— 1

Benami running of Petrol Pumps allotted to SC/ST

4813. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI :
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps allotted to educated unemployed and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in different states;

(b) whether it is a fact that many petrol pumps allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are actually not run by them and other people who do not fall under this category are running some petrol pumps in the name of S.C. and S.T.;

(c) if so, the number of such cases that have come to his notice; and

(d) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) The requisite information as on 1.2.1986 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d). A stipulation exists in the dealership agreement that the dealer will be a working dealer and the compliance thereof is ensured through periodical inspections by the Oil Companies.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	No of Retail Outlet (Petrol/Diesel) dealerships allotted to		
		SC	ST	UG/UEG
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25	7	34
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	11	—
3.	Assam	6	8	5
4.	Bihar	25	7	24
5.	Gujarat	14	10	22
6.	Haryana	13	—	11
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	—	2
8.	Karnataka	22	1	24
9.	Kerala	11	—	12
10.	Madhya Pradesh	7	6	25
11.	Maharashtra	22	11	33
12.	Manipur	—	5	3

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Mizoram	—	4	—
14.	Orissa	7	7	13
15.	Punjab	25	—	15
16.	Rajasthan	18	13	27
17.	Tamil Nadu	53	1	54
18.	Tripura	—	1	—
19.	Uttar Pradesh	42	—	31
20.	West Bengal	31	3	23
21.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	—	2
22.	Delhi	2	—	—
23.	Goa, Daman & Diu	2	—	—
24.	Pondicherry	3	—	—
25.	Chandigarh	1	—	—
26.	Nagaland	—	4	—
27.	Meghalaya	—	8	—

SC = Scheduled Caste

ST = Scheduled Tribe

UG/UEG = Unemployed Graduates/Unemployed Engineering Graduates

Construction of quarters for employees of departments of Post and Telecommunications in Tamil Nadu

4814. SHRI P. SELVENDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to construct quarters for the employees of the Department of Post and Telecommunications in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the places where the quarters are proposed to be constructed; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) *Department of Posts*

Sathuvachari (Vellore), Mylapore and Chetpet (Madras), Podanur, Pollachi, Gobichettipalayam, Rameswaram,

Virudhunagar, Tirupattur (NA), Kovilpatti, Tuticorin, Ambattur, Mandaveli.

(ii) *Department of Telecommunications.*

Chidambaram, Cuddalore, Erode, Thuriyur, Peranambut, Papanasam, Ariyalur, Thuckalay, Ambur, Meenambakkam, Atur (Salem), Kallakurichi, Palayamkottai, Virudhunagar, Ennore, Mahabalipuram, Tirupattur (N.A.), Nagercoil, Arakandanallur, Kumbakonam, Mannargudi, Rasipuram, Sankarankoil, Tenkasi, Sivakasi, Tuticorin, Kundah, Kodaikanal, Coonoor, Thanjavur, Dindigul, Bhavani, Oddanchatram, Vellore, Namakkal, Gudalur, Tiruppur, Aruppukottai, Kangeyam, Pattukottai, Dharapuram, Pollachi, Madras and Coimbatore.

(c) Does not arise.

Supply of gas at different rates to State Electricity Boards/Companies

4815. SHRI D. B. PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission charges for the gas supplied to various customers at different rates;

(b) if so, the rate at which gas is being supplied to (i) Maharashtra State Electric

city Board (ii) Gujarat State Electricity Board (iii) Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (iv) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (v) Deepak Fertilizers and Petro-Chemicals and (vi) Tata Electric Co., Ltd.;

(c) the quantity of gas supplied to aforesaid customers from April 1985 to February 1986, month-wise; and

(d) the cost of production of per 1000 cubic metre of gas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The gas which is being supplied to Maharashtra State Electricity Board is billed at LSHS replacement value; to Gujarat State Electricity Board at coal replacement value; to Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (Trombay & Thal) at naphtha replacement value for feedstock and furnace oil replacement value for fuel; to Deepak Fertilizers & Petro-chemicals Ltd., at naphtha (for feedstock) and furnace oil (for fuel) replacement value; and to Tata Electric Co. Ltd., at coal replacement value upto 5685 million kilo calories per day, beyond which, at fuel oil replacement value;

(c) Details are given in the Statement given below.

(d) The cost of production of natural gas for the year 1984-85 was about Rs. 1218/1000 cubic metres; this excludes cost of transportation of gas from the supply point to the various consumers.

Statement							
MONTH	MSEB	GSEB	(In Million Cubic Metres)			TEC	
			TROMBAY THAL	RCFL BPCL (discontinued)	DFPCL		
April '85	18.49	9.31	38.87	58.86	1.02	8.39	24.60
May '85	11.75	9.66	44.34	76.28	0.04	6.37	28.94
June' 85	26.79	8.90	30.36	65.80	—	8.70	45.19
July '85	15.09	9.02	52.80	86.68	—	7.71	12.60
Aug '85	27.88	9.24	53.06	73.32	—	5.85	7.14
Sept '85	57.92	9.02	50.56	73.32	—	7.84	17.17
Oct '85	42.24	9.34	25.46	73.21	—	10.50	31.69
Nov '85	27.98	9.34	48.44	79.93	—	7.13	5.70
Dec '85	45.72	9.12	49.33	75.89	—	8.30	6.07
Jan '86	27.73	7.98	53.55	66.62	—	2.75	25.27
Feb '86	36.60	7.20	47.23	57.58	—	7.91	20.84
Total	338.19	98.13	494.00	786.49	1.06	81.45	225.21

Setting up of Paper Mills

4816. **SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL :**
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some paper mills in the country during 1986-87;

(b) whether any new paper mill is proposed to be set up in Orissa district;

(c) if so, whether a paper mill is proposed to be set up in Phulbani district;

(d) if not, the other places in Orissa and other States identified for location of new paper mills; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL

DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Cachar Paper Project of Hindustan Paper Corporation, a Central Public Sector Undertaking, is scheduled to commence production during 1986-87.

(b) to (e). The Central Government have no proposal to set up any new paper mill in the State of Orissa. However, 8 units have been given registration by DGTD for manufacture of paper and paper board in the State of Orissa for an annual capacity of 32,143 tonnes. A Statement indicating the details of the units given registration by DGTD is attached Statement-I. Another statement indicating State-wise, the number of units and their annual capacity, for manufacture of paper and paper board, which have been granted Industrial Licences, Letters of Intent, Registration by DGTD and Registration by the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals is attached Statement-II. These are under various stages of implementation.

Statement I

Details of the units given registration by DGTD for setting up capacity for manufacture of paper and paper board in the State of Orissa, which are under various stages of implementation.

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Location	Annual capacity
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s. Krishna Products (P) Ltd.	Kutang Raghunath Pura	3,300
2.	M/s. Guna Manjavi Paper Mills (P) Ltd.	Distt. Mayurbhang	2,000
3.	M/s. Nortos Mills Ltd.	Distt. Balasore	6,600
4.	M/s Ashirwad Paper Udyog (P) Ltd.	Distt. Balasore	6,500
5.	M/s. Laxmi Ice, Oil and Genl Mills	Jeypore Distt. Koraput	6,600
6.	M/s. Orissa Straw Boards (P) Ltd.	Distt. Sambalpur	2,673

1	2	3	4
7.	M/s. Spaa Straw Board Industries (P) Ltd.	Distt. Bolangir	2,970
8.	M/s. Aurobindo Paper Mills (P) Ltd.	Talcher Distt. Dhenkanal	1,500
			32,143

Statement—II

Statement indicating State-wise the number of units and their annual capacity, for manufacture of paper and paper board, which have been granted Industrial Licences, Letters of Intent, Registration by DGTD and Registration by the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals, which are under various stages of Implementation.

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Industrial Licences No. of Units	Capacity (in tonnes)	Letters of Intent No. of Units	Registration with DGTD No. of Units	Registration with Sectt. for Indl. Approvals No. of Units	Capacity (in tonnes)	Capacity (in tonnes)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	55,000	1	33,000	21	1,15,800	—
2.	Assam	1	1,00,000	—	—	1	2,400	—
3.	Bihar	2	27,350	—	—	32	77,134	—
4.	Gujarat	5	43,250	1	10,500	49	2,95,738	—
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—	3	10,600	—
6.	Haryana	1	10,000	3	46,500	51	1,98,083	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	10,000	—	—	24	87,250	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	5	12,310	—
9.	Karnataka	3	29,300	—	—	21	87,950	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	2	4,950	—	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	3	29,000	—	—	45	2,37,050	—	—
12.	Maharashtra	6	1,00,000	8	95,000	41	2,10,980	3	48,000
13.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	2	9,000	—	—
14.	Orissa	—	—	—	—	8	32,143	—	—
15.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	8	34,165	—	—
16.	Punjab	1	10,000	3	90,500	40	1,87,120	1	6,600
17.	Rajasthan	1	10,000	1	5,400	20	77,125	—	—
18.	Tamil Nadu	1	10,000	1	15,000	30	1,33,430	—	—
19.	Uttar Pradesh	5	27,500	1	6,000	154	5,25,450	2	26,800
20.	West Bengal	—	—	2	16,500	16	57,030	—	—
Total		37	4,61,400	21	3,18,400	573	23,95,708	6	81,400

**Soviet Union Backing out from Oil drilling
in West Bengal**

4817. DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

SHRI K. PRADHANI :

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

(a) whether the Soviet Union has dropped its proposed drilling on its own in West Bengal, backtracking on its earlier pronouncement that the entire area is floating in oil;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the other sources now being tapped for on-shore drilling in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) ONGC is continuing its exploratory activity in West Bengal.

Oil exploration in Mahanadi off-shore

4818. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil India Limited essentially an on-shore company, ventured out into off-shore a couple of years ago with the jack-up rig belonging to the State-owned Protexa of Mexico;

(b) if so, whether it drew a blank in all the eight wells it drilled in Mahanadi off-shore;

(c) whether it claimed to have found indications of oil in the sixth well, if so, its find in this well ultimately;

(d) the results of drilling achieved by its jack-up rig in the north-east basin;

(e) the estimated expenditure incurred on this venture; and

(f) the prospects, if any, left for all exploration and search in Mahanadi off-shore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). While no commercial discovery has been made, indications of presence of hydrocarbons were encountered. Exploratory efforts are continuing.

(d) The results of the first well in the North-East basin will be known only after the drilling of the well and the production testing thereof are completed.

(e) Approximately Rs. 145 crores.

(f) The prospects in the Mahanadi basin are considered worthy of further exploratory efforts.

Earth Station for use in Telecommunications

4819. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any 'Earth Stations' for use in the field of telecommunications and planned during the Seventh Five Year Plan have actually been installed and commissioned in 1985-86 the first year of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the names of all such station installed/commissioned, State-wise, and the names of such stations as are still awaiting installation/commissioning; and

(c) the likely date by which each of the remaining stations would be installed and the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) An earth station at Kulu originally scheduled to be commissioned by the end of Sixth Plan and which was subsequently included as a spill over work in the Seventh Five Year

Telecommunication plan, was actually commissioned in December, 1985.

(b) Although some schemes for installation and commissioning of additional earth stations were approved towards the end of Sixth Plan period, these were even originally scheduled to be actually commissioned progressively during the Seventh Five Year Plan, which envisages establishment of about 80 additional earth stations including fixed and transportable ones.

(c) The approved schemes include provision of earth stations at the following places :

(i) The 18 stations are planned to be commissioned in 1986-87. Their detail is as follows :

1. Doda	}	J & K State
2. Rajouri		
3. Poonch		
4. Kargil		
5. Phool Bani		Orissa State
6. Keylong	}	Himachal Pradesh
7. Kalpa		
8. Zero	}	Arunachal Pradesh
9. Deporezo		
10. Seppa		
11. Anini		
12. Jaisalmer		Rajasthan
13. Srinagar (Garhwal)	}	Uttar Pradesh
14. Joshimath		
15. Uttarkashi		
16. Campbel Bay	}	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
17. Diglipere		
18. Mayabunder		

(ii) 26 stations in the North East are planned to be commissioned progressively in 1987-89. The actual locations are under finalisation.

(iii) 10 transportable earth stations are planned to be commissioned in 1986-87.

(iv) Proposals in respect of other earth stations are under active consideration.

Execution of the projects, as mentioned at serials (i) to (iii) above, are progressing as per schedule.

Installed Capacity of Oil refineries

4820. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that while at the end of 1986 the total installed capacity of the oil refineries in the Western and Southern Regions would account for 68.93 per cent of the total installed capacity the share of the Eastern Region would dwindle to 10.07 per cent at the end of Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the discrimination against Eastern Region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). While at present the Western and Southern Regions account for 68.93% of the total refining capacity in the country, the total refining capacity in the Eastern Region (Digboi, Gauhati, Bongaigaon, Haldia and Barauni) is expected to be 17.13% by the end of the Seventh Plan. Refinery capacities are related to the demand of products in the area to be served by the refinery and other logistic considerations.

Multi Access Rural Radio Scheme in Orissa

4821. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are implementing MARR (Multi Access Rural Radio) Scheme in various interior parts of the country;

(b) if so, the target for the Seventh Five Year Plan period and the annual programme thereof;

(c) whether Orissa GMT Circle has been included in the scheme of Seventh Plan;

(d) if so, the names of the places where this scheme will be executed;

(e) whether Government propose to establish a wireless station at Jaleswar in Balasore, Orissa;

(f) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(g) whether Government have decided to include Jaleswar under Multi Access Rural Radio Scheme or Very High Frequency System, if so, the estimated cost involved and the time by which this will be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approximately 3000 Long Distance Public Telephones are planned through Multi-Access Rural Radio Schemes during the 7th Five Year Plan. Yearwise programme is given below :—

1985-86	..	100	LDPTs
1986-87	—	300	„
1987-88	..	600	„
1988-89	...	800	„
1989-90	...	1200	„
Total	...	3000	LDPTs

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Radio Base Stations have already been proposed to be located at Koraput and Kendrapara with 11 and 20 Long Distance Public Telephones respectively. In all 20 schemes are under examination for Orissa Telecom. Circle.

(e) to (g). There is a proposal under consideration to connect Jaleswar with Balasore through a single channel V.H F. system. Cost of the project is expected to be of the order of Rs. 1.25 lakhs.

Expansion and modernisation of Penicillin, Ampicillin and Streptomycin plants of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.

4822. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether about Rupees thirty crores were spent recently on expansion and modernisation of the Penicillin, Ampicillin and Streptomycin plants of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pune and prices of the products were increased but the production thereof came down;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the projects are made on loan licence from outside parties keeping the modern imported plant for capsules, tablets and syrups ideal and thus undergoing losses and even the locally procured products are not tested for quality control; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The total expenditure on expansion and modernisation of Penicillin, Ampicillin and Streptomycin plants of Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL) was Rs. 12.35 crores as under :

	(Rs. in crores)
(i) Penicillin expansion :	2.95
(ii) Ampicillin expansion :	3.14
(iii) Streptomycin expansion :	6.26
	12.35

Prices of Penicillin and Streptomycin were last revised in July/August 1982 and that of Ampicillin in September, 1983. Since then, there has been no revision in the prices of these products except interim price increase by Rs. 63.29 per BU allowed with effect from 13.9.1985 in respect of

Procaine Penicillin bulk consequent upon increase in the price of Procaine Hydrochloride.

The shortfall in HAL's production of these drugs was mainly due to market constraints and technological problems.

(c) and (d). Some products are got manufactured on loan licence basis in exigencies such as (i) where the items are not in HAL's production range and (ii) capacity constraints and tight schedule of supply. Quality of products manufactured by the company on loan licence is monitored by HAL's Quality Control Department.

Ban on recruitment of staff in power projects in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4823. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to ban imposed by Government on recruitment of skilled, unskilled and other categories of staff, power generation work suffered in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, if so, the present shortage of staff, category-wise in power projects in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) whether the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has requested for permitting recruitment of staff; and

(c) if so, when such request was received and what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir. No report has been received from the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands to this effect.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. A proposal was received in May 1985 for creation of 61 posts for manning the Division for the implementation of the Scheme for installation of 10/12 MW diesel generating sets at Port Blair.

This proposal can be considered only after the scheme for which these posts are meant is sanctioned.

Indigenisation policy of automobiles manufacture

4824. SHRI DINESH SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the indigenisation policy of automobiles manufacture in India; and

(b) the percentage of indigenisation achieved by different motor vehicles separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) the manufacturers are required to adhere to the indigenisation programme as approved by the Government which aims at 90-95% indigenisation in 5 year period.

(b) While nearly cent percent indigenisation has been achieved in respect of most of the old models of 4 and 2-wheelers e.g. Ambassador and Premier Padmini passenger cars, Ashok-Leyland and Telco truck and buses and Bajaj scooters, a representative Statement is given below in respect of new generation of motor vehicles.

Statement

The percentage indigenisation achieved by different motor vehicles as in March, 1986 is as under :—

S. No.	Model/Manufacturer	%age of indigenisation
1.	Maruti-800 (passenger car)	36.92
2.	Standard-2000 (passenger car)	67.63
3.	Allwyn-Nissan Ltd. (light commercial vehicle)	43.4
4.	Lohia Machines Ltd. (scooter)	70.00
5.	Hero-Honda Ltd. (motorcycle)	61.37
6.	Chamundi Mopeds	60.74

**Embezzlement in Post Office Dhameta,
District Kangra**

4825. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sub-postmaster of Post Office Dhameta, District, Kangra (H.P.) in the year 1985 embezzled funds earmarked for pensioners of Defence Personnel and widow pensioners;

(b) if so, the details thereof, amount embezzled and action taken by Government in the matter; and

(c) whether Government have received any complaints from the public in 1985 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes Sir, but no amount was due to any of the Military pensioners and widow pensioners.

(b) The Sub-Postmaster embezzled funds to the tune of Rs. 5530/- in the year 1985 by showing fictitious arrears of pension. The entire amount has been recovered. The delinquent official has been transferred to another Post Office and action against him is under contemplation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

**Reduction in production of essential
drugs**

4826. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of drug companies have reduced the production of essential drugs and are producing non-essential drugs ;

(b) the names of the drugs falling under categories I and II whose production has come down considerably ; and

(c) the reasons for short fall in the production of these bulk drugs and formulations based on those drugs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Production of a particular drug by a company depends on its demand and corporate plans of the company.

(b) and (c). Among the monitored category I and II bulk drugs, the production of Dapsone, Di-iodohydroxyquinoline, Iodochlorohydroxyquinoline, PAS and its salts, Penicillin, Amodiaquin, Analgin, Phenobarbitone and Sulphadimidine was lower in 1984-85 in comparison with 1979-80. This was due to drug obsolescence as well as the lower mark-up for category I/II formulations under the Drug Price Control Order, 1979.

Overseas Construction Project

4827. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has examined the norms followed by TCIL (Telecom Consultants India Limited), vis-a-vis the procedures laid down by O.C.C. (Overseas Construction Council), Ministry of Commerce regarding the overseas construction projects ; and

(b) whether there is any difference in the approach followed by TCIL and the implications thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The Ministry has not issued any guidelines for offering civil construction works contracts in telecommunication sector abroad. TCIL is following the general principles adopted by Government of India as also the guidelines from Bureau of Public Enterprises.

(b) There are no common areas between TCIL and O.C.C. and there are no conflicts in the principles and functions of these two Organisations.

Rihand Super Thermal Power Project

4828. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has awarded the Rs. 1200 crore Rihand Super Thermal Power Project to a British turnkey contractor against the advice of its own consultant adviser ;

(b) if so, the circumstances under which the said contract was awarded to the said contractor ; and

(c) the level at which the decision to award the contract to this contractor was taken ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c). The Rihand Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is being executed with U.K. assistance. The contract for supply and erection, in respect of the Project, was awarded to M/s. Northern Engineering Industries (NEI) of the U.K. in September, 1982 after negotiations between the U.K. Authorities and a Committee constituted on the Indian side. The recommendations of this Committee were approved by the Board of Directors of the NTPC and the Govt. of India for award of contract to M/s. NEI.

Coal projects shelved due to non-availability of World Bank Loan

4829. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether at the Annual General Meeting of the Coal Consumers Associa-

tion of India held in January, 1986, Government representative stated that the World Bank has not agreed to give loans for the new coal projects on the ground that coal price in India is substantially lower than that of any major coal-producing country in the world ; and

(b) if so, the details of new coal projects that have been shelved due to non-availability of World Bank loans ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Writ petitions pending in Supreme Court regarding constitutionality of Muslim Personal Law

4830. SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of writ petitions pending in Supreme Court on the constitutionality or otherwise of the Muslim Personal Law as a whole or specific parts thereof ;

(b) whether Government have filed their statements in all these cases ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) It is not possible to ascertain the number of writ petitions pending in the Supreme Court on any subject unless the Government is made a party and a copy of the writ petition is sent to it. The Registry of the Supreme Court has also intimated that statistics about the pendency of the total writ petitions is available but no information about the subject matter of the pending writ petitions would be available. However, the Central Government has received notices in three writ petitions which *inter alia* challenge the validity of unilateral pronouncement of *talaq* enforced by the courts in favour of Muslim men, the non-availability of a right to adopt by

a Muslim woman, the provision in Muslim law that the father is the natural guardian of the legitimate children and other incidental matters.

(b) and (c). Government has filed counter affidavit in the first-mentioned case and the filing of counter affidavits in the other two cases is being processed.

Transfer of Chief Justice/Judges of High Courts

4831. SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the High Courts in which the Chief Justice is from outside that State ;

(b) the number of Judges in each High Court who are from outside that State ;

(c) the number of Judges who were transferred from one High Court to

another during 1985-86 on promotion or otherwise ; and

(d) whether in each case they were transferred to a State other than the State of their domicile ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) As on 27.3.1986, the High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, Calcutta, Gauhati, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madras, Patna and Sikkim were having Chief Justices from outside States.

(b) 4 initial appointments of puisne Judges in the High Courts of Delhi, Patna, Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir have been made from outside. Transfers of 2 puisne Judges, one each to the High Courts of Madhya Pradesh and Calcutta, have been made from outside.

(c) and (d). The information is given in the statement given below. However, information regarding State of domicile is not maintained.

Statement (From 1.1.85 till date)

S. No.	Name of Judge	Transfer from	Appointed as
S/Shri Justice			
1.	P.R. Gokulakrishnan	Madras	Chief Justice, Gujarat High Court
2.	T.N. Singh	Gauhati	Puisne Judge, Madhya Pradesh High Court
3.	P.C. Reddy	Andhra Pradesh	Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court
4.	K. Bhaskaran	Kerala	Chief Justice, Andhra Pradesh High Court
5.	V.S. Malimath	Karnataka	Chief Justice Kerala High Court
6.	J.K. Mohanty	Orissa	Chief Justice Sikkim High Court
7.	A.M. Bhattacharjee	Sikkim	Puisne Judge, Calcutta High Court.

**Progress of Rihand Super Thermal
Power Project**

4832. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had taken up with the Government of United Kingdom matters relating to the project management capability and slippage in design and manufacturing activities of the British turnkey contractor for the Rs. 1200 crore Rihand Super Thermal Power Project ;

(b) if so, the details of the said matters and the reaction of the U.K. Government ;

(c) whether this has affected the progress of the said power project adversely and resulted in irretrievable delay ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). As per the schedule approved by the Government in 1982, the first unit of the Rihand Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) Stage-I (2X500 MW) is scheduled to be commissioned in June, 1987. The progress of the project was reviewed in detail, at Govt. level in July, 1985 and M/s British Electricity International (BEI), who are consultants to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for Rihand STPP I, were asked to make an assessment regarding implementation of the project. According to the assessment made by M/s BEI in August, 1985, the best achievable date for commissioning of Unit I is April, 1988. M/s BEI have made suggestions, *inter alia*, for strengthening the organisational Structure of the Northern Engineering Industries (NEI) who are the main contractors for supply and erection of equipment, in the fields of Project Management, Quality Control etc. The progress of the Rihand STPP I is being closely monitored by the Governments of India and the United Kingdom in order that

M/s NEI carry out the necessary improvements in their project organisation and implement the Project expeditiously.

**Completion of small and minor power
Irrigation Projects**

**4833. SHRI JAGANNATH PATT-
NAIK :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa has approached the Union Government for the approval of major portion of small and minor power irrigation projects which were not completed due to shortage of funds ; and

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned by Union Government in favour of Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Transfer letter of Intent Regarding Haldia
Petrochemical Project from West Bengal
Industrial Development Corporation to
Haldia Petrochemical Limited**

**4834. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-
CHANDRAN :**

DR. SUDHIR ROY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have accorded sanction/approval for the new Haldia Petro-chemical project at Calcutta and for the transfer of its letter of intent from West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation to Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd. ;

(b) if not, when Government is likely to take a decision in the matter ; and

(c) the reasons why the West Bengal Government have sought the transfer of letters of intent from the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation to Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c). Approval of Government has been accorded to the proposals of West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited (WBIDC) for change in product mix of the proposed Haldia Petrochemicals Project, and for transfer of letter of intent to M/s. Haldia Petrochemicals Limited. This new joint sector company has been formed by an agreement concluded by WBIDC with Goenkas for implementing the project.

Demand for issue of Commemorative postal stamp on Birth Centenary of Shri Vagbhatananda Guru

4835. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation requesting that a stamp may be issued in commemoration, of the birth centenary of Shri Vagbhatananda Guru, and outstanding social reformer of Kerala ; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee which functions in the Department to advise the Government on Philatelic matters. The Committee, however did not recommend the issue.

Proposal from non-resident Indians for establishing industrial units

4836. SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received from non-resident Indians during 1985-86

for establishing industrial units in the country;

(b) the number of such proposals approved during the year; and

(c) the categorisation of the proposals approved by the State of residence of the applicant by the State of location of the proposed unit, by the level of proposed capital investment and by industrial sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). During 1985, 156 applications were received from the non-resident Indians seeking industrial licences under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 for setting up industries in India. Out of these 66 proposals were approved. In addition to these, 21 letters of intent permission/SIA Registration were issued to the non-resident Indians in 1985 in respect of the proposals received from them earlier.

Total investment in fixed assets of the various projects approved in 1985 (covering the approvals mentioned above and also other approvals given to Non-resident Indians for import of capital goods and foreign collaboration approvals) is estimated at Rs. 676.76 crores, out of which NRI investment is expected to be of the order of Rs. 102.00 crores. Details of the projects viz. name of the applicant, location of the project, item of manufacture etc., covered by the various letters of intent issued by the Government of India are available in the Monthly Newsletter published by the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi, which is available in the Parliament Library.

Telephone connections on recommendation of Members of Parliament

4837. SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of recommendations for out-of-turn Telephone connection made by Members of Parliament during 1985-86; and

(b) the number of such connections granted (category-wise and State-wise) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a)

about 1900 recommendations for the provision of telephone connections on out-of-turn priority basis were received from the Members of Parliament during the year 1985-86 (upto 27.3.1986).

(b) The information is given in the Statement given below :

Statement

Statement showing number of Telephone Connections Category-wise and State-wise granted on out-of turn Priority basis on recommendations of Members of Parliament during 1985-86 (Upto 27.3.86).

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of telephone connections sanctioned in							Total Information regarding category not available
		OYT-G	OYT-S	N-OYT-SS	N-OYT-S	N-OYT-G	8	9	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	3	—	5	2	10	
2.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	
3.	Bihar	—	—	1	1	1	1	4	
4.	Gujarat	—	—	—	2	—	2	4	
5.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
7.	J & K	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	
8.	Karnataka	—	—	—	1	—	5	6	
9.	Kerala	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	1	—	4	5	

Oil Terminal at Paradip

4838. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-
NAIK : Will the Minister of PETRO-
LEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased
to state :

(a) the capacity of the storage tank of
oil terminal proposed to be set up at
Paradip ;

(b) whether it is going to be increa-
sed in future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA
SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) There is no
proposal to set up an oil terminal with
the required storage tankage at Paradeep
in Orissa during the Seventh Five Year
Plan.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of
the reply given to (a) above.

**Submerge of Villages due to Tehri Dam
Project**

4839. PROF. RAMAKRISHNA
MORE : Will the Minister of ENERGY
be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of villages
likely to be submerged and the popula-
tion likely to be uprooted following the
implementation of the Tehri Dam Project;
and

(b) what is the nature of the com-
pensation proposed to be given to the
people affected and what alternative
arrangements have been made by Govern-
ment to rehabilitate the displaced families
by providing developed land and other
means of livelihood before the project is
taken up for execution ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI
VASANT SATHE) : (a) 23 villages and
Tehri town would be fully submerged. In
addition, 72 villages would be partly sub-
merged. Population to be displaced is
estimated at 46000.

(b) Measures to provide 2.0 acres of
developed land or minimum cash compen-
sation of Rs. 40000 with ex-gratia payments
and other grants on a very liberal basis
have been taken. 4049 acres of land have
been acquired in Dehradun and Sahranpur
Districts for rehabilitation of oustees. In
addition, 2500 acres of land are to be
acquired further. A new Tehri town is
being developed and a proposal to set up
a labour-intensive industry is under active
consideration.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is at serial
number ten. All the members whose
questions are at serial Nos. 7, 8 and 9 on
the list, wait for their turn to put ques-
tions and to get replies thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already
taken note of it and I am myself worried
about it. I alone cannot do it, we all
have to do something about it.

SHRI KAJ KUMAR RAI : I gene-
rally see that most of the Members do not
follow your directives and some senior
members make speeches when asking sup-
plementary questions.

MR. SPEAKER : I try to stop them.

SHRI RAJ RUMAR RAI : Today
only the questions listed upto serial num-
ber six have been covered.

MR. SPEAKER : I have listened to
you, Saheb. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Rai I am
telling you and you are still going on spea-
king. I am myself fed up with this
thing.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : I want
your specific direction on this. You
should pay special attention towards it.

MR. SPEAKER : I have listened to
you and now you listen to me.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : You please look into it.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I am telling you. All this exercise is useless. I am telling you that we all should take care so that such thing may not happen in future.

(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. K.K. TEWARY (Buxar) : It is a very serious matter that I want to raise in the House. This relates to a raid organised by a particular Party led by a Member of this House on the House of a judicial magistrate in Calcutta who had given a judgement.....

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : No, No.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Sir, it is a very serious matter.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : He had given a judgement in a rape case. A Member of this House led a morcha and the house was raided. Policemen were present there. When the judge demanded protection from the police.....

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : One minute please, listen to me.....You please listen to me.

[English]

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : The police officer said, "you sort it out with these people. I am not going to intervene".

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please give it to me so that I may ascertain the facts.

[English]

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : It is an extremely serious matter because it is with

the connivance of the Government of West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER : I will find out.

[Translation]

You give me some details so that I may ascertain the facts....Let me ascertain the facts first. What can I say at this stage.

[English]

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : We have sent the notice. We need your intervention, because it is with the support of the Government, of the ruling Party...

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Untill or unless I know the details, what can I do ? Let me ascertain the facts first.

[English]

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : You please find out and then allow a discussion. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir our.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you speaking ?

[English]

You are interrupting the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : A dreadful fire incident has taken place in my constituency in which four hundred houses have been reduced to ashes.

MR. SPEAKER : Has it happened in your Constituency ? You should write to the State Government.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so many houses have been

destroyed. Hence, something should be done by the Centre.

MR. SPEAKER : If you want something from the Centre, you should write to the relief fund. What can I do ?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : You do something at your level.

MR. SPEAKER : You should give in writing seeking help from the relief fund. I shall forward it.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : You do something at your level.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Jaipalji, what do you want to say ?

[English]

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU (Madras North) : Sir, tomorrow All India Newspapers' employees are going on strike. The Centre has not announced interim relief.. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : What does it matter ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am asking Jaipalji to speak.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : Sir, I wish to draw your attention to the failure of the Government to finalise the award of contract to the gas pipeline....

MR. SPEAKER : I disallowed that.

I had that answered on the floor of the House. No. Not allowed.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Balpur) : Sir, it is a very serious matter. Sir, anti-national activities in Tripura....

MR. SPEAKER : You have to give me. I will find out.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have given notice....

MR. SPEAKER : Listen to me.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Tripura Youth Congress President is in league with the People's Liberation Army of Manipur...

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. Somnathji you had given me an adjournment notice, which I have rejected. You give me some other notice so that I will find out facts and then come back to you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Will you allow a calling-attention ? It is a very very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER : I will have to find out.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It has come out in the paper.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The Youth Congress (I) is in league with it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : (Diamond Harbour) : We have brought to your notice regarding Meghalaya's expulsion of Nepali speaking people. (Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY (Hoshiarpur) : Sir, I have given a notice on Punjab problem under rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER : We are discussing it tomorrow at 4 O'clock.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I have given a notice in the last fortnight regarding expulsion of Nepalese speaking people from Meghalaya. You said you will get the information from the Home Ministry. Have you got it now ?

MR. SPEAKER : I have got the answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. Not allowed.

*(Interruptions)**

12.06 hrs.

PAPERS LAIN ON THE TABLE

[English]

Statement regarding decision of Government on the recommendations made in the Report of the committee on change in Financial year

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding decisions of Government on the recommendations made in the Report of the Committee on Change in Financial year. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2343/86]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : On your own you have said that all the MPs of this House should maintain the dignity of the House inside and outside.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you raising the same question again ?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: No. What I am saying is....

MR. SPEAKER : No. I will find out the facts. I do not want any explanation. I cannot say without facts.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: If we substantiate it with documents, will you examine the matter ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. I am not allowing him.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : 77 Indian nationals interned in Pakistan jails are on hunger strike for the last five days. One of the prisoners is from my Constituency.

MR. SPEAKER : You write to me. I will find out.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE-Cont.

[English]

Detailed Demands for Grants of Ministry of Energy for 1986-87

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Energy for 1986-87. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2344/86]

Notifications Under Essential Commodities Act, 1955

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :—

- (1) The Kerosene (Fixation of Ceiling Prices) Amendment Order, 1986 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 84(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 1986.
- (2) The Kerosene (Fixation of Ceiling Prices) Second Amendment Order, 1986 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 92 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 1986 together with a

corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 495 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See. No. LT. 2345/86]

12.08hrs.

STATEMENT RE : EXTENSION
 OF SCHEME FOR INDUS-
 TRIALISATION OF BACK-
 WARD AREAS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme for Industrialisation of Backward Areas and Dispersal of Industries introduced in 1971 was modified in 1983 by addition of No Industry Districts and Special Region Districts to the list of areas eligible for incentives. In addition, with effect from 1st April, 1983, all categories of backward areas were made eligible for Central Investment Subsidy. This was an interim measure pending finalisation of the Government's decision on the Sivaraman Committee Report on Industrial Dispersal.

Meanwhile, a number of suggestions from the State Governments and Members of Parliament were received by the Government suggesting extension of the scope of the scheme. It was decided last year, therefore, that the present Scheme should be extended for a period of one year and a revised Scheme formulated, taking into account the various suggestions received and also the experience gained in the implementation of the revised Scheme.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee was constituted and in order to fully involve the State Governments in the matter,

Chief Secretaries of one State from each of the six regions of the country, were co-opted as Members of the Committee.

The Committee has obtained the views of the State Governments and has had also the benefit of detailed consultations with the State Governments. The work of the Committee is fairly advanced. The Committee would, however, need some more time to complete its work in full in consultation with the six Chief Secretaries.

Considering the large number of suggestions received and the complex nature of the issues involved, the Government have decided to give some more time to the Committee to finalise its Report and submit its recommendations. It would be necessary to consult the concerned Ministries, after the report is received and the processing of the new scheme will therefore take some time. Meanwhile, I am glad to inform the House that the Government has decided to extend the present Scheme till 31.3.1987.

12.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(i) Need to commence the financial year on 1st September

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, in the present administrative system, financial year commencing from 1st April and ending on 31st March with the intervention of long monsoon period, hardly seven months' time is available for implementation of various development schemes. As a result, huge amounts in different schemes remain unspent and lapse and in many cases with undue haste to spend the money in time, a lot of irregularities and avoidable wastages are also committed. Thus the desired result is generally not achieved.

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

It is, therefore, felt necessary in the natural interest that the financial year should commence from 1st September instead of 1st April so that strong monsoon period can be devoted to passing of Budget, transaction of relevant official work etc. thus making about 10 months' time available for field work.

- (ii) Need to increase the procurement of iron ore from non-captive mines

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Iron ore produced in the four mining areas i.e. Banspani-Banhil in the district of Keonjhar, Koira in the district of Sundargarh, Gorumahisani-Badampahar in the district of Mayurbhanj and Gandhamardan-Doitari-Tomka in the districts of Cuttack and Keonjhar in Orissa are despatched for consumption by the steel mills at Rourkela, Durgapur, Burnpur and Bokaro. The steel plants used to procure 1.72 lakh tonnes of iron ore from the non-captive mines every month. Their procurement has declined to below one lakh tonnes every month now. This situation has been further aggravated with progressive reduction in the export procurement by the MMTC from these areas, from a total quantity of about two million tonnes procured by MMTC from different non-captive mines in the State for the purpose of export, procurement has come down to a large extent. I urge upon the Central Government to instruct the steel plants to increase the procurement to 1.72 lakh tonnes every month from the non-captive mines and to instruct MMTC to arrange iron ore export of at least three million tonnes every year from Orissa so that all the iron ore mines are opened to work to save large number of tribal workers from retrenchment and also to abolish the contract system in the procurement of ores which is exploiting the tribal labour to the maximum by paying low wages.

- (iii) Fixation of price of gas supplied for power generation at Uran, Maharashtra on coal equivalent basis

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP (Thane) : Maharashtra State Government has taken up the issue of pricing of gas with the Government of India as ONGC is billing the supply of gas on the basis of LSHS replacement which is not acceptable to State Government.

As per the prices prevailing in 1985 of coal and LSHS, equivalent cost of gas on coal replacement basis works out to nearly Rs. 70 per million kilo calories. The same on the basis of LSHS replacement works out to nearly Rs. 245/- per million kilo calories i.e. nearly 3.5 times of coal replacement cost.

The matter is pending with the Central Government and therefore, it is requested that instruction may be issued to price the gas supplied for power generation at Uran on coal equivalent basis.

- (iv) Financial and technical assistance to Kerala for development of Mappila Bay, Cannanore, as a fullfledged port

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : The development of Mappila Bay at Cannanore has assumed paramount importance in view of the fact that hundreds of fishing boats and thousands of country crafts anchor at this harbour. It is all the more significant as the district of Cannanore has the maximum number of fishing villages in Kerala.

Being a naturally protected bay even during rough weather the Mappila Bay offers a safe fishing area for the fisherfolk in and around Cannanore district. Efforts have been made to develop this port time and again. However to make it a full-fledged major fishing port more expertise and money is essential. Without substantial help from the Central Government the work on the port will continue to remain half done.

Considering the high potentialities of the Bay in promoting maritime trade,

earnestly implore the Central Government to extend financial and technical aid to this project.

(v) Measures needed to lift the heavy stocks of foodgrains accumulated in Punjab

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : The Food Corporation of India is the most important organisation engaged in procurement and distribution of foodgrains in the country. Food Corporation of India procures foodgrains in all the States of the country including Punjab. But it is a matter of great regret that foodgrains purchased by FCI and agencies of Punjab Government are lying in godown and in many cases have not been lifted by FCI for the last four years. This piling up of stocks has resulted in the problem of storage and the new crop of Punjab farmers is not purchased for months after its arrival in market. According to the FCI report the stock of foodgrains purchased in other States is lifted by it within 48 hours. Punjab contributes 65% to the foodgrain pool of the country, but it is painful to say that foodgrain stocks have become a headache for Punjab.

The total storage capacity of Punjab State including Markfed, CWC, FCI and Punjab Warehousing Corporation is 121.74 lakh tonnes but the quantity of procured foodgrains is much more compared to the storage capacity. In the last year alone the procurement was 166.64 lakh tonnes and 1/3 of this is lying in open. Due to un-availability of sources of lifting, only 60 to 70 lakh tonnes could be sent to other States. 30 to 40 lakh tonnes of stocks get accumulated in addition to the previous year's stocks every year. More railway tracks may be laid in Punjab as long term arrangement. As short term measure FCI should utilise and mobilise all its lifting resources at war footing, to help the Punjab farmers in the sale of their produce and relieve Punjab farmers in the sale of their produce and relieve Punjab of the burden of storage. Although FCI is not lifting the stocks of food grains, Punjab is made to pay Rs. 20 crores every year as damages for foodgrains which get damaged while lying in godowns both open and covered.

(vi) Telephone system in Calcutta

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, the telephone system in Calcutta, if not in the whole of the State of West Bengal has virtually completely broken down and has brought the normal and particularly the commercial life almost to a standstill. Hospitals, nursing homes, doctors, Government offices, public institutions and other essential services cannot function properly due to the near non-functioning of the telephone system, STD connection from Calcutta has become a hoax. Bolpur town, the seat of Vishwabhārati University and tourist centre of international importance remains almost inaccessible from Calcutta on telephone—either STD or Trunk line. On various occasions in the past assurances for proper running of Calcutta telephones were given by the Ministers/Department but no action has been taken. People of Calcutta have frequently in the past expressed quite demonstratively their annoyance and resentment for collapse of the system.

I call upon the Government to take all necessary action on war footing to bring some semblance of normalcy in the working of Calcutta telephones.

[Translation]

(vii) Need to expedite the setting up of Fertilizer factories in Jagdishpur, Shahjahanpur Aonla and Badaun

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under rule 377, I would like to submit following matter in this august House through your good offices. The demand of fertilizer is increasing day by day in different parts of the country. In view of this increasing demand, Government is proposing to set up more fertilizer plants. And in this context, Government has decided to set up four fertilizer plants in Uttar Pradesh i.e. in Jagdishpur, Shahjahanpur, Aonla and Badaun, but I have come to know that the Arabian company which had to invest funds in Jagdishpur plant, has been declared financially incapable. For Shahjahanpur plant, at first the work was assigned to D.C.M., but later on the work was assigned to Shri Swaraj Paul, a British

[Shri Madan Pandey]

Industrialist of Indian origin, but he also backed out. Aonla and Badaun plants are being set up by IFFCO and Tatas respectively. But final decision has not yet been taken for laying gas pipe line from Bombay High to the Plants, and therefore, progress of the work regarding setting up of Plants is very tardy. So it is uncertain as to when these four Plants will start their production. In Gorakhpur Plant, due to the obsolete machinery, production has gone down considerably. Therefore, if setting up of new proposed Plants is further delayed and machinery of Gorakhpur Plant is not replaced, the whole state will have to face the acute shortage of fertilizers.

Therefore, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Union Minister of Fertilizers towards this problem and request him that in view of the increasing demand of fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh, a plan of Rs. 30 crores, which is under consideration of the Centre, for replacement of obsolete machinery of Gorakhpur Plant and plan to set up above mentioned four plants should be immediately implemented, so that in future, state may not face shortage of fertilizers.

12.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(viii) Need to direct State Governments to adopt measures for welfare of farmers

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI (Amravati): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under rule 377 :—

“Continuous drought and burden of debts—Due to this financial problem, a cultured and popular farmer committed suicide alongwith his all family members”.

Shri Sahebrao, a cultured and popular farmer, of Chilgawahan village, in Yawatmal district in Vidarbha, a thirty five years old youngman, has committed suicide alongwith his wife and four daughters after getting fed up due to continuous drought and burden of debts. He remained village Sarpanch and social worker for many years and commended respect. It is

true that in spite of the utmost need for irrigation purpose electricity connections of his field as well as of his house were disconnected for the recovery of dues. There are limited sources of irrigation in Vidharbha. In Yawatmal and other hill regions, agricultural yield is also low. Alongwith Vidharbha, many other parts of the Maharashtra have also been greatly affected by hailstorm and drought.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government that after ceiling of land and due to family division, there has been fragmentation of land into small pieces of land. It has become difficult for them to make both ends meet with such a small piece of land. Therefore, it is necessary to provide service at least to one member of such agriculturist family. It is also necessary in this agriculture-oriented country to start Crop Insurance Scheme to provide protection to the farmers. There should not be any Power cut during harvesting seasons. Central Government should direct the State Governments to check exploitation of the farmers and it should give full aid to the states facing drought.

[English]

(ix) Construction of a Railway over-bridge near Alwar Railway Station

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Alwar (Rajasthan) is on the Delhi-Ahmedabad metre-gauge railway line. It is one of the important Railway stations on that line. It would be a railway junction station as soon as Mathura-Alwar broad-gauge railway line construction project is completed. Alwar city is located on the western side of the railway track while old industrial area and Matsya Industrial Area Alwar are located on the eastern side of the railway line. Jaipur-Delhi via Alwar road route crosses over the railway track near railway station, Alwar. Alwar-Delhi and Delhi-Alwar road route traffic has to cross over the railway track through a line crossing gate near railway station, Alwar. Road route traffic has to keep waiting long on both the ends of railway level crossing because of frequent movement of passenger and goods trains. Congestion of traffic causes

numerous problems and harassment to the people and loss of time also. There is thus an urgent need for construction of a railway over-bridge near Alwar railway station.

I therefore urge upon the Union Government to construct a railway over-bridge, near railway station, Alwar.

— — —

12.20 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1986-87

Ministry of Commerce—contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now take up Item No. 3 of the List of Business, that is, Discussion and Voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Commerce. Mr. Thampan Thomas to continue his speech.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : Sir, during the Budget discussion regarding the price hike, at that time the hon. Prime Minister told the House "You sacrifice today for a better tomorrow". But Sir, I find from the report of the Committee on Trade Policies that the future of the Commerce Ministry is very bleak and dark. In this context, I would like to quote from page 8 of this Report.

"India's share in world exports declined steadily throughout from about 2 per cent in 1950 to 1.04 per cent in 1960 and 0.65 per cent in 1970. India's export performance during the 1970s was more impressive as compared with the earlier decades, and the average growth in exports attained a level of 6.3 per cent per annum in terms of volume and 15.9 per cent per annum in terms of value. Yet India's share in world exports continued to decline and reached a low of 0.42 per cent in 1980".

Sir, it is very clear that from 2 per cent in 1950, it has decreased to 0.2% in 1980. Sir, we are going to enter the Twenty-first Century and I fear what will happen to our country's economy, under the present situation.

Will the Minister of Commerce preside over the funeral function of the export of this country? Will India be a cipher zone for export at this speed because of the declining export promotion activities in this country?

This has always been because of the Tughlakian policy which this Government has been adopting. Once you adopt one policy and immediately thereafter you change it the other way round. In this context, I would like to quote from page 2 of the same report :

"The past emphasis on import substitution *per se* should ; however, be replaced by an emphasis on efficient import substitution, so that considerations relating to cost and efficiency are incorporated in the framework of policies."

Then, the analysis is given :

"It need hardly be stressed that in an economy such as India, where exports constitute 5-7 per cent of GNP, there is no possibility of export-led growth.

This is the view-point of the Government in the matter of exports.

Then, on page 3 the same report mentions :

"It is clear that production for exports should not be seen in isolation from production for the home market for the simple reason that it is neither feasible nor desirable to have one set of prices or qualities for world markets and another set of prices and qualities for the domestic market."

It is a very fantastic idea. Normally, for the export there is a quality control. The people abroad want the best quality

[Shri Thampan Thomas]

and people export the best quality to attract customers. But what is the policy of this Government? They themselves say that the exports in India constitute only 5-7 per cent of GNP. I think, we are least bothered for maintaining the quality of goods which are to be exported.

Any country which lays emphasis on exports for their economy, they are very careful about the quality of export items. It is well known that the Japanese cannot purchase a Seiko watch in Japan. Anybody intending to get a Seiko watch in Japan will have to get it from Hong Kong at a cheaper price. This is how they control the internal market and formulate their export policy. In China, there are also two systems; for the purpose of export, they have the best quality items, but there they talk of emphasis on import substitution *per se*.

At the cost of some others, certain people have become rich, because they could import items in the guise of export promotion, and they have *per se* substituted items for import. This would be clear if you take the example of import of coconut oil. Coconut oil was imported for industrial purposes, and because of that the prices of coconut went down, whereas it could be produced here. I am not going into the details of it; I am only highlighting the points that because of Government's policy, our export has suffered.

Once in the ancient period, India was having the best of foreign trade. Columbus discovered America when he lost his way to Cochin. That was the attraction of this country for foreign trade. People used to come for trade from far and wide and hand-made Indian articles used to shine in palaces and other places in Arab, Rome and every where else. But what is the position today? When I was a student, I studied that there was a particular type of mirror, which was world famous, which is called in our language, *Aran Mula Kannadi*. It is hand made by artisans in a place there; it is a metal mirror. I got a metal mirror in 1980 when I visited Japan; it was presented to me by the

municipal authorities there when I went there. After getting elected, I went to my constituency and made a search of the place and persons who made it. I found that there was a starving family, who for years together, for centuries together, had been making such mirror, but no Government support was ever extended to them. In my constituency there is a place called Kayamkulam, where I studied in the primary school. In this place they make a beautiful mat which can go through ring and that is the famous story. Now, if you go to Dubai, you will get a plastic mat. My submission is that there is no encouragement given to the artisans of this country. Handicrafts of this country are very famous. Ivory items, wooden carvings and all such items are in great demand in foreign countries. What encouragement is given by the Government to these artisans for the development and export of the handicrafts? I was mentioning only one item. But on the whole, if you look at the 'Economic Survey', it gives a clear picture of our decline in exports in the past few years. About tea the 'Economic Survey' says at page 91.

"World prices of tea have declined steadily since the beginning of 1985 and export volumes have also fallen, suggesting that export earnings from tea in the current year will be considerably lower."

Again in para 8.31 it says :

"Exports of marine products, which had accounted for over four per cent of total exports in 1982-83 declined in 1984-85....Exports of eight other agro-based commodities—coffee, oil cakes, unmanufactured tobacco, cashew kernels, spices, sugar, raw cotton and rice—each accounted for between Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 crores in 1983-84. Together these eight commodities constituted nearly nine per cent of total exports in 1984-85 compared with 12 per cent in 1983-84 and 13.3 per cent in 1982-83. The export performance of most of these commodities has been lacklustre after

1983-84. Despite a 19.2 per cent decline in volume, export earnings from cashew increased by 11.4 per cent because of higher unit values. Cashew exports have been facing growing competition from countries in Africa and are also overly dependent on a single market, the USSR."

So, only the USSR can help our country in this regard. I will again quote from the 'Economic Survey' :

"Export of spices spurted by 59.3 per cent to Rs. 174.5 crores in 1984-85, but have fallen sharply in the first half of 1985-86. India's share of the world spice trade has exhibited a disturbing downward trend, reflecting declining competitiveness in relation to new exporters. Exports of oil cakes fell in volume and value in 1984-85, partly because of strict import regulations in regard to quality imposed by importing developed countries."

I would like to quote just one more point :

"Export of engineering goods had fallen by 14.9 per cent in 1982-83 and again by 13.5 per cent in 1983-84."

The Economic Survey gives a very bleak picture of our exports and our exports declined, as I mentioned earlier, from 2 per cent to 0.05 per cent and by the end of the 21st Century, it will be nothing. The same is the case if you look at the other items also. As regard pepper, total production in India was 66 per cent of the world produce. Now it is reduced to 33 per cent. In the world market, we were catering about 75 per cent. Now it is reduced to just 16 per cent.

With regard to coffee, the latest news is that because of the intervention of the Chairman of the Coffee Board, who is nominated by the Government, coffee was sold in the month of December 1985 at a loss of one crore and seven lakh rupees.

In fact, this requires an enquiry against him : when the coffee growers are demanding a higher price for coffee, which can be sold in the world market, knowing that the prices are going up, a bulk sale is effected in London—Robusta coffee—thus incurring a loss of Rs. 6,000 per tonne. The total accumulated loss is Rs. 1.7 crores in in this regard. This has come in the Press, and some of the Members of Parliament have also represented to the hon. Minister about this.

What is the Government's policy ? They make the Board. They make the committees. They entrust the work to the bureaucrats who are close to them. They misuse the power, or they give representation to the persons of their own political party, and make them lead these corporations. The representatives of the growers are not included. Persons who are interested in the subject are not included. Their suggestions are not taken care of at all.

In all these respects, unless the Government makes earnest efforts to rectify these mistakes, the future of the Indian export will be very bleak. Once again I submit that a complete rethinking over these matters is necessary. If the Government were to experiment with these things, it will lead to further losses. Urgent steps will have to be taken to rectify these mistakes. All these are directly affecting a State like Kerala.

Now look at the tea plantations. What is happening in Tamil Nadu ? The hilly areas there look like a shaven head. A hundred years ago, when the Britishers came, the erstwhile Maharajas of those days gave these lands to them, to plant tea. Those trees have not been re-planted. Those trees have been removed. Because of political pressure, the Government in which the Congress is a party, supports the cutting of trees for the purpose of political coalition with another party which wants to stay in power. They permit persons to go to the hilly tracts, remove trees and cut the trees. If you now look at them, they look like Yul Brynner, the English actor. They are so bald. The Western Ghats look a bald head. Tea,

[Shri Thampan Thomas]

coffee and cardomom—everything which was growing in that area is suffering. There is no encouragement for the growers; unless Government comes forward and helps growers, I say that the future will be very bleak.

Corporatives and other institutions, i.e. the people's movement in this regard will have to be helped, instead of the Government helping a section of the people which is rich viz. middlemen. Till now, the Government's policy has been only to help the middle men and encourage them.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce, but I have to point out few things in this regard. On page 3 of this Report it has been said that :

[English]

"The higher rate of imports during April-September, 1985 is substantially due to imports of bulk commodities, including crude oil, petroleum products, fertilizer, edible oil and sugar".

[Translation]

I wish to say that there was too much uproar over petroleum products all over the country and I had expected that import of petroleum products would be dealt with extensively in this report. It had appeared in the newspapers and it was also stated in this House that consumption of petroleum products has now reached the expected level of 1990. This increase in consumption is not all of a sudden, but it might have increased in a gradual process. I would like to ask the officers of the Commerce and the Petroleum Ministry as to why they had not informed this House and the country about this rapidly increasing consumption of the petroleum products. I am talking about Petroleum products, because it has put a spiral effect on the masses. Due to hike in its prices,

price rise has increased so much that it has badly affected the common man.

I do not want to speak much about it as a lot of things has already been said on the subject. In future, you should keep a watch on the after-effects of the import of a particular item as it deeply affects the whole country.

I specially want to mention about waste paper. Second and third paragraphs on page 4 of this Report refer to the special imported items, which include waste paper as one of the items. I claim that this is a big scandal. A large amount of foreign exchange is being spent on import of waste paper, whereas a lot of waste paper in our country is being destroyed. The aim, for which this waste paper is being imported, is not being fulfilled. The aim behind its import was to supply raw-material to the mills for manufacture of cheaper paper. But a major portion of this waste paper does not go to the mills, it is being diverted to the neighbouring countries. I know about this case in detail and I also believe that even the officers in the Commerce Ministry are also aware of it as it is a big scandal. This scandal reminds me of woollen-rags scandal. In 1972-73, woollen rags were imported to help the blanket Industry of the country. But those woollen rags were sold in the open market in the name of woollen Garments, which affected our Garment Industry very adversely. As a result of that, the Government had to stop its import or had to substantially control the import. Therefore, I would request that enquiry in this regard should be held very carefully. Some raids have already been conducted by C.B.I. and perhaps hon. Minister might be aware of it. In fact it is a "tip of the iceberg", what is inside it, perhaps you might not be aware of that. There are a lot of items, which are being imported and used unlawfully. For this purpose, I would request that a Committee of members of both the Houses may be constituted, which may enquire into the irregularities in import. If it is found that something is being imported in an improper manner, then its import may be stopped without any hesitation as balance of payment position of our country is very bad. There is an English saying that :—

[English]

Dollar saved is dollar earned—

[Translation]

Therefore, it is very essential that unnecessary import is curbed. This report contains data for the period from April-September, which shows a gap of Rs. 4000 crores, but the reports published in Newspapers are even more serious as the position of Balance of Payment has deteriorated even further. I would, therefore, like to submit that this matter may be considered seriously.

I would like to appreciate your efforts which you have made for the promotion of exports. The most important thing is this that you have given great importance to consultancy services, which, as you have said, has a wider scope in Afro-Asian countries according to you. It has got much potentialities there. As far as I know, there are difficulties in getting payments from African countries. The Minister should make it clear in his reply as to what extent we are facing difficulties in getting payments from African Countries. More attention should be paid on Turn Key Projects. Consultancy Services have got a wide scope in these countries.

It is very good that Commerce Ministry has paid attention to Agricultural Export and an Agricultural Export Authority has been constituted.

I would like to submit that among all the items, Agricultural items have the maximum potentialities for export. I would like to draw your attention towards Mithila region in North Bihar, where a good quality of mango called 'LANGRA' is grown, which is sold at a throw away price there. I had submitted earlier also that the farmers are being exploited there. They intend to export Mango, but they do not know the process. If Commerce Ministry takes initiative in this regard, then the export of this mango could be possible. There is a big aerodrome at Darbhanga in Mithila region. Mangoes can be exported if these are brought at Darbhanga and then these can be airlifted and sent to Gulf Countries via Bombay.

In this way mangoes could be saved from being destroyed and Mango-growers of Mithila could be benefited. You should give a serious thought to it.

Now I would like to draw your attention towards Madhubani Paintings. Madhubani Paintings were exported on a large scale around 1970, but their export has gone down to nil now. Last year when this point was raised in the House, its export had started a little bit again. These paintings are very much in demand in USA, France and Canada. A number of foreigners visit Mithila region also and a lot of others are unable to reach there due to non-availability of transport facilities. The Middle men exploit them. Government should set up a machinery to purchase these paintings from Madhubani so that they can get fair price and the country could earn foreign exchange. At present we are not earning foreign exchange. I shall ask you whether you are going to solve this great problem or not. I shall also like to say a few words about Jute growers. You should not put off this matter on the pretext that this is the concern of Textile Ministry. In my view every matter of export relates to Commerce Ministry. In my view the Jute Problem is very grave. The people say in English—

[English]

The jute growers of Bihar, West Benagl and Assam have been taken for a ride.

[Translation]

What I mean to say is that the jute growers of all the three States have been totally ruined. They did not get even the price of their inputs. The Minister might be aware perhaps that the farmers have burnt thousand tons of jute. Under these circumstances, we should learn a lesson from our past experience. If we do not learn from our mistakes, when would we learn? You did not give farmers remunerative prices for their sugar cane and as a result, they stopped growing it. It resulted into closure of many sugar mills, and you had to import sugar. You will have to import jute also now. I would also request you to look into this matter.

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

Jute-farmers have been ruined in this country.

I am putting another two-three points. So far as quality control is concerned, it is not being paid due attention whether these are the Garments, Leather goods and light or heavy Engineering goods. Unscrupulous elements have entered the field. They give samples of first class quality, but at the time of delivery, the third rate items are supplied. Therefore, it is most essential that adequate attention is paid on quality control. The same is the situation in case of rice. A large number of people want to export rice, but they are not aware of the process. I would like to request the hon. Minister that a correspondence course should be started by Indian Institute of Foreign Trade to impart knowledge to the people about export process so that the people living in different parts of our country may come to know about the mechanism of export.

In the end, I would like to request that more attention must be paid to the export of non-traditional items.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Commerce, and hope that, the hon. Minister would use his ability, competence and his style of work to improve the deplorable condition of the Department, which was there when he took over the charge of the Department.

Respected Sir, the Commerce Ministry is actually a topic of discussion in the country today. The reason is that, only the people with vested interests can get maximum profits out of its various concessions and its various processes. As the report of the Commerce Ministry itself indicates, that India's performance in International Trade has shown a remarkable decline, particularly during the period between April 1985 and September 1985, when there has been a decline of about Rs. 4128 crores. If the loss is estimated till 31st March 1986, as has been published in some national newspapers, then it can be well predicted that the foreign trade

deficit will go up even further. Keeping these things in view the Government should review its Import and Export policy. It has to review whether the items and commodities kept under the category of Open General Licence should continue to be there. It needs to be reviewed. The hon. Minister should kindly examine whether the concessions given by the Government to the businessmen or industrialists in the name of consultancy, export promotion, or promotion of new industries in new industrial areas are not misused and if the concessions have been misused, then the policy has to be reviewed.

Today in the name of Import policy, those commodities are being imported which are not essential. The person who spoke before me just now mentioned that a lot of money is being spent on import of waste paper and paper pulp. In India, there are so many forests, yet wood is being imported from abroad. Again, there are huge deposits of coal in India, yet a large quantity of coal is being imported on the basis of incorrect reports by the specialists, who think that our coal is not of a good quality due to its heavy ash content. Coal deposits are also not exploited, because the Government wishes to conserve coal deposits as advised by the specialists. As a result our foreign exchange reserves are being depleted, for we have to import coal. This system, therefore, is not going to lead to prosperity, but to poverty and under development. The developing and the poor nations must deliberate considerably before importing goods and our endeavour should be to reduce imports to the maximum extent possible.

Again, the concessions granted in the present policy cater to the import of equipment for the manufacture of televisions, motor Cars and refrigerators. I would like to ask as to who is going to benefit from the import of the above items. The poor, the labourer and the middle class is certainly not going to make use of these items. Therefore, is it being done to cater to the comforts of the rich? Would the import of components of Cars and TVs and other luxury goods not increase the poverty even more? I believe that, if the Commerce Ministry is indul-

ging in actions, which threaten to make our country poorer, we must exercise a check on such actions.

Similarly, the demand for the import of edible oil looks to be a reasonable one. In this connection, I would like to submit that, since 1980 I have been saying in this House, that the amount spent on the import of edible oil may be given to the farmers to increase the production of oil seeds. As remunerative prices are not given to the farmers for the production of groundnut, coconut, mustard and palmolin seeds (from which the various oils are extracted), the yield of oil seeds does not increase. The Government must grant subsidies and other incentives to the farmers to encourage them to increase the production of oil seeds. You might be aware of the fact that the price of mustard seeds has been fixed at the rate of Rs. 400 per quintal. But in my area, that is in Alwar, which is supposed to be the best whole sale market for mustard seeds, the current rate is Rs. 380 per quintal. In spite of the low rate, no Government agency has been sent to buy mustard seeds there. Can production of oilseeds be increased in this manner? The Government spends foreign exchange to import edible oil, but the farmers are not provided reasonable prices for their products. Until there is coordination between the concerned Ministries and adequate incentives are provided to the farmers in the shape of remunerative prices and so on, to produce more and more oil seeds, an avoidable expenditure of foreign exchange will have to be incurred to import edible oil. Hence, it is essential to review the Import policy.

Sir, I would like to submit here, that petroleum products are imported from abroad and exploration work is being done in this direction in our country also. But the pace of this work has to be speeded up. Because of the reduction in the prices of petroleum and petroleum products in the international market, the Department of Petroleum is likely to save Rs. 1000 crores due to this trend. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to spend this amount to increase crude oil production and consequently reduce the expenditure on import of crude.

In the end, hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for the establishment of Export Authority for agricultural commodities, but this Authority has not been very effective so far. As the previous speaker has just mentioned, adequate arrangements have not been made for the export of Cashew-nuts, cardamoms and so on. Similarly, adequate arrangements have not been made for the procurement of onions in my constituency of Alwar, Gujarat and Maharashtra, which are the Centres of production of onions. Onion is sold in the market between December and January, but no arrangements have been made to purchase onion and to provide remunerative prices to the farmers. By exporting onion a sizeable amount of foreign exchange may be earned. The Gulf Countries and the countries of South-East Asia are potential buyers of this item. Hence, if arrangements are made to procure onions in time from these places for export, it would benefit the farmers and they would certainly produce more.

There is vast potential for export of products manufactured in rural industries and cottage industries and we are earning foreign exchange by exporting them. The cottage industries must, therefore, be given due encouragement. The export of goods manufactured in this sector should be increased and the amount received should be spent on farmers. Simultaneously, arrangements should be made for the proper sale and use of fruits and vegetables in time so that the farmers might get reasonable returns on their investment. In the end, I would like to say that the Cash Compensatory Scheme and the Market Development Scheme, under which the exporters have been provided facilities, are being misused. These schemes should be reviewed to get first hand knowledge as to how funds are spent on these schemes. We should see to it that our import is reduced and our export is increased. Then only can our country achieve economic prosperity. With these words I support the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Commerce Ministry.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker,

[Shri P. Kolandaivelu]

Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me the opportunity to speak on the Demands of the Ministry of Commerce and Supply.

With regard to the Ministry of Commerce, it comprises two Departments, i.e., Commerce and Supply. But unfortunately the main Department, i.e., the Department of Textiles which was a part of Commerce Ministry has been taken away from this Ministry on 15th of November 1985. I do not know why that has been separated from Commerce and Supply. I suppose the reasons are best known to the Minister or to the Treasury Benches. But I would say here that the Department of Textiles also must be included in Commerce and Supply. That is the main contention that I want to put forth.

With regard to the Department of Commerce, in order to organise and in order to develop and regulate the country's external trade, this Department is functioning. But actually what is the landmark we have made so far? By means of external trade what is the foreign exchange we are getting for our country? We have to decide that. The main purpose of this Department is to promote export of Indian products to other countries and to collect and disseminate commercial intelligence. Of course, we are earning a lot of foreign exchange by exporting so many items. But actually, when we see the table of foreign trade and export production, we find that there is a declining trend. In the budget for 1985-86 it is mentioned as Rs. 931 crores, but in the revised budget for 1985-86 we see that it is only Rs. 880 crores and in the budget for 1986-87 it is Rs. 791 crores. So, there is a declining trend. Why is there a declining trend and what are the basic reasons for this? The Minister has to reply for this. Even with regard to marine products there is a setback in this industry. Out of the total consumption in the world with regard to fish and other marine products we are able to export only 1 per cent of the world's consumption. The remaining 99 per cent is being given by Japan and Taiwan and other countries. But we are fortunate enough to have 200

kilometres of coastal line here and so we can do fishing, we can export so many marine items. I want to mention here that even with regard to Tunafish we can export them and earn foreign exchange. But the question is whether we are making any effort to get foreign exchange by exporting Tunafish. Only some people from Karnataka and some people in North India are not only minting money on this, they are also minting gold. But why this trade has not been developed? Is it because some of the people actually come in the way in order to obstruct other people to come in this trade? I want to know this. There is a setback even with regard to frozen shrimps.

Actually there is a set back quantitatively with regard to these exports of frozen shrimps to countries like Japan and USA. This is mainly because of our poor fishing operations by the chartered vessels in the west coast and fish landing. I request the hon. Minister to streamline the present fish catch operations and see that the situation is improved. Keeping in view the great demand for these items of export. I would like to say that fishing harbours like Mandapam in Tamil Nadu and also Nagapattinam and Cuddalore harbours have to be constructed immediately on a priority basis to improve the present position.

With regard to mineral exports also there is a declining trend. We are not at all taking any initiative to have more foreign exchange for our country. Various State Governments including Tamil Nadu have submitted proposals to the Government of India for exploitation of small Mineral deposits in their respective States, but the Government of India is not at all taking care for exploitation of the mineral deposits, which are found in various parts of the country. I would like to mention one such instance. In Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu we can exploit gold ores. We have even sent proposals to the Government of India, but they are not at all taking care with regard to finding out gold ores. So I would request the hon. Minister to take steps immediately to find out and exploit the gold ores which are found in Dharmapuri District.

Even with regard to sugar exports we are not doing our best. Actually we are importing sugar, but we are self-sufficient. The other day the Food and Civil Supplies Minister has stated here that we are self-sufficient in sugar but we are also importing sugar. What is the purpose of saying that we are self-sufficient and at the same time we are also importing it.

With regard to other Commodity Boards like the Tea Board, the Cardamom Board and other Boards—you are having so many Boards—I would like to mention with regard to the Tea Board. In the Tea Board for the last one and a half years there is no permanent Chairman. I am a Member of the Tea Board. There is no permanent Chairman. Without a permanent Chairman the Tea Board is functioning...

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): You as Member are doing efficient work. Therefore we do not think of that urgency.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then you can abolish Chairman's post. Let the Members be all Chairmen. If the members are efficient, then any one of us can become Chairman.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): I am making a claim for Chairmanship.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are saying that as a joke...

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I am not casting any aspersion.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: With regard to the Tea Board, actually tea is also a very good item for export and we are minting money. Actually we have exported Rs. 700 crores worth of tea last year. We are the first among the tea-exporting countries. With regard to tea production, during 1985-86 it was 655 million kg. During 1985-86 upto October 126.85 million kg. were exported. It got us a foreign exchange of Rs. 413.90 crores. With regard to tea plantations the small

growers are at the mercy of the big plantation owners because the export market is in the hands of the big bosses like the Tatas and Birlas, the Liptons, Brooke Bonds and other tea-owners. The small growers are unable to export their variety from India to other countries. The export market is being controlled by the big bosses. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister to see that these small growers those who are in Tamil Nadu—that too those who are in Udacamandalam or Ooty, 90 per cent of the growers are small growers—they must be given ample opportunity in order to send tea from India to foreign countries.

With regard to the Zonal Office in Coimbatore, I want to cite an example as to how this Zonal Office is functioning. It is headed by an IAS Officer. His name is Mr. Subha Rao, he is Deputy Director in the Zonal Office. Without any staff the Zonal Office is functioning. How can we expect very good functioning of the Zonal Office there without proper staff? This Zonal Office is meant for Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Without any staff the Zonal Office is functioning there for the last one and a half years.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the Zonal Office is there; not functioning.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Not even skeleton staff is there. And the other thing is that the Tea Board is functioning with the permanent Chairman. We come to know clearly how the Tea Board is functioning. I would request the hon. Minister to take immediate steps to see that full staff facilities have to be provided to the Zonal Office in Coimbatore. Even without a car, without a telephone facility, the Zonal Office is functioning there. I tried to contact the Deputy Director in the Zonal Office but I was unable to contact him. That is the position. Even with regard to the Cardamom Board also, I would suggest that subsidy schemes have to be brought in for the Cardamom growers. The revised estimates of production during 1985-86, you have fixed it at 4200 metric tonnes and even the export during 1985-86 it was of the order of 2500 metric tonnes which is worth about Rs. 50

[Shri P. Kolandaivelu]

crores. We can increase this cardamom also by exporting more cardamom varieties to other countries, by which we can earn more. Further, you can set up a Trade Fair Authority. Recently, the Trade Fair Authority of India organised an International Trade Fair in Madras which was usually arranged by the Central Leather Research Institute, Madras. Much has to be done with regard to the promotion of more export-oriented Fairs in the fields of Handloom and Khadi Garments etc.

With regard to the import of Potassium Chloride, I would like to ask the hon. Minister to put a ban on this item because we are importing Potassium Chloride only for the purchase of agricultural use whereas actually it is not used for agricultural purposes. Only the industrialists are actually purchasing it by paying a premium for this Potassium Chloride. They are using it only for the industrial purpose and not for agricultural purposes. So, immediate action should be taken to ban this import of Potassium Chloride to India. Also I would request the hon. Minister to set up free zonal trades in Madras and other areas in Tamilnadu so that the industrialists those who are in Tamilnadu, they will be benefitted.

[Translation]

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Department of Commerce.

The Commerce Department is an important Department of the Government of India. It exports goods manufactured in our country and thus help the country in earning foreign exchange.

According to the booklet supplied to us, there has been an increase in the activities of Trade Development Authority and the Trade Fair Authority abroad during the year 1984-85.

13.16 hrs.

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *in the Chair*]

But after this period the export of every item like tea, tobacco and other things is declining.

I have been returned from Moradabad constituency. Whereas in 1980 the export of brassware was to the tune of about Rs. 70 crores there, the same has now fallen to about Rs. 37 crores. The labourers and exporters are very much distressed due to this decline in export of brassware.

We are taking a number of measures to increase our export. But no design centre or any such other agency has been set up there to provide help to the brassware industry and to make available raw materials to the artisans. The brassware industry of Moradabad has been very adversely affected due to high cost of raw materials. Our export of brassware items is dwindling in comparison to other countries and the brassware industry in Taiwan, Korea and Pakistan is prospering. Moradabad is continuously lagging behind in the matter of export of brassware items.

I would like to suggest that a team of artisans, experts and officials should be sent to Taiwan, Korea and Pakistan which may go into the factors due to which Taiwan, Korea and Pakistan have marched forward in the matter of export of brassware items and find out the shortcomings due to which we are lagging behind. In this way we would be able to promote our industry and solve the problem of unemployment there. Thus the country will also be able to earn more foreign exchange. The facility of draw-back and cash assistance, which is provided to the exporters for increasing export, should also be extended to them so that they may be encouraged to increase the export from our country. The artisan should be supplied raw materials at reasonable rates. An office of M.M.T.C. is functioning in our area, but the small artisans are not getting any benefit from it. A brass Corporation could be set up in Uttar Pradesh which may provide help to the small artisans.

They are not getting raw materials at reasonable rates, as a result their work suffers.

If we go into the factors due to which the export of brass items, which was once on high side, is declining, we hope, we will be able to take such measures which will help in arresting the declining trend of export and removing unemployment. We will also be able to earn more foreign exchange.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

DR. K.G. ADIYODI (Calicut): Sir, I am extremely happy to support the demands. Regarding coffee, we are making a hell of noise in the Parliament even during the last session when the Spices Board Bill was introduced. It was discussed at length. I think there is a lot of misunderstanding regarding the coffee growers in Kerala. Coffee is the mainstay of Kerala's economy. Coffee crop depends on climate. If the climatic conditions are favourable there will be heavy crop and if it fails the fate of the growers is at stake.

Sir about 14 commodities have been taken away from the export duty but export duty on coffee is still there. The National Seeds Corporation when it sends seeds charges only 15 per cent whereas in respect of coffee seeds coffee Board is charging more than 35 per cent. Recently when the coffee price was going up during December on 14th there was a deal by the Coffee Board—as if there was distress in the international market—and the price of coffee was reduced to such an extent that by exporting 4000 tonnes of coffee there was a loss of Rs. 1.7 crores to the exchequer as well as the growers. When about ten Members of Parliament represented the matter to the Commerce Minister it seemed it was nobody's concern. We did not even get an acknowledgement from the Minister. The newspapers throughout South India came out with the news that the growers are agitating and the growers' association has sent letters to the Home Minister for conducting a CBI inquiry regarding Coffee Board's dealings. Such

being the position we are unhappy to state that unless a definite, proper and scientific study of the growers' difficulties is made and proper action taken immediately the entire coffee growers will convert their coffee plantations into rubber or some other crop. Suppose this long-term crop is converted into other crop, viz., annual crop, there will be heavy landslides in the entire area and ecological changes will be there. The entire area will get ruined. So this is a very serious problem which requires immediate attention of the Government.

The first thing is about abolition of export duty and also fixing of minimum release price. It has taken about five years. The Coffee Board Officers are not prepared to assess the expenditure on coffee production every year. It is necessary to have the prices fixed before the harvest. Unless it is done and some sort of advantage is given and the total amount is paid immediately no planter will be able to give the wages of the labourers or the other inputs will not be forthcoming. Priority is not given as in other cases for planters by the banks.

Some sort of help by way of providing differential rate of interest or something like that has to be given. The other important thing is that when coffee seeds are pooled the entire quantity is taken away from the growers' area to distant places for processing. I strongly feel that there should be some arrangement for processing the coffee seeds in the vicinity of growers area itself. Sir, so also, all our cash crops are exported in bulk in gunny bags. What happens is that some of our products are rejected by the foreign buyers due to their being inferior in quality. Recently, our pepper was rejected by the foreign buyers due to poor quality. This has happened because the Quality Control system is a total failure during this year. Sufficient number of officers were not there to supervise the quality while packing and see that proper packing and Agmarking are done. Not only that. Apart from poor quality control system, proper grading of the seeds were not done even though we have a lot of agencies in the field.

[Dr. K.G. Adiyodi]

Sir, this year we are flooded with funds in all sectors for development of export. In today's newspaper, you will find that an amount of Rs. 10 crores has been set apart under the heading 'Export Development Fund' by the Finance Ministry. In yesterday's newspaper also, there was a news item about the Indo-Yugoslav Joint Council meeting in which a decision has been taken to promote a two-way export of items under which India would export goods worth Rs. 200 crores. They have agreed that by 1990, they would double their import from India.

Sir, we have been exporting tobacco, tea, coffee, finished leather goods, iron ore, manganese ore, tractor, diesel engines, auto-parts, chemical and pharmaceutical products, etc. We have enough infrastructure for production of all these items and also increase the productivity. But what is standing in the way of export? Only the agencies are standing in the way of export promotion. They are building up their empire and they are not giving the required service to the poor farmers and cultivators and small industrialists. Recently, we had a Conference where the medium and marginal coffee growers met and they placed their difficulties before the august body, the Chairman of the Coffee Board and all the Members from the P.C.R.I. They say that even for fixing the minimum release price, after a lapse of one year, they are not in a position to do anything. The cultivators say that whenever the Board or the Chairman is approached they get the reply that the matter is pending with the Government. Wherever you go, the burden is thrust upon the Government and they keep quiet.

Now, coming to the supply of coconut seedlings, even though it is not the concern of this Ministry, last year, about 20,000 coconut seedlings were collected and put into the nursery. Hardly 25% could survive out of these 20,000 seedlings. The rest, that is, 75% of the seedlings had become a waste or useless. But the important thing is that they charge Rs. 10 per coconut seedling and therefore the total loss is greater. This is the result of the survey made by our officers. The infras-

tructure is getting deteriorated everyday but the net Achievement in this field is very negligible. I request the hon. Minister to see that the money spent, each rupee spent, towards the production and productivity is properly spent and the real result achieved and we also succeed in achieving the desired results in exports which is the main support of the financial stability of the country.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of Commerce Ministry.

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram): Mr, Chairman, Sir, the Commerce Ministry is playing the most crucial role in the promotion of our trade with the foreign countries. The balance of trade position and the foreign exchange position in general reflects the efficiency with which this Ministry conducts its affairs. Although a very experienced and efficient Minister is in charge of this Ministry, I feel that the Commerce Ministry has been found wanting in certain respects.

The foreign exchange position is an example. During the year 1985, the export earnings have come down and there has been an increase of more than 25 per cent in import during the same period resulting in a steep decline in our foreign exchange reserve. This is a very alarming situation. No doubt, the Government realises the seriousness of the situation and it has taken some measures to increase the exports. At the same time, the Government should try to regulate the imports, because any liberalization of imports will be taken undue advantage of by certain interested parties at the cost of the economy.

The Ministry has different commodity Boards under it and these Board are supposed to look after the interest of the different spices which are primary foreign exchange earners. Sir, I come from Kerala which is called the land of spices. Almost 95 per cent of the major spices like cardamom, pepper, cloves, cinnamon and nutmeg are grown in Kerala. In fact, the economy of the State greatly depends

on these spices. But, today the growers of these spices are in distress as the prices have come down. The fall in the price of cardamom is particularly disturbing. The price of cardamom which was around Rs. 250 per kg. about two years ago has come down to Rs. 100 or Rs. 125. On the one hand, the cost of cultivation is very high and on the other, the growers do not get a remunerative price. The Government of Kerala and the growers of cardamom have requested the Centre to fix a floor price for cardamom and to export it more and more to countries other than the traditional buying countries. I do not know what exactly is being done by the Centre. As it is, India's share in the world trade has come down substantially over the past three decades. This is so particularly in the case of cardamom. This only shows that the Ministry and its various organizations engaged in pushing up our export trade are not doing their work properly. Same is the case with certain other spices like cloves, cinnamon etc. I understand that the Government has imported cloves in order to meet the domestic requirements. This has naturally resulted in a steep fall in the price. Sir, the House should know that it takes years of hard work nurturing to prepare these plants. Many of these plants may be damaged due to pests, or adverse weather etc. A farmer has to wait for six to seven years before he gets any yield from these plants. He may not have any other source of income and most of the growers are small and medium growers whose economic condition is far from satisfactory. In such a situation if the prices fall, what will happen to these poor growers is anybody's guess.

The Government does not have a proper pricing policy in respect of the spices. This year's Budget speech mentioned that the Government was going to formulate a long term pricing policy for the agricultural crops. This is welcome. But I want that the Government should formulate a long term policy for spices also. The entire policy of production, marketing procurement and pricing of these spices should be reviewed and immediate steps taken to save the growers of spices in Kerala and thereby economy of the State as well as of the country.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): Mr. Chairman Sir, as my time is very limited, I will dilate on only one subject which is the concern of this Ministry and that is tea. Coming from the State of Assam, I am vitally concerned with this item because this commodity not only sustains the economy of Assam, but it has a tremendous sustaining effect on the total economy of this country also. This has been one of the traditional commodities which has contributed to a large extent to the export earnings of our country. Even today, in spite of the fact that the other parts of the country have gone for cropping of tea the total crop area in Assam occupies 55 per cent of the total crop area of the country. So far as tea production is concerned, we manufactured and exported to the extent of 222 million KG of tea during 1985. But the fact has been lost sight of that there has been a deterioration and decline in the production of tea and in the total area of tea crop in Assam since Independence. According to one of the calculations that I have before me, at the time of Independence, we had 1080 tea gardens in Assam and the total number of persons employed in the industry, were more than 5 lakhs. In spite of the fact that one could hope that this industry would increase with the passing of time because of different types of assistance given by the Government, in 1985 from 1080, the number of tea gardens has come down to 753. There has been a decline of more than 300 gardens and the total number of persons employed in the industry has also come down to about 3.5 lakhs from the original 5 lakhs.

Therefore, the Ministry of Commerce which is vitally concerned with this industry should take a very deep look into the ailments of this tea industry.

One of the main complaints that we have in Assam today is that the head and registered offices of all tea industries and the important tea gardens are located at Calcutta. I can understand that at a time when the communication system in Assam was comparatively poor, when the infrastructure was not there and when the export facilities were not available, there

[Shri Dinesh Goswami]

could have been some ground for these head and registered offices to be in Calcutta. But today, the communication system in Assam has improved, the infrastructure is there and export facilities are equally available. We have got the tea auction centre and an inland container depot has been started recently near Guwahati. I do not find any reason as to why the head and registered offices should not be shifted. Because of the existence of the head and registered offices in Calcutta, the State of Assam has lost its share of income tax and other earnings to which the State would otherwise have been entitled.

Now, I come to the auction market itself. After a lot of agitation and prolonged demands, the auction market was started at Guwahati. But unfortunately, the fact remains that the auction market has not been functioning in the desired manner. The stranglehold of Calcutta auction market is still there. The Commerce Minister should take note of the fact that in order to avoid proper discharge of functioning by the Guwahati auction market, low grade tea is put in the Guwahati auction market as high grade tea and higher prices are demanded. When higher prices are not available, this tea is sent to the Calcutta auction market. Sometimes, low grade tea is mixed up with high grade tea with the result that when this tea goes by export to other countries, the reputation of our country suffers. And once the reputation is lost in the export market, it is very difficult to regain it back. This is one aspect, which I hope Shri Shiv Shanker will particularly take note of.

The second aspect about which I am concerned as a domestic consumer of tea is that the auctioneers' figures indicate that there has been a reduction of Rs. 6.05 per Kg. in terms of prices available between 1984 and 1985. There has been a reduction in price, but that is not reflected in the domestic market. The domestic market tea price of Rs. 35 or Rs. 40 continues even in spite of decline in the auction price. I would like the Commerce Minister to take up the matter with the concerned Ministries. He also deals with

Supplies. There should be a relationship between the export market price, i.e. the price that the export market can command, and also the domestic market price. After all, if the international prices of tea come down, they should be reflected in the domestic market. The domestic consumer should not be fleeced. So, I request the Minister concerned to look to these aspects and use his influence to see that the Head and the Registered Offices are shifted from Calcutta to Gauhati. In fact, the Government of Assam has taken a very particular note of this point.

References have been made to the Tea Board by the previous speakers. In fact, the previous speaker from the AIADMK had made a reference to it. The Tea Board office is situated in Calcutta. Most of the tea gardens are situated either in Assam or in the Dooars the Board's office should be situated at Guwahati. For a very small matter, the producer has to come to Calcutta. The policy of the Government has been always to establish the Board's office in the prima place of manufacture of that commodity; e.g. we have the Rubber Board's office in Bengal re. the Coffee Board's office in Kottayam. Why should not the tea Board's office be located in Assam? Then the tea gardens of Dooars will be benefited, because from Dooars to Gauhati it is only one night's journey.

The post of the Chairman of the tea Board has not been filled up. It has been a long standing demand from the people of Assam that the Chairman of Tea Board should be one who is associated with the tea industry, and that he should come from that area which gives 55% of tea production in this country. I am happy that the Chairman's post has not been filled up. I request Mr. Shiv Shanker to see that the post of Chairman is filled up by a person from Assam who is knowledgeable about the tea industry. After all, these are small matters. These may be small matters in the totality of the context of the Government of India; but these are matters which irritate the public mind, and the minds of youth. So, I will urge upon you; now that this post is vacant, kindly fill it up with a person who has knowledge of the tea industry itself.

I can even point out that in 1981, a Small Producers' Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Mr. Jayanta Sanyal. Not a single member from Assam was taken in that committee, in spite of the fact that the largest number of small tea gardens or small producers are there in Assam. One cannot justify these facts. These facts create a sense of alienation in the minds of the people. So, I will urge upon you to see that this discrimination, which we feel is a discrimination, is eradicated.

So far as tea is concerned, in spite of the fact that it is one of the most important export-oriented products, it has been discriminated against in some respects, compared to other commodities. I shall make points on this aspect. Some of these relate to Ministry, but I will request the Commerce Minister to take it up with the Finance Ministry. For example, the development allowance has been given to the extent of Rs. 40,000 per hectare at Darjeeling, and Rs. 35,000 per hectare in the plains. But I have come to know, that the present cost of production of Darjeeling Tea is Rs. 80,000 per hectare, and in the plains it comes to Rs. 75,000. Representations have been made by the tea producers that 50% of actual cost should be given as developmental allowance, subject to scrutiny by the Government of India. I believe that this is a very genuine demand, which the Commerce Ministry should take note of. The Commerce Minister should also take note that so far as depreciation allowance for energy saving devices are concerned, tea is not included in the Schedule. Other industries are included; but no energy saving device which are employed by the tea industry are entitled to depreciation allowance, because it is not there in the Schedule.

The tea manufacturers have also sent representations to the Finance Ministry, and must have sent also to you, that there are a number of areas in the unconventional energy generation system where there is enough scope for energy saving devices. I do not find any rationale as to why tea is excluded from the depreciation allowance, when the policy of the Government of India is to encourage all energy-

saving devices. I hope Mr. Shiv Shanker will take note of this.

Now one very serious complaint that has been made to me is that so far as the United Bank of India is concerned, which is a lead bank, as regards tea finance, though, prior to 1985, finance was given without much hindrance; after 1985, the small producers and the manufacturers of tea are finding it extremely difficult to get tea financed from U.B.I. Normally speaking, if a tea garden is to function effectively, then the procedure part of the tea finance should be completed by November-October and the finance is to be released by January. But, this time, the finance has not been released till date and *ad hoc* provision in some cases has been made; and that is one point to which I request the Commerce Minister to look into.

There should be, in my opinion, a tea department of the United Bank of India, even in Assam so that small manufacturers should not come to Calcutta for even solution of their small Problems. I hope that, while replying to the debate, the hon. Minister will take note of the points and answer some of the points which I have raised in my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce.

It is a matter of concern that last year the trade deficit in import and export was of the order of Rs. 5,400 crores. It was due to the increase in the import of paper-pulp, waste paper, fertilizers, sulphur, edible oils, organic and In-organic chemicals. There is need to increase their production in the country itself so as to reduce the import of these items.

There is need to boost the export of the country tremendously. All those Schemes, which are aimed at reducing import and increasing export, will have to be implemented vigorously so that we may be able to increase our export and reduce import. A review of all these

[Shri Shanti Dhariwal]

schemes should be undertaken to see whether these are being implemented fully and whether those people are getting its benefits for whom these are meant.

Similarly; the cash compensatory scheme should be formulated afresh and implemented. The rates for items of cotton garments should be refixed. The exporters have to face a number of difficulties due to cumbersome procedures. Their claim for drawback is not settled speedily. It should be simplified so that they may get their dues without any difficulty. They have to make rounds of the offices a number of times in connection with their cases and thus they get frustrated to the extent that they start thinking of withdrawing their plans formulated for further export.

The Marketing Development Assistance Scheme should be implemented vigorously and the Government should do something in regard to the facilities which are at present not being provided to make our export competitive and to sustain it on sound footing. If these facilities are not made available to the exporters for whom they are meant, their enthusiasm for boosting export fades away.

The allocation of wagons to facilitate export is very essential. The Railways Claim that they make wagons available to the exporters on priority basis. But in practice it does not happen. One may get wagon by manipulation but, however, these are not made available on rental basis for export purposes. The Commerce Ministry should take up the matter with the Railway Ministry so as to remove the difficulties of exporters.

An Authority for the export of agricultural produce is already in existence. But the facilities to be provided by the Authority are not available to the agriculturists which the Government wants to provide them to export their produce through it. In this respect complaints are received from every quarter. Shri Ram Singh Yadav, who represents Alwar in Rajasthan was saying just now that the facilities which the Government wants to

provide them are not made available to them in time. As a result, the agriculturists are compelled to sell their goods in the local market instead of exporting them. If facilities are made available and proper guidance is provided to them, there could be much scope for export and we can earn more foreign exchange.

Similarly the Trade Development Authority organises fairs and exhibitions in foreign countries, but holding of few fairs is not sufficient. It is an age of competition, hence more and more such fairs and exhibitions should be organised. The Government of India should encourage the exporters by extending facilities to them to participate in these fairs abroad. I would particularly like to draw the attention towards the handicrafts of Rajasthan. A number of items are made in craft, handloom and handicraft sectors. A large number of persons are engaged in this business and they produce quality goods. But due to the policies of the Government they do not get any encouragement and are not able to export their goods. In this connection I would particularly like to draw attention towards jewellery and handloom. As I represent Kota constituency, I would mention the problem faced by the Kota saree industry. Many a times the manufacturers of Kota sarees applied for export licence, but it was not granted to them. They are not given any encouragement in any form. Whenever foreign visitors come to our country, they prefer to buy Kota saree first. A representation has also been submitted the hon. Minister in this regard. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister that the matter should be reviewed and more and more persons should be encouraged.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce. I would like to draw the kind attention of our hon. Minister that Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan are the three states in India which produce mica. In Rajasthan, Government agency MIDCO purchases very less quantity of mica. I have been continuously drawing your attention

towards it for the last two or three years that Rajasthan is being neglected in this matter.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : At that time I was not in this Ministry.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : If you were not there, somebody else was there, but I have been drawing attention continuously. Non-procurement of mica has caused severe blow to trade in Rajasthan and you can judge it from the fact that earlier ten thousand people were engaged in this industry, whereas their number has now gone down to 1000 to 1200. As a result, it has aggravated the unemployment problem. Besides it, the economic condition of the people, which was expected to be improved due to production of this mineral, has also suffered a serious setback. Last year, on the direction of your Ministry, MIDCO had procured mica worth about Rs. 80 lakhs. You know that poor people work in these mines and the big capitalists are not engaged in this trade there. Big capitalists are engaged in this trade in Bihar and they have their monopoly there. If MIDCO does not procure mica, these people are forced to sell it to big businessmen at throw away rates. Therefore I would like to draw your attention towards it and request you to make a definite arrangement through MIDCO for the procurement of entire mica, so that even the small traders may get fair price of it and their economic condition may be improved. I hope that you will definitely make some suitable arrangement so that maximum quantity of this mineral could be procured and economic condition of the people may be improved. The closed mines should be re-opened so that unemployed people may get employment. I hope you will do it and permanent arrangement will be made. A Mica Paper Mill should be set up at Bhilwara in Rajasthan where mica is available. In Bihar and Andhra Pradesh such mills have already been set up, but the case of Rajasthan was rejected previously and it has again been revived at our continuous pleading for the last two or three years. If this mill is set up there, the waste of hundreds of years

could be utilised and the mines closed due to lack of financial resources and sluggish market could again be started which will solve the unemployment problem also. With the establishment of this paper mill, new persons would get employment. The foreign exchange will also be earned thereby. It is the policy of our Government to render more assistance for those items which help earn foreign exchange. But it is amazing that this matter is lying pending at the Centre for last two or three years for clearance and nothing has been decided as yet. It will help to earn more foreign exchange and will also benefit the people.

I would also like to submit that explosive for mining work should be easily available. Although it relates to the Department of Industry, but this trade relates to your department. Mica Trade relates to your department. This trade could be developed only when the people are not forced to purchase explosives from the black market. I would request the hon. Minister to ensure regular supply of explosives in consultation with Industry Ministry and make some proper arrangement.

I would also like to draw your attention towards Cotton. Previously its rate was fixed at Rs. 410 per quintal and later on it was revised to Rs. 425 per quintal. But today nobody is ready to purchase it in the market even at the rate of Rs. 350 per quintal. Your Cotton Trade Corporation is no more active in the market and it is not purchasing cotton at all. This fall in the prices of Cotton, has adversely affected the farmers. I would like to request that cotton may be purchased on support prices so that farmers may not suffer any loss.

I would like to say a few words about textiles also. Though Textiles ministry is separate one, but I think that it is also related to your department. Every year I speak about the post of Textiles Commissioner, but it seems that you are not going to fill it. Today a large number of textile industries have fallen sick and Textile Commissioner has done nothing for them, because, except making recommendations for loans, he does nothing. The attitude

[Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas]

of the companies of making industry sick by converting Government money into assets, is not being checked by this organisation of the Government.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : All your submission regarding this is related to Textiles ministry.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Textiles department also relates to the Commerce, therefore proper arrangement should be made and it should be the duty of the Textiles Commissioner that any sick industry.....

14.00 hrs.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : When it is not related to this Ministry, then why are you speaking on this? It would be better if you speak about it, when the demands of Textiles Ministry are discussed.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Previously Textiles Commissioner was attached to your ministry and there was only one Textiles Commissioner.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : But now the position was changed.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : All right, I leave it now. One more thing I would like to say about fertilizer, zinc and oil seeds. Every year we spend thousands of crore rupees on the import of these three items, whereas raw material is available in abundance in our own country. We cannot only meet our own requirements, but can also export them to the foreign countries and can earn foreign exchange. Due attention is not being paid towards this thing. I want that Minister should please pay his attention towards fertilizers, because thousand of crores rupees in foreign exchange are to be spent on its import from abroad. Rajasthan has rich deposits of rock phosphate and Pyrites and therefore, Fertilizer plant based on it should be set up there so that fertilizer may be produced in our own country and foreign exchange could be saved.

There are huge deposits of Pyrites in Sikar region of Rajasthan. If a super phosphate plant is set up there, the present shortage of fertilizer can be removed to a great extent. What I mean to say is that when raw material is available in the country, why should we not take advantage of it. You may make the plea that due to non-availability of funds, Government is not in a position to set up any plant. But every year we are spending crores of rupees on the import of fertilizers and if we made use of that money to set up our own infrastructure, the problem will be solved in one year only. Because what we spend as foreign exchange, we can make our own infrastructure with that amount easily. It is very essential to develop such infrastructure.

Similarly, Lead and Zinc are also available in Rajasthan in abundance, whereas we import it and spend a lot of foreign exchange. You might have heard about Rampur Agucha where rich deposits of Lead and Zinc have been found. Work regarding them should have been started during Sixth Five Year Plan, but it has not been started till date. Such large deposits, which we have, are not available in any other country of the Asia. USA is the only country which has more deposits than our country. But so far neither steps have been taken for digging the mines nor for establishing the super zinc smelting plants. Every year, we spend foreign exchange worth 300 crore rupees in importing zinc and Lead whereas it requires only Rs. 300 crores for setting up the plant for this purpose. We can meet our requirements with this plant, but I fail to understand as to how our policies are formulated. Whatever we plead is not heeded. On the one hand, we say that we have regional imbalance and some areas are backward, on the other hand you do not provide job opportunities and do not establish factories there in order to utilise the raw materials available there and to develop the backward areas. You just give one excuse of shortage of funds for establishing new factories.

I don't know as to how long this shortage of funds would continue and when we shall be self-sufficient, whereas it has been

our policy that we should be self sufficient in every sphere. But how can you be self sufficient when you do not pay any attention to this. I, therefore request the hon. Minister to make some proper arrangement in this regard. I know that you are vigilant and alert and you are also aware of all these things. You must take some steps which might benefit our country and strengthen our Balance of payment position. With these words I fully support the demands of the Commerce Ministry.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to commend the efforts of our Government, which have made possible the formation of the SAARC consisting of seven countries, in which for the every first time we are going to have our trade-links with neighbouring countries. At present these trade links are in bad shape, but I think in near future, these are going to take a very good shape. Actually it has come to us as a great challenge, because European countries had already constituted a market for their trade, thus they neglected Asian countries and specially India.

I think that this is a very good and timely step that we have devised a new way out against European Common Market and I think that it will also give a boost to our trade with Pakistan and Bangladesh. We can have trade with these countries in many spheres such as, technology, trade and commerce, fertilizers and Medical Equipments. These are the fields of trade, which may provide benefit to Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. In this way, we can earn more foreign exchange, which can be used for other constructive works in the country. Additional foreign exchange could also be invested for the betterment of our people and for progress and development of our country.

Sir, in this context I would like to submit that I have already raised this matter in the Parliament. If the routes which were being used for trade purposes before 1947, are opened, then our border States Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat and Rajasthan are going to devine benefit by it. Government is again going to open a route in Gujarat. There is already a

route at Bagha. The new route will prove fruitful. In this context, I would like to say that negotiations should be held with Pakistan to open the Rawalpindi Road and if they agree to open Sialkot railway line which connects Jammu, then it will not only help in increasing trade with Pakistan, but also the hilly areas which are geographically out of reach, may also be linked with the help of roads, thus it will also help in the upliftment of those people, who live in these areas. Therefore, I shall request you to open the Rawalpindi Road which connects Srinagar and which was the trade route before 1947. It is in very good condition upto Uri, which is being used by us, but beyond Uri, that road lies in Pakistan. It will give a boost to trade with Pakistan through the State of Jammu and Kashmir. In the light of SAARC, Sialkot railway line should be connected to Jammu, which will also result in good trade links.

I would like to submit to the hon. Commerce Minister that there should be exchange of Newspapers, Magazines and books. For the last thousand years or so we, the three countries namely India, Pakistan and Bangladesh had common history, which tied us jointly. But after 1947, this link was broken, but even then our languages, cultures and a lot of other thing are not common. It is my opinion that if we start exchanging Newspapers and Magazines between us and also exchange other modes of culture, then we will be able to solve a lot of problems and the gap between us will vanish. Our suspicion, doubts towards each other will also vanish if we start exchanging books.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that we have enlightened writers, artists and Journalists in India. They are also in the Pakistan, such as Faiz Ahmed Faiz, who was a great poet and was loved by one and all. Allama Iqbal, who wrote "Sare Jahan Se Achcha Hindostan Hamara" is equally known and loved in both the countries. In the same way there are a lot of other poets of other languages like Punjabi, Urdu, Sindhi, Baluchi and Pashto. Rabindranath Tagore is loved as much in Bangladesh as Nazrul Islam in India.

[Shri Abdul Rashid Kabuli]

14.12 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I wish that we should open these routes as well as our minds. The Commerce Minister should lay more stress on it. He should have talks with Pakistan in the matter of exchanging books. The newspapers and magazine should be circulated with out my hinderance and writers, Philosophers and Journalists of both the countries should be allowed to visit each other's country freely.

Now I would like to speak about Jammu and Kashmir. We have a large scale trade of Handicrafts. These Handicrafts are not only a source of income for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, but also a source of earning crores of rupees as foreign exchange for the country. It is a pity that the middlemen exploit the poor artisans engaged in handicrafts work. Here, in Delhi some people have formed big companies and big business houses on the basis of these handicrafts and artisans. They are getting lion's share of profits, whereas our artisans are getting meagre amount. Even, some big trading companies are snatching a big chunk of profits earned as a result of hard work of artisans.

Commerce Minister should do something in order to save the handicrafts, carpet weaving, Paper mache, wood carving which have a world wide repulation and also a big source of earning foreign exchange to the country. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell Government that the artisans and craftsmen are being ruined, their hard work is being wasted. They are not getting as much for their hard work as they deserve. This is a great challenge before you. You have to solve it.

I would like to submit that the carpet weavers of Kashmir are not in anyway inferior to the carpet weavers of Pakistan, Iran and of any other country of the world, but they must be given some incentives for it. The bureaucracy of Central

Government offices, the monopoly and the Red-tapeism are creating hurdles in their way. The people of that area are not deriving any benefit from it. The locally established companies, which are in the private sector, exploit poor artisans very much and as a result, lakhs of people engaged in the carpet industry are suffering and development of Kashmir is not taking place.

Our country can increase its foreign exchange reserves through the export of carpets. Hence, the carpet industry has to be developed. To properly develop this industry it is essential that the Central Government should pay due attention to the condition of the craftsmen, and it should see to it that they are not exploited. It should also provide adequate incentives and provide help to the co-operative societies of these artisans.

In this context, I would like to submit that there is a large scale demand from the foreign market in this field, but only the private sector is reaping the benefits out of it. The Government should formulate a policy in this regard. The state Governments should be directed that only the products of the cooperatives of artisans, should be selected for export. The sale of such goods within the country and their export should be channelised by the Government. This would lead not only to the earning of more foreign exchange but also help in improving the condition of the artisans.

I regret to say that our banks, since the time of their nationalization, have not provided necessary assistance to the craftsmen. We have endeavoured to alleviate the miserable condition of the poor artisans, but we have not been successful in our efforts. I had been making great efforts in the State Legislature for the last eleven years, in this direction. Some co-operative societies of these workers have been formed. These societies proved to be very successful. But the Government and the banks did not provide the necessary assistance. There is a lot of corruption in the functioning of the banks today, and they render help only to those who are able to bribe the bank employees. The

rich industrialists and middlemen are able to get their work done by giving money under the table.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh): Do those persons who borrow loan from the banks repay it? Do you have any information regarding this matter?

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI: I would like to assure the hon. Commerce Minister that the M.Ps from Jammu and Kashmir would cooperate fully with any work undertaken by him for the upliftment of these craftsmen.

In my opinion, it is evident from Mr. Namgyal's comment that he is not aware of the difficulties that our artisans face due to these Banks. He belongs to Ladakh region, where there is no such problem. Our artisans are honest and they surely repay the loan. So I would strongly condemn whatever Mr. Namgyal has said in this connection.

***SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam):** Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in support of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1986-87, I wish to make a few suggestions.

During April-September, 1985 the imports had gone up by 24.5% as compared to the corresponding period in 1984-85. Consequently, we had to incur an additional sum of Rs. 4124 crores in foreign exchange in the imports of goods. We cannot afford to neglect the fact that the exports during this period have also dwindled. I would like to illustrate how the exports have declined gradually during the past several years.

Ten years before we used to export 2 lakh tonnes of HPS groundnut annually and the foreign exchange earning was of the order of Rs. 100 crores. In 1984-85 the export of HPS groundnut declined to 23000 tonnes and the foreign exchange earning came down to Rs. 20 crores. In the first

six months of 1985-86 the export of HPS groundnut was only 10,000 tonnes according to the information furnished in the Annual Report of the Commerce Ministry. I suggest that the Government should analyse the causes for this steep downfall in the export of HPS groundnut and take remedial steps for augmenting the export of HPS groundnut.

In 1985-86 we could utilise barely 46% of the EEC quota of garments against nearly 74% in the preceding year. If this trend continues, I am afraid that this will lead to a further reduction in India's quota under the Multi-Fibre Agreement. It is really unfortunate that the U.S.S.R. which is our major market, is looking elsewhere for meeting the cloth requirements. That is primarily due to our inability to keep up the stipulated quality and also to the specified schedule of delivery. On the other hand, China, Pakistan, Indonesia and Thailand have increased substantially their cloth export. India, which was in the forefront of cloth exports, has receded to the background. The Ministry must look into the reasons for this sharp fall in garment exports and take adequate steps for increasing the cloth exports.

We are earning annually a sum of Rs. 400 crores in foreign exchange by the export of marine products. This cannot be called as any significant achievement because small countries like Japan and Taiwan are exporting annually marine products worth Rs. 40,000 crores. While we have 56 power-driven fishing vessels, Japan has 3900 power-driven fishing vessels and Taiwan has 5200 power-driven fishing vessels. During the Seventh Five Year Plan we are planning to export more marine products by planning to import 500 power-driven fishing vessels. This is not enough. I demand that at least 2000 power-driven fishing vessels should be imported during the Seventh Five Year Plan. Then only we will be able to exploit fully the marine wealth available within the territorial jurisdiction of our seas.

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri R. Jeevarathinam]

There is great international demand for the delicious fish varieties available in our shores. We must take vigorous steps to increase the export of marine products.

The best illustration for the decline in the export of handloom products is the stagnating handloom cloth varieties in Tamil Nadu. Next to Agriculture, handloom industry generates the largest employment opportunities. Today the handloom industry is on the verge of extinction. The handloom weavers are struggling between starvation and survival. Unfortunately the Handloom and Handicraft Export Corporation is not under the charge of the Ministry of Commerce. You know Sir, that HHEC is a subsidiary of STC which is under the charge of Commerce Ministry. I do not know the reasons for this kind of anomaly. I suggest that HHEC should also be brought under the charge of the Commerce Ministry so that necessary efforts can be made for the export of handloom products. We cannot afford to neglect the export of handloom garments, because that will mean the death knell of lakhs of handloom weavers all over the country.

During the first six months of 1985-86, we have earned Rs. 260 crores in foreign exchange by the export of leather and leather products. We are not able to better returns for unfinished leather and semi-finished leather export. If we endeavour to export finished leather and leather products, we will be able to increase our foreign exchange earnings substantially. The Centre has decided to set up a Footwear Design and Development Centre. In the export of leather and leather products, North Arcot district in Tamil Nadu plays a major role. I demand that this Footwear Design and Development Institute should be set up in Arcot in North Arcot District.

Here I would refer to another important issue also. We are earning several hundreds of crores of rupees in foreign exchange by the export of gold jewellery. It is a traditional art in Tamil Nadu and

the gold jewellery manufactured in Tamil Nadu has earned encomium all over the world. Here also the North Arcot district in Tamil Nadu occupies a prominent place. The handiwork displayed in the gold jewellery manufactured in North Arcot district can be seen in almost all major towns of India. I take this opportunity to suggest that a Jewellery Design and Development Centre should be set up in Vellore in North Arcot District. This will give a fillip to the jewellery export. Similarly, a decision was taken to set up a Garments Fashion Institute at Madras. I do not know the reasons for the delay in the setting up of this Institute at Madras. I demand that early steps should be taken to set up this Garments Fashion Institute at Madras so that we are able to improve our export performance in handloom products.

While we should take all the necessary steps to improve our export performance, particularly when our share in world export is just 0.5%, we should also try to curb unnecessary imports. For example, I would refer to the import of synthetic rubber. The tyre companies are not consuming all the synthetic rubber indigenously products. At the same time, the synthetic rubber (SBR) is being imported under OGL. The tyre companies import SBR at a comparatively cheaper price. But they do not bring down the price of tyres; on the other hand they are increasing the tyre prices very frequently. The tyre prices in foreign countries have slumped and we could as well import tyres directly so that the prices of tyre can be brought down in the country. Though we have the Anti-Dumping law, yet products like SBR are being dumped into our country. We are frittering away our valuable foreign exchange in such frivolous imports. I demand that there should be a statutory ban on the import of SBR. Similarly, the import of luxury items VCR, VCP etc. should also be banned forthwith. Unless we take co-ordinated steps to reduce imports and to augment exports, we will be facing adverse balance of trade, affecting the total economy of the country. Our hon. Minister of Commerce, Shri P. Siva Sanker is a talented and capable Minister with prag-

matic approach to national problems. I am sure that he will at least try to implement one or two suggestions which I have made in my speech in Tamil. At least a portion of foreign exchange earnings from the products of Tamilnadu should be spent in Tamil Nadu for the welfare of workers engaged in the production of such goods for export. With these words I conclude my speech.

***SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY** (Coimbatore): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce for 1986-87, I would like to say a few words.

Sir, the Ministry has conceded that there is decline in our exports. The reasons for this decline are recession in major economies of the world, the protectionist measures adopted by some countries and the creation of modern and sophisticated productive capacity in many countries resulting in improvement in quality and in quantum, enabling them to keep up the schedule of delivery. We will not be able to set right the first two reasons, but we should not hesitate to take steps on the third reason. Then only we will be able to stabilise our exports and then increase our exports.

We are exporting tea, jute and tobacco. The quantum of their export has also gone up. But the unit value realisation has declined in these commodities. The main cause is deteriorating quality of these products. If we improve the quality and also keep up the delivery schedule we will be able to increase our export earnings.

The State Trading Corporation has branches in foreign countries, which were helping Indian exporters. Now, for reasons unknown, the STC has advised these Branches not to help the Indian exporters. Another important issue is also to be brought to your notice. Last year the STC imported goods worth Rs. 2100 crores and exported goods worth Rs. 700 crores. Unfortunately the Government is following the policy of ad hocism in the appointment of Chairman of STC, which should have by now become the major trading

agency of the Government. During the past ten years, there were nine Chairmen, out of whom only four were full time chairmen and the remaining five were part time Chairmen. Even today the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce is the part-time Chairman of STC. How can you ensure effective functioning of STC with a part time Chairman? The Government must implement a policy in having the Chairman of STC so that it contributes to our import-export trade purposefully.

We have also to improve the quality of tea produced in the country. Once upon a time, the Udhagamandalam Tea was having international demand. Now the small tea-estate owners in Udhagamandalam are greatly affected. They are not getting financial assistance from the Replantation Subsidy scheme started in 1968. Upto the end of 1985, during the past 17 years, a sum of Rs. 7.40 crores has been disbursed under this scheme for replantation purposes and about 2960 hectares have been covered so far. This is just like offering sugarcandy to a hungry elephant. Our tea plants are 100 years old and they have to be replanted on war footing. Then only we can improve the quality of our tea.

From each estate owner a sum of 8 paise for a KG of tea is collected as cess by the Tea Board. In 1985-86 a sum of Rs. 5.18 crores has been collected as cess from the tea estate owners. When we utilise this entire sum for the replantation and rejuvenation project, then we will be able to improve our export performance. I want that this effort must be made by the Tea Board.

We do not pay much attention to the problems of estate labour. For export promotion the Tea Board has spent in 1985-86 a sum of Rs. 3.11 crores in foreign currency. For the welfare of tea estate labour and for their housing problem, only a sum of Rs. 34 lakhs have been spent during 1985-86. There are lakhs and lakhs of tea estate workers, whose basic necessities are not being met and who continue

***The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.**

[Shri C.K. Kuppuswamy]

to live in primitive circumstances. How can you expect them to give their best for producing quality tea? The Minister must pay special attention for improving the lot of Tea Estate workers.

Sir, the stagnation of handloom cloth in Tamil Nadu is leading to the destruction of handloom industry. The steep fall in the export of handloom cloth is mainly due to fast changing fashion in garments. Once upon a time the Bleeding Madras was the rage of international fashion. Today nobody wants it. New fashions have come about. If we do not keep up with the changing international fashion, then naturally we will fall back in our garments exports. Tiruppur is known in foreign countries as the town of hosiery products. Before the hosiery products meet the fate of Bleeding Madras, I suggest that a Fashion Research, Design and Development Institute should be set up by the Centre in Tiruppur, so that our products are updated in the fashion world of the day, which will lead to increased export earnings.

Sir, with an outlay of Rs. 8.50 crores, the Export Processing Zone is being set up in NOIDA Industrial Estate, near Delhi, which is of recent origin. I would like to mention here that from Tiruppur and Coimbatore the value of exports is of the order of hundreds of crores. They are industrially advanced towns. Their industrial culture is recognised in many countries of the world. I demand that an export processing zone should be set up between Tiruppur and Coimbatore. I assure the hon. Minister that I will get him the required land for this purpose. Though I have several points to raise, the paucity of time prevents me from taking up the time of the House. Before I conclude, I would demand that imports of unnecessary items should be cut down so that we can save foreign exchange. For example, there should be a statutory ban on the import of synthetic rubber. Similarly, there should be drastic reduction of the imports of petroleum products

on which we have spent last year a sum of Rs. 5500 crores. I understand that if we do spot-purchase of crude oil we will be able to save 20% of our petroleum import Bill. This must be looked into the hon. Minister of Commerce. With these words I conclude.

*SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we are discussing about the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce. While discussing the Demands of this Ministry, we should consider how far this Ministry is helping in the export of agricultural produce and other farm products. Hon. Minister for commerce hails from Andhra Pradesh. He should try to identify the quantity of surplus grains produced in the state and help in exporting it to other countries. Similarly an effort should also be made to export the surplus food grains produced in other parts of the country. The Govt. should explore the possibilities to export our food grains. Similarly Eggs and grapes can also be exported from the country. It might be true that eggs and grapes are already being exported. However these exports have to be streamlined. Sir one egg costs about one rupee at Bombay while the same costs not more than 20 paise in Hyderabad. So there should be a standard rate for eggs and other farm products throughout the country. If the standard rates are not fixed for the farm products, the farmers stand to lose. Already they are suffering very much on this account. Now there is no stability in the prices of farm products. The prices vary year to year. Hence the fixation of standard rates is necessary. Similar is the case with grapes. So the standard prices should be fixed for these products and efforts should be made to export them.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Sir, there is no translation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : May be the interpreter is not there. Therefore, there is no translation.

*The speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government and the State Trading Corporation should take over the trade of agricultural produce of Andhra Pradesh, like cotton, chillies, grapes and products of poultry farming. The farmers engaged in growing these crops are exploited by the middlemen. They are not paid remunerative prices for their produce. Let us take the example of an egg. In Bombay one single egg costs one rupee, but in Hyderabad and adjoining areas the price of the same egg is 30 paise. The middlemen is obviously making profit of seventy paise. This has to be checked. We can also earn foreign exchange through channelisation of this trade.

Again, as the farmers who ought to get the profits, do not get it, so they often have to sell their poultry farms, because they cannot bear the expenses and are reduced to a State of penury. Hence, the farming business has become a sort of gamble.

We all know that the Government exported chillies last year, but the same has not been done this year as well. Therefore, the farmers are suffering loss. In spite of the existence of Cooperative Departments, National Trading Corporation and Trading Corporations in the States, the farmers are forced to sell their produce to the middlemen who exploit the situation. The chilly is being sold at Rs. 600 per quintal, whereas last year its price was Rs. 1500 per quintal. In Bombay the same commodity is selling at Rs. 1200 per quintal. The State Trading Corporation and the Trading Corporation at the State level must rectify this situation and buy the produce themselves. What steps are being taken by the Department of Commerce and by State Trading Corporation in this regard ? The farmers suffer heavy loss due to the discrepancies in sale of their produce. They sell their produce at much cheaper rates than the rate at which the consumers buy it from the market. If the Government does not rectify the situation, the farmers would have to leave their occupation and would take to rickshaw pulling or any such other jobs.

Whether it is chilly, cotton or any other produce, farmers are suffering a great loss and the Commerce Department should help them by procuring their produce.

Again, last year the Government had its control over the sale of cotton. This led to the reduction of prices of cotton in the international market. The Government should allow cotton to be sold in the open market under such situation. The Government should prepare an estimate of the demand of cotton every year in advance. Then it can buy accordingly and grant licence for the remaining cotton to be exported abroad. Sometimes 10 lakh bales are allowed to be exported, sometimes 5 lakh bales are allowed to be exported and yet another time only 5000 bales are permitted for the export and thus, there are wide fluctuations in the amount permitted for export. This results in fluctuations of the cotton prices in the market.

Last year, the Government imported cotton from Pakistan. Some members sitting here may guess the reason for this import. We think that there might be shortage of a particular item and that is why, it is being imported from abroad. Sometimes, the industrialists create artificial shortage and the Government is forced to resort to import and the farmers have to sell their produce at a cheaper rate. This problem must be solved. The Government must prepare in advance an estimate as to how much cotton is produced every year in the country and the total demand of this item in our mills and other areas. Then the Government can import accordingly. Another solution could be to enter into an international treaty on this aspect for a period of five years, but the Government does not seem to agree to this suggestion.

The farmers engaged in growing cash crops like tobacco, jute, sesame etc., are worried. The farmers producing tobacco in Andhra and Jute growers in West Bengal are facing a great difficulty. The Government must lay down a policy with regard to these crops. A minimum price for export must be fixed for these items to prevent exploitation of the farmers. The market or the trade in these crops cannot

[Shri C. Janga Reddy]

be controlled. This leads to the harassment of the farmers. Enough cotton and resame were not available this year in the market. The Government, therefore, should prepare an estimate of the demand for cotton every year in advance. It should then inform the respective States and districts accordingly one year in advance. This will help the farmers. But as this is not being done, the farmers are not being benefited.

I would like to draw your attention to another matter and that relates to the trade in leather goods. If the leather is dyed, then it is taxed. But if it is only cleaned with black salt, it is duty-free. If it is coloured, there is duty on it. If a coat is made out of it then it is duty-free. Yet if it is dyed in colour, it becomes a finished product and export duty is imposed on it. The Government should remove such disparities. Either duty should be imposed on all varieties of leather goods or all of them should be duty free.

Our Textiles Minister is not present in the House. The Department of Commerce must inform him about the proceedings. We have plenty of cotton in our country, but we import polyester cloth. We have plenty of rayon in our country. But we are importing rayon for the last one year. In fact we have 2.25 lakh tonnes of indigenous rayon produced from our plants. We need 1.75 lakh tonnes of polyester and we produce more than our demand. Yet we import polyester yarn after reducing 30 per cent import duty. We have a A.P. Rayon Pulp Factory in Andhra Pradesh. Its produce is not being sold in the market and as a result, the plant is closed since September 1985. Nearly three thousand workers of this plant are out of employment. We should not import the cloth that can be manufactured here. We should attempt at reducing our imports to the extent possible in the case of raw materials as well as finished products.

We have such Plastic industries in our country which manufacture plastic products. Yet the workers of these industries are out of work. This is because we do not make full use of our industrial

or agricultural produce. A permanent policy must be formulated in this regard. This policy must take into account the demands of the internal market and the amount that can be exported. This policy should be binding for five years and it should not be modified within this period so that producers may not be harmed.

[English]

SHRI G.L. DOGRA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Commerce towards a few issues. I have had the chance of visiting some foreign countries and had also occasions of seeing our embassies and missions there.

So far as the staff for promotion of our experts is concerned, normally it is very small. There is one Secretary in charge of Commerce, who also has to perform certain other functions also. His job is to gather trade intelligence and to pass on the same as also to help those people who visit that country for selling their goods. Therefore, if we are actually interested to see that foreign trade progresses and, our exports are boosted up, we must have sufficient staff in our missions so that they can help all those people who want to do foreign trade.

This is a very complicated department, which has to handle very delicate policy matters. If the Government place more stress on modernization, probably our imports will exceed exports, and if we lay more stress on exports, probably policies of many other countries will come in our way. Unless we have a complete marketing intelligence and unless we know which country needs what, we may not be able to achieve what we want. Naturally, there should be somebody to feed us and our intelligence must be most up-to-date. As far as I am aware, we do not have adequate machinery for gathering the intelligence and make it available to those who require it to plan their trade.

It is true that certain goods which involve too much of labour are exported to those countries where labour is very short and, therefore, we export those

things, which are half-wrought, or semi-finished, and they, in turn, use them in their own products. But for how long shall we be able to do it? Our cost of living is increasing in India and the labour will also become dearer. Will those things remain marketable at that time? And then, there are our competitors in South-East Asia and other countries who are also progressing and competing us. Even they have started competing us in some of the textile markets.

We are not completely following the policy of self-reliance for edible oil. We are unnecessarily importing it. We could gradually reduce it; not very gradually, but by and large, we could reduce it with reasonable speed; we could grow more oil seeds in our country and we could take the nation into confidence in reducing imports. We should not import those things without which we can do, or which could be produced in our country or we should lay stress on that.

I think, there is something wrong with our planning. These things require to be regulated properly. So far as the oil seed crops are concerned, these could be raised within three to four months; these could be raised in various parts of the country and in various seasons.

Therefore, we should be self-reliant so far as edible oil is concerned. But we have not made any efforts in this direction. Another thing to which I would like to draw your attention is that our Constitution recognises three sectors, viz. private sector, public sector and cooperative sector. But so far as our Commerce Ministry is concerned, cooperative sector, I find, is not recognised absolutely and practically. There is a tradition that cooperatives of one country deal with the cooperatives of other countries on a barter basis. They get a particular thing and give the others things which they can spare. If we can deal with those countries from which we import things on this basis and if this cooperative sector is thus helped, I think probably we can save a lot of foreign exchange and our balance of trade position will be much more favourable. But this sort of negligence cannot be excused. Whenever somebody draws the

attention towards this matter, it is always ignored. I hope the Commerce Minister will be able to take all the cooperative organisations into confidence and appoint a panel which can make a study to see as to how we can import and export things on barter system. So far as our balance of trade is concerned, I hope that it would help to reduce the unfavourable position to a great extent.

We should also be able to organise our foreign trade in such a way that small scale industry is helped. This morning this House expressed a feeling that the small scale industries are not being treated properly, though a lot of industries are being supported by the Department of Industries. These small scale industries are harshly treated by the Excise Department. The policy that is being pursued for the last three years is anti small scale industries. There was a limit of Rs. 30 lakhs so far as the produce is concerned for excise free status. It was brought down to Rs. 20 lakhs and now it is brought down to Rs. 7 lakhs and the registration limit is only Rs. 5 lakhs. If you see the price hike, this amount of Rs. 5 lakhs is equal to Rs. 1 lakh at the price level prevailing three years ago. So, this has got to be looked into. This again shows that different Ministries are not coordinating their work with each other. The purpose of all beneficial activities is thus defeated. What is done by one Department is undone by the other. Therefore, this aspect has also to be looked into.

I would like to say something about the production of tea and coffee and their area of produce. Tea was in short supply two years ago. Even now it is in short supply. Now, the area for tea production should be extended and somebody should look into it. I think that our Agriculture Universities can do a lot in this direction. The same applies to coffee also. Other countries have been exporting fruit, vegetables and other agricultural produce. We are not looking into it.

Coming to my own State, we are exporters of handicrafts and mainly carpets. Because of the high quality of the Kashmiri carpets, we were having a large market. Now the conditions in the

[Shri G. L. Dogra]

international market have changed and a slightly different quality is now acceptable to the market. There is nobody to guide the people. Our Commerce Ministry has not been able to guide the people who were producing superior carpets for which they would not find a market. What is the use of having these Ministries if they cannot guide the people properly at proper time? So, this sort of intelligence, market survey and supply of information are absolutely necessary.

The warehousing facilities abroad are another thing expected from the Government. They should supply these facilities in foreign countries so that people could keep their things there, and supply them whenever the situation is favourable.

14.56 hrs.

[MR. VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN
in the Chair]

The Minister is also handling Civil Supplies. There is now a glut of wheat, and of paddy. But they have the same old restrictions on flour mills and rice husking mills. We do not enable people in farflung areas having flour mills to supply good things to the consumers at cheap prices. Wheat and paddy are rotting without storage facilities. If you allow them to lift them and take them to farflung places, definitely, they will find their own accommodation for storage. The facilities are there, but restrictions are kept by the bureaucracy, because these restrictions pay them. So, in the interests of the consumers, those restrictions should be waived. It was a different thing when there was shortage of foodgrains; but when there is an abundance of wheat and paddy, all these restrictions should be removed. The more the restrictions you keep, the more the unhealthy reaction that you create. So, I again request the hon. Minister to remove all those restrictions. It will generate employment, increase consumption and generate storage facilities for supplying wheat, *atta* and rice.

I thank you for permitting me to say these few words, although the time restrictions follow whenever I come to speak.

[Translation]

*SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1986-87. Every year our country is exporting and importing goods worth several crores of rupees. I am not happy about the policy of export and import because the imports are on the increase day by day. The farmers are the worst hit on account of the increase in the imports.

I regret to state that huge quantity of palm oil is being imported. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are a member of the Coconut Board and you know about this. About 15,000 tonnes of palm oil is being given to the State of Kerala alone. This has resulted in a sharp decline in the coconut price. On account of this the price of a coconut came down to rupee one only. The palm oil import has benefitted the merchants and businessmen. Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Commerce to stop the import of palm oil. The import of palm oil has affected the ground nut growers in the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. The farmers are not getting even four hundred rupees per quintal. I hope that he would reduce it at least by 50%.

Textiles play a vital role in our exports. Readymade garments should be exported. The growers of cotton should get remunerative prices. All encouragement should be extended to the cotton growers to increase the export of cotton garments.

15.00 hrs.

Once upon a time Indian silk dominated the international market. However, today we have lost our pre-eminence in world silk trade. Karnataka State produces about 80% of silk produced in the country.

*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

In spite of this we continue to import silk from China and other countries. I feel ashamed of this state of affairs. In fact it is humiliating not only to the State of Karnataka but the whole country. I plead with the Minister to take immediate steps to stop the import of silk, cardamom, pepper, cloves and other spices abundantly. Unfortunately the State Trading Corporation is not at all helping the growers of the spices. Consequently merchants and middle men are exploiting the situation.

We are exporting huge quantities of ores and finished products. This has to be stopped once and for all. We should export pellets and finished products and not ores. Similarly granite stone is available in our country, especially in Karnataka. We are exporting it from Mangalore port. Instead if we export polished granite stones we will get good foreign exchange. In this matter the middle men and traders should not be allowed to influence the policy of the Government.

Gems, pearls rubies and other precious stones are available in Pavagada in my constituency. Private traders should not be allowed to export these precious materials. Industrial units should be established in Pavagada to cut and process these precious stones before they are exported to other countries.

Channaptna, in my States is very popular for handicrafts. STC should play an important and responsible role to encourage handicraft age and to increase their exports. As my colleague Shri Nanje Gowda has stated earlier the merchants and bureaucrats join hands in manipulating imports. This has to be put to an end. Import of electronic goods from Japan should also be stopped.

Sufficient woollen cloth is being produced in our country. The Government should provide subsidy to encourage export of woollen cloth.

Our country has sea coast of thousands of Kms. We have rich wealth of marine products. Modernisation of fishing boats is essential to explore this wealth. Coconut powder and its products are in great demand in the USSR. Some unscrupulous

persons are adulterating these products. This has to be checked and only quality products should be exported.

Mango, guava, spota, apple and various other fruits are grown in our country, but there are no proper processing units. The growers are not getting remunerative prices. Therefore, processing units and cold storages have to be established throughout the country. Proper preservation, quality processing and packing will help our exports to earn more foreign exchange.

Plastic industry also has a bright future in our country. Hence the Govt. should be liberal in taxing the plastic goods. Financial help should be extended to flower culture also through corporations.

I request the hon. Minister to give subsidy and loans to the ground nut growers. The import of 80% of oil should be stopped immediately. The hon Minister is an expert in this field and therefore I hope he would do the needful in encouraging our farmers and in boosting our economy through increased exports.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Reading the annual report of the Ministry of Commerce for 1985-86 I am reminded of a famous Bengali poem which says "NAKER BADALE NORUM PELUM, TAK DUMA DUM DUM". For your benefit I will translate it in English—Gained a nail-cutter in exchange of the nose, hurrah, hurrah!

The net effect of the Government's much trumpeted export-import policy, supposed to be one of the stepping stones to India's march towards the 21st century, to say the least, has proved disastrous.

Along with the sweet bouquets for the Prime Minister in Washington, USA has cut down India's exports in April-Septem-

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

ber, 1985 by 22.6 per cent compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. In the same period, the import from USA has gone up by 40.1 per cent compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

With all their craze for western multinational technology, the Government have witnessed India's export to West European countries going down by 20.8 per cent in April-September 85 compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, whereas the imports from the same countries going up by 24.8 per cent in the same period.

With another capitalist friend Japan, the export in the same period has gone down marginally whereas the import from her increased by 29.7 per cent in the same period.

With all these spectacular 'achievements', it is no wonder that India's trade gap in this period, that is April-September 1985, sharply rose to Rs. 4,124 crores compared to Rs. 2,290.58 crores in the same period of the previous year, that is, nearly double—a quantum jump indeed. The results for the next six months are yet to come. Some unofficial statements say that it may exceed Rs. 6,000 crores. That will be really a befitting hat-trick.

But for the other world, that is, the socialist world, it might have been worse. In April-September, 1985, our exports to East-European countries increased by 21.6 per cent compared to the corresponding period of last year, though our imports from the same countries for the same period increased by 12.9 per cent only. Among these, our exports to Soviet Union were higher by 24.9 per cent in the same period and imports were higher only by 11.3 per cent, and that too in non-convertible Indian rupee trade. It should also be remembered that manufactured items account for more than 60 per cent of India's exports to USSR.

This picture also truly reflects the attitudes of the two opposing world systems of capitalism, or here imperialism, and

socialism towards newly developing countries. Those who are for so-called equidistance should take an object lesson from this.

Now the question arises was this huge trade gap inevitable? No doubt, the crisis in the world capitalist system, which again is inherent in it, is at the root of the decline of our exports to these countries. In order to shift the burden of their crisis on our shoulder, the regimes in USA, Canada, West Europe, Japan etc. imposed import restriction, embargo, etc. for countries like us. It is a known fact though not always remembered by everyone. But another thing is also equally known that they try to dump their goods along with their not-always-the-best technology in countries like us for the same purpose. Through the new import policy, the Government of India has fallen for that with hook, line and sinker. Otherwise this position was not inevitable.

How relevant were the imports for our country, for her self-reliant development? Let us examine a few cases. Under the liberal licensing policy, we are now importing such manufactures as steel structurals, chemicals, industrial fasteners and even egg powder!

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Even lipstick they are importing.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
May be. Were all these essentially needed for our economy? We are importing a host of producers goods. With what effect on our own public sector? The Heavy Engineering Corporation is capable of producing all the machinery and equipment necessary to set up a million-tonne steel plant every year. While it is starved of orders, the Government of India is thinking of handing over Rs. 400 crores 'modernisation' plan of Indian Iron & Steel Company at Burnpur to Japan. It is said that Soviets take outmoded products of Ranchi. It is they who would place the orders and keep the Heavy Engineering Corporation going because they can manage with outmoded technology. They can afford it. But, Sir, is it not a fact that the Japanese, the Americans and the West Germans turn to the Soviet Union for

many of the latest technology in metallurgy? Similarly, take the case of BHEL, another public sector undertaking. BHEL is supposed to be good enough for effective functioning for other countries outside India. But for our own country the Government have considered it necessary to ask Britain for two 500 MW new sets for the Rihand project and 30 more sets ranging from 2 to 180 MW capacity from other countries including Canada and Australia. Was it all necessary? Was it not against the express warning of the Public Undertakings Committee? I wish to point out another thing. Our own R&D achievements are given cold-shoulder by bureaucrats with the blessings from the Ministers I believe.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Of course. Don't blame the bureaucrats; Ministers also are guilty.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : It is clear. Sir, the notorious attempt to allow American Hemlock Company to set up the National Silicon Facility at Baroda despite the brilliant break-through in Silicon technology made by our own scientists is a case in point. Due to tremendous furore in the country, a Committee was set up to review the case which was to deliver its report in March this year. One would like to know the final outcome of the Committee. I understand that Prime Minister is to take a final decision. Sir, the facts are all well-known. Plethora of such examples are there but shortage of time does not allow me to go into those. There are examples galore in respect of many of these things. Our own R&D achievements were not taken into consideration. I would now like to make a few points with regard to our jute industry. It has been stated in the Report that jute export is declining. It has also been stated how the Government have increased the Cash compensatory support and arranged for 50 : 50 loss sharing basis between STC and Jute industry for boosting exports of carpet backing cloth to North America. But may I know when jute is one of the biggest export earners of the country (despite all the antics of the jute barons) why three multinationals HOECHST, ICI, Union Carbide and one monopoly, Mafatlal, have been allowed 18 lakh tonnes of

licensed capacity for producing synthetic granules of which already 2 lakh tonnes are being produced and putting the jute industry in great trouble? Obviously it is done to create trouble for the jute industry. No doubt the jute barons are exaggerating their crisis to justify their contemplated closing down of at least 12 or 13 mills thus rendering lakhs of workers jobless. But the competition of HDP bags made of these granules is an element in this crisis. Since the Grant relating to Textiles Ministry is to be guillotined this year I hope we will have the opportunity to discuss the serious situation in the jute industry in some other way. So I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this point. He must do whatever he can to see that this granules import is stopped. This import is not at all necessary when our fibres are there. Please for Heaven's sake do not put 1/2 lakh jute workers and 10 lakhs of jute growers in difficulty. The support price fixed for jute growers is insignificant. It is deplorable. That must be upgraded and the price must be revised substantially.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat. Time is over.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I am concluding. My last point is this. Now, Sir apart from the granules...

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : More time should be given to her. Congress people are also supporting.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I fully support. I will not speak, my time may be given to her.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Thank you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Don't spoil her case.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Apart from the granules to be stopped, the F.C.I. and the Cement Corporation and other public undertakings which are now using mostly the HDP bags instead of jute bags should be asked not to do so.

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

I will not repeat about sugar, coffee, cardamom and tea. Of course, they are all very important.

In order to reduce our trade gap what is most needed is :

- (1) A determined fight for New International Economic Order, including determined fight against rapacious trade practices of imperialist countries.
- (2) Change of the present liberal import policy.
- (3) Much wider trade relations with socialist countries.
- (4) Extension of mutually advantageous trade with other developing countries.

The Government must give a fresh look into all these; otherwise the country will face a far more serious situation.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : And the change of the present Government.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce. All these year it is observed that the concentration is more on exporting the raw materials which are abundantly available in this country and importing the finished products. But if we were to concentrate on human resources, which are in abundance in the country and train them properly both here and in the countries where such particular technology is very high, through their skills, we can make raw material into finished product, and then export it to a country—either to a developing or to a Third-World country. That way we can earn more and more foreign exchange, and we can also reduce the trade gap. The policy perhaps should be to avoid the trade gap to almost zero. We can certainly afford to restrict our imports to the unavoidable items or the high technology. Really I cannot understand the wisdom of the Government when we hear several time in the House about the

import of items like sugar, edible oil, fertilisers, gas cylinders etc. which could have been comfortably manufactured in our own country, if only a remunerative price is given either to the industrialists or to the producer concerned. By importing these items not only we are losing the foreign exchange but also we are making our own people idle. When the unemployment problem is rampant in this country, instead of importing these items, we can export our human resources as well as the finished products utilising their skills. Export of raw material cannot give as much dividends and foreign exchange as finished product, the value addition is only the human skill, that is, the wealth of this county.

I am very happy the Government of India has come forward last year with a long-term import and export policy keeping it as three years at least, which infuses confidence both in producers as well as traders. In fact it is this trust that is required in the producers as well as traders, which enables them to concentrate on production on a long-term basis. But while liberalising the policy of imports and exports, a careful scrutiny must be made as to what items can be avoided under OGL, or what items can be restricted for import. I suppose a little more scrutiny is required in the Ministry of Commerce and a concerted effort made by the Ministry will certainly reduce our foreign exchange problem. I am also of the opinion that not adequate publicity is being given to the prospect of exports of various items and all these days the export has become the privilege of the urban areas only, or the urban people only. If this were to be known to the villages also, or to the remote corners of the country and if the statistical organisation in this Ministry were to be strengthened and proper guidance is given at regular intervals with statistical support and the prospects of different items in various countries, the farming community as well as of the people in the industry, of this country are wise enough and talented enough to produce such items and avoid import as well as improve exports. Yes, the Government has taken certainly ample measures in promoting the export. This can be done further more and I think, the barter system can also be ado-

pted in this regard by importing high technology and other unavoidable items and adequate equivalent value of exports can be done from this country, if people are properly enlightened in this country.

Since some of the items like tobacco, cotton, chillies which are being kept in the hands of private traders they are causing some disappointment to the producers as they are not allowed to reap the real benefit of this exports. I wish that some of the important items like this can be channelised through STC and if necessary, even the State Governments may also be permitted to have their own organisation for exports, but under the control of the Government of India, in the Ministry of Commerce.

Sir, Exim Bank has been brought into existence and they are doing yeomen service for exports. But the functions can be enlarged and the Exim Bank can improve its activities by having branches even in important cities of various States, by which the local people also come to know what types of facilities, the Government of India is giving through the bank. A good lot of people are not aware of the facilities that they may get from the Government of India.

As regards clearing of the export oriented and import substitution industry, a special effort or a concentration must be made to ensure quick sanctions and financial assistance. All that the industry wants is, cutting down red tapism which is costing almost more than 25% of the product and also loosing valuable time of the community. This can also be saved by putting only a little effort or giving concentration by the Ministry and the officials concerned.

As regards price stability, irrespective of the international price, of various commodities which can be exported from this country, the Ministry must come forward for absorbing these prices or giving a standard price or a rational price so that it can act as a shock absorber to the producers and the exporters. This will enable the producers to concentrate their energy more on increasing the production rather than on the fluctuation in the international

market. This will go a long way, along with giving incentives to them.

Sir, it is a good event that the Ministry has concentrated in bringing free trade zones in various parts of the country as well as export processing zones. When I went into the details, I found that considerable account had been sanctioned for export processing zones and free trade zones. It is good to do so, in the interest of export, but I am sorry to say that the Minister must take care of Andhra also. The Vizag port is one which has got tremendous potential and also have got different commodities to be exported from there. For all these years, the potentialities have not been tapped. Andhra has only farming community based on agriculture and it can extend its activities to exports also depended upon by which it will also increase the national wealth with these free trade zones to be started at Vizag. There are several items including a lot of untapped wealth in the sea, as there is 1,000 km. coast in Andhra, Prawn fishing and even fish catch can be raised in great measures in Andhra Pradesh area. The latest technology available in the farming sector is not put to proper use so far. Therefore, those people who can afford to adopt this technology can rise to the occasion, and help in the nation building if only such small facilities are given to Andhras.

There are several other items in Andhra. Cotton is there in abundance. It can be absorbed every year if only a proper survey or study is made. Any commodity that can find a good market in other countries like cotton, tobacco, chillies and other such products can be raised in Andhra Pradesh particularly in coastal areas or where assured water supply is there. Apart from these, the opportunities for poultry, animal husbandry, dairy products, meat and vegetables are in abundance in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

So, I request the hon. Minister to see that either the Visakhapatnam port is made immediately a free trade zone or some other place is made an export processing zone in Andhra Pradesh. Extensive publicity should be given in Andhra Pradesh about the various items which should be produced and the various items

[Shri K.S. Rao]

which have got prospects of getting good market in other parts of the world.

I wish and trust that under the able guidance of the new Minister Shri P. Shiv Shanker, the Ministry of Commerce will make tremendous strides and prove to be a great success and cover the trade gap very soon.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars) : First of all, I should like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister of Commerce towards the grave economic situation of our country. According to some reports, the inflow of foreign capital during 1984-85 into our country was Rs. 1,000/- crores. On the other hand, the Government and several other people have estimated that about Rs. 90,000 crores of black money is present in our country even though foreign capital is flowing into our country. Foreign collaboration is very much invited and it is forthcoming and the rules have been made very easy.

There is a saying that history repeats itself. In the olden days, it was Shri Sirajuddaula who gave licence to the British East India Company for trade in India. Now we are inviting the foreign nationals and the multi-nationals to our country for trade. The East India Company took over our Government itself and we were subjected to slavery for hundreds of years and we had lost our identity also.

Now our Government is very much thinking of computerisation of everything. The computer is expected to teach everything to students. The students have stopped reading their books. They want the computer just to give them the right answers. Our Government is very much crazy about computer.

In our history; Mohammed Tughlak thought that...

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : About computers ?

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Subject to correction. He wished that the capital of

this country should be somewhere in Daulatabad and he asked the people to move from Delhi to Deogiri. But the people were not ready because they were poor. Now you have asked the people to step into the 21st century ! But the people of the country are not ready. 51% of the population live below the poverty line and 70% are illiterate and you are asking them to step into the 21st century ? So this is the same thing like that King who wanted to change the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad. The experiment was found impossible, so he said, "Let us go back to Delhi because so many troubles have already come up" people said. "We have no money." Then the king said, "why don't you take money from the bank ?" So all the money was given to the people and there was no money left in the treasury. Like-wise you also open the banks and have loan melas. Whether people are wanting loans or not, you are persuading for loans to them. But the Commerce Ministry should think before taking money or giving a loan that the money has to be returned. Knowingly or unknowingly loans are distributed for nothing and the loss is bound to be there. How do you get rid of all these things. That is a thing you have to think of because you have got a very good mandate and the people think that you will be able to put the economy in the right place and improve the economy of the country in general and that the people will have a bright future and can step into the 21st century with other developing countries and even the developed countries themselves.

I come to a very important point which nobody has touched—that is a life saving drug. I want to give a life-saving drug for your economy. Nobody has spoken about it. The tea industry in India is the only profit-making industry and millions of people are employed in it and 55% of them are women. It is a very profitable industry but what is the condition of the tea garden workers. They need at least 6000 metric tonnes of rice every month. We have enough in the godowns of the FCI because the crop is good. But so far as the tea garden people are concerned, it is reported here that the FCI is

not giving them the ration they should get.

Next to tea gardens....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Please don't disturb me. Otherwise the tea garden people will not give you tea at all.

Mrs. Gandhi is also reported to have said—I would like to quote :

“A revised 20 point programme was announced by Prime Minister, the late Mrs Gandhi on 14th January 1982. The object of the programme was, among other things, a speedy improvement in the living conditions of the under-privileged and the working people. Historically and traditionally the tea garden workers belong to the under-privileged class.”

So these under-privileged classes are giving us gold, they are trying to lift you up from the darkness of your economy which is in doldrums. But these people are very illiterate. The percentage of literacy among the tea garden workers is 0.2%. They are hard-working people. For these people at least education, health care and other facilities should be provided. Because they are helping the country, the country should come forward to help them also. These tea gardens need special nourishment. Because these tea companies and tea garden workers have specially come forward for the help of the nation and for the help of the Commerce Ministry, because tea has become the life-saving drug for the Indian economy. I would once again draw the attention of the Commerce Minister that he should go through the entire matter pertaining to tea industry. I should like to mention to the Commerce Minister about the tea industry and its improvement also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Sir, if you could allow me some time I will explain

everything about the tea industry and the foreign exchange earnings. Our people should get prosperity. Before I conclude. I would like to say one thing i.e. our economy as a whole, is in a very bad shape. You must have deep thinking. You should not go by what the computer is saying. Computer figures will be misleading the Government.

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH (Nellore): Sir, political independence is meaningless without economic independence. It is not surprising that many nations quite often lose their identity just because they are not economically independent. Hence, vitality of any nation invariably depends on the commercial activity of the nation. Many nations which emerged independent are now developed countries, while we still remain developing country. True, every nation cannot be a Japan or Germany who could build such a strong nation out of ruins suffered during the Second World War, yet there are countries like Brazil which are quite in an advanced stage. It is 38 years since we have become independent. What is our position in international trade. The record is very poor. Our share in the world trade has been going down. India is losing ground in the world market. In 1960s, India's exports accounted for 1.1 per cent of the world export. By the year 1984, our share has gone down to 0.5 per cent. It clearly shows that we are losing our market in the world. The Government may blow its own trumpet by saying that we are now in a position to export diversified products ranging from traditional items to the most sophisticated engineering items. It appears that the Government have become complacent of our limited technological developments. If we keep in mind our vast resources, our technical manpower, the size and position in international affairs, then what we have been able to achieve in the past is far from satisfactory. During the last 25 years, our foreign trade has been in the red. Our imports are out-running exports by sizable margins, more so, in the recent years. Imports have been going up while our exports are falling down. In the first 5 months of 1985-86, our exports declined to Rs. 3763 crores from Rs. 4413 crores or by 15 per cent during the corresponding

[Shri P. Penchalliah]

period last year. During the same period, the imports went up from Rs. 6520 crores to Rs. 7566 crores. It is a massive 16 per cent increase in import. This Government is more interested in imports rather than exports.

Even the simplest items which can be manufactured in the country are now being imported. More and more items are being brought under OGL. Sir, instead of encouraging small scale industries in the country, the Government is virtually killing them. Due to the indiscriminate imports, many small scale industries are on the verge of collapse. Entrepreneurs are disappointed. Hence in order to avoid the mounting trade deficit the Government should stop importing indiscriminately. Entrepreneurs should be encouraged to produce items to substitute imports.

Sir, there is no dearth of natural resources in the country. We are blessed with a long coastal line. Marine wealth can be exploited with small investment. We quite often come across the news about foreign trawlers pouching in our own waters. Efforts should be made to exploit and export marine products like fish.

In Andhra Pradesh we have a very long coastal line. By encouraging the fishermen by offering incentives we can export fish and other products and can earn more foreign exchange. These fishermen are now leading a miserable life and are being exploited by the middlemen. Hence the Government should purchase the fish direct from the fishermen and export them. Also by extending financial assistance to these fishermen, the Government can boost our marine products exports.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH : Similarly, Sir, we can earn a lot by exporting minerals like Mica. All these years we have been concentrating in the export of iron

ore only. Now the time has come to export other minerals as well. Mica is abundantly available in Andhra Pradesh and especially in Nellore. It is in the hands of contractors who are exploiting the poor workers small and middle class traders. After the introduction of Mica Trading Corporation many of the mines were already closed. Many more mines are now pulling their shutters down. The whole Mica trade is facing a crisis.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given you sufficient time. In fact, your Party was not having so much time. Please conclude

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH : When the traders get foreign orders, out of it 50% of the orders should be given to MITCO. Then what is the use of the existence of MITCO? If the MITCO is completely removed from the field, then only can the Mica trade be saved. Hence the Government should come forward and rescue the mica trade. Not only it will save thousands of workers from starvation, it will also help the Government to earn a lot of foreign exchange by MICA export.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat.

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH : Sir, efforts should be made to encourage export of more and more traditional goods which can also generate employment. There are many artisans, handloom workers who can produce items which can very easily find customers in international markets.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing else will go on record if you don't resume your seat.

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not being recorded. (Interruptions) You are wasting the time. It is not being recorded. Please resume your seat. (Interruptions). In fact your Party was having only three minutes, but I gave you more time.

(Interruptions)... Please resume your seat. I cannot allow you to read everything you have prepared. It is not being recorded.

(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I would like to profusely thank all the hon. Members who have participated in the debate and made very valuable suggestions. Many of them have undoubtedly made suggestions which cannot be brushed aside so easily. I do appreciate the concern of many of the hon. Members on the question of the trade gap.

Sir, while I will go into the details immediately, myself and my Ministry are also equally concerned with the trade gap that has come to exist in our economy. The performance of my Ministry necessarily depends on the industrial climate inside and outside the country, competitiveness in the international market, the quality of goods and also one of the factors that has developed for some time and which has been creating quite a bit of anxiety is the attitude of protectionism that is displayed by the developed countries. All these factors have to be reckoned when you go to assess the performance of the Commerce Ministry.

Sir, hon. Members, as I said earlier, were rightly agitated on the question of trade gap. Some of the hon. Members have given certain figures which I would like to immediately advert to, but I would not like to unduly cover up what could not be covered. I take this opportunity to make an appeal to the industrialists and all those who are concerned with them help the country in tiding over this difficulty of the trade gap. I am appealing to the patriotic sentiments of the industrialists, agriculturists and so on that they must intensify their activity towards exports so that in the long run the nation's economy does not get jeopardised

in any form. I am making this appeal not from the point of view of my party or any such type. If the nation exists we will exist. I am really worried about the trade gap that has been developing. Of course, some hon. Members have already said that the trade gap is likely to be around or a little more than Rs. 6000 crores.

I am conceiving of a little much worse a situation. In my own thinking, perhaps, we might go even to the extent of Rs. 9000** crores gap. I can't withhold this figure because this is my estimation on the basis of the discussions that I had been having and it is all the more necessary, in this background, that the nation and particularly those who are connected with the trade, industry, agriculture and every conceivable aspect, goes to help and strengthen our trade with foreign countries and they will have to come out to help us and it requires a faster growth as well. After making my submission on this broad parameter, I would straightway like to advert myself to square up the aspects which had been very candidly adverted to by various Members. Some of the hon. Members had gone to the extent of saying that we had been losing world market. I do not think that that is a correct perspective in which they had been looking. In fact, I am of the view that it is not a very dismal picture that was sought to be presented by some of the hon. Members. We have done well. While complimenting our trade, our industry, our agriculturists and my own Department for having done something good, I am also conscious of the infirmities and the drawbacks that exist in the system and the shortcomings that have percolated. Not that I am unmindful of that, but in spite of that, what I expect is a better performance. Performance had been good. It could be made better and from better to the best and I am sure that all of our concern would make our India to see that we succeed in this venture. Some of the hon. Members have quoted some figures. For example, two hon. Members

*Not recorded.

**Later corrected to Rs. 7000/- crores vide p. 14590.

[Shri P. Shiv Shanker]

including the last speaker have tried to put forth that we have been losing the world market.

Sir, very rightly, it was said that in 1950, our share in the world trade was 2%. In 1960, it came down to 1.04%. In 1970, it further came down to 0.65% and in 1980 it came down to 0.42%. But then the point is that the hon. Members forgot the phenomenal expansion in world trade over this time. I would request the hon. Members to look at it from this broad parameter angle and if you kindly look at it, you will find that the position in 1960 was that the volume of world trade was 1,28,250 million US dollars and this was at a time when our percentage of share was 1.04%. When it came to 1970, our percentage of trade has slipped down, as they have very rightly said, to 0.65%.

16.00 hrs.

But then the world volume of foreign trade, which has grown, is 314111 million dollars. (*Interruptions*). I said that in a decade, the world trade has risen more than three times. That is why our percentage has become less. But when we come to 1980, it is 20,01,551 million US dollars, which would be practically around six to seven times more as compared to the volume of world trade in 1970. That has forced us to slip down further and it has come to 0.42 per cent. Therefore, when you try to criticize the working of my Ministry from the point of view of the share of the world trade, you kindly also take into consideration the phenomenal expansion that has taken place from time to time.

16.02 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

I must also bring to the notice of the hon. Members that the target for 1985-86—our performance should be judged from this angle also—was fixed at Rs. 11,736 crores and I must say that since the target was fixed, there has been a wide gap in

certain respects, particularly the export of the crude and the petroleum. If you kindly go into the 1984-85, more than Rs. 1500 crores worth of crude was exported. This time there is no such possibility. But nonetheless, the target that was fixed was Rs. 11736 crores and what is likely to be achieved is Rs. 11525.6 crores. The only difference, I am finding, is that we will not be achieving the target; the target will fall short by about Rs. 200 crores. But that is not a bad performance; it is a good performance. But we could improve a lot, as I said.

If you kindly look into the past years, I do not have the figures too far enough, but I have the figures from 1980 onwards. For the years 1979-80 the exports were of the order of :

1979-80	—	Rs. 6418.43 crores
1980-81	—	Rs. 6710.71 crores
1981-82	—	Rs. 7805.91 crores
1982-83	—	Rs. 8803.31 crores
1983-84	—	Rs. 9872.10 crores
1984-85	—	Rs. 11,656.93 crores.

Now if you kindly look up from this angle, every year there had been a little progress, except I must frankly confess, this year now it is coming to Rs. 11,525.6 crores as expected, and compared to last year, i.e. 1984-85 which stands at Rs. 11,656.93 crores, it has declined. I have also tried to explain that this visible gap this year (when we feel that it is lesser compared to 1984-85) is for the simple reason that crude which was exported for more than Rs. 1500 crores was reckoned in 1984-85 and this year it is hardly Rs. 140 crores. Now this makes a very big gap and if you take out this item of crude then it is a case of very good performance. But, taking into consideration the vast needs of our country and taking into consideration the hopes and aspirations of our people, certainly this is nothing. But then, we have got to progress. Though the economic policy which are had been pursuing is very sound, it appears nonetheless, a quantum jump is not possible.

I have taken pains to explain all these details only to make a submission that it is not as though the performance is dismal. The performance is good, but a lot will have to be done and that is precisely why I have appealed to the patriotic sentiments of the different segments of the society so that in the long run we may not suffer any setback whatsoever.

I would now come to the position of April-September 1985. Very rightly, many of the hon. members were exercised over it. They had quoted figures and very correctly too. But I would like to assign some reasons. If I am not able to assign any rational basis for the figures, then I assure the hon. members that I would openly confess the mistakes. I can put forth before the hon. members the realities of the situation as to what difficulties we are facing, etc. After all we suffer resource constraints as well. When the budget is reckoned, it has got to take into consideration various other schemes where the expenditure is absolutely essential, be it Defence or Energy or other sectors. Within the constraints of the resources, I feel that our performance had not been bad. If you look up the April-September 1985 in the year 1985-86, our exports have already been brought up to the tune of Rs. 5017 crores as compared to Rs. 5054 crores in the corresponding period of 1984-85. I would like to submit the reasons for the decline: (a) crude oil and sugar are not being exported; (a) lower unit value of tea, jute goods, castor oil and cardamom; (c) lower shrimp catch on the West Coast; (d) problem in export of groundnut oil meal due to aflatoxin standards; and (e) lower performance of the engineering sector. These are the various reasons as a result of which perhaps the performance could not have been better, which could have been expected. In fact, I have already submitted it, and even at the cost of repetition I must say that last year, the exports of crude by themselves were more than Rs. 1500 crores, which makes a tremendous difference, in my submission. Then, when it comes to the question of imports, within the same period, about half the increase in imports is due to increase in the import of bulk commodities like fertilizer and so on.

There is an increase in the import of machinery and equipment reflecting higher investment and economic activity. Hon. Members did observe that this increase in imports is because of the liberal import policy that had been carved out. I must submit that that is not entirely correct. I have already brought to your kind notice that there had been quite a good increase in the import of bulk commodities; and it is true that there has also been an increase in the import of machinery and equipment. I must submit that Government of India has liberalized imports where it comes to the question of machinery and equipment. If it is a question of bettering the economic prospects of the people, i.e. if this machinery is imported and the manufacturing process accelerates, then naturally the economic life of the people would also become better. That is one aspect of the matter. The second aspect of the matter is: a lot of concessions have been given with reference to the import of machinery and equipment, if that machinery and equipment are to be utilized for the purpose of manufacturing goods which have to be exported—because naturally, the impetus will have to be given. Because of the thrust that has been given for this type of an activity, and the policy that has been framed for the purpose, naturally a little bit of more import has become absolutely inevitable. Assuming for a moment that we do not import the machinery which enables us to manufacture the various goods either for the purpose of internal consumption or for exports, then the net result would be that the country would not grow. The country's economic prospects will become dim. They get blurred. That is precisely why this action has to be taken. I quite concede the point that we are not in a position to take quantum jumps. We have to, because the situation demands it. But the misfortune is the constraint in resources, as I have tried to put it. You have got to cut the coat according to the cloth. There seems to be no other way out. In fact, the performance could have been much better. For example, some of the hon. Members were referring to rubber. I am giving an example, more to illustrate the point that I was trying to make. The position was that in the

[Shri P. Shiv Shanker]

7th five year Plan, what has been allocated to the rubber industry is Rs. 53 crores. This year we are importing rubber to the tune of Rs. 38 crores, and it is to progressively increase; and when it comes to the question of 2000 A.D., I fear that we will have to import rubber to the tune of Rs. 100 crores a year. Now the position is that while we are going into the detail, I found that if Rs. 100 crores could be spent in the Seventh Five Year Plan, we would be able to become self-sufficient by the end of 2000. Now, therefore, I have made a special request to the Prime Minister; I said, notwithstanding the constraint of the resources—now it is a very small gap of Rs. 47 crores—if this amount could be made available perhaps progressively, this year, Rs. 38 crores worth of rubber has been imported; next year it will be a little higher and so on; finally, when it comes to 2000, it is Rs. 100 crores. So, if you look to what amount we would have spent in foreign exchange for the purpose of importing rubber over the years, the expenditure of Rs. 47 crores is nothing, though, of course, it will yield the result only when it comes to the end of the century. But the Prime Minister has been very pleased; he said, yes, we will look into it; something has to be done. If there are small anomalies, etc. remaining, we are trying to bridge the gap. But, then the point is, the whole difficulty is the resource constraint; and my colleague, the Finance Minister has his own constraint when he has to allocate the amount to the various departments. Our ambition will be too much. There is no doubt when it comes to the question of, I mean, asking; we go with a very big bowl. But, then the point he has got is to divide the national cake according to the various exigencies which he himself confronts. So, that is the situation which I thought that I should present before the hon. members.

In the first half of 1985-86, we have done well in certain export items like marine product, fruits and vegetables, cashew kernel, rice, iron ore, manganese ore, hand-made carpet, machinery and transporting equipment, leather and leather goods, gems and jewellery.

But when it comes to the question of tea, sugar, oil cake, spices, petroleum products, there has been a decline for the reasons which I have already assigned. Now, because of this state of affairs, the Government of India has been pursuing a policy, a policy which should ultimately enable us to strengthen the export. We have been trying to adopt a policy, which would generate investment in the expansion of sectors having export potential. We have been making the effort to improve the quality and competitiveness of the export products and to make export profitable. We have been making the effort to secure improvement in the functioning of the infrastructure, which is becoming one of the major constraints in our export effort.

A rationalisation has been admitted in the promotional efforts abroad in the multi-lateral forms. Effort has consistently been made to promote and to defend India's interest in trade policy issues as well as to maintain access to our goods. These are the broad parameters of the policy which we have been trying to pursue so that in the ultimate analysis the export trade grows and grows by leaps and bounds.

In the Finance Act of 1985, 50 per cent of the profit attributable to exports was sought to be retained by the business, only with a view that they participate more actively in the efforts as to the exports. The Reserve Bank of India has accepted and notified the availability of pre-shipment credit for all export commodities at a concessional rate of 12 per cent interest for a period of 180 days, which would meet one of the long standing requirements of the export sector. I am only trying to bring to the notice of the hon. Members various measures that have been taken so that they could judge by themselves the performance of the Ministry. As I said, I am not saying that everything is perfect. But within the constraints of the resources and the infirmities which we have to face, we have been trying to do our best. That is the only case I am putting before the hon. Members. I am not pitching my case too high. I am only bringing to the notice of the hon. Members to judge us in the background of the

submissions that I am making on diverse aspects.

Import duties have been got reduced on a large number of capital goods required for manufacture of garments, leather goods, on diamond cutting and polishing tools, equipment for marine products, etc. for encouraging investment which will improve the quality of our products, their finish and productivity. Export duties have been abolished on iron-ore and tobacco. The cash compensatory support scheme is completely being recast to cover indirect taxes on inputs for export manufacture and not only the final product. Special consideration will be given to agricultural sector and handicrafts in the operation of the scheme. The duty drawback procedures are being very considerably simplified. A decision has been taken in principle to transfer this work also to the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, who is operating the CCS scheme.

The Ministry this year has processed two major reports. In facts, some of the hon. Members have made a reference to one of the reports. Both these reports pertain to the trade policy. One is the report of the Abid Hussain Committee, from which some of the hon. Members have quoted. The other is the perspective planning and strategies for export of engineering products. That was the Committee headed by the then Heavy Industry Secretary, Mr. Kapur. Most of the recommendations, so far as Government of India is concerned, have been accepted. A large number of them have been implemented. A few of them are under consideration. In fact, some of the items that I have already referred to about the measures that have been taken are the reflection of the action that has already been taken by the Government of India from time to time. In fact, hon. Members are aware that three-year import policy has been introduced. Of course, that does not mean that peripheral changes here and there, if need be, would not be made. But this policy was enunciated so that it gives stability to the imports and exports and provides an impetus to those who are involved in the export activity. It is precisely for this reason

that a long term policy for three years has been envisioned. This was done in the larger interest of the society. It is not as though that to benefit a particular segment of the society. But it was felt that this policy would enable the export to grow and also in the long run help the society from getting over the morass of the economic activity in which we are likely to fall if we do not take quicker look and accelerate our exports. The pass-book scheme was also introduced to facilitate access to importable inputs duty-free for export production on a programme basis. Abolition of certain categories of licences and a shift in certain areas to regulation through import duties rather than physical controls has been resorted to so that this approach of ours also enables the acceleration in the trading activity. The recommendations of the Committee have also been implemented with regard to the canalisation policy for imports. In fact, we have taken lot of measures with reference to the thrust sectors. Fourteen items have been found after careful consideration where perhaps we can make a thrust in the international arena of trade and we could improve our trade in these items and could also get better markets. It is with this view that we thought that we should give some more facilities in respect of these thrust areas. These areas are: the engineering sector, the agricultural sector, the marine products, plantation, gems and jewellery, chemicals, leather and so on. I have got details under each and every sector as to what facilities we have provided but it would be unnecessary for me to go into those details because it would consume quite a lot of time. I must submit that a training and development centre is being established at Jullundur for sport goods. The building for the centre has already been completed.

A major break through has been made in the export of iron-ore with exports of Kudremukh iron-ore to Japan and opening up of new markets in China and Yugoslavia. Encouraged by the response of the industry in the export processing zones at Kandla and Santa Cruz in Bombay, four more such zones are being established at Cochin, Madras, Falta near Calcutta and Noida. The basic infrastruc-

[Shri P. Shiv Shanker]

ture work was completed during the year and the zones at Falta and Madras have become operational. Expansion was undertaken of Santa Cruz zone. Similarly, for hundred per cent export-oriented units, the terms and conditions were improved by reducing the Customs bonding charges, issue of guidelines for sales to the domestic tariff area and for disposal of rejects and waste materials. Some of the hon. Members coming from Andhra Pradesh were pleased to put forth a point that Vishakhapatnam should also be made an export processing zone. In fact, we could not take up this proposal because of the shortage of funds and I am sure that in the coming years, we would be able to do something, I am confident that my colleague, the Finance Minister would come to my rescue and also to the rescue of the hon. Members from Andhra Pradesh particularly, and the nation in general, in seeing that this particular zone is established at Vishakhapatnam...*(Interruption)*.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : And the world at large.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : World at large Professor Sahib, belongs to you, not to me.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Your world is shrinking.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Nonetheless, international connections are yours, not mine.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Commerce Minister has no international connections. We can think of our commerce.

AN HON. MEMBER : He believes in the indigenous exports.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Then, Sir, hon. Members have raised various points. I have broadly made the submission in the policy angle and the various measures that we have been taking. As I said, large number of them have made quite a lot of suggestions. In fact in respect of some of them, I found them to be

highly valuable. Of course it is not possible for me to come to a conclusion right now about those suggestions at this stage. But I assure the hon. Members that my mind will work on it and we will certainly take necessary decisions, which would ultimately help the strengthening of not only the economic life of our country, but also the exports as well. That is why I would not like to dilate on the details of the suggestions that have been made. I would like to confine myself to make a submission that I have noted them and I would certainly look into those suggestions. Various points have been raised by the Members. It is not possible for me to go into each and every thing in great detail. Some of them were highly minor as well. But there are some points which I thought are really material to which I must advert to and bring them to the notice of the honourable House so that if there is anything where we can see through, I would certainly not shirk the responsibility.

At the outset I would like to refer to what has been observed very strongly by Mr. Nanje Gowda. He gave lot of details. Of course, his study of the entire situation from 1979 is really enlightening.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : And an eye-opener.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : It is undoubtedly. It is not possible for me to immediately react to it. Lot of details have been given by him. *Prima facie* I am satisfied that what he has raised seems to be true. Now the question is this. *(Interruption)* I am saying '*prima facie*'...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Except that he has minimised the amount involved.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Wherefrom did you get further information ?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : At that point he was a little hesitant.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I must say that he has said more than what I expected him to say. But the fact of the matter is this, I must frankly confess

this that everything does not appear to be correct with the State of Denmark and something will have to be done. In this particular case I assure the House that I will go into the details.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : But don't hesitate between 'to be' and 'not to be'.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : You please wait. I am saying it. Otherwise it will be an endless thing. I will go into it. I assure the House that I will take whatever action is needed in this regard. We will go fast into the investigation of the facts, we will order enquiry into the whole facts, and if need be, I would not shirk the responsibility to take the extreme action that might be called for under the law.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We only hope you will be there.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Therefore I would not like to say anything further in that matter.

One of the hon. Members has raised the question....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What about cardamom ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I will come to that. How Bengal is interested in cardamom, I cannot understand.

(Interruptions).

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : They have very close relations.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Because my hon. friend chews a lot of....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Adrak.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : You chew a lot of paan, perhaps. That may be the reason.

Sir, the opener of the debate has adverted to the delay in payment of the cash compensation under the scheme. I

must submit that there are two schemes of CCS payments, one is the simplified scheme and the other is the normal scheme. A little more than 90 per cent of all the CCS claims are under the simplified scheme under which payment is made by cheque within 24 hours to a fortnight. Therefore, under the CCS scheme practically more than 9 per cent payments are effected within 24 hours to a fortnight. There should be no difficulty for an exporter to get such payment under the simplified scheme, provided he submits satisfactory documents, customs authenticated shipping bills, bank attested invoice, bank certificate of f.o.b. value of exports, and certification of inspection. The Chief Controller's organisation has been processing about three lakh applications per annum on an average and I must submit that there had not been any complaints in this regard. When I say 'not been any complaints', I mean, they have been too negligible which warrant an expression that I have already used. In the normal scheme generally chosen by the exporters whose exports are 'deemed exports' and not actual exports outside the shores of the country—'deemed exports' simply means supply within the country for a project or purpose recognised by Government as equivalent to export, World Bank Project etc. Documentation required for CCS payment is complicated, it takes time both for the preparation and verification. Where an exporter applies under the simplified scheme but does not give satisfactory documentation, he has to move to the normal scheme. Roughly between 25,000 to 35,000 applications per annum are disposed of under this normal scheme.

The delays in CCS payments occur under the normal scheme and that is, because of the various requisites that have got to be furnished are not furnished as I said, even the preparation of the documents and the verification itself takes time and in this process a little time is consumed. I don't say that...

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Not little time, so much more.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : No. I would assure the hon. Member that if

[Shri P. Shiv Shanker]

there is any specific case where long delays have taken place, we will take care of them, not as though that we would allow undue delay. But in the scheme itself certain delay is inherent as I said, and the Ministry had been looking into it also as to how best we could salvage the situation. I would not like to go into further details of it because I have already adverted as to why really the delays occur.

Sir, one of the hon. Members has referred to the pepper production and its productivity, and he tried to compare the production in our country which is at a very low rate as compared to Brazil.

AN HON. MEMBER : And Malaysia.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : And Malaysia, of course.

Sir, so far as the pepper production in our country is concerned, its productivity is low because of the very old vines and because they are in a mixed system of cultivation. It is not on the plantation basis like in Brazil. In fact, in Kerala, in the back-yards of the various houses, pepper is grown. That is why, I said, it is not on the plantation basis. And it is true that as a result of this, our productivity is low. But being native vines, our pepper is more resistant to disease compared to the varieties abroad. The Kasargode Research Institute on plantation crop is developing a new variety with much higher yield than the normal variety. Under the Kerala Agricultural Development Programme 17,500 hectares of pepper plantations are being rehabilitated with the assistance of the World Bank. So, steps are sought to be taken to see that production and productivity both increase and I am sure, in due course, we would be able to see a better performance in this sector.

The hon. Members were also pleased to refer to the minimum release price for coffee. The main argument that was addressed was that this has not been revised. I would not like to go into the details of it because a couple of days

back, I have made the submission to the House as to the reason why minimum release price of coffee has not been revised. The last revision was in 1983. I have already submitted that the Cost Accounts Branch had gone into it and I presume that the Cost Accounts Branch has very recently submitted its report as well. But when it comes to the question of minimum release price, only 1/3rd of the coffee which is grown is sold in the domestic market, which would be benefited by the minimum release price. About 2/3rds of the coffee grown goes for export. The realisation from it is substantially higher because of the high international market price; it is around Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 45,000 per tonne. I am not trying to justify for the non-review of the minimum release price on this ground. But I am saying that this offsets a little lesser price of the minimum release price which exists at this stage. In fact, I am sure that after going into the whole scheme at the earliest, we would be in a position to come out with clear conclusions, about minimum release price of the coffee.

Some hon. Members have adverted to the performance of the cardamom in which fortunately or unfortunately...

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Several hon. Members have levelled allegations against the Coffee Board Chairman. He has sold the coffee in the international market without consulting the Coffee Board. What is your comment ? It is a very serious thing.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : At that time the international price was much higher.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : We have represented the case before the hon. Minister. No reply has been received by us. We have given it in black and white.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I am sorry that it has not come to my notice.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : I have raised it in my speech. It

has appeared in the Press. On 14th December, on the intervention of the chairman, robusta coffee was sold at a loss of Rs. 6,000 per tonne. The next day, the price went up. You have not adverted to that specific point which I have mentioned in my speech.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Even a person who has sold must not have maintained his accounts.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : There were black flag demonstrations in Kerala. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We must come to the rescue of our good friend !

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Mr. Chatterjee, I know how you will come to my rescue ! Is there any doubt ?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN *Rose—*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : You please sit down. You have said what you want to say. Give me a chance. If you are not satisfied, you are welcome. I am a man who would listen.

Actually, I do not know how I slipped this point because in the points that I have, I noted down this point. I have not been able to...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sometimes it happens !

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I take the hon. Members when they say that more than one has referred but I will go into it. I assure the hon. Members that if need be I will come back to the House to bring to the notice of the House as to what exactly has been done in this regard because this is a matter which has to be gone into. One has to probe into it.

I was making the submission on the cardamom. In fact, because of the two continuous years of drought in 1982-83 and 1983-84 in which the production of cardamom was only 2,900 tonnes and 1,600 tonnes respectively, the prices shot up

In 1984-85, the production was 3,900 tonnes.

In 1985-86, average price in auctions had been around Rs. 140 per kg.

Hon. Members were trying to say, "Well, the cost of cultivation is Rs. 140 or Rs. 145/-." In fact, we have gone into it in detail.

(Interruptions)

That is what you said. Your Board has said. I remember that. Your Cardamom Board has estimated it at Rs. 140 or Rs. 145/-. I still remember what I said. But then the Kerala Government has gone into it and the information with us that it is not only Kerala but other parts also, it is Rs. 90-125 per kg. That does not mean that I am satisfied with Rs. 140/-. It is nobody's case. But then the point is that the dismal picture that was sought to be painted does not appear to be correct. This is all what I thought that I should say.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The average auction price of Rs. 140/- is not correct. I think that is to be re-examined.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : For the time being, you must be wrong compared to the hon. Minister ! Then you keep quiet !

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I am speaking from the records and if the records are wrong, I cannot help it. *(Interruptions)*. I have made a passing reference earlier itself to Rubber. I would not like to advert to it. I have an example. I have already quoted and I have already said what we would like to do about rubber.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Then you stop !

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : When you say I should stop, I will skip over all the.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee made very fine points.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : All her points were not even touched by you.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : One of the hon. Members has made the reference to the raw jems being procured from Antwerp instead of procuring them direct from the African countries. I must submit that almost 80% of the world's rough diamond trade is controlled by the Central Selling Organisation of M/s. DeBeers, who operates through the Diamond Trading Company based in London. Most of the mines in African countries as well as in Australia are directly or indirectly owned and operated by DeBeers and the rough diamonds so procured are sold by the Diamond Trading Company. India buys about 30 million carats of rough diamonds in a year. The total purchase this year, that is, 1985-86 is likely to be of the order of 33 million carats. Most of it, say, 93% of it is procured by individual diamond merchants against imprest licences and replenishment licences and, of the rough diamonds purchased by the Indian companies and merchants, about 30% is procured directly from the Diamond Trading Corporation in London through sights and the remaining, about 70%, from open market, mostly in Antwerp. The total value of rough diamonds purchased in 1985-86 is likely to be about Rs. 950 crores. In fact, it is because of the monopolistic tendency of DeBeers that it is not possible for us to directly purchase the rough diamonds from the African countries as also from Australia. That is the point which I thought I should bring to the notice of the hon. Members.

I think I will through some of the points because I seem to have already taken quite a lot of time.....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Commerce Minister should become Minister for Enquiries.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Assisted by Mr. Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I will be Commissioner of Enquiries in one of them.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I must say that when it comes to the question of export of tea, I would request the hon. Members to note that the significant increase in exports has really helped us out. In 1984 the value of exports of value added tea was 19 million kg worth about Rs. 73 crores....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Value added or sugar added ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Not sugar-coated Prof. Saheb.

In 1985 the volume was 33 million kg and the value thereof was Rs. 134 crores. There had been a shortfall in the international price and no doubt we had been doing well in the past. But that does not mean that we have not done well this year. In fact we have exceeded the target of 220 million kg. We have been able to export 222 million kg but the unit value has gone down. Because of the unit value having gone down we have earned Rs. 711 crores as against the target of Rs. 700 crores. In fact the submission that I thought of making was that in tea exports we have done better and this is one of the thrust areas which we have identified. Notwithstanding the fact that the unit value has gone down we have exceeded the target that was fixed.

One of the hon. Members has really made very pertinent references to certain issues. One of the main issue that have been raised is that various officers pertaining to tea industry are located at Calcutta. Mr. Somnath Chatterjee would not be attentive to this because it might affect him. I would rather request that both hon. Members sitting one behind the other could enter into negotiations and then come forth to me and, I will certainly consider sympathetically what they think to be correct.

(Interruptions)

This is what happens when an hon. Member is totally inattentive and involves himself in the extraneous discussions.

(Interruptions)

The tea-Board's location was also suggested to be shifted to....

(Interruptions)

Why you are getting emotive ? Please sit down. Let them sort out.

AN HON. MEMBER : This is a point on which both of them have agreed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : What is your interest in extending the economic base in Calcutta ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : The only misfortune is on some rare occasions he is right. I wholeheartedly support.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : But I must submit that the location of Tea Board at Calcutta is not merely because that it was thought to be convenient at that stage but the point is that even West Bengal also grow tea.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : How much does Darjeeling contribute ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Also, it does not mean...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why are you quarrelling with Assam ? We are not quarrelling with them.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Actually, I would rather prefer to go into it, if we can...

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Do not quarrel with Calcutta.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I am glad that the hon. Member from Assam does not touch these points. I would not like to go into them. On the Question of Chairman, Tea-Board....

(Interruptions)

I must submit that it is true that Chairman's appointment has been delayed. Quite a lot of time has been taken. In fact it is because of the fact that we had been trying to search for a good officer so that he could give a thrust and in recent times, we have been able to look for one or two officers and I am sure that we would be in a position to take a decision very shortly in this regard.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Let it be on rotational basis.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Mr. Goswami, it would not be possible for me to give this commitment. I assure that whatever would be better and best for the tea industry that would be done.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is the most vital industry for our economy. You are committed to look after it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I am interested to see that the exports get geared up much more because...

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : The UBI Chief is killing the entire tea industry there.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Mr. Das Munsi, we are discussing the Commerce Ministry's demands.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I am trying to protect you.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : There are a lot of other points which were raised. But what I would rather prefer to do is this. Hon. Members had been putting various questions from time to time.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : I want a clarification. Since the Government itself has increased the prices of coal and fertilisers and since the agricultural expenses are going up, this year it is most unjustified not increasing the minimum support price of Tobacco. If that be the case, will the Hon. Minister examine the matter and take necessary steps by revising the minimum support price for Tobacco ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : So far as the report of the Agricultural Prices Commission is concerned, they have gone into it and suggested that the minimum support price needs no increase. This is how it has gone into. Normally we get guided by the Agricultural Prices Commission report. I will look into it as to what best could be done. It is not possible for me to give any commitment at this stage because it will take into consideration various issues and then come to a conclusion.

On the other issues which I am not in a position to reply in detail because of shortage of time, I must submit that as and when there is an opportunity in the House on these issues I will explain them, so that the Hon. Members are satisfied on the basis of that answer. I once again thank the Hon. Members for the various suggestions that they have made from time to time during their speeches. With these words I earnestly make an appeal that the Demands of the Ministry may kindly be granted.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I seek your protection Sir. I raised a fundamental question of policy with regard to the revision of import policy. I would

like to know whether they are re-examining it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Mrs. Geeta Mukherjee, I have already said. I don't know whether you were there or not.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I was very attentative. Your speech was a beautiful camouflage !

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put all the cut motions moved to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Commerce to vote together, unless any hon. member desires that any of his cut motions may be put separately... I now put all the cut motions together to the vote of the House.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Commerce to vote. The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1987 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 10 to 12 relating to the Ministry of Commerce"

The motion was adopted.

★ Demands for Grants (General), 1986-87 in respect of Ministry of Commerce voted by the Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1986		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE					
10.	Ministry of Commerce	53,64,000		2,68,17,000	
11.	Foreign Trade and Export Production	1,47,25,84,000	15,06,86,000	5,51,09,22,000	77,84,28,000
12.	Supplies and Disposals	2,58,47,000			12,92,37,000

(II) Ministry of Steel and Mines

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 84 and 85 relating to the Ministry of Steel and Mines for which six hours have been allotted.

The Hon. members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any member

finds any discrepancy in the list he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officer at the Table without delay.

Motion moved :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1987 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 84 and 85 relating to the Ministry of Steel and Mines."

Demands for Grants (General), 1986-87 in respect of the Ministry of Steel and Mines submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1986	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House
1	2	3	4
MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES			
84.	Department of Steel	Revenue Rs. 4,72,50,000	Capital Rs. 1,24,80,50,000
85.	Department of Mines	Revenue Rs. 19,16,52,000	Capital Rs. 23,62,50,000
			95,82,61,000
			6,25,02,50,000
			5,08,45,17,000

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bhattam
Srirama Murty.

17.05 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY
(Visakhapatnam) : During the first meeting of the recently re constituted consultative committee of steel and mines I congratulated the Minister, Shri Pant in assuming the responsibilities of this very important portfolio. I would like to do so once again on the Floor of the House.

It is a very important and vital subject. If the country is to grow steel is required in every sector. That being so let us examine where do we stand with reference to the various developed and other developing countries. In 1948 Japan and India began at the same level of production. Japan has reached 100 million tonnes stage that too importing raw-materials like iron-ore, coking coal, etc. whereas India by 2000 AD would produce around 20 million tonnes. In 1980 Japan achieved the level of 93 million tonnes. In 1982 Japan reached the level of 100 million tonnes. By 1982 India stood at 6 million tonnes level only. Now we are able to stabilise at 9 million tonnes for the last several years. By the turn of the century we anticipated at one time that we might be able to reach 100 million tonnes target. During the Second Plan period itself it was envisaged to reach 75 million tonnes target. Later the planners spoke of 31 million tonnes and now according to the latest position we may reach about 22 million tonnes by the turn of the century. That is the position. As I mentioned earlier steel production has stabilised at 9 million tonnes for the last several years. All steel plants of SAIL combined produce about 5 million tonnes whereas one single steel plant at Pohang in South Korea produces 9 million tonnes.

The growth rate of this country if it is taken to be 4 per cent we require about 40 million tonnes of steel. If it is taken to be 5 per cent then we require 50 million tonnes of steel. How do you want to take the country to 21st century with 22 million tonnes level of production of

steel. This is an aspect which requires deep consideration. The world production of steel in 1982 stood at 644 million tonnes. India accounts for 1.7 per cent of the total world production whereas population-wise we are 20 per cent. So, this is a dismal and disappointing situation in the global context.

Now I would like to give figures about the per-capita consumption of steel. Japan's per capita consumption is 629 kg; West Germany's per capita consumption is 549 kg; USSR 570 kg; USA 508 kg and India is about 18 kg. This is the situation.

The allocations in respect of steel may also be gone into at this stage. During the Second Plan the allocation for steel came to about 4.5 per cent. During the Third Plan it was increased to 5.9 per cent. During the Fourth Plan it came down to 4.5 per cent. In the Fifth Plan it came further down to 3.3 per cent and in the Sixth Plan it was 2.36 per cent.

That is how the allocation of steel has been consistently coming down year after year, from one Plan period to another Plan period. These are the various basic factors which have to be taken into consideration by the hon. Minister while framing the future Plan and strategy for the development of steel in the country.

Sir, one such problem which requires immediate attention is that the consumption of energy in Indian Steel Plants is around 50% higher than in the developed countries. The hon. Minister should achieve reduction in energy consumption. He must introduce energy-efficient technologies. This is first point which I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister.

Another programme relates to emerging technologies which reduce the use of coking coal. The third one is adequate supply of better quality of steel needed for the development of capital goods industries. Various grades and qualities of steel are being imported now. The product-mix should be wider and varied. The hon. Minister should utilise the energies in a more constructive and useful manner and tackle the problems which confront

him and take necessary steps for more production and better utilisation. I think it is my duty to bring this point to the notice of the Government.

Sir, the coke required for the production of one tonne of steel is about 800 to 1000 Kg. in India whereas in Japan and South Korea, it is 450 Kg. to 500 Kg. This is another aspect which requires immediate and urgent attention of the Government. Now, let us see the production of saleable steel. The figures have been given to us.

In Durgapur, in 1982-83, the production was 0.81 million tonnes. In 1985-86, the production will be 0.82 million tonnes. So, it is at the same level of 1982-83. Again, with reference to Rourkela, in the year 1980-81, the production was 1.09 million tonnes and in 1986-87, the same level of production will continue. In case of IISCO, in 1980-81, the production was 0.52 million tonnes. In 1986-87, the production would be 0.51 million tonnes. So, more or less, we will have the same level of production we will be at 1980-81 level. For the last six years, this is the position which I would like to point out to the hon. Minister.

Now, the capacity utilisation is another important aspect which requires to be taken note of. As far as IISCO is concerned I would like to point out at the outset that during 1982-83 the percentage utilisation was 70%. In 1986-87, it is going to be 63%. In the case of Rourkela, for 1981-82, it was 83.5% and in 1986-87, it would be at the same level, that is, 84%. In Durgapur, it never crossed 62% so far. Of course, the hope of better performance is given to us. As far as Bokaro is concerned, it ranges from 62% to 65% and this is the position. So, Sir, from the point of view of production and also the capacity utilisation, there is much to be improved and the hon. Minister will have to pay sufficient attention to this aspect.

As far as prices are concerned, the Indian steel was the cheapest in the world. By 1984, it had become costlier. In 1984, in Japan, steel price was Rs. 4951, in West Germany, it was Rs. 4800, in the UK, it was 4834. The gross price in India

in 1984, was Rs. 4970 and after the escalation of prices, it came to Rs. 5700 and Rs. 6400. So, Sir, it will be seen that during the first quarter, that is, January-March 1984, even the gross price was lower than the price in most of the other countries. After revision of prices in June 1984, the gross price is higher as compared to most other countries. The net prices are marginally higher in comparison with the prices prevailing in countries other than the U.S.A. Several times the prices were increased. During the course of the last five years, the prices were increased fourteen times, for example on 1.4.1980, 19.6.1980, 15.7.1980, 9.2.1981, 24.2.1981, 1.4.1981 and so on and so forth till 21.2.1985. The result is that the Indian steel has become the costliest in the entire world.

May I now refer to a few salient and important aspects which concern us immediately? The Minister recently stated that the latest estimated cost of Vizag Steel Plant would be Rs. 7500 crores. In this regard, I would like him to see the original Budget for 1985-86 and the revised Budget for 1984-85, and the Volume I and the Table of contents. According to that, the estimated cost on 1st October, 1984 with regard to Vizag Steel Plant comes to Rs. 8329.73 crores. I have got with me detailed breakup of this figure. How has the Minister brought it down to Rs. 7500 crores? What are the cost reduction methods? Manpower planning is for operational purposes. It will not contribute to cost reduction. Therefore, how is it that the Minister has not mentioned the figure of Rs. 8329.73 crores at all? How has he brought down this figure and when was this figure brought down and by whom?

The estimated cost has been increasing from time to time. The original estimate was Rs. 2256 crores. Subsequently, it increased to Rs. 3897 crores in 1981. Now, it has gone upto Rs. 7500 crores as claimed by the Minister. According to me, it is Rs. 8329.73 crores at October 84 prices. In three-four years, how did you increase it so much when plant and equipment are available in a buyers market with a package of discounts. Thanks to USSR and other countries. I want a White Paper

[Shri Bhattam Srirama Murty]

on this subject to be presented to the House. Let us know how the cost escalation has occurred and how and why pruning of equipment was found necessary? How cutting down of the manpower to the minimum level was found necessary and inevitable? Also about the technology which is proposed to be adopted in view of the latest situation and review as which was previously explained by the Minister.

At this stage, I would also like to point out another significant aspect. The Minister claims that the project will be completed—I mean the first phase of the project—by December, 1988, and the second phase by June, 1990. I fail to understand this. According to the Minister, the revised estimated cost would be Rs. 7500 crores. The amount spent till December, 1985 is Rs. 2037 crores. The provision during the 7th Plan is Rs. 2500 crores; the total comes to Rs. 4537 crores. Even if we take the recent revised figure to be Rs. 7500 crores and for a moment accept the proposed reduction of cost of Rs. 1500 crores, then it comes to Rs. 6000 crores. The availability is only Rs. 4537 crores and we are short of about Rs. 1500 crores still. How will he be able to complete the project by the year 1990? I am not able to understand that. Will the Minister make this point clear? May I also know why the commissioning date of the captive power plant has not been announced?

This is not a production unit. This is an essential service unit. The construction of the captive power plant is very much behind schedule. Added to that, the recent fire break-out engulfed the turbo-blowers and contributed to the delay in the construction of the captive power plant. Therefore, the claim of the Minister that it would be completed by June 1988 will have to be further clarified. I request him to give us some conviction and confidence and also to clarify the position.

Sir, earlier the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant used to live on artificial respiration. It used to oscillate between life and death. It was a life and death struggle for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant for a very long time. Later, thanks to the timely interven-

tion of the Prime Minister, necessary dose of financial assistance for this plant has been given and we thought that the plant would be able to turn the corner and open up a new chapter and the problem of paucity of funds would no longer affect the progress of this steel plant.

Now, after taking over charge, the Minister has started calling the VSP Steel Plant a white elephant and from the date on which he started functioning as the Minister, he has been hell bent on cutting it and pruning it down. This is one problem which is worrying us now. I do not know as to why he thinks in terms of surgical operations for this plant, which is recently rejuvenated and which is improving now. He wants to do away with the universal beam. The economy of the steel plant depends on the universal beam. The installation of universal beam is a speciality of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. It is no where else in India. By universal beam sections, we can considerably economise the construction. The universal beams are versatile structures used all over the world. By using universal beam sections, the quantity of steel usage can be saved from 20 to 30 per cent in this category. To abandon this universal beams shows lack of vision and foresight. The demand for universal beam is near about one million tonnes. Therefore, there is no reason in cutting it down.

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is not only to check steel imports, but also to it produce special variety of steel. In the year 1979, the Cabinet had taken a decision. I would like to invite the attention of the Minister to this important aspect. It was given a cabinet approval and both the first and second stages were together approved at one stroke. There were no first and second phases then. About Rs. 2300 crores were approved during the year 1979. When it was a Cabinet decision, how is it that the local management is empowered now to reconsider, revise, re-examine and reverse this decision and to think of something different? After seven years, how can you allow the management to revise a decision taken by the earlier Cabinet during 1979 itself? Sir, I would like to enquire whether anywhere else in respect of any other steel plant, the local project

authorities were empowered to re-examine the detailed project report and prune down any of the equipment. If it is not done, why this experimentation with the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant alone? Why not start a rationalisation practice at the existing operating plants which are in the process of expansion stage? They have two and a half decades of experience. Why experiment with Vizag and scuttle it down? One team from VSP etc, visited South Korea. When they visited South Korea, have they produced any report? If so, why is it not made public? Why should it not be announced? Why that was not done? When it is being applied to VSP. I think the report which was prepared by them should be published, and made available to us.

Originally, the productivity figure in respect of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant was nearly three times that of the other steel plants in the country. Energy consumed per tonne of steel will be two-thirds of the other steel plants. The ratio of finished steel to liquid steel will be 88%, compared to 77% to 80% in other steel plants. This is the position.

That being so, if the construction schedule and project costs envisaged in the DPR had been adhered to, there is very little doubt that Visakhapatnam would have been a money spinner. But that was not done. But the 6-year construction has been stretched to ten years. That being so, various other constraints are there. Because of these factors, such things have happened. Who is responsible for all this?

Now I would like to come to the question of employment opportunities. As far as this is concerned, I quote what "The Hindu" had published on 31st January 1971:

"The Plant will provide direct employment to 40,000 persons during the period of its construction; 20,000 during the period of operation; and 20,000 more indirectly in service and ancillary industries."

This is the news item published those days. This is how hopes had been raised.

What is the present position? The Minister says that the manpower planning was revised. Now it is kept at the minimum, with a view to increase productivity, and so, he says he is helpless. This is inevitable. Therefore, the position now is like this.

According to the DPR, the Executives are 1277. The non-Executives number 12,393. According to the recent revised rationalised concepts, the number of Executives has increased from 1277 to 1577. The non-Executives have decreased from 12,393 to 8180. It has decreased in the first phase. Similarly, in the second phase again, the number of Executives was increased, and that of non-Executives was decreased. Here again, I would like the Minister kindly to look into the figures. For the General Administration, the figure shown is Nil. In the Mines, the figure shown is Nil. This is in respect of VSP.

In Bhilai in GAD, the number is 11,877. In Mines, it was 11,720 in Bhilai. In Durgapur it was 7526 in GAD. In Mines, it was 2207. In Rourkela, it was 6,903. In Mines it was 4,385. In Bokaro, in GAD it was 9,998. In Mines it was 4,214.

As far as Visakhapatnam is concerned, it was shown as Nil. Let the Minister examine this aspect also and clarify?

Again I invite his attention to another aspect. In 1981-82, the amount spent was Rs. 146.7 crores. At that time, 541 displaced persons were appointed. In 1982-83 Rs. 293 crores were spent. At that time, 583 persons were appointed. In 1983-84 Rs. 445 crores were spent. Then only 150 persons were appointed. In 1984-85 Rs. 587 crores were spent, but only ten persons were appointed. Last year, Rs. 799.7 crores were spent, but only 55 persons were appointed. Why this decrease in employment with increasing expenditure?

As far as contract labour is concerned, in the year 1983, 4,533 persons were appointed. Subsequently, in 1984 the figure came down to 4,321. In 1986 as the Minister says, it will come down further.

Shri Bhattam Srirama Murty]

to 3,500-4,000. Even the contract labour is not being given any appointment at all. This is the basic position.

From the point of view of employment opportunities available to the people, even there again, the Vizag Steel Plant does not offer any solace to the people. The State Government must invest more than Rs. 100 crores for the supply of water to the steel plant at Visakhapatnam. The State Government can hardly afford this huge amount, with no compensation whatsoever in the shape of employment at least to the displaced persons. The State Government is not even consulted nor informed while changing the basic concept of the steel plants as approved by the DRR and the previous Cabinet. When the size of the plant is cut down, when the employment potential is cut down, even the payment of compensation at the market rate is denied to the people the State Government is not being consulted. Then it becomes a very difficult proposition to insist on Government of Andhra Pradesh or the State Government to take the entire responsibility and invest further fund in this regard. Therefore, what I request is that let the willing cooperation and participation of the concerned be achieved and the problems of the displaced persons and also the payment of all compensation may be looked into sympathetically and real justice done.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY
(Hindupur) : I beg to move—

“That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced to Re. 1.”

[Inordinate delay in establishing a steel plant at Vijayanagar in Karnataka.] (8)

“That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced to Re. 1.”

[Failure in changing the name of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam to Vizag Steel Plant.] (9)

“That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to reduce the heavy import of special steel and aluminium.] (10)

“That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to improve the per capita consumption of steel which is at present very low.] (11)

“That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to reduce the interest burden on Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).] (12)

“That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to develop ancillary industries around Vizag Steel Plant.] (13)

“That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to give employment to persons displaced on account of acquisition of land for Vizag Steel Plant.] (14)

“That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to setting up of steel plants in tribal areas.] (15)

“That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[The niggardly allotment of Rs. 87 lakhs for Vijayanagar Steel Plant.] (16)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to allot more funds and expedite the construction of Vizag Steel Plant.] (17)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give jobs to local people in Vizag Steel Plant.] (18)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to make the country self-sufficient in the production of steel.] (19)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Attempt to reduce the capacity of Vizag Plant in the guise of modernisation.] (20)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to investigate the feasibility of drawing necessary water for the Vijayanagar Steel Plant from the Foreshore of Tungabhadra Project in Karnataka.] (21)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for adequate ways and means to improve capacity utilisation in SAIL.] (22)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to improve the pattern of production in steel plants.] (23)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to abolish contract labour system in steel plants.] (24)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to regularise the service of casual workers in the various steel plants.] (25)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to have foreign experts for the steel plants in India.] (26)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for efforts to produce record production of saleable steel.] (27)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Recession in steel industry.] (28)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to minimise the dependence on import of steel.] (29)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the production of steel.] (30)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to curb losses incurred by SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited).] (31)

[Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy]

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to review the plan progress of Vijayanagar Steel Plant.] (32)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for workers' participation in the management of steel plants.] (33)

"That the demand under the head Department of Mines be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to appoint a separate Project Implementation Authority for mines development programme.] (34)

"That the demand under the head Department of Mines be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for nationalisation of mining industry in the country.] (35)

"That the demand under the head Department of Mines be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for exploiting fully the underground minerals in Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh.] (36)

"That the demand under the head Department of Mines be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for geological survey of Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh.] (37)

"That the demand under the head Department of Mines be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide more funds for full exploitation of gold mines

in Ramagiri in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh.] (38)

"That the demand under the head Department of Mines be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for setting up an industry based on minerals in Rayalseema district in Andhra Pradesh.] (39)

"That the demand under the head Department of Mines be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for advanced technology for better exploitation of mineral wealth in Rayalseema district in Andhra Pradesh.] (40)

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER
(Bangalore South) : I beg to move—

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka immediately.] (41)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide financial assistance to Visvasvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravathi (Karnataka).] (42)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to improve the working of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, Karnataka.] (43)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check hike in the prices of steel.] (44)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to streamline the working of SAIL.] (45)

"That the demand under the head Department of Steel be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up captive generators in all Steel Plants in the country.] (46)

"That the demand under the head Department of Mines be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to modernise all the gold mines in K.G.F. Karnataka.] (47)

"That the demand under head Department of Mines be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to improve the working conditions of the workers in Bharat Gold Mines, K.G.F.] (48)

"That the demand under the head Department of Mines be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to explore the mineral wealth in Karnataka.] (49)

"That the demand under the head Department of Mines be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up mineral industries in the States where minerals are found.] (50)

"That the demand under the head Department of Mines be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide adequate financial assistance to Hottel Gold Mines in Karnataka.] (52)

SHRI P.C. SETHI (Indore): I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this debate. I stand up to support the demands of the Ministry of Steel and Mines during this budget. While saying this, I would like to highlight some of the points. The progress and development of a country is

measured by the consumption of energy, steel and cement. It is true that during the last 30 years under the stewardship of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and now Shri Rajiv Gandhi, India has taken many strides and we are looking forward to the 21st century, but, at the same time, it is also a fact, as pointed out by my previous speaker, that the consumption of steel, as compared to other countries, in India is very low. In this connection, I would like to point out from the table given in the booklet supplied by the Ministry itself. On page 3, it reads as follows :

"That the capacity utilisation improved progressively, and touched a peak in the year 1976-77. The capacity utilisation started falling from 1977-78 and was the lowest in 1979-80. The year 1982-83 showed a record production of 7,291 million tonnes of saleable steel representing capacity utilisation of 83.8 per cent."

Now, it is true that the capacity utilisation came down during that period when it was a period of recession not only in India but all over the world. Apart from that, the demand for steel also went down and there came the period when the government itself had to cut down utilisation of the steel plants, and therefore, we cannot blame the government or the steel plants for that.

The fact is that, although we have got vast reserves of coal in our country, but, unfortunately, the coking coal reserves are very scarce; and that is why we have come to a position that we have now to import in the vicinity of about two to three million tonnes of coking coal. Apart from that, there are lot of ash contents in our coking coal and, therefore, blending of the coking coal becomes very difficult. Secondly, the washing capacity of the coal has been created, but it is not to the extent desirable; and secondly, the level of improvement in the washing of the coal which has been attained by other countries is not available with us so far with the result that for the blending of the coal the blast furnace suffers and, therefore, this is one of the reasons.

[Shri P. C. Sethi]

Another reason for the shortfall in production is the supply of the power. It is true that in most of the provinces from, where power supply comes there is a drought situation from year to year, and on that account the power supply is low; for example, in Bhilai, there was a shortage of power supply; there was power supply shortage for steel plants which was available from Andhra Pradesh. But, now, to some extent, the production of the power has increased and that has improved the situation.

"The rising trend in production continued in 1985-86, and the year is likely to end up with 7.77 MT of saleable steel. This represents a 10% growth over 1984-85."

Therefore, to that extent, I would commend the performance of the Ministry and the Plants and the SAIL for this purpose.

"The supply of indigenous coking coal was inadequate from May, 1985 onwards and stock reached critically low levels during Sept—Oct. '85. In addition to the inadequate receipts, there was also disproportionate receipt of prime and medium variety leading to frequent unavoidable blend changes affecting blast furnace operation..... The SAIL plants are expected to receive 2.1 MT of imported coal during 1985-86 as against 0.665 MT in 1984-85."

I am sure, as our production improves, this import will have to be further stepped up.

As far as the achievements of the Sixth Plan period are concerned, the report says :

"The Sixth Plan envisaged the demand for finished steel to go up from a consumption level of about 8 million tonnes in 1979-80 to 12.9 million tonnes in 1984-85 and 18.4 million tonnes by 1989-90."

We are nowhere near now. Unfortunately, the situation is completely changed,

because there have been delays in the commissioning of the plants. For example the Bokaro and Bhilai expansion schemes which were expected to be completed in 1982-83 are still under implementation. The first phase of the Bokaro 4 million tonnes expansion was expected to be completed by January, 1986. I hope, it is completed by now. And the second phase i.e. the cold rolling mill complex, which is very necessary for us, is expected to be completed by March, 1987.

Similarly, the Bhilai expansion it also getting completed in two phases. The first phase is expected to be completed by June, 1986 and the second-phase comprising the Seventh blast furnace and the Ninth coke oven battery in 1987-88.

The previous speaker mentioned that on account of delays the cost of construction goes up. It is true that on account of the delay the cost of construction, the price and various other factors increase. But he was not correct in putting the figure of Rs. 8300 crores. According to my information, the cost of construction in respect of Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant in Andhra Pradesh will go up from Rs. 2256 crores to Rs. 7467 crores, for Bokaro expansion from Rs. 947 crores to Rs. 2014 crores and for Bhilai from Rs. 937 crores to Rs. 2250 crores. Therefore, we should see that as far as the expansion of these plants is concerned, that is done in the time and therefore, proper attention should be paid to this aspect of the problem.

As far as the Vishakhapatnam plant is concerned, because of the delay in the commissioning of this plant, the demand will exceed capacity for non-flat products, necessitating imports of around 1.2 million tonnes. In flat products, capacities are likely to exceed demand for plates, galvanised plain/galvanised corrugated sheets and tin plates and will be short of demand in the case of hot rolled sheets/coils, skelp and electrical steel sheets requiring imports of about 0.39 million tonnes. This aspect is also important. But I do not agree with my hon. friend from Andhra Pradesh when he says that Andhra Pradesh Government has spent Rs. 100 crores for the supply of water. It is the

responsibility of the State Government to supply water to the steel plants.

I remember, when I was Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, I spent Rs. 60 crores for the supply of water to Bhilai and it is not a new phenomenon. Whenever a big industry comes up in a State, the State has to make up for the supply of electricity and water. When the industry does not come up, the States clamour and say, "Give us the industry, we will supply the water and the electricity". They are not free-sale, they are charged, and, therefore, the friends from Andhra Pradesh should not grudge that they have spent Rs. 100 crores on the supply of water for Visakhapatnam....

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): We never grudge.

SHRI P.C. SETHI: He wanted that it should be made up and they should be compensated. It is a wrong demand I will say. It may be a statement of fact, I do not deny, but the demand is wrong.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): But you just said it is not free, it is charged.

SHRI P.C. SETHI: I am saying it is not free, it is charged.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Charged to whom?

SHRI P.C. SETHI: To the plant. The electricity and water supply are charged to the plant.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Yes. That is what they are saying...

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. SETHI: He did not say that.

Apart from the delays in the commissioning of additional capacities, the projected increases in the capacity utilisation of the existing public sector steel plants have also not materialised. There

has, therefore, been a considerable shortfall in production. As against the production target of 11.5 million tonnes of saleable steel envisaged in the Sixth plan, for 1984-85 the actual production was of the order of only about 8.80 million tonnes. The shortfall in production would have led to serious shortages but for the fact that demand for steel during the Sixth plan period did not come up to the expected levels as it gave dividend after the first year of the plan. After a reasonably good increase in the consumption of steel in the beginning of the plan, the market became sluggish during 1982-83 and 1983-84. During these two years, the steel plants were obliged to carry excessive stocks of steel. There was, however, a recovery in 1984-85 and there is an optimistic outlook for the consumption in the year 1986-87.

Another factor which needs serious attention is the desired quality of coking coal in the steel mills. In spite of resort to imports of limited quantities of coking coal, adequate coal has generally not been available and the steel plants have often been forced to restrict the pushing of coke ovens. The high ash content of domestic coking coal, its poor coking properties and the considerable day-to-day fluctuation in the quality have also been important factors contributing to lower production.

The non-availability of adequate power from the various State Electricity Boards, as I said before—may be on account of reasonable reasons—has also been a serious problem, practically throughout the Plan period, though the extent of shortage has varied from plant to plant and from time to time. This has rendered the coordinated running of the different units of the steel plants very difficult.

I would like to point out, in this connection, from the Report of the Ministry itself that, except in the case of Bokaro Steel plant where the production went up from 1426 thousand tonnes in the terminal year of the Fifth Plan to 1925 thousand tonnes at the end of the Sixth plan, and the Tata Iron & Steel Company where it went up from 1,779 thousand tonnes to 2,160 thousand tonnes, the production in the Bhilai Steel Plant went down from 2,108

[Shri P. C. Sethi]

thousand tonnes in the terminal year of the Fifth Plan to 1,998 thousand tonnes in 1984-85; in Rourkela Steel Plant it has come down from 1,268 thousand tonnes to 1,119 thousand tonnes; in Durgapur Steel Plant, which has been a sick child since long and for which the modernisation process is still going on, it has come down from 882 thousand tonnes to 760 thousand tonnes; and in Indian Iron & Steel Company it has come down from 565 thousand tonnes to 444 thousand tonnes. These are the things which should be looked into. Therefore, the modernisation schemes of the steel plants have to be gone through as expeditiously as possible.

As far as the target for the Seventh plan is concerned, as per the Report itself, the demand for finished steel is estimated, at 13.86 million tonnes by 1989-90 and at 17.76 million tonnes by 1994-95. This is expected to go up to about 22 million tonnes by the turn of the century according to the Report itself.

According to the figures available with me, there will be a shortfall during the Seventh Plan period by the vicinity of 1989-90. We will be able to raise production to 12.65 million tonnes by 1989-90 thus leaving a net gap of 1.21 million tonnes. The Minister might correct me. Perhaps he was saying that it is not 1.21 but it would be 0.97. But, I would like to point out that Steel is such a commodity that if the growth of the economic activity is fast, then the demand, as estimated would grow up. Therefore, this 1.21 million tonnes may be even more. Therefore, this aspect of the problem has also to be looked into.

Sir, I will not take much time of the House except touching one or two points.

Sir, it is proposed to go in for integrated on-line process control, instrumentation for optimising the use of raw materials, energy, as well as achieving improved productivity, better product quality and cost reduction.

Sir, I am glad that Bhilai Steel Plant has been selected as a model steel plant

where a comprehensive computerisation plan for distributed digital control is to be implemented in the first instance. I hope after this experiment succeeds, they would take it up in the other plants also.

It is said in the report itself as follows :—

“Much greater attention would need to be devoted to improving the quality of washed coking coal through use of better washing techniques and new methods of beneficiation. A firm time-bound plan of action would be drawn up in consultation with the Department of Coal.”

So, this should be coordinated and this should be done as early as possible.

Then, I am sorry to note this. The report itself says :

“No major new projects are proposed to be taken up during this Plan.”

I hope that the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission would look into this matter again and would allocate more funds during the course of the Seventh Plan period for the Steel Ministry because the construction of Steel Plant is quite long and therefore unless funds are available, further development of these plants could not be taken up.

Sir, apart from that, I would like to say that mini steel plants are very important. We have seen from the experience of China that China's level of production from mini steel plants has gone up. I am happy that at present the Ministry of Steel has created a total capacity of over 60 lakh tonnes by licensing 169 mini steel plants and having 159 units in production. These units have been operating at an average capacity utilisation rate of 70 to 75 per cent. So, this should be done and they will prepare not only mild steel but also the plates and other things which are necessary.

The role of the rolling mill is also very important. From time to time the capacity of the rolling mills has been going up and the Ministry, although it had fixed a

limit, ultimately had to agree to recognise them and they would be put on the licensed list. The rolling mills are very helpful in making the bars and rods and moreover they do it from other raw materials and we can save much from this.

Apart from that I would like to say that Sponge Iron production should also be further expanded. This is done in order to conserve the country's limited coking coal reserves. Here it is stated as follows :—

"Government of India has been encouraging setting up of sponge iron plants using non-coking coal as the reducing agent.

...A total capacity of 1.7 million tonnes has already been licensed in the private sector/joint sector, about 50 per cent, based on non-coking coal. The actual production expected for 1985-86 is only about 60,000 tonnes from two units who have gone into production."

Therefore, the Sponge Iron production is very necessary and I am happy to congratulate the Minister that in order to facilitate the further growth of this industry, Government has delicensed the production of Sponge Iron in March, 1985.

Sir, Mr. Pant is an able administrator and engineer himself and he has been in touch and he dealt with various Ministries including Energy. I hope under his stewardship the steel industry will progress.

17.51 hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING EARLIER REPLY TO THE DISCUSSION ON THE DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1986-87 IN RESPECT OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
 AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

(SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : Sir, in my reply to the discussion on the Demands of my Ministry, I had spoken by mistake that 'the trade gap might be as much as Rs. 9000 crores' instead of Rs. 7000 crores. The figure of Rs. 7000 crores may be substituted for Rs. 9000 crores.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You thought it more, my goodness !

(Interruptions).

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : No. That was by mistake. 'Rs. 9000 crores' has been mentioned by mistake.

17.52 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1986-87—Contd.

Ministry of Steel and Mines—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Purna Chander Malik.

[Translation]

*SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK (Durgapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that I cannot support the demands of the Ministry of Steel and Mines for 1986-87 presented before this House by hon. Minister. Why I am unable to support it, will be clear from my speech. The Steel and Mines industry is a very important industry but the amount allocated for them in the current financial year is very negligible. Even in the Seventh Five Year Plan only a symbolic amount has been allocated for this industry. There are no plans for new projects. Therefore we notice that the development and progress of this vital industry is very small since independence.

*The speech was originally delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Purna Chandra Malik]

I will first mention about the condition of the steel industry of our country. At the time of independence, our steel production was 1.5 million tons. Today after 39 years the production has increased to 11 million tons only. This is the progress we have achieved in our steel industry. Our new and faulty economic and industrial policy is responsible for this snail's progress. If we look to the condition of our integrated steel plants we will find that as a result of the steps taken much earlier for the modernisation and expansion of the Bokaro and Bhilai steel plants, the production capacity of these two plants has somewhat increased. But the progress of other steel plants is very miserable. I will particularly mention about the Durgapur Steel plant.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I personally visited and went round the Durgapur Steel plant in January last. The condition of that plant, as have seen with my own eyes, is very frightening and dangerous. Over the last 26 years the life and production capacity of the machinery and plant there has diminished drastically. Added to that is the slow pace of the out dated and out moded technology. Therefore the modernisation and expansion of this steel plant is of the utmost importance. There is no other way out. When steel production first started here in 1959, its production capacity was 1.0 million ton. Some expansion work was carried out in 1964-65 and 1965-66 as a result of which its production capacity went up to 1.6 million tons, although it has not been possible to reach that target of production till this day. Sir, it is a matter of regret that in the 7th five year plan only 688 crores of rupees has been allocated for the modernisation and expansion of this steel plant. During the current financial year the allocation is a meagre amount of only Rs. 30 crores. Our Ex-Finance Minister, Shri Pronab Mukherjee, at the time of last Lok Sabha elections, said at various public meetings that a sum of Rs. 1200 crores has been sanctioned for the modernisation of the Durgapur Steel plant. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I want to know from the hon. Minister what happened to that money? I hope

the hon. Minister will give me a reply to that. Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted some of the reasons why the Durgapur Steel Plant is running at a loss and is unable to achieve the production targets.

The first reason is that after the battery of the gas furnace of the coke-oven plant get destroyed last year, the gas furnace had to be converted into oil furnace. But the expenses of running an oil furnace is nearly 10 times of what has to be incurred on a gas furnace. This tremendous rise in expenses is one of the main reasons of the plant running at a loss. Moreover the coal supplied to this plant has lot of ash and stone content. Due to this the capacity and power of the furnace is getting reduced day by day. Sir, the availability of power is another important factor. At least 50 mega watt of power is needed daily to run this steel plant. The DVC supplies power to this plant. But their supply is far short of the requirements. Its full requirements cannot be set by the DVC. Work had started way back in 1978 for the construction of a captive power generation plant of 50 mgw for this unit. It was said at that time the work will be completed by 1983. But now it is being said that this captive power plant will be ready by March 1987. I find that only Rs. 15 crores have been allocated for this work in the current demands. Some 200 crores of rupees are needed to complete this project. Therefore I fail to understand how the work on this captive power plant can be completed by March 1987. Another major reason for the loss in the Durgapur Steel plant is the theft, corruption and wastage in this plant, which does not find a mention in your report. Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that unless the theft, corruption and wastages in this plant can be checked, it will never be possible to save this plant from incurring a loss perpetually. I want to place before you a few instances of theft and corruption.

In April 1985 last, 15 trucks were found being loaded here with hard coke and nut coke without any orders. The DSP Vigilance caught them red handed.

Again, a month later one truck load of steel ingot was caught from the smelting shop site. Apart from this Sir, lakhs of rupees worth of slabs are being stolen everyday from the slab bank of this plant. A section of officers from the management, the CISF and the RPF are behind these thefts. But the W.B. police and the State Govt. cannot do anything to check these thefts. They are only silent spectators because the CISF and the RPF are under the union Home Ministry. I will like to know from the hon. Minister who are the people behind these thefts and what punishment has been given to all those who were caught earlier indulging in thefts from this steel plant.

Then Sir, the Alloy Steel Project of Durgapur is another important industry. This is a profit bearing unit and very high grade alloy steel is produced here. As a part of the expansion project of this plant, an arc-furnace of 50 tons costing Rs. 10 crores was constructed in 1982. While commissioning this furnace in August 1985, the management of this ASP brought workers from other departments overnight and started this furnace. Thereafter they declared 1000 workers as surplus. In this way a conspiracy to retrench workers went on in a well planned and skillful manner. A united struggle was raised against this conspiracy of the management by the CITU, INTUC, AITC, and other Central Trade Unions. After a continuous strike of 27 days, the ASP management was compelled to bow down.

Sir, when this furnace was constructed, a tripartite agreement was signed in which *inter-alia* it was provided that when this furnace will be commissioned, 349 new jobs shall be created.

But Sir, now instead of providing jobs to 349 new workers, existing workers from

other departments are being made to work here and they are being burdened with additional load of work. The conspiracy of retrenchment is going on in this skillful manner. The management is breaking all the agreements again and again with impunity. That is why in the last meeting of the National joint Committee, all the Central Trade Unions unitedly lodged a strong protest against this attitude of the management.

Sir, the management of the Salem Steel plant also betrays the same attitude.

18.00 hrs

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How much time do you want ? You try to finish. If you can finish within 5 minutes, you can complete.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : It is a very intricate problem.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already taken 11 minutes. You take another 2 minutes and finish it.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : I will take ten minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will continue tomorrow. The House stands adjourned to re-assemble tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

18.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, April 2, 1986/Chaitra 12, 1908 (Saka).