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Tuesday, March 3, 1987
Phalguna 12, 1908 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Eighth Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXIV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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C O N T E N T S

[Eighth series, Vol. XXIV, Eighth Session 1987/1908 (Saka)]

No. 7, Tuesday, March 3, 1987/Phalguna 12, 1908 (Saka)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Tuesday, March 3, 1987/Phalguna 12
1908 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Consumer Councils

*85. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether consumer councils and various other bodies to be constituted under the Consumer Protection Act have been set up; and

(b) if so, whether organisations working for the interests of consumers have been given representation on these bodies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD):

(a) Consumer Protection Councils and Redressal Forums have to be set up by the Central and State Governments according to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Rules pertaining to such of the provisions as relate to the responsibility of the Central Government have been framed and will be notified soon. Draft of the guidelines and model rules have been circulated to the State Governments in respect of their area of responsibility. Other administrative action has also to be taken to ensure that the institutions envisaged in the Act are set up at the earliest.

(b) Such organisations will be given representation on the Consumer Protection Councils, as and when they are set up.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this Bill was passed in this House on 9th December 1986, and if I mistake not, today it is 3rd March 1987. Already it has been admitted by the hon. Minister that rules pertaining to such of the provisions as relate to the responsibility of the Central Government have been framed and will be notified soon.

Our rules as well as Practice and Procedure of Parliament state very clearly that after the rules are framed, they should be laid on the Table of both the House of Parliament as soon as possible. I do not know how you take the meaning of the words 'as soon as possible'. You have evolved your own vocabulary and interpretation of words.

On the last day of the last Session, this Bill was passed and you say that already the rules and regulations have been framed and these will be notified soon.

So, as yet the notifications have to be made and they are to be laid on the Table of the House. First, let me know when are you likely to lay these rules and regulations on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : I would respectfully submit for the information of the hon. Member that the rules will be laid on the Table of the House. When we say 'framed', that means, we have to prepare the rules and they have to be vetted by the Law Ministry. The Law Ministry also vetted them, and we will certainly lay them on the Table of the House as soon as possible. I do not mean, only at the 'tag' end of the Session. No. We shall try to lay the rules as early as possible during this Session itself. And if I might tell the hon. Member that we have done it within two months time—it may perhaps be a record—we went into the rules immediately, almost when we passed the Bill, and I am sure that if not today,

tomorrow he is going to appreciate us as all other consumer organisations did including his wife.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I have full confidence in the Minister that he is efficient and he will lay the rules. But because I found that we sat for one legislation up to midnight and anti-terrorism rules were not laid for about 19 months, that is why, I had a doubt in my mind.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : You depend on my assurance.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is right. I depend more on your efficiency. I am glad about that.

The next question is, once the Bill is passed, once you get the assent, the rules are laid on the Table of the House.

(Interruptions)

Can I catch your ear, Sir? I say, in a good spirit!

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Even if I do not look at you, I always hear the Member. My ear is always towards you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They said that after the councils will be duly constituted, representation will be given to various organisations. So, it is very clear that so far the representation has not been given because the councils have not been duly constituted. But I would like to know from the Minister is he aware of the fact that there are a number of women organisations which are running the consumer organisations and some of them are also effectively and efficiently conducting the testing laboratories and they have asked the Government to give them the financial assistance? If the whole infra-structure of the council itself is not available, then naturally, the assistance will not be available. Will he assure us that at least by the end of the financial year, those pending cases will be dealt with and necessary financial assistance will be given because they will be needing testing laboratories which will be useful for the implementation of the Act which you have fortunately framed and which I have fully supported?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : As for the information of the hon. Member, it is not that at the Centre, consumer advisory council has not been existing for a long time. It exists and it has been meeting regularly. Some representatives of some organisations are also members of that council. After this Act, it has got the statutory recognition. Some of them who are considered as suitable will be included in the council.

As far as the question of giving financial help to some organisations is concerned, the Ministry has been for sometime giving some help to some of them. Now the question which we are considering is whether actually we want an absolutely independent grassroot movement to grow by the people undiluted by the Government, undiluted by the Government interference and so on.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You are not attending to every grassroot.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Please listen to me. We have confidence in the people of India that they will certainly develop an organisation of that kind. But whether we should give help or not, that is a matter under consideration.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, he has now admitted that he has already given the representation. But there are a number of genuine organisations which are already writing to you. You have not given them representation. They say, "We are conducting testing laboratories", and the papers have commended that they are doing good work. Even then, no financial assistance is coming.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : We understand the concern of the hon. Members for these organisations; so am I. And some of them have done really good work. The question in principle is, whether financial help should be given or not. We are considering this matter. We have been earlier helping some of them.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They are women organisations; have some soft corner for them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why are you asking soft corner only for women? What about men?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : We very rightly appreciate your point and we believe that women are better crusader for the cause of the consumers. That is why, in this whole Act, in every Tribunal, a woman has been compulsorily made a member. So we do know that it is the lady who knows the pinch of the kitchen more than anybody else.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Consumer Protection Act was passed on 9th December, 1986. As all these rules have been framed to protect the consumers, would it not have been proper to publish the draft rules in the newspapers in order to invite the suggestions and objections from the people? I think that after 9th December, the rules should have been published in the Gazette to elicit public opinion. It would have benefited the people a great deal.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to submit that there is no need to elicit public opinion on the rules. We do not think it to be necessary. Secondly, I want to submit for the information of the hon. Member that almost all the consumer organisations of the country, the Trade and Commerce and Industries Chamber, almost all the Indian newspapers and magazines have praised the consumer laws and have stated that progressive steps have been taken by us.

The second point here is that our approach is that all of us must work together in the interest of the consumers, trade and industries. The people from private trade and industries should also extend their co-operation.

I also want to say that for follow up action, we have held a meeting in which all the Ministers of the State participated. We have told the people belonging to the Public Sector, Private Sector and the Cooperative Sector to set up their own consumer organisations so that the problems of the people can be solved.

[English]

Social Burden on Public Sector Units

*86. †SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the

Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Public Enterprises has asked the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to work out the social burden on each public sector unit as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 9 February, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Bureau of Public Enterprises will submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, every Member of the House is worried about the fact that our public sector undertakings are incurring huge losses. Is the press report about the social burden of public sector units correct? Does not the hon. Minister think it necessary to ensure that such losses due to social activities and social burden do not occur? Are these the reasons or there are some other reasons?

The senior officers of the public sector enterprises live luxuriously. Their chambers are luxurious. The hon. Minister's Chamber is nothing as compared to theirs. I would therefore, like to know whether there is no control over their expenditure? The hon. Minister gets only one driver, one car and a limited salary. Your powers regarding expenditure are also restricted. Are there any norms regarding the expenditures by the officers of the Public Sector Units or do they spend as they like? There is so much of burden on these undertakings on account of this wasteful expenditure. Their guest houses are better furnished than even the Governor's Houses in the States. I want the hon. Minister to apprise me in this regard.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the hon.

Member does not arise from the main question. His main question was about social overheads. It is not that every Public Sector Undertaking is running at a loss. Some public sector undertakings are earning profit also. In 1985-86 more than Rs. 1100 crores were earned as profit.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : This was only because of petroleum products.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Wherever we find that expenditure is not justified, we take action. I want to inform the hon. Members that 'Social overheads' could be defined as follows :

[English]

"Expenditure on township, maintenance of schools and educational facilities ; provision of medical facilities over and above those which are statutorily required to be maintained by the undertakings; maintenance of dairy farms, vegetable farms etc. provision of subsidised transport ; subsidies in regard to social and cultural activities."

[Translation]

Expenditure incurred on these items is termed as 'Social overheads.' It is justified also. Hence, the expenditure about which he has talked cannot be included under social overheads. We are trying our best to curb wasteful expenditure and we are making an appraisal of the number of offices and the expenditure being incurred by them. But the expenditure in regard to the items mentioned above under the social overheads is justified. The public sector cannot think in terms of profit alone under 'social justice'. The social status of the employees has to be improved and for that recreation facilities, medical facilities, housing facilities and subsidised transport facilities have to be provided.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what are the priorities under the social overheads? The bungalows for the officers of the public undertakings are constructed first but no priority is shown to the housing facilities for the workers. Hence, I would like to know from the Minister whether any priority

has been fixed in regard to social expenditure or is it taken for granted that whatever expenditure under social activities is incurred is essential and there is no need to audit it. My question is that in the big public sector undertakings, in the matter of providing facilities, officers get the priority instead of the labourers, who are not provided any facility. I would like to give the example of Western Coalfields, Nagpur where a huge colony has been set up for the officials but the labourers have not been given any priority in this regard.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under the social overheads there are two types of expenditures. One is revenue expenditure which is incurred to maintain the colonies and the second is the Capital expenditure under which the infrastructure like construction of colonies, hospitals, educational institutions etc. is made available. The hon. Member may be aware that in 1985-86, the revenue expenditure was to the tune of Rs. 785 crores and was incurred largely to serve the interest of the workers. Similarly, our total Capital expenditure in 1986 was Rs. 1606 crores and was largely for the welfare of the employees and workers of the public sector and this amount was spent on items like construction of townships, hospitals, providing educational facilities and so on. Likewise, the total number of houses provided in 1986 for the workers was 6,63,938. Hence, you can see that a large part of our expenditure is for the welfare of the workers and the executives of the Public Sector Units. It is true that we have made huge investments on our manufacturing units, and out of that we have provided housing and other facilities to the Chief Executive, C.M.D. and high officials but if we do not arrange for it, then overseeing of the day-to-day administrative work will not be possible. Hence, if we want that the big units should be managed properly, we shall have to provide housing facilities to the Chief Executives of the big units. Similarly, we have spent so much for the welfare of the workers ; we have constructed a large number of houses for them and have provided so many other facilities. It is evident that more than Rs. 700 crores have been spent on maintaining their houses and providing them other facilities. We have so far

spent about Rs. 1600 crores for constructing houses for them. How much more can we do for them?

[*English*]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : The hon. Minister Prof. K. K. Tewary had addressed a Press Conference. I have got the cutting with me. He has said that any wage increase in the public sector must be linked with the productivity-rise; otherwise no settlement should be made. That type of directives are issued to the public sector. I want to know whether it is a fact. Also, after issuing such a directive to the public sector, I want to know how many settlements of public sector workers are pending—because of this directive. As far as my knowledge goes, more than a hundred settlements are pending. I want to know whether it is a fact.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Although the hon. Member's supplementary does not arise from the main Question, I would still respond to it. I think, the entire House will agree with me that we must improve productivity. If the economy has to survive, I think, the public sector has to contribute to the national wealth. If you have to attain the desired level of growth in the economy for which everybody is clamouring—on the one side we are subjected to criticism because the public sector, in their opinion, is not coming up to expectation...

DR. DATTA SAMANT : It is not because of workers. Sir, he is not replying to my question.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : In the interest of the public sector, greater growth, improved efficiency, improved output, it is necessary that the productivity aspect is emphasized. Recently certain guidelines have been issued to the public sector undertakings for reaching wage settlement with the employees. Wage increase and payment will have to be dependent on the capacity of the undertaking to pay. Therefore, this component, the productivity component, contribution of the labour to the productivity component, is very crucial. Therefore, I emphasize. I take this opportunity to emphasize in front of the hon. Members and in this august House that they should work for improved performance of the public sector by persua-

ding the workers to come to a settlement and accept productivity, enhanced productivity, as part of wage settlement, improved wages.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : More than hundred settlements are pending Sir. It is a question of 21 lakh workers.

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : I am very happy that the Minister has indicated that a part of the social burden includes vegetable gardening and dairy farming also. I think the point is that the public sector as has been indicated is not only a social burden, it has become a national burden. If we have to exclude the three petroleum companies, then we must look at the fact that the public sector is not generating enough profits.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister if any study is being done to ensure that the Ministry and the ministerial burden on the public sector is reduced and the units will get more autonomy so that they can produce much better results in future.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Ministerial burden is needed in order to see that they behave well.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Mr. Sathe has already given a written reply on this Sir.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : This is all being done due to Shri Sathe.

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I am being backed.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : I am really surprised at this supplementary. The Hon. Member has tried to put the whole thing upside down. Whatever we are today as an economy, with all its linkages—socio-economic, socio-political—and all other policy postures that we have been adopting are all because of the solid contribution both as a concept and as a performing mechanism in the economy of the public sector. If we have been able to attain self-reliance in many vital sectors of the national life and of economy, it is all because of public sector.

Therefore, there should be no attempt to denigrate the public sector by saying that it is becoming a national burden. In fact, public sector has taken the nation on its shoulder and marched ahead. The emerging profile of India internationally is because of the public sector and not because of any effort done anywhere in private sector or anywhere else.

Now coming to the problem of autonomy, this has been talked about so vociferously. We are in favour of autonomy. Recently the Government has taken many momentous decisions—historic decisions I must say—in pursuance of the recommendation of the Sen Gupta Committee. For example, our representation on the Board was 3 or 4. That is 3 or 4 representatives of the Ministry used to be on the Board. We have now reduced it drastically. In future, only one person will represent the Department on the Board of any public sector undertaking.

Secondly, we have also extended the term of the Chief Executive which used to be only for two years. Now it will be for five years, so that they can function with greater sense of autonomy. In matters of decisions on investment also we have given them permission from the Government to take decisions at the Board level upto an investment of Rs. 20 crores. Several other measures have been taken to make the Board more autonomous.

But at the same time autonomy cannot go without accountability and answerability. Because we are as investors—the President of India is the investor-accountable to this august House. This House is entitled to know what is happening to that public money. Therefore, you will agree that accountability and answerability have to go together.

Sale of Spurious and Sub-Standard Auto-Parts

*89. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Indian Express dated 6 January 1987

regarding increasing trend in the sale of spurious and sub-standard auto parts at the retail out-lets in the major metropolitan cities in the country resulting in huge losses to the exchequer by evasion of sales tax and excise-duty; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to curb the production and marketing of spurious and sub-standard auto-parts in the country ?

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

(b) Government has taken a number of measures by way of delicensing of auto ancillary industry, board-banding, re-endorsement of capacities etc., and has also encouraged rapid modernisation and induction of new technology in this sector. Certain fiscal concessions have also been granted for the import of sub-components for the manufacture of specific critical components for fuel efficient vehicles. It is expected that these measures would encourage the production of quality components, and with better availability and more competition in the market, the sale of spurious and sub-standard parts would go down.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister's reply is not related to my question. I wanted to know what measures have been taken to curb the manufacture of spurious and sub-standard auto-parts ? It is true that de-licensing is being done and certain steps are being taken to promote this industry as well but I want to know what is being done to curb the manufacture of spurious components in factories near Delhi ?..... (Interruptions).....

These auto-parts are being fitted into cars. These are even being fitted into those cars which are used by the hon. Ministers. Shri Tewary may kindly listen. Besides, there is so much of loss to the Government. You are losing sales tax worth Rs. 3 crores because of such factories where spurious

goods are manufactured which look like the original ones. What measures have been taken in this regard ?

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, this is a de-licensed sector and we are making sale and production of spurious parts a cognizable offence. We have referred the matter to the Law Ministry. Trade Marks Act may also be amended to provide more stringent punishment. This is also under the consideration of the Government. Apart from that we have given excise duty concessions and also allowed collaborations with foreign technology. What else can we do ?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : It is all right. But it is not an answer to my question. You have mentioned about de-licensing.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has already mentioned that they are taking necessary action to punish those people through law to see that inferior quality product is controlled and superior quality parts are promoted.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : But the spurious parts would continue to be manufactured. Against how many manufacturers of spurious parts have you taken action and what punishment has been awarded to them ? The Government machinery itself is responsible for the manufacture of spurious components. In the workshops, your own vehicles are not fitted with original parts although the prices of the original ones are charged from you. Thus the manufactures of the spurious parts make more profit than the manufactures of the original parts. Hence, I want to ask as to what is being done to curb the menace of the marketing of spurious components ?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIKAGI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister should understand what it implies. It

means that the spurious components are the cause of breaking up of the Lok Dal Party everyday.

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, as far as our Department is concerned we have not conducted any study. Press report is on the basis of a study conducted by a private agency. We have asked the Association of Component Manufacturers to take certain measures and have seminars to bring awareness amongst the consumers.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the duplicate parts are being sold in the market with the knowledge of the hon. Minister. The vehicles which are sent for repair are fitted with sub-standard duplicate parts and what the hon. Minister has stated is not going to solve the problem. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering amendment of the relevant law in order to ensure strict action against the manufactures of the spurious or duplicate components ?

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I have already said that we have taken up this matter with the Law Ministry and we are considering it.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Is the Minister aware that with the introduction of the Consumer Protection Act action can be taken against all these spurious manufactures ?

If so, would he initiate action under this Act ?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I don't think it will come under the Consumer Protection Act. If there is any possibility, we will study it.

U. S. Court Judgement in Bhopal Gas Case

*91. DR. DATTA SAMANT :

DR. B. L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Federal Appeal Court of New York has reversed the Lower court order and given decision on 14th January, 1987 that the case of Bhopal gas leak tragedy might continue in the United States; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take regarding this judgement in order to get fair compensation to Bhopal gas tragedy victims?

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

(b) All possible steps are being taken to obtain fair compensation for the Bhopal gas tragedy victims. A suit has already been filed in the Court of District Judge, Bhopal.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, about two years have passed. 3,000—so-called officially—have died and 2,000 are now the victims. I don't know what is the figure and we are discussing in this House for the last 2-3 years. I think, as per my knowledge, initially some few hundred rupees were given to each. Otherwise they have not received anything and all these leaders, discussions are going on.

On the contrary, after the decisions on the Bhopal case, the management had approached the US Federal Court and Government has given advocates, including Mr. Michael Ciresi. The whole argument of this Carbide in the US Federal Court is that "this is one of our multi-national subsidiary. So, we are not liable for whatever occurred. We have taken all potential measures while dealing with this plant". That Court has heard on the 14th February that this case "can be heard"—it is not compulsory. Subsequently the Central Government has given the advocate and he has filed against the affidavit.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Put your question. What do you want?

DR. DATTA SAMANT : And taking the advantage of the Shriram case in the Delhi Supreme Court that whatever things happened anywhere, the employer is res-

ponsible. I have got all these documents, the New York Times cutting, etc. How is Government saying it is not? It is such a vital question and an important one about what happened two years back.

Therefore, I am asking the Government whether this issue was raised in the US Federal Court? Whether the Court has given a directive that it can be heard? Whether the Government has appointed again Michael Ciresi and some advisers there and again filling your case taking the advantage of the Shriram versus the Supreme Court case that it is liable? Whether these are the facts or not?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, the hearing before the Federal Appeal Court in New York is not the Shriram factory case. Therefore, this particular point was not raised. The actual fact as of now is, if you remember, Sir, the New York District Court sometime in 1986 had ruled that jurisdiction to file this case would be in India. Accordingly, we filed a case before the District Court in Bhopal. What the appellate court has done now is to remove the two of the conditions which were part of the earlier judgement by Judge Keenan. The whole implication of the latest judgement is being studied by the Government and we are examining whether or not we should go in appeal. The whole matter is under examination.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, it means that partly the Government has given the choice and you are going in appeal. But the reply given is totally 'no', Sir.

Now considering this vital point that so much big tragedy has occurred, in Bhopal court also, there are about 6-7 hearings. The summons is issued one day late. Some day the management appeared. Sir, I have got all the details.

Is it the way the Government is going to proceed in this matter? Therefore, I am asking a categorical answer when these thousands of victims, some of whom had already died, are starving, whether to take some surety because now they are avoiding this payment; they are passing this responsibility on the subsidiaries. Again they are taking the judgement. Again they are

fighting in both the courts. So, whether the Government can say what are the total liabilities as per the Government; and whether the Government will take assets of the Carbide in India—in Bombay, also, they are having a factory? What interest will the Government take to see take to see that early compensation is paid to the victims? It is high time that the Government must do something very seriously.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Let the hon. Member spell out what interest he will like us to take.

As regards part (a) of the question, if you read the question properly, the question was :

"Whether it is a fact that Federal Appellate Court has reversed the Lower Court order and given decision on 14th January, 1987 that the case of Bhopal gas might continue in the United States."

This reversal has not taken place. The jurisdiction condition which is the main condition still stands. Two other conditions have been removed. The condition that the jurisdiction of the court will be in India still stands.

As regards the question what interest the Government will take, the Government is trying its best. We have been pursuing this case very vigorously in the Bhopal court and there has been no let-up and the Government will do all that it can do. We have appointed a number of lawyers who are stationed in Bhopal. They are examining the case thoroughly. These are the positive steps being taken by us.

[*Translation*]

DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this case is being delayed inordinately and the affected families have been suffering considerable hardships. Is the Government considering any measure in order to provide relief to the affected families?

[*English*]

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : As regards the rehabilitation and relief pro-

gramme, I need a separate notice, because the present question relates to a particular case in New York.

[*Translation*]

SHRI K. N. PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as relief programmes for the gas victims are concerned, I would certainly congratulate the Government for it has done enough in this regard. But out of the conditions put by Justice Keenan in this case, one was about jurisdiction, the second about the enforcement and the third was about the discovery of documents. 27 months have since passed. You are very well aware of the sluggish manner in which the case has proceeded. Among the three conditions put by the Appellate Court two have been removed. If the two sides do not come to an agreement in regard to the 'discovery of documents' then you can imagine what the consequences would be. Secondly, if the condition of enforcement is scrapped, then whatever judgement there might be it would be of little use. In my opinion, the Government of India could either go in for appeal or keep the case pending in the Bhopal Court. But Union Carbide had offered an out of the court settlement even before. Therefore, we can make offer for an arbitration. Will the Government consider these two points?

[*English*]

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : As I said, there were three conditions. The first is about the consent of both the parties to submit to the jurisdiction of the courts in India. One condition relates to the process of discovery, and the other condition was that the Union Carbide shall agree to satisfy any judgement rendered against it by an Indian court, and if applicable, upheld by an appellate court in that country, where such judgement and affirmation comport with the minimal requirements of due process. That means, whatever judgement we have as a result of this case in Bhopal, even if it goes up to the highest appellate court, that would be enforceable in the United States. This matter was agitated upon by both the parties before the appellate court and the appellate court had decided that they would delete two clauses in view of the reasons given by them. I would not go into the

details of it, because it is mentioned in the judgement itself and this has become a public document.

About the settlement as to whether we have any negotiations, the only negotiations we had was when the case was with Judge Keenan and the hon. Member have already been informed about it. I have said on a number of occasions on the floor of the House that we have explored the possibility of having a settlement, as long as the case was in Justice Keenan's Court. After that we have not heard anything.

SHRI LAL VIJAY PRATAP SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is now more than two years since the Bhopal Gas tragedy occurred and there is no sign of the victims getting any compensation from the Union Carbide. Apart from filing the case in the Court, what concrete action has been taken to prevent the multinationals from hoodwinking these victims ?

SHRI R. K. JAYCHANDRA SINGH : I would surely need a separate notice on this.

Steps to Increase Export of Public Sector goods

*93. **SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the steps suggested by the Ministry/Bureau of Public Enterprises to increase exports of goods of public sector enterprises to reach the target of 25 per cent of value of production in the case of engineering enterprises as recommended by the Kanpur Committee; and

(b) the existing machinery for monitoring progress in this regard and how it is proposed to be strengthened to take follow up action so that the public sector units reach the target set by them as early as possible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) The steps suggested to engineering public sector undertakings under this Ministry to increase their exports, inter-alia include,

setting up of export cells, drawing up long term export plans, periodic review of export performance and to work in coordination with sister public sector undertakings for increasing project exports.

(b) Export performance of these undertakings is reviewed periodically at various levels and depending upon the needs of each situation, appropriate measures are taken to increase exports.

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : The Government has taken a number of initiatives recently to enhance our exports and as a result, our exports have increased by 17.3 per cent and the rate of increase in imports is curbed to 1.4 per cent. But still, the overall situation is not satisfactory. We have lost our reserves to the extent of Rs. 160 crores during this current year. The public sector engineering units have a vital role to play in the international trade. Their exports should have increased considerably. May I know from the hon. Minister the increase in exports of the engineering goods during last year ?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Sir, during the last two years, Government has taken a number of steps to promote exports both in engineering and non-engineering sectors. So far as the Department of Public Enterprises is concerned, our export during 1984-85 was Rs. 311 crores and in 1985-86 there has been a perceptible increase in the export and the figures themselves speak of the performance. During 1985-86, the total export performance was Rs. 447 crores.

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : An important measure is taken by the Government to give cash subsidies for exports. To what extent are these subsidies paid to the public sector units ?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : In public sector, we have taken full advantage of cash subsidies and other export-promoting facilities that have been extended by the Government. That is why our performance in public sector has improved.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : The Government is keen to increase the production of the public sector enterprises. If production

is not increased then increase in exports is also not possible. So, there is a proposal from the Government side that workers' participation should be there in the management. Without workers' participation in the management, it is not possible to increase the export or to tune up the public sector enterprises. My specific proposal is that without the participation of the workers in the policy making body, i.e. in the Board, the situation will not improve. Has Government any proposal to include the workers' representatives in the Boards of the public sector enterprises?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Sir, this supplementary does not arise out of this question. Still, I would respond to it. We do support this philosophy that the workers must be taken into confidence. They must be associated with the entire decision making process. In pursuance of this strategy accepted by the Government, we have given full representation to workers' representatives at shop floor level and plant level. About the management, in day-to-day decision making process, the workers do participate.

So far as Board level is concerned, because of lack of unanimity among the trade unions, this representation has not been possible. (*Interruptions*). The Labour Minister has had a round of discussions and talks with the trade union people and I am sure in the near future a solution will be forthcoming.

Power To Haryana from Central Plants

*94. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken by Union Government to give more power to Haryana from central power plants;

(b) the quantum of power to be given to Haryana according to the decision and from which plants; and

(c) whether central plants have extra power to spare for other States and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI

SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c) A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) It is the effort of Central Government to give maximum power to Haryana to meet the needs of the State.

(b) The total power supplied to Haryana from Indraprastha and Central power stations of Singrauli, Bairasiul and Badarpur, including Haryana's own share of power, and assistance to mitigate the power shortage in the State, varies from day to day depending upon the generation and the system demand.

(c) The Central station at Singrauli has unallocated power at the disposal of the Centre for meeting the requirements of the States in the Northern Region. Assistance from Singrauli is also provided to States such as Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir depending upon the availability of power and the requirements of the systems from time to time.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not clear from the answer as to what are the criteria of distribution of power from the Centrally controlled power plants. Therefore, may I know from the hon. Minister, whether it is demand based or any other consideration or whether that backward part of the country is receiving any special consideration and if so what are the details?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, it is always our endeavour to see that in the case of backward parts of the country which are facing shortage of power, the power is rushed from the neighbouring States or from the Central sector.

As you specifically referred to Haryana, here too efforts have been made that apart from the Indraprastha, the Central power stations of Singrauli, Bairasiul and Badarpur have been rushing additional supply of power to Haryana in order to see that the acute shortage of power is reduced to the minimum.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : May I know from the hon. Minister, what is Haryana's

total installed capacity, its capacity utilisation plant load factor from hydro-electric and thermal power stations; and what is the quantity given to Haryana from the Central electricity grids and also to backward States and Union Territories ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI :

Sir, the answer is specifically centered round Haryana. Regarding this, I would like to say that the assistance to Haryana from Singrauli is 453.3 million units; from Bairasail is 167.9 million units and from Indraprastha is 390.6 units.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : What is the total installed capacity ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI :

That is the second part of the question. I am coming to that.

About the total installed capacity, in the Seventh Five Plan, a total of 488 MWs capacity-comprising 58 in hydro and 430 in thermal, is targeted to be added. Out of this, 236 MWs has already been commissioned. In addition to that, the State would also get its share from the Central sector projects being set up in the northern region.

Regarding the plant load factor of both the stations, it is only 44 per cent. That is the maximum.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRY : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether in view of the shortage of power in Uttar Pradesh and particularly in view of the demonstration held by the farmers in Muzaffarnagar yesterday where there was also police firing, the N.T.P.C. would make efforts to increase the quantum of power supply to that State ?

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Questions relating to Haryana will be allowed. Now Mr. Patil.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : We are considering the power to be given from the Centre to Haryana State...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Put any question relating to Haryana.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : In respect of Delhi, we are developing the National Capital Region, where parts of Haryana, parts of Rajasthan and parts of U.P. will be attached; and a lot of industries will be developing in the National Capital Region. So, what steps does Government propose to take, to increase the supply of electricity in this National Capital Region; and is Government Planning to set up any atomic power plant in this area, in view of the fact that we are able to construct an atomic power plant with 98% of indigenous machinery ? What steps are you taking in respect of the National Capital Region ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI :

I am replying in anticipation of your permission, Sir. But I can say that so far as Haryana is directly concerned, it gets a share of 2.4 million units from Indraprastha and Singrauli, Haryana is now getting four million. This is the supply in February.

Regarding the other questions about Delhi and the Union Territory.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You deal with the question relating only to Haryana.

SHRI SYAM LAL YADAV : The Minister in reply to part (c) of the question has said that assistance from Singrauli is also provided to States such as Uttar Pradesh, and so on. May I inform the hon. Minister that the allocation of power from Singrauli to Uttar Pradesh is minimal, and the requirement of Uttar Pradesh is not considered ? That has led to wide-spread agitations, and therefore the law and order situation has arisen. It is a failure on the part of Energy Minister to provide sufficient energy from Singrauli and other NTPC projects to Uttar Pradesh. We would like to increase the supply of power to this State, from which generation is done.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : I must remove a misunderstanding and misinformation, because as far as Singrauli is concerned, in 1985-86 U.P.'s share is this; and the share is allocated on the basis of generation and

demands of various States. And from this we give to Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and all of them. So, the share of U.P. was 2044 million units, and they were given 3545 million units—1,500 million units more. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : They will provide it; don't worry.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : In 1986-87, U.P. has been getting more than its share.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your interests will be protected; don't worry.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : From Singrauli, U.P. had share of 1793.3 million units from April 1986 to January 1987; and they got 2,863 million units—again 1,000 million units more. What more can you give? As far as the Centre is concerned, we have been giving more to U.P. They must ensure that from their own Electricity Boards they generate enough, and supply the needs of the agriculturists.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : I want to know as to why other States have been given power out of the share of Rajasthan where there is already shortage of power? How many more units you are going to supply to Rajasthan to fulfil the requirement of that State? The industries in Rajasthan have been closed down on account of non-availability of power and in agriculture sector, there is 40 per cent shortage. Will you supply more power to Rajasthan to make up for the shortages?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I do not want to disappoint Shri Vyas. Unfortunately, Rajasthan is getting more electricity than what is due to it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Pricing Policy for Petroleum Products

*83. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a long term pricing policy in respect of petroleum products ; and

(b) is so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) and (b) The main objectives of the petroleum pricing policy are :

(a) to generate adequate resources for the development of the oil industry ;

(b) to generate resources for poverty alleviation and other socio-economic programmes in the Five Year Plans ;

(c) to promote inter fuel substitution, conservation and demand management of finite oil resources ;

(d) to minimise the dependence on imported oil and the burden on scarce foreign exchange resources ; and

(e) to provide domestic fuel for cooking and lighting for the vulnerable sections of society at reduced rates.

[English]

Waiting Lists for Telephone Connections

*84. SHRI H.B. PATIL :

SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have sought reports from the various States regarding the waiting list of persons for telephone connections ;

(b) if so, the details thereof. State-wise; and

(c) the plan of Government in this regards

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) :
(a) to (c) : The Department of Telecom. collects data about the working connections and waiting lists from Heads of Telecom. Circles and Telephone Districts, each quarter. Some of these Circles cover more than one State, while parts of some of the States are covered by Telephone Districts. The following Table gives the waiting lists as on 31-12-86 in various States as compiled on the basis of the statement, received from the Circles and Telephone Districts :

Sl. No.	Name of the State/s	Waiting list as on 31-12-86)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	64,639
2.	Bihar	10,501
3.	Gujarat and UTs. of Daman, Diu, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Salvas.	1,03,171
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	7,119
5.	Karnataka	58,313
6.	Kerala and UTs. of Mahe & Lakshadweep	88,092
7.	Madhya Pradesh	35,867
8.	Maharashtra and UT of Goa	3,00,783
9.	Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh served by NE Telecom. Circle	5,913
10.	Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh & UT of Chandigarh served by NW Telecom Circle.	76,674

11.	Orissa	5,949
12.	Rajasthan	39,293
13.	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	81,156
14.	Uttar Pradesh	50,255
15.	West Bengal and Sikkim	41,039
16.	Union Territory of Delhi.	1,73,918
TOTAL		11,42,682

The Department of Telecommunications has been given an allocation of Rs. 4010 crores for the 7th Plan period, with which 11 lakh telephone connections are expected to be provided. Out of these, 4.27 lakh telephone connections have been provided upto 31st December, 1986 and additional about 7 lakh connections may be provided in the remaining part of the 7th Plan.

The Department has, however, sought enhancement of the plan allocation to permit about 16 lakh telephone connections being provided, which will increase the number to be provided during the remaining part of the Plan to about 12 lakh.

Vacant Seats in Lok Sabha and Assemblies

*87. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats lying vacant in the country as on 1 March, 1987 ;

(b) since when seats are lying vacant and their names ; and

(c) the time by which they are likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) :

(a) to (c) : A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Statement of vacancies in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies as on 26.2.1987

State/Union territory	No. & Name of the constituency	Date of vacancy	Cause of vacancy	By-election programme/Remarks					Poll	
				Notifica- tion	Nomina- tion	Scrutiny	With- drawal			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
I—HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE										
1. Andhra Pradesh	31-Secunderabad	19.10.86	Death	16.2.87	23.2.87	24.2.87	27.2.87	23.3.87		
2. Maharashtra	30-Nanded	21.7.86	Resignation	16.2.87	23.2.87	24.2.87	26.2.87	23.3.87		
3. Haryana	8-Bhiwani	10-12-86	Resignation	To be held with General Elections to Legislative Assembly of Haryana						
4. Uttar Pradesh	85-Hardwar (SC)	3-1-87	Death	16.2.87	23.2.87	24.2.87	27.2.87	23-3-87		
5. Bihar	38-Sasaram (SC)	5-7-86	Death	Election Petition pending						
II—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES										
1. Andhra Pradesh	(1) 73-Polavaram (ST)	11-3-87	Death	16-2-87	23-2-87	24-2-87	27-2-87	23-3-87		
	(2) 167-Kalyandrug (SC)	28-3-86	Death	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		
2. Assam	(3) 104-Nazira	9-12-86	Resignation	Vacancy to be filled after revision of rolls						
3. Gujarat	(4) 108-Modasa	17-11-86	Death	16-2-87	23-2-87	24-2-87	27-2-87	23-3-87		
4. Haryana	(5) 14-Jundla (SC)	28-9-85	Resignation	The term of Haryana Legislative Assembly is						
	(6) 63-Badhra	9-9-85	Resignation	due to expire on 24-6-87. Commission has						
	(7) 74-Hissar	3-12-86	Resignation	decided not to fill up these vacancies.						
	(8) 76-Tohara	16-2-87	Death							
	(9) 79-Adampur	31-7-86	Resignation							
5. Maharashtra	(10) 211-Nilanga	20-2-86	Resignation	16-2-87	23-2-87	24-2-87	26-2-87	23-3-87		
6. Nagaland	(11) 1-Dimapur-I	22-2-86	Death	The term of Nagaland Assembly is due to expire on 28-11-87. Commission decided not to fill the vacancy.						

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7. Punjab	(12) 12-Beas (13) 31-Jullundur Central	28-4-86 2-5-86	Death Death	) No decision to hold bye-elections has yet been) taken in view of Law and Order situation in) the State.				
8. Uttar Pradesh	(14) 16-Kashipur (15) 323-Rath (16) 120-Patti (17) 133-Tanda (18) 73-Chapra (19) 108-Jadavpur (20) 185-Tarakeswar (21) 186-Chinsurah (22) 212-Ramnagar (23) 270-Burdwan North	1-12-85 2-1-86 23-12-86 13-1-87 17-9-86 24-1-86 6-7-86 16-6-86 11-10-86 31-10-86	Resignation Death Death Death Death Resignation Death Death Death Resignation	)))))))))))	16-2-87 23-2-87 23-2-87 24-2-87 27-2-87 23-2-87 23-3-1987		23-3-87	
9. West Bengal				To be held after revision of rolls.				
10. Madhya Pradesh	(24) 274-Indore-V	25-2-86	Resignation	General Election to constitute a new Legislative Assembly is being held with the date of poll on				
11. Pondicherry	(25) 13-Bahour (SC)	21-12-85	Death	23-2-87	24-2-87	27-2-87	23-3-87	

Leakage in Unit I of Raichur Thermal Power Station

*88. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was an abnormal hydrogen leakage in Unit I of the Raichur Thermal Power Station ;

(b) if so, whether power generation was suspended as a result thereof ;

(c) the loss of revenue because of this incident during the financial year 1985-86 ; and

(d) the steps taken to avoid such accidents in Unit II of Raichur Thermal Power Station ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (d) There was a hydrogen leakage problem in Unit I of the Raichur thermal station which is in the State sector. This resulted in the shut down of the unit to enable BHEL to rectify the defect. According to the Government of Karnataka, the estimated revenue loss due to the shut down was Rs. 690 lakhs. BHEL has carried out the required modifications in Unit II, before its commissioning, to avoid hydrogen leakage.

USE of Natural Gas Fuel for Motor Vehicles

*90. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLUUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the oil and Natural Gas Commission has achieved success in making use of compressed natural gas as fuel for motor vehicle in the Krishna-Godavari project ;

(b) if so, the steps taken to popularise the use of natural gas as fuel for vehicles ; and

(c) whether the ONGC is planning to convert its entire transport fleet to the new system which will result in a great saving in fuel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) to (c) ONGC have converted one diesel run truck to enable it to run on compressed natural gas. ONGC is initially planning to convert ten trucks of its fleet to the use of natural gas by importing conversion kits.

[Translation]

Quota of Maruti Vehicles

*92. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dealers appointed by Maruti Udyog Limited in various cities ;

(b) whether any criteria have been laid down regarding the number of vehicles of various types to be allotted by Maruti Udyog Limited to their dealers in various cities ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) Maruti Udyog Limited have appointed 66 dealers in 59 cities upto 27th February, 1987.

(b) and (c) Maruti Standard cars and Flat roof Vans are allocated to dealers at various centres broadly in proportion to booking percentage at that centre. Deluxe Cars, High roof Vans, air conditioned vans and Gypsy are allocated largely on the basis of demand at different centres for open sale.

[English]

Clearance at one Point for Power Project

*95. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI; DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are evolving measures to arrange a one-time clearance at one point for power projects on matters like forest and environmental clearance and fuel linkages; and

(b) if so, the directions issued by Union Government in this regard to the Central Electricity Authority, National Thermal Power Corporation and National Hydro-electric Power Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY, (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI):

(a) and (b) A suggestion was made at the State Power Ministers' Conference held in January, 1987, that there should be a single window clearance for proposals to set up power projects. The proposals for Power Projects are not susceptible to one window clearance in view of the fact that state as well as Central Government agencies are involved and in the absence of commonality in the aspects from which the required clearances, under various statutes, have to be given.

Transmission Lines in Eastern Sector

*96. **DR. A.K. PATEL:**

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

(a) the particulars of places in the Eastern Sector where power stations have started generation and there are no transmission lines;

(b) the reasons for not installing the transmission lines so far; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY, (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI):

(a) to (c) The transmission lines associated with various power projects in the Eastern Sector are being implemented concomitantly with the generating units, with the exception of 400 KV substation at Bidhannagar associated with Farakka Super

Thermal Station and 220 KV Hazipur—Fatwa line associated with Muzaffarpur Thermal Station, which have been considerably delayed due to various reasons. These works are being executed by West Bengal and Bihar State Electricity Boards respectively.

The State Governments have been advised to closely monitor and supervise the implementation of these projects. The Central Electricity Authority has also been asked to send teams to these projects with a view to identify the implementation constraints and render advice to the State Electricity Boards concerned.

Retail Prices of Cement

*97. **SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent policies of relaxation in retail prices of cement have failed to increase production significantly and led to ever increasing demands by the manufacturers;

(b) the retail price of cement before price controls were removed and the present price; and

(c) the corresponding free on board prices of cement being imported now?

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

(a) The Government have not taken any policy decision in regard to relaxation in retail prices of cement. However, Government have decided to increase the retention price for levy cement to extent of Rs. 24.50 per tonne without increasing sale price to the consumers and reduce the levy quota of all cement units by 10% with effect from 15th December, 1986, to enable the cement manufacturers to meet the increase in cost of production of cement. Cement production is showing continuous increase during the last few years.

(b) The Control price of Cement, including packing charges and excise duty, immediately before the introduction of partial

de-control of cement on 28.2.82 was Rs. 540.19 per tonne. As against this, the current price of levy cement, including the excise duty and packing charges, is Rs. 353.99 per tonne. However, the retail price, inclusive of central sales tax, local sales tax and other levies differ from state to state.

The retail price for non-levy cement varies from area to area and the Cement Manufacturers' Association has fixed the following upper ceiling for non-levy cement :—

Kerala, Maharashtra Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern States	Rs. 69 per bag or Rs. 1380 per tonne.
Other States/ Union Territories	Rs. 64 per bag or Rs. 1280 per tonne.

The above prices are inclusive of Central sales tax, stockists margin and local transport cost upto 20 Kms. from the destination rail head but excludes local sales tax and other local levies applicable in different States/areas.

(c) It has been decided by Government not to import any cement during the current year i.e. 1986-87. The F.O.B. price per tonne at which contracts were concluded during 1985-86 stood at US \$ 25.50 from rupee payment areas. The F.O.B. price from free currency area was US \$ 28 per metric tonne and the purchase contracts from such areas were finalised by S.T.C. against counter trade basis.

New Arrangements for Supply of Coal by Coal India Limited

*98. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has decided to stop direct supplies of coal to industries which require less than 120 wagons a year;

(b) if so, the details of the new arrangements made for the supply of coal; and

(c) the reasons for change in policy ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c) In order to ensure timely, easy and regular supplies of coal to the small consumers, Coal India Limited have decided to link all consumers having a requirement upto 120 tonnes a month with Coal India stockyards on a permanent basis and delink them from the collieries. This has been done on the basis of the recommendations of an Expert Committee headed by SHRI J. G. Kumaramangalam, former Chairman of Coal Mines Authority Limited.

Conference of Chairman of State Electricity Boards

*99. SHRI S. M. GURADDI :

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

(a) whether a Conference of Chairman of State Electricity Boards was held in December, 1986;

(b) if so, the main topics discussed at the Conference; and

(c) the outcome of the deliberations at the Conference and whether any time bound programme has been prepared for achieving self-sufficiency in power during Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY, (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The measures necessary for achieving self-sufficiency in power supply include expediting commissioning of on-going projects, better utilisation of existing capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, reduction in transmission and distribution losses, and demand management and energy conservation. The main topics discussed at the Conference related to these issues and included implementation of the power generation and project commissioning programmes, review of the renovation and modernisation scheme for thermal stations, supply of coal to thermal plants, and measures for reduction in transmission and

distribution losses. The Conference decided to constitute a Committee to formulate a renovation and modernisation programme for hydroelectric projects and to assess the funds required for it. The Conference also decided to set up a Committee to recommend steps for the rigorous enforcement of the amendments in the Indian Electricity Act making theft of energy a cognizable offence and providing for stringent punishment, and to identify system improvement schemes and energy accounting procedures necessary for reduction in transmission and distribution losses.

Shortage of Induction Furnaces Raw Material

*100. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister or INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of raw material for induction furnaces due to which 400 induction furnaces are facing closure ;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the shortage of raw material to avoid closure of industries ?

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

(a) Government are not aware of any reports that Induction Furnaces are being closed due to shortage of raw materials. However, Government are aware that there is a gap between demand and supply of melting scrap.

(b) Shortage is due to the demand for scrap outstripping availability of scrap in the country.

(c) Government has already reduced customs duty on imported steel melting scrap.

Coal India Limited

*101. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTTY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the target of 143 million tonnes of production of coal during the current year is likely to be achieved by Coal India Limited ;

(b) the estimated loss likely to be suffered by Coal India Limited in 1986-87 ;

(c) the total additional income the Coal India Limited on account of the hike in coal prices; and

(d) the total additional burden on account of the new agreement reached with the trade unions ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is expected that Coal India may achieve the target of coal production set for 1986-87.

(b) The Accounts of Coal India Limited for the year 1986-87 will be finalised only after the financial year is over.

(c) While considering the proposal for revision of coal price, additional revenue accrual to Coal India Limited on account of price revision effective from 9.1.1986, was estimated to be about Rs. 367 crores during the year 1986-87.

(d) National Coal Wage Agreement-III signed by the representatives of the management and the workers has expired on 31.12.1986. No new agreement has been signed so far.

Increase in Production of Watches

*102. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the measures proposed to be adopted by Government to increase production of watches in India ;

(b) the production target for 1987-88; and

(c) the measures adopted by Government to ensure that cost of indigenous watches is kept low so as to discourage marketing of imported/smuggled watches ?

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

(a) to (c) With a view to increase indigenous production of watches, reduce the cost of indigenous watches and to discourage smuggling of watches into the country, Government has already taken the following measures :—

(i) A capacity of 22 million Nos. has been approved in the organised sector. Twelve units with an approved capacity of 11.66 million Nos. are already in production in the organised sector.

(ii) The current Import Policy provides for liberal import of watch components.

(iii) A number of foreign collaboration proposals with internationally reputed watch manufacturers have been approved.

(iv) In February, 1985, Government announced a package of concessions to the watch industry including reduction in excise duty and concessional rate of customs duty on the import of raw materials, components and machinery used in the manufacture of wrist watches.

(v) A production target of 8 million watches has been set for 1987-88 for the organised sector.

Biogas Plants

880. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether too many designs of biogas plants have been approved without taking local conditions into consideration ;

(b) if so, reasons thereof ; and

(c) the steps proposed to remedy the situation ?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise. With a view to improving reliability and decreasing capital cost of family sized biogas plants,

all proposals for new models developed by various agencies are examined by the Biogas R & D Experts Committee. Basically only the fixed dome and floating dome biogas plants are being built. However, five different models with variation in materials of construction and geometry have been approved for extension depending upon local conditions and individual choice.

Foreign Aid for Telecom Expansion

881. SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance received from foreign countries for telecom. expansion programme so far ;

(b) whether the entire assistance received has been utilized in the purchase of machinery/equipment in the respective countries or in other countries indicated by them ; and

(c) whether Japan is also to give a loan and if so, details thereof and how this will be utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) We have received financial assistance from the following countries for expansion of Telecom. Programme so far :

Name of the Country	Amount	
(i) Hungary	Rs.	108.40 Million
(ii) Canada	C\$	40.85 Million
(iii) Sweden	Skrs	14.00 Million
(iv) France	FFs	660.19 Million
(v) West Germany	DM	8.00 Million
(vi) Japan	J	66530.00 Million.

(b) The above loans except for five of the nine loans from Japan have been utilised. These have been utilised in the purchase of machinery/Equipment/Services in the respective countries or in countries indicated by them.

(c) Japan has so far given us 9 loans. The 9th loan agreement was signed in December, 1986. This loan has been approved for the purchase of local exchange equipment, transmission equipment and Network management and surveillance equipment etc.

**Modification of Automobile Engines
To Run on Natural Gas**

*882. SHRI LAKSHAMAN MALLICK:
SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA
MURTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Commission has decided to float a subsidiary company to promote modification of automobile engines so that they can also consume natural gas alternately; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the study made, if any, by Government in this regard through its task force ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Modernisation and Development of
Telecommunication System in Orissa**

883. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state :

(a) where in order to reduce accumulated backlog over the years, his Ministry had agreed in June 1982 to the suggestion of the Orissa Government to supply necessary equipment and materials like transmission system, high-grade long range media on priority basis to Orissa ;

(b) whether it was also decided to give

special thrust on modernisation and development of the telecommunication system in the State ;

(c) if so, the progress made so far ;

(d) whether the works on expansion of Crossbar Exchange at Bhubaneswar with the provision of Electronic switching equipments, execution of Cuttack-Sambalpur Microwave system, STD services to the district headquarters down from the State capital and long distance public call offices are progressing as per schedule ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and what remedial steps are being taken to keep up the schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) A request was made by the Orissa Government in June, 1982,

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of the transmission schemes commissioned after June, 1982 and planned schemes during the 7th Plan are given in the statement below. Provision made for small electronia exchanges is also indicated.

(d) and (e) . Crossbar Exchange at Bhubaneswar has been expanded from 6000 to 7000 lines in October, 1985 and another 4000 lines Electronic Exchange has been proposed to be commissioned at Bhubaneswar during 1988-89. Sambalpur W/B Microwave scheme has been proposed to be commissioned in 1986-87. District Headquarters of Bolangir Bawani-Patna, Bariparta, Chatarpur, and Dhenkenal are likely to be linked to State capital by 1987-88. 450 long distance public telephones have been proposed to be installed in the Orissa state during the 7th plan period. Out of this, 179 LDPTs have already been commissioned by January, 1987.

Statement

**The Schemes Commissioned
after June, 1982**

(a) 1. Kharagpur-Cuttack Wide Band
Microwave Scheme.

2. Cuttack-Berhampur Wide Band Microwave scheme.
3. Berhampur-Vishakhapatnam Wide Band Microwave Scheme.
4. Cuttack-Nuna Pali (R & G) UHF Scheme.
5. Balasore-Cuttack-Berhampur-12 MHz Co-an Hof. Stand-by.

The schemes planned and likely fixed for commissioning

- (b)
1. Cuttack-Sambalpur Wide Band Microwave Scheme 86-87
 2. Cuttack-Dhenkanal Narrow Band Microwave Scheme 87-88
 3. Joypore-Koraput Narrow Band Microwave Scheme 87-88
 4. Koraput-Bobli Narrow Band Microwave Scheme 87-88
 5. Sambalpur-Bolangir 8 Mb/s Digital M/W Scheme 88-89
 6. Sambalpur Nagpur 140 Mb/s Digital M/W Scheme 88-89
 7. Sambalpur Raigarh 34 Mb/s Microwave Scheme 88-89
 8. Sambalpur-Calcutta 140 Mb/s Microwave Scheme 88-89
 9. Sambalpur Rourkela 34 Mb/s Microwave Scheme 88-89
 10. Cuttack-Bhuaneshwar 34 Mb/s Microwave Scheme 88-89
 11. Talchar-Angul UHF 86-87
 12. Balasore-Baripada UHF 88-89
 13. Koraput-Lakhimpur UHF 88-89
 14. Jeypore-Gomindapalli-Balimda UHF 88-89
 15. Sambalpur Jarsuguda-Sundergarh 89-90

16. Keonjhar-Talcachar UHF 89-90
17. Talchar-Talcachar Thermal Station UHF 89-90
18. Chhattarpur-Aska-Bhanjan Nagar UHF 89-90
19. Raipur-Sambalpur 140 Mb/s digital CXL 89-90

NEAX 61-S Digital Electronic Exchanges are to be installed in the following stations :—

1. Keonjhar — 600
2. Korapur — 400
3. Phulbani — 400
4. Sundergarh — 400
5. Baripada — 800
6. Dhenkanal — 700
7. Chhattarpur — 400

S.T.D. Services between District Headquarters of Himachal Pradesh and Shimla, Delhi

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

(a) the programme and progress of introduction of STD between district headquarters of Himachal Pradesh and the State Capital (Shimla) and the National Capital (Delhi) for each district of the State ;

(b) if so, the date by which work regarding provision of STD services for all the 12 districts will be completed ;

(c) whether group-dialling would also be introduced among SAs parented MAX II at the district headquarters ; and

(d) if so, the likely date by which it would be done and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) :

(a) and (b) STD services to State capital Shimla are already available for Dharamshala and Mandi. Shimla is also a district headquarter. Solan, Hamirpur, Nahan and Bilaspur are programmed for STD with State Capital Shimla during 1987-88. Remaining District Headquarters namely Chamba, Keylong, Kalpa, Kulu and Una are planned to be connected with Shimla on STD progressively during 7th Plan and 8th Plan. STD from District Headquarters to the National Capital (Delhi) is programmed to be introduced through the Trunk Automatic Exchange Network. This is expected to be completed progressively during the 7th and the Plan period.

(c) Yer Sir, wherever applicable.

(d) It will be introduced progressively during 7th Plan, 8th Plan subject to availability of stores & fulfilment of the stipulated condition for introducing inter-dialling.

Improvement in Telecommunication Service in West Bengal

385. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any plan has been formulated by Government for improvement of telecommunications in Calcutta and to provide more electronic telephone exchanges in its area ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore and the steps being taken to improve telecommunication services not only in Calcutta but throughout West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the statement-I below.

(c) Steps to improve the telecommunication services in rest of West Bengal are given in the Statement-II below.

Statement-I

Following development plans for improvement of telecom. services in Calcutta during the 7th Five Year Plan has been formulated.

- I.
 - i) To add 45000 lines of exchange capacity (Electronics out of which 15300 lines have already been added.
 - ii) To replace the 91800 lines of old/worn out exchanges (strowgers) by mostly electronic exchanges, out of which 40,000 lines have been replaced so far.
 - iii) To construct a total of 100 KMs of ducts by 1990, out of which 56 KMs have so far been completed.
 - iv) To replace the majority of the junction cables by radio relay and optical fibre system, 9 radio links have been installed. 60 more are likely to be installed. Also 37 optical fibre cable systems have been planned.
 - v) To install PCM system on various junction cables, 338 systems have so far been commissioned and another 700 have been planned.
 - vi) A 4000 lines SPC Trunk Auto Exchange has been installed. A 4000 lines digital electronic exchange has been planned to replace the 4000 lines Pentaconta Trunk Auto Exchange. Another 8000 lines digital Trunk Auto Exchange is also planned.
 - vii) A 3000 lines digital electronic telex has been installed. It will be expanded by another 4600 lines out of which 2500 lines will be used to replace the existing strowger telex.
 - viii) Computerisation of telephone directory and updating the enquiry services. Computers have been installed, software and data work is in progress.

II. Following steps are also being taken to improve the performances of telephone system :

- i) Intensive testing of exchange equipment and rectification of faults.
- ii) Continuous monitoring of Air-conditioning plants working in the exchanges.
- iii) Rehabilitation of subscribers fittings and D.P. boxes to minimise the faults on the lines.
- iv) Replacement of overhead wires by insulated drop wires and underground cable to avoid aerial faults.
- v) Opening of Public Grievances Cell at General Manager/Area Manager offices to provide single outlet extension to subscribers.

Statement II

1. The following steps will be taken to improve telephone services in rest of West Bengal in the 7th Five Year Plan.

- 1) Provision of electronic exchange at Sainthia and Alipurduar by December, 1987.
- 2) Bankura, Berhampur and Jalpaiguri manual exchanges will be automated.
- 3) Bankura, Purulia, Digha, Contai, Balurghat and Raniganj will be connected to National Network by Microwave/UHF link.

II. Following steps are also being taken to improve the performance of telephone system :

- 1) Intensive testing of exchange equipment and rectification of faults.
- 2) Continuous monitoring of Air-conditioning plants working in the exchanges.
- 3) Rehabilitation of subscribers fittings

and D.P. boxes to minimise the faults on the lines.

- 4) Replacement of overhead wires by insulated drop wires and underground cable to avoid aerial faults.
- 5) Opening of Public Grievances cell at General Manager/Area Manager offices to provide single outlet extension to subscribers.

Import and Export of Crude Oil

886. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state : -

(a) whether it is a fact that a certain quantity of crude oil is being exported ;

(b) if so, the quantity exported during the last three years with names of countries and the foreign exchange earned ; and

(c) the policy of Government in regard to import and export of crude oil for the year 1987-88 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) and (b) Presently, crude oil is not being exported. However, the quantity and value of crude oil exported during the last three years is given below :

Year	Qty. (Million tonnes)	Value (Rs./crores)
1983-84	5.52	1231.10
1984-85	6.48	1563.16
1985-86	0.53	135.15

It is difficult to specify the countries to which crude oil was exported as the transactions were with international traders.

(c) The crude import Plan for 1987-88 has not yet been finalised. There will be no

export of crude oil as the country has at present adequate refining capacity.

Set Back to Cane Growers by New Sugar Policy

887. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar policy announced by Government would enable sugar mill owners to increase their profits by nearly rupees one hundred crore ;

(b) whether sugar cane growers have been totally neglected in this policy announcement ; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government for protecting the interests of the sugar cane growers ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c) The sugar policy announced by Government aims at ensuring that the interests of the consumers, sugarcane growers and the sugar industry are harmonized. The question of allowing undue profits to the sugar mill owners or of neglecting the interests of the sugar cane growers does not arise.

Setting up of Thermal Power Station at Islampur, West Bengal

888. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up of a Thermal Power Station at Islampur in West Dinajpur district, West Bengal ; and

(b) if so, when the proposed station is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY. (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of Faulty Equipment by DESU

889. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking's losses are due to faulty equipments ;

(b) the number of transformers burnt during the last three years in Delhi ;

(c) the names of suppliers ; and

(d) the steps taken to check losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY. (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) According to DESU, their losses are not due to faulty equipments.

(b) and (c) During the period 1984-85 to 1986-87 (upto December, 1986) 772 transformers of DESU got burnt after installation. The name of suppliers are indicated in the statement given below. Out of the above, 552 transformers burnt/failed during the guarantee period and their manufacturers/suppliers were under contractual obligation to repair/replace them.

(d) The measures taken by DESU to reduce its T&D losses include extensive raids by the enforcement machinery to check theft of power, installation of more number of sub-stations, L.T. feeders, installation of shunt capacitors and installation of improved type of electricity meters to prevent fraudulent abstraction of energy.

Statement

The names of the suppliers referred to in part-C of the Question

-
1. M/s Electra
 2. East India Transformers and Switch-gears Ltd.
 3. Johnson Electricals

4. Standard Electricals
5. Eastern
6. Brentford Electrical (India) Ltd.
7. Electrical Construction & Equipment Co.
8. Jaybee. Electric Industries.
9. Tech. Associates.
10. Rajasthan Transformers.
11. Marson
12. National Electrical Industries Bombay.
13. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
14. Heavy Electricals Ltd.
15. Crompton
16. A.E.G./SIEMENS.
17. Ram Swaroop.
11. General Electric Co.
19. Indian Transformers Ltd.
20. ENCO, Industries Ltd.
21. East India Transformers & Switch gears Ltd.
32. Hindustan
23. N.G.E.F.
24. ANUL Transformers
25. East India.

[*Translation*]

Allocation of Kerosene to States

890. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV :

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

(a) the quota of Kerosene supplied to each State in the country during the last one year ;

(b) the criteria adopted for fixing quota of kerosene supplied to States ;

(c) whether Bihar is not supplied kerosene as per its requirements ; and

(d) if so, whether there is any scheme to supply kerosene to Bihar as per its requirements and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) :

(a) to (d) Normally the requirements of kerosene of various States and Union Territories including Bihar State, are assessed by allowing a 5% growth over the allocations made in the corresponding period of the previous year, on a four-month-block basis, and allocations are made accordingly. Besides the regular allocations, additional ad-hoc releases are also made to meet specific situations like flood, drought, cyclone, shortage of LPG/soft coke, etc.

However, to meet increased demand, allocations of kerosene since November, 1985 i.e. beginning of Winter Block, have been made after allowing a growth of 7½% for Winter Blocks and 7% both for Summer and Monsoon Blocks. Apart from the above, additional ad-hoc allocations have also been made to Bihar for the period October, 1986 to March, 1987.

A statement giving the allocations and sales of kerosene made to States & Union Territories during 1986 is given below.

Statement

Kerosene Allocation and Sales made during 1986

States/Union Territories	Figures in Tonnes	
	Allocation	Sales
1. Andhra Pradesh	461220	437247
2. Arunachal Pradesh	7190	9353
3. Andaman & Nicobar	2960	2915
4. Assam	207610	204853
5. Bihar	357396	358326
6. Chandigarh	16130	16206
7. Dadra & N. Haveli	2370	4739*
8. Delhi Administration	184300	181606
9. Gujarat	604570	604718
10. Goa, Daman & Diu	23370	19147 ^a
11. Haryana	121460	121462
12. Himachal Pradesh	28115	28110
13. Jammu & Kashmir	52815	53135
14. Karnataka	357310	340736
15. Kerala	200271	196840
16. Madhya Pradesh	294521	285580
17. Maharashtra	1147320	1142639
18. Manipur	15930	16580
19. Meghalaya	12780	13379
20. Mizoram	4920	4712
21. Nagaland	7770	9126
22. Orissa	121260	120049
23. Punjab	246890	247717
24. Pondicherry	11740	11637
25. Rajasthan	196648	195471
26. Sikkim	5670	9922
27. Tamil Nadu	508760	507300
28. Tripura	19335	15750
29. Uttar Pradesh	693414	696312
30. West Bengal	583740	583431
31. Lakshadweep	660	N.A.
TOTAL :	6498445	6438998

*Including sales made in Daman & Diu.

^aExcluding sales made in Daman & Diu.

[English]

**Withdrawal of concessions in Customs
duty on White Cement**

891. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been received from cement industry for withdrawal of concessions in customs duty on various varieties of cement ; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

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

(a) and (b) In terms of Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue Notification dated 28 February 1982, a concessional rate of basic customs duty of 10% *ad-valorem* and auxiliary duty of customs at 5% *ad-valorem* was leviable on cement including white cement. Certain representations from manufactures of white cement were received in the end of 1984 and in the beginning of 1985 requesting for enhancement of customs duty on white cement. Keeping in view the increased indigenous production of white cement in the country and the fact that white cement was considered as a luxury item catering to the requirements of affluent section of the population, the customs duty on white cement was enhanced to 60% *ad-valorem* plus 40% auxiliary duty of customs with effect from 23.8.85. Additional counter-vailing duty equal to excise duty of 40% was also a leviable.

**Action taken on Reports of
- Law Commission**

892. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of reports so far submitted by the Law Commission since its inception;

(b) the number of such reports on which partial and full action has been completed by Government ; and

(c) the annual expenditure incurred on the maintenance of Law Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ) : (a) 119 Reports.

(b) 48 Reports have been implemented in full and 3 Reports have been implemented partially.

(c) The expenditure incurred on the Law Commission for the financial year 1986-87 is Rs. 15.72.000/- upto January 31, 1987.

**Implementation of Underground Projects
of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.**

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

(a) the number of underground projects of Bharat Coking Coal Limited under implementation;

(b) whether the implementation of some projects has been lagging behind schedule ;

(c) if so, the project-wise details thereof and causes of delay ; and

(d) the amount involved in these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHI) : (a) to (d) There are 11 underground projects costing Rs. 5 crores and more under implementation in Bharat Coking Coal Limited. The implementation of following 5 projects has been lagging behind schedule : -

Name of project	Sanctioned Cost (Rs cr.)	Capacity (mty)	Date of completion		Reasons for delay
			Original	Now anticipated	
1. Pootkee Balihari	199.87	3.0	March 1994	December 1995	Delay on account of slow progress of shaft sinking due to difficult strata conditions and heavy inflow of strata water.
2. Moonidih	132.07	2.10	March 1985	March 1989	Difficult geominig conditions and delay in supply of longwall equipment.
3. Bhalgora	46.22	1.20	March 1985	March 1992	Delayed due to slow progress of shaft sinking.
4. Katras	26.04	0.90	March 1984	March 1988	Delay in finding an appropriate mining technology due to adverse geominig condition.
5. North Amlabad	26.18	0.72	March 1985	September 1990	Delay due to (i) occurrence of fire in XIV seam which had to be sealed ; (ii) frequent power interruptions ; (iii) coal seams are highly gassy and to deal with this situation methane draining scheme is under way.

S.D.O. (Telephone) Office at Bhawani
Patna Kalahandi, Orissa

894. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bhawani Patna, the district headquarters of Kalahandi (Orissa) is being considered for creating a Subdivisional office of telephones ;

(b) if so, when it is to be created ;
and

(c) if not, the reasons for not creating it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes.
Sir.

(b) and (c) After the present ban on
creation of new posts, is vacated.

Foreign Collaboration by BHEL

895. SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU :
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased
to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited have signed some agreements for foreign collaboration during the last two years ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the statement below.

Statement

Foreign Collaborations of BHEL during 1984-85 and 1985-86.

Sl. No.	Name of Foreign Collaborator	Product
1984-85		
1.	M/s Branham Industries Inc., USA.	Mast & Sub-structures for Onshore & Off-shore Drilling.
2.	M/s National Supply Co., USA.	Well heads & Christmas Trees.
1985-86		
1.	M/s HARCO Corporation, USA	Cathodic Protection System.
2.	M/s Siemens, West Germany.	Cam Shaft Controller.

[Translation]

Supply of Good Quality of Coal to Glass Units

896. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the News item published in the Indian Express dated 13 January, 1987 under the caption, "Poor Coal quality hits glass units";

(b) if so, whether the glass manufactures of Firozabad are not accepting export

orders and incurring losses on account of Supply of low quality coal :

(c) if so, action taken so far to ensure supply of good quality coal : and

(d) if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information available export of glass items in 1983-84, 1984-1985 and 1985-86 were to the tune of Rs. 2120 Lakhs, Rs. 2400 lakhs and Rs. 2700 lakhs respectively. Share of small scale glass units was 19.4% and 21.25% in the year 1983-84 and 1984-85 respectively. No separate export figures are available of Firozabad glass units.

(c) and (d) All the industrial units are linked for coal according to the qualitative parameters fixed for them by the competent authorities. Due to inadequate availability of steam coal from Raniganj and South Karanpura Coalfields, the requirements are met with better grade coal from other fields. To ensure proper sizing and removal of extraneous material, a crash programme for constructing coal-handling plants has been undertaken by the coal India Limited. The coal companies have also been directed to ensure manual breaking of bigger pieces and picking of extraneous material. Quality control cells have been established in each coal company.

[English]

Transfer Policy in Food Corporation of India

897. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1038 on 11 November, 1986 regarding demands of Food Corporation of India employees and state :

(a) whether any decision has since been taken regarding transfer policy in respect of Food Corporation of India employees :

(b) if so, its details : and

(c) if not, the time by which decision is likely to be taken and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Food Corporation of India has evolved a new transfer policy. It has been circulated to all the offices and major staff unions of the Corporation for their views. The new policy will be finalised as soon as views from all concerned are received.

Drilling Work in Orissa

898. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of onland/off shore drilling work envisaged/achieved during the last two years in Orissa by Oil India Ltd./ other oil companies :

(b) whether the Oil India Ltd. has shifted its priority exploratory drilling work to north-eastern States and Andamans and going slow in Orissa/Mahanadi basin ; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and action proposed to be taken to intensify the drilling/exploratory work in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) During the last two years Oil India Limited drilled three exploratory wells (11,130 metres) in the North East Coast off shore of Orissa.

A project for drilling 8 onshore wells in Orissa at a cost of Rs. 12.20 crores has been approved. Drilling has started in February, 87.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Associating Corporate Sector in Production of Agrarian Products

899. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the desirability of associating the corporate sector at the micro level district in the production of agrarian products and their marketing :

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard :

(c) whether some of the multinational companies have made some offers in this regards ; and

(d) if so, their names, nature of offers so made and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (c) The subject matter does not come within the purview of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

Petrol Pumps in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa

900. SHRI SIMON TIGGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps functioning in the tribal belt of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa till date :

(b) whether Government have any proposal to sanction more petrol pumps in the above mentioned States ; and

(c) if so, the names of the places where these are intended to be located ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) No separate statistics are maintained in respect of tribal

belt. However, the number of Retail Outlets (HSD/MS) in operation as on 1.1.1987 in the three States was :

Bihar	--	800
Madhya Pradesh	—	796
Orissa	---	288

(b) and (c) The oil marketing companies propose to establish retail outlets (HSD/MS) in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa at the locations mentioned in the Statement laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 3860/87]

Decision to Discontinue Manufacture of Gypsy

901. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Maruti Udyog has decided to discontinue the manufacture of Gypsy ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

(c) the number of units manufactured so far ;

(d) the number of units sold so far and the ex-factory price ; and

(e) the number in stock and likely to be manufactured ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) 7,393 Gypsy vehicles have been manufactured and 5,869 vehicles sold so far upto 21.2.1987. Maruti Udyog Ltd. plans to produce 898 Gypsy vehicles during the remaining period of the current financial

year. The ex-factory price of Gypsy is Rs. 94,900.

Food Distribution System in ITDP areas of Orissa

902. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the present system of distribution of foodgrains in the Integrated Tribal Development Project areas of Orissa is not satisfactory ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps taken to remove the bottleneck ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) :

(a) and (b) As a consequence of the visit of two inter-Ministerial teams to Orissa to assess the Working of the Scheme of concessional supply of foodgrains to people living in ITDP areas, certain shortcomings in distribution of foodgrains in ITDP areas of Orissa were observed. These shortcomings inter alia, included non-issue of ration cards, distribution of insufficient quantities of foodgrains as well as lack of proper monitoring and inspection by the State Government.

The Central Government has advised the State Government to :

(i) Lay down a calendar of inspections by different levels of officers.

(ii) Making the Collector of the District personally responsible for reviewing and implementing the inspection system.

(iii) Closely review the existing distribution system and the infrastructure available in the State in order to identify the gaps so that corrective remedial measures could be taken to remove the deficiencies.

**Faulty Switch Boards in Auto-Manual
Exchange at Telephone Bhawan, Calcutta**

903. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHER
JEE :

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH
GOSWAMI :

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the
Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased
to state :

(a) whether some lady operators and an
Assistant Engineer fell sick while working
on the switch board of the automanual
exchange at Telephone Bhawan, Calcutta,
on 21-January, 1987 and had to be admitted
to hospital ;

(b) whether the operators had received
electric shocks earlier also ;

(c) if so, the details of these cases;

(d) the action taken to check the boards
and to find out the cause for such sickness ;
and

(e) whether responsibilities have been
fixed for such lapses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :
(a) Yes, Sir. Some Lady Telephone
Operators felt sick on 21st, the Assistant
Engineer actually felt sick on 22-1-1987.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) From 8th January to 16th February,
1987, 37 officials felt uneasy or sick of
varying degrees. Three lady telephone
operators and one Assistant Engineer were
hospitalised and are under treatment/
observation.

(d) A team of technical experts from
Department of Telecommunications and an
expert from Australia made a thorough
check and carried out investigations and it
was found that there was nothing seriously
electrically or acoustically wrong in the
installations.

(e) In view of the reply at (d) above,
question does not arise.

Perks to MPs

904. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will
the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conduct-
ed any comparative study of perks such as
allowances, pay, secretarial assistance
available to Members of Parliament in
foreign Parliaments ; and

(b) If so, the results of such study and
whether Government propose to review the
pattern of perks available to Members of
Parliament in India ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIA-
MENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER
OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI
H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Selling Prices of Super Bazar vis-a-vis
Central Government Employees
Consumer Cooperative Society
Ltd., New Delhi**

905. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL
SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) how do the selling prices of essen-
tial commodities compare as on 1st
January, 1987 to the selling prices as on 1st
January, 1985 and 1st January, 1986 in
Super Bazar and Central Government
Employees, Consumer Cooperative Society
Ltd., New Delhi ;

(b) how do these prices compare with
the prices in the open market during the
same period ;

(c) the reasons for the rise in the
prices ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to
check the rise in prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL
SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD):

(a) and (b) A statement indicating the prices
of comparable essential commodities sold by
Super Bazar and the Central Government

Employees Consumers Cooperative Society Ltd. (Kendriya Bhandar) New Delhi as also the prices of such commodities in the open market at Pahar Ganj, Delhi as on 1.1.1985, 1.1.1986 and 1.1.1987 as reported by Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar, is given below.

(c) Prices of essential commodities have risen due to various factors such as increase in the support/procurement prices of wheat, a significant fall in the production of oilseeds especially groundnut, a decline in the production of potatoes and onions and seasonal factors amongst others. Prices at the retail level have also been affected by factors such as transport costs, local taxes, etc.

(d) The major thrust of Government policy has been to increase the production of various essential commodities, particularly

those which are in short supply. Some essential commodities like edible oils and kerosene oil are imported in order to augment their domestic availability. The public Distribution System through which essential commodities like foodgrains, sugar and edible oils are distributed to the common people at reasonable prices, is being strengthened and expanded. Foodgrains at cheaper prices are being supplied to people in tribal areas and under special schemes namely, National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme. State Governments have also been asked from time to time to take prompt action against those indulging in malpractices and to strictly enforce the various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations.

Super Bazar vis-a-vis Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd. (Kendriya Bhandar), New Delhi

(figures in rupees)

S. No.	Item	Unit	As on 1.1.1985			As on 1.1.1986			As on 1.1.1987		
			Super Bazar	Kendriya Bhandar	Pahar Ganj	Super Bazar	Kendriya Bhandar	Pahar Ganj	Super Bazar	Kendriya Bhandar	Pahar Ganj
1.	Rice Permal	per Kg.	3.60	3.85	3.90	3.55	4.30	4.00	4.40	4.15	4.75
2.	Dal Arhar	"	5.70	5.80	6.20	6.05	5.90	6.40	7.80	7.50	7.90
3.	Dal Chana	"	6.30	6.60	6.55	7.20	7.20	7.70	5.00	4.80	6.50
4.	Dal Moong Washed	"	7.25	7.45	7.50	6.80	6.70	7.25	6.10	6.00	6.75
5.	Malka Red	"	6.45	6.70	6.80	6.80	6.60	7.20	7.40	7.10	7.75
6.	Kala Chana	"	5.90	6.00	6.15	7.10	7.10	7.40	5.20	5.30	5.50
7.	Atta	per 10 Kg.	27.00	26.00	27.00	25.00	27.00	27.00	28.00	29.00	29.00
8.	Sugar	per Kg.	5.40	5.70	5.60	5.50	5.65	7.05	5.70	5.85	7.00
9.	Tea Loose	"	34.00	35.00	34.50	29.00	28.00	32.00	29.00	28.40	34.00
10.	Matches Ship Brand	per Dozen	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.55	2.60	2.90	2.60	2.65	3.00
11.	Lux Toilet Soap	per cake	2.80	2.75	2.85	2.80	2.75	2.85	3.10	3.05	3.00
12.	Lifebuoy Toilet Soap	"	2.60	2.55	2.75	2.60	2.55	2.65	2.85	2.80	2.90

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities

906. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of
FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased
to state :

(a) whether the prices of essential commodities including edible oil have continued to rise during the year 1986 ;

(b) if so, the details of rise in prices of essential commodities monthwise during the year 1986 ; and

(c) how does it compare with that of the year 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL
SUPPLIES (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD) :

(a) During the past one year ending December, 1986, the prices of several essential commodities have increased while some have decreased.

(b) and (c) The month-wise information for 1986 and 1985 is furnished in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3861/87]

**Packages for protecting Domestic
Capital Goods Sector**

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

(a) whether Government are working out packages for protecting the domestic capital goods sector with emphasis on modernisation and for putting the Stock Exchange on a Sound footing ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) and (b) Government have been working out policy packages for continued growth in production of capital goods industries. These include enhancing their capabilities

to face international competition through suitable changes in industrial and fiscal policies, encouraging schemes of modernisation and technology upgradation, and providing assistance for adequate availability of inputs at reasonable prices.

On the basis of recommendations of the High Powered Committee on Stock Exchanges, guidelines/directives have been issued by the Government for improving the functioning of the stock exchanges. These, inter alia, related to bringing down the cost of public issue of securities, listing of securities on stock exchanges, provision of better services to the investors, membership of stock exchanges and creation of Customers' Protection Fund in stock exchanges.

Import of Edible Oils

908. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL
SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the figures of imported edible oils during the last three years ending 31st December, 1986 showing yearly import from each country for each type of oil ;

(b) what factors favour the import of oils and what factors compel Government to change the policy of supply to oil mills ;

(c) how many times this policy has been changed during the last two years ;

(d) whether the State Trading Corporation has sold 60,000 tonnes of oil abroad which was to be shipped for import during December, 1986/January, 1987 ;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and its effect on local markets and local oil mills ; and

(f) how many such sale deals were effected by State Trading Corporation during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL
SUPPLIES (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD) :

(a) The quantity of edible oils imported during the last three years is as under :

Financial Year	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)
1984-85	15.85
1985-86	10.80
1986-87	10.80
(April Dec., 1986)	(Provisional)

Whilst Palm Oils emanate from Malaysia/Indonesia, Soyabean Oil originates from Latin America/USA/West Europe and Rapeseed oil from East Europe/West Europe/Canada.

(b) and (c) Edible Oils are imported to cover the gap between the demand for and indigenous supply and to make available edible oil at reasonable prices through Public Distribution System. The percentage of allocation to vanaspati units is changed from time to time keeping in view the availability and prices of permitted indigenous oils.

(d) A quantity of 25,500 tonne of edible oils was contracted to be imported and resold.

(e) This was done to adjust the arrivals of imported edible oils in view of actual allocation.

(f) There were only two such deals during the last 2 years.

Export of Machines and Tools by HMT Ltd.

909. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to State :

(a) the steps taken by HMT Ltd. to export its machines and tools; and

(b) the details and value of goods to be exported during the current year, country wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) : (a) HMT has been exporting its machine tools through its wholly owned subsidiary HMT (International) Ltd. The following steps have been taken to promote exports of HMT machine tools :

1. Display of machine tools in various international trade fairs.

2. Marketing of machine tools through its own offices, distributors and agents in various countries.

3. Supply of machine tools through bilateral trade agreements between Government of India and governments of other countries.

4. Participation in counter trade arrangements through various specialised agencies.

5. Participation in various international tenders for Supply of machine tools.

6. Participation in various project consultancy opportunities to promote exports of machine tools to specific projects.

7. New product development and product modifications to suit the requirements of Selected markets.

8. HMT is in the process of exploring exports through production co-operation in joint manufacturing of machine tools with Selected countries.

(b) Details of projected value of machine tools to be exported for the year 1986-87 are as follows:

	(Rs. in lacs)
Area	Value
Africa	312.53
Australia and USA	27.11
Europe	2204.41
Neighbouring countries	4.60
West Asia	27.96
Deemed Exports	8.98
Total	2585.59

[Translation]

Export of Wheat to U.S.S.R..

910. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two lakh tonnes of wheat which was to be exported to the U.S.S.R. during 1986 could not be exported; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the profit earned or loss suffered by Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLY (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT):

(a) No, Sir, against the balance quantity of 2.93 lakh tonnes of wheat to be exported to U.S.S.R. under the Contract dated 9.4.85, a quantity of 1.21 lakh tonnes was shipped till 24.2.87. The shipments are in progress.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Increase in Price of Sugar

911. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :

SHRI MANIK REDDY :

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation of nearly five hundred farmers from various parts of the country met the Prime Minister during the third week of December, 1986 to seek an increase in the procurement price of sugarcane and payment of arrears to farmers to the tune of Rs. 26 crores ;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered their demands ; and

(c) the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir, About 400 persons from various States met the Prime Minister on 16-12-1986 and two of the demands related to increase in the procurement price of sugarcane and payment of arrears.

(b) and (c) The Central Government fixes, under the Sugarcane (Control) Order,

1966, the statutory minimum price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories. For 1986-87 and 1987-88 seasons, the minimum prices respectively are Rs. 17.00 and Rs. 18.00 per quintal, linked to 8.5% recovery. These are not procurement prices. They are the floor prices below which no sugar factory can pay. In actual practice, the growers have been getting prices much higher than the statutory minimum. For example, the growers in Uttar Pradesh are getting a price of Rs. 24 to Rs. 25 per quintal, in Bihar Rs. 24 to Rs. 24.50 per quintal, in Punjab Rs. 24 to Rs. 27 per quintal, in Haryana Rs. 24 to Rs. 28 per quintal, in Karnataka Rs. 22.50 to Rs. 29.00 per quintal. As regards clearance of arrears, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government who have the necessary powers and field organizations to enforce the same. The Central Government has been requesting the State Governments from time to time to take steps for having the payments cleared expeditiously.

For the 1985-86 season, only Rs. 4.9 crores remained to be cleared as on 15.1.87 out of the total cane price of about Rs. 1640 crores.

Shortage of Sugarcane

912. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been shortage of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh and other States in recent weeks leading to the closure of some sugar factories ; and

(b) if so, the number of units closed and steps being taken to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The sugar production during the current 1986-87 season aggregated to 40.15 lakh tonnes as on 7th February, 1987 as against 38.27 lakh tonnes,

on the corresponding date last year. As on 15th February, 1987, 329 factories were reported to be in operation as against 313 factories in 1986 and 277 factories in 1985, on the same date. In the case of Uttar Pradesh, 100 factories were reported to be in operation on 15th February, 1987 as against 97 in 1986 and 79 in 1985 on the same date.

(b) Does not arise.

Arrears of Sugarcane Growers

913. SHRI AKHILAR HASAN :
SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that huge arrears of sugarcane price in many States, are pending with the mills and are mounting season after season ;

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

(c) the effective steps being taken to help the cane growers in getting their

dues ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) Statement giving State-wise sugarcane dues against sugar factories as on 15.1.87 for the 1986-87 and earlier seasons is given below.

(c) Ensuring payment of cane price arrears is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments who have the necessary field organizations and powers to enforce such payments. The Central Government monitors the position and requests the State Governments from time to time for ensuring expeditious clearance of cane price. The Central Government, on its part, has taken various measures like raising the statutory minimum price of sugarcane, increasing free-sale sugar proportion etc. to improve the economic viability of the industry to enable it to make expeditious payments. As a result of the measures taken, the arrears during the last season have been the minimum.

Statement

The statewide position of cane price payable, price paid and balance outstanding for cane purchased during 1986-87 season upto 15.1.87 as well as the arrears of cane price as on 15.1.1987

(Figures in Lakh Rupees)

STATE	Total price payable for cane purchased during 1986-87 upto 15.1.87	Cane Price paid up to 15.1.87	Balance cane price payable as on 15.1.87	Arrears of cane price as on 15.1.87 or the latest available date	
				1985-86 season	1984-85 & earlier seasons
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Andhra Pradesh	3002.47	2162.45	840.02	40.62	156.03
Assam	17.89	6.00	11.89	—	0.24
Bihar	2749.27	1322.74	1426.53	32.04	221.72
Goa	85.96	41.63	44.33	17.10	—
Gujarat	3909.84	3267.98	641.86	1.37	53.67
Haryana	2407.53	1591.25	816.28	0.35	0.33

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Karnataka	5902.33	4283.38	1618.95	2.93	11.93
Kerala	126.15	124.31	1.84	0.08	49.90
Madhya Pradesh	550.51	271.36	279.15	0.03	8.33
Maharashtra	18633.15	15292.78	3340.37	271.41	178.93
Nagaland	—	—	—	10.53	—
Orissa	116.32	41.68	74.64	—	0.39
Pondicherry	358.54	282.26	76.28	0.20	1.40
Punjab	2188.18	1758.31	429.87	—	—
Rajasthan	160.84	69.88	90.96	—	—
Tamil Nadu	4447.19	3624.22	822.97	1.13	1.01
U.P. West	7539.87	6706.77	833.10	1.53	1.88
U.P. (Central)	7881.75	6200.03	1681.72	0.13	207.61
U.P. (East)	4570.85	3146.92	1423.93	111.64	36.31
U.P. (Total)	19992.47	16053.72	3938.75	113.30	245.80
West Bengal	92.46	68.83	23.63	0.26	8.72
ALL INDIA	64741.10	50262.78	14478.32 (22.4%)*	491.35	929.40

* Percentage of balance dues on the corresponding date last year 23.5%.

NOTE :—Information in respect of 24 factories was not available for 15-1-87 and that available for the latest date has been taken.

[Translation]

Demand for Increased Price of Sugarcane

914. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA ;
SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY ;
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH ;
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT ;
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD ;

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether sugarcane growers are satisfied with the increase in the statutory minimum price recently announced by Government ;

(b) whether Government are aware that growers have stopped the supply to sugar mills and the latter are facing crisis ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to review the position so as to ensure remunerative price to cane growers ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The Central Government has announced, in November, 1986, the statutory minimum price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories for the 1987-88 season at Rs. 18.00 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% with proportionate premium for higher recoveries. The Central Government have not received any complaint about the fixation of this price.

(b) As on 15th February 1987, 329 sugar factories were working as against 313 in 1986 and 277 in 1985 on the same date. Thus sugar factories are not facing crisis due to stoppage of supply of sugarcane.

(c) The statutory minimum price fixed by the Central Government is the floor price below which no factory can pay. Though the statutory minimum price contains an element of remuneration, in actual practice the growers get generally much higher prices than the statutory minimum. For example, growers in Uttar Pradesh are getting Rs. 24 to Rs. 25 per quintal, in Bihar Rs. 24 to Rs. 24.50 per quintal, in Punjab Rs. 24 to Rs. 27 per quintal, in Haryana Rs. 24 to Rs. 28 per quintal, in

Karnataka Rs. 22.50 to Rs. 29.00 per quintal.

[English]

Bhargava Committee on Sharing of Free Sale Sugar between Industry and Cane Growers

915. DR. A.K. PATEL ;
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhargava Sugar Inquiry Committee had recommended equitable sharing of additional freesale sugar realisation between the industry and cane-growers ;

(b) what are the other recommendations of the committee ;

(c) which of the recommendations were accepted and action taken thereon ;

(d) the recommendations which were not accepted and the reasons therefor ; and

(e) what have been the free sale sugar realisations in each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Sugar Industry Enquiry Commission was set up in 1970 under the Chairmanship of Shri Deep Narain Sinha retired Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court, who on his demise in 1971 was succeeded by Shri V. Bhargava, retired Judge of Supreme Court. The Commission's report was published in 1974. A copy of the report of the commission alongwith a memorandum of action taken on the report was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 26th August, 1974.

In the absence of old records, it is not possible at this point of time to give the details asked for.

(e) The realisation differs from area to area. The range of wholesale prices of free sugar during the last three years at important centres is given below:

Year	Rs./Quintal of Sugar				
	Delhi	Kanpur	Calcutta	Bombay	Madras
1983-84	465-565	455-545	465-570	420-547	412-560
1984-85	490-800	525-730	510-765	464-791	475-737
1985-86	615-685	615-650	610-675	571-697	532-660

Financial Assistance to Cooperative Societies under Public Distribution System

916. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance given to different States and Union Territories for the co-operative societies to undertake public distribution of essential commodities during 1986-87; and

(b) the amount of soft loan provided to different States and Union Territories in this connection during this period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) Under the Centrally

Sponsored Scheme for the development of consumers cooperatives in urban areas' Govt. of India provides financial assistance through State Govts./U.T. Administrations to the consumers cooperatives to enable them to supply consumer goods to the public at reasonable rates. In the rural areas, the Primary agricultural credit societies are provided margin money assistance under another Centrally Sponsored Scheme, to enable them to raise adequate working capital for undertaking distribution of consumer articles. Many of the co-operatives distribute essential commodities under the Public Distribution System.

Statements I and II showing the amounts Provided to the States/UT administrations under the two Centrally Sponsored Schemes during 1986-87 (upto Jan. 1987) are given below.

Statement I

Financial Assistance provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Consumer Cooperatives in Urban Areas during 1986-87 (Upto January, 1987)

State/U.T.	(Rupees)		
	Loan	Subsidy	Total
1. Assam	6,87,500	72,500	7,60,000
2. Gujarat	3,25,000	40,000	3,65,000
3. Jammu & Kashmir	3,37,500	1,12,500	4,50,000
4. Karnataka	6,35,000	1,15,000	7,50,000
5. Kerala	1,50,000	30,000	1,80,000
6. Maharashtra	1,28,000	16,000	1,44,000
7. Manipur	11,24,000	—	11,24,000

8. Orissa	5,16,000	12,000	5,28,000
9. Tamil Nadu	10,11,250	1,08,750	11,20,000
10. Uttar Pradesh	10,59,000	1,08,000	11,67,000
11. West Bengal	51,34,000	5,38,000	56,72,000
12. Arunachal Pradesh	11,20,000	—	11,20,000
13. Mizoram	12,14,000	28,000	12,52,000
TOTAL	1,34,51,250	11,80,750	1,46,32,000

Statement II

Funds released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme towards Margin Money to village societies for undertaking distribution of consumer articles in rural areas during 1986-87 (upto January, 1987)

			(Rs. in lakhs)
S. No.	State	Loan	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.50	
2.	Bihar	5.65	
3.	Gujarat	8.95	
4.	Karnataka	9.55	
5.	Kerala	1.85	
6.	Madhya Pradesh	26.40	
7.	Punjab	0.90	
8.	Rajasthan	7.90	
9.	Tamil Nadu	127.22	
10.	Uttar Pradesh	25.95	
11.	West Bengal	26.30	
			247.17

NB : The scheme is implemented through the National Cooperative Development Corporation.

Procurement of Foodgrains

917. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the total procurement of foodgrains from the Kharif crop of 1986, and

(b) the target fixed for procurement of foodgrains from the rabi crop of 1987, item-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K. L. BHAGAT) (a) As per reports received till 26.2.87, 74.43 lakh tonnes of Kharif foodgrains had been procured from 1.10.86.

(b) No targets are fixed, as wheat, paddy, and coarsegrains, are procured under price support operations, and rice is procured under levy on millers and dealers.

Setting up of Sugar Factories in Tamil Nadu

918. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the grant of new licences for establishing sugar factories in Tamil Nadu, particularly in those districts where sugarcane is grown in sufficient quantity ; and

(b) if so, whether the new units will be in private or public sector ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) The Central Government (Department of Food) have received 10 applications for grant of licences for establishing new sugar factories in Tamil Nadu during the 7th Five Year Plan so far, out of which 4 are in Cooperative Sector, 1 in Public Sector and 5 in Private Sector.

Study of Confederation of Engineering Industry

919. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to

state :

(a) whether a study of Confederation of Engineering Industry shows rapid increase in input prices defeating the purpose of administered prices ;

(b) the break-up of total expenditure on raw materials and energy supply ; and

(c) how does this compare with other technologically advanced countries ?

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

(a) The Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) has recently released a Study on Steel Industry Costs. According to the study, the prices of major inputs of steel industry like Coal, Iron ore, Power, Limestone and Ferro mananese have increased significantly over the years.

The CEI's study, however, states that the steel prices have been maintained since February, 1985, despite continuing escalation in the input costs.

It may be noted that steel price itself is administered. The price of this administered commodity has not undergone any change since February, 1985 thus absorbing most of the increased input costs and adhering to the objective of maintaining and imparting stability.

(b) According to the CEI study on steel industry costs, the break-up of the total expenditure of steel industry on Raw materials and Energy is as follows :

Percentage (%) of Total Expenditure

	1980-81	1984-85	1985-86
Raw materials	32.8	37.5	36.1
Power & Fuel	9.0	10.2	11.2

(c) According to the CEI study, global comparison of the changes in major input prices are as follows :

Percentage change in 1985 over '81

	Coal	Iron ore	Electricity
USA	+ 2.5	+ 13.1	+ 24.8
Japan	—13.1	— 13.6	— 15.8
W. Germany	—21.9	— 8.0	— 20.5
U.K.	—41.2	— 40.9	— 36.9
France	—22.9	— 22.8	+ 7.9

Capacity and Demand for Polio Vaccine etc.

920. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have assessed the capacity of the drug industry in the public sector and the demand for polio vaccine in the country and if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether a big gap exists now ;

(c) which are other life saving drugs where the production is much below the demand ; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet the demand fully ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) The demand for Polio vaccine by 1989-90 is estimated to be of the order of 80 million doses taking into account the requirement of the Expanded Immunisation Programme. In the public sector a capacity of 10 million doses is being installed by M/s. Haffkine Institute, a Maharashtra Government undertaking.

(c) Generally life saving drugs are adequately available. Wherever and whenever availability falls short of demand, requirement is met through imports.

(d) Imports are being allowed wherever necessary and policy measures have been

initiated to encourage the production of essential life saving drugs in the country.

Effect of Price Increase of Bulk Drugs on Public Sector Drug Industries

921. SHRI AJOY BISWAS :
SHRI AMAL DATTA :
SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to frequent increase in prices of bulk drugs by the manufacturing and supplying agencies, public sector drug industries are almost on the verge of closure ;

(b) if so, whether such frequent increase in prices is working against public sector undertakings ; and

(c) whether any relief will be given to public sector drug units to combat such price rise ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Requirement of Power Generating Equipment for Maharashtra Gas Cracker Project

922. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of urgent requirement of power generating equipment for Maharashtra Gas Cracker Project ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to meet this requirement without delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed by Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) to import on

turn-key basis a Captive Power Plant along with accessories for Maharashtra Gas Cracker Complex (MGCC). Bids have been obtained for supply of Captive Power Plant under the International Bid Procedure of the World Bank for MGCC. A view is being taken for placement of order.

**Allotment of Levy Sugar to
Sugarcane Growers**

923. SHRI V. SOBHANADREE-SWARA RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees working in sugar factories are allotted levy sugar every month for their domestic requirement ;

(b) whether similar facility is proposed to be given to the cane growers who are supplying cane to the factories ; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the present policy of partial control, levy sugar quota is allotted to each State/Union Territory for distribution amongst the entire population which includes the cane growers.

Expansion of Public Distribution Network

924. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to expand the public distribution network as reported in the Economic Times of 8 February, 1987 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly in respect of Bihar State ; and

(c) to what extent rural areas will be benefited by the expansion ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c) On the basis

of information received from States/UTs, a target of opening 6565 new fair price shops in the country has been fixed for the year 1986-87. Bihar Government has set a target of opening 50 fair price shops during the current year. Majority of these new fair price shops are to be opened in the rural areas.

**Mulpractices in Installation of Public
Call Offices in Delhi**

925. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3767 on the 12th August, 1986 regarding malpractices in installation of public call offices in Delhi and state ;

(a) whether the inquiry into the matter has since been completed ; and

(b) if so, action taken against the officers responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statutory penalty has been imposed on the official at fault.

Telephone Connections

926. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to give priority in allotment of telephone connections to those who have either no connection or have two connections ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Unimplemented Letters of Intent

927. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters of intent for industrial projects that remained unimplemented as on 31 January, 1987 and

(b) the steps Government propose to take in order to arrest the slow progress of projects after the letter of intent was acquired ?

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

(a) The implementation position of the letters of intent granted during the years 1982 to 1986 is as below :

Year	Total No. of letters of intent issued	Implementation position (as on 31-1-87) of letters of intent given in column 2		
		No. of letters of intent of converted into indl. licences	No. of letters treated as lapsed	No. of letters of intent pending for conversion into indl. licences.
1	2	3	4	5
1982	1943	461	305	277
1983	1055	391	262	402
1984	1064	317	140	607
1985	1457	201	125	1131
1986	1130	38	6	1086

(b) A letter of intent is granted with an initial validity period of one year and further extensions are also granted on adequate justification. After the entrepreneur fulfils the conditions of the letter of intent, the same is converted into an industrial licence. On the other hand, if the holder

of the letter of intent fails to implement the letter of intent within its validity period, the same is treated as lapsed/cancelled.

Government is anxious to ensure early implementation of all the industrial projects for which letters of intent are issued. With this end in view, administrative Ministries and the State Governments have been advised to strengthen their monitoring systems to undertake the monitoring of industrial approvals on regular basis and provide necessary help and assistance to the entrepreneurs in implementing the projects as early as possible.

Legal Aid Scheme to poor in Goa

928. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a scheme for granting legal aid to the poor in the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu ;

(b) if so, since when the scheme is in force ;

(c) salient features of the scheme ; and

(d) the number of applications received by Government since the enforcement of the scheme and the number of applicants to whom aid was granted by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : According to the information furnished by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since October, 1981.

(c) Free Legal Aid is extended to those persons whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 6,000/- from all sources. The limitation of income does not apply to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Children and Backward Classes.

(d) 276 applications were received by the Government and in 125 applications, free legal aid was given till January, 1987.

**Import of Captive Power Generating
Equipment for Maharashtra Gas
Cracker Project**

929. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import captive power generating equipment for Maharashtra Gas Cracker Project ;

(b) if so, whether any public sector undertaking is capable of meeting the requirement ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for importing this equipment when the same is available in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. BHEL, a public sector undertaking, is one of the bidders for supply of captive power plant, under the International Competitive Bid Procedure of the World Bank for Maharashtra Gas Cracker Complex.

(c) A view is yet to be taken for placement of orders.

**Shortage of Oil Well Cement and
Sulphate Resistant Cement**

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

(a) whether there is a heavy shortage of oil well cement (OWC) and Sulphate Resistant Cement (SRC) in the Country ;

(b) the total requirement of OWC and SRC cement in the country and its percentage being produced in the country and the percentage being imported ;

(c) the cost of imports of OWC and SRC in the year 1986 ; and

(d) the steps taken to make the country

self-sufficient in OWC and SRC and when we are likely to reach self-sufficiency ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) There is no shortage of sulphate Resistant Cement (SRC) and Oil Well Cement (OWC) in the country ;

(b) to (d) While the demand for SRC has not been assessed separately, its requirements are being fully met by the indigenous producers in the country. As regards OWC, it may be mentioned that it is mainly used by ONGC and Oil India Ltd. (OIL)

While there is no shortage of OWC in the country, ONGC and OIL have to take recourse to import of OWC in view of the fact that the prices quoted by the indigenous manufacturers are much higher, even after allowing price preference of maximum of 35% over the prices quoted by the lowest foreign supplier. The total value of imports made by both ONGC and OIL during the 1986, of OWC was around Rs.4.38 crores.

**Import of Tractor-Trailers from
Italy by Punjab Electricity Board**

931. SHRI SRI HARI RAO : Will the Minister of Energy be pleased to State :

(a) whether punjab Electricity Board was allowed to import 100 tonne tractor-trailers from Italy in which the foreign exchange of Rs.2.35 crores was involved while equipment was indigenously available ;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the said equipment has completely failed and it is not working ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY. (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) In the year 1981, after obtaining DGTD clearance from the indigenous angle, Punjab State Electricity Board was permitted to import 1 No. 200 MT Self-propelled vehicle. The foreign exchange outgo was approximately Rs. 97 lakhs.

(c) and (d) According to Punjab State Electricity Board, the equipment is not operational at present as difficulties are being experienced in obtaining spare parts, for the procurement of which matter has been taken up by the Board.

[Translation]

Oil Reserves in the Country

932. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether new oil reserves have been found in the country ;

(b) if so, whether the country will now import lesser quantity of oil ;

(c) the quantum of oil reserves in lakhs of tonnes in 1983 ;

(d) whether oil reserves had depleted in 1985 as compared to that in 1983 ; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The import of crude oil is made after taking into consideration the demand and production in the country.

(c) the balance recoverable reserves of crude oil in the country at the end of 1983 were 5108.2 lakh tonnes.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Capacity Specifications for Sugar Plants

933. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar industry has requested Government that the initial

capacity of new sugar factories to be licensed during the Seventh Plan should be 1500 Tonnes Crushing per Day capable of expansion to 2500 TCD at a later date when the cane supply position improves ;

(b) whether Government had approved the specifications of sugar plants of 1500 Tonnes Crushing per day with capacity of suitable expansion to 2500 TCD ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for Government's decision for licensing of new sugar units with initial capacity of 2500 TCD as announced in the Guidelines for licensing in Sugar Industry during Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. Such a request has been made by the co-operative sector of the sugar industry.

(b) Government had not approved specifications of sugar plants of 1500 TCD with capacity of suitable expansion to 2500 TCD.

(c) In the guidelines for licensing of new sugar units in the Seventh Plan, government have decided that the minimum economic size of the new sugar plants would be 2500 TCD to optimise the economies of scales of operations as well as to facilitate incorporation of modern technology.

Sale of Property Shares in Holiday Resorts

934. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports of unfair trade practices by way of misrepresentation about sale of property shares in holiday resorts by some companies ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to prevent this misrepresentation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The

Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has instituted an enquiry against the following six companies for making misrepresentation about the sale of property shares in holiday resorts :—

1. M/s Dalmia Resorts International, New Delhi.
2. M/s Prem N. Kapur Associates Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi.
3. M/s G.T.C. Industries Ltd., Bombay.
4. M/s Dalma Dairy Industries Ltd., Bharatpur.
5. M/s The Sree Meenakshi Mills Ltd., Madurai.
6. M/s Orient Resorts Management Services Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

The Commission is empowered to take appropriate action in all such cases as per the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969, relating to unfair trade practices.

Use of Energy for Unity of Production (Energy Intensity)

935. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether use of energy for unity of production (energy intensity) in India is highest amongst Asian countries and if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) the steps taken to reduce the energy intensity in the country to bring it at par with Thailand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) As far as Government is aware, sufficient data on the use of energy for unity of production in the different Asian countries is not available. However, according to one estimate, the industrial energy consumption per unit of value added (tonnes of oil equivalent per 1980 US \$) in 1983 was the highest for China, followed by India, amongst ten Asian countries, as indicated below :

Bangladesh	326
China	2335
India	881
Indonesia	369
Korea	448
Malaysia	330
Pakistan	558
Philippines	297
Taiwan	459
Thailand	228

(b) Comparison of the energy intensity in different countries will hold good only to the extent similarities in the mix of industries, age of equipment and technological processes, and the local energy resource endowments. India, with a great deal of coal-fuelled heavy industry, has a higher share of energy-intensive industries as compared to Thailand. Government is fully conscious of the need to bring down the level of energy intensity in various industries and has initiated a strategy to bring about improvements in the efficiency of energy use on a sustained basis. These measures inter-alia include getting energy audits done on an industry-specific basis, installation of energy saving equipment and technologies where resources are available and making arrangements for the training of personnel.

Import of Foreign Technology

936. SHRIMATI N. P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps are being taken to prevent inflow of out dated foreign technology in India and to ensure that only the latest technology is imported ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) and (b) Proposals for import of technology are scrutinised by the competent technical/administrative authorities who take into account the standing of the collaborators, the status of the technology and the reasonableness of the terms.

[Translation]

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Employees in Department of Civil Supplies

937. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of employees working in the Department of Civil Supplies at present in Class I, II, III and IV, class-wise ;

(b) the total number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees in each class and their percentage ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure employment of the prescribed percentage of SC/ST candidates ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) A Statement is given below.

(c) Instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training from time to time in regard to reservation for SC/STs in the services/posts are being followed. It may be mentioned that the reservation orders do not apply in the case of transfer/deputation and promotion in some cases, such as, vacancies filled through Limited Departmental Competitive in Group 'B', 'C' & 'D' where the element of direct recruitment exceeds 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ %, promotion by selection from Group 'B' to the lowest rank or category in Group 'A' and in Group 'B', 'C' & 'D', where the element of direct recruitment exceeds 66-2/3% and promotion on the basis of seniority subject to fitness in Groups 'A', 'B', 'C' & 'D' where the element of direct recruitment exceeds 66-2/3%. In some cases, the nominations are made by the Department of Personnel and Training and if the SC/ST candidates are not nominated against reserved posts, the prescribed procedure of

dereserving such vacancies and simultaneous carry forward is followed.

Statement

Department Proper

Category of Staff	Total No.	Numbers (percent)	
		(SC)	(ST)
Class I	30	—	2(6.6%)
Class II	39	4 (10.2%)	—
Class III	113	21(18.5%)	1 (0.9%)
Class IV	70	25(35.6%)	1(1.4%)

Attached & Subordinate Offices

Class I	33	2 (6%)	—
Class II	447	15.9% (2)	4.5% (5)
Class III	132	25 (19.9%)	3 (2.2%)
Class IV	71	22 (31.2%)	6 (8.4%)

[English]

Private Agencies for Mail Distribution in Kerala

938. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether private agencies have been assigned the work of mail distribution in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) :

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Caramel Colour and Sunset Yellow

939. SHRI B. B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Caramel colour (for cole) and Sunset Yellow (for Orange) are made in India ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for their import ?

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

(b) The DGTD has not been allowing import of Caramel Colour and Sunset Yellow.

Setting up of Bottling Plants by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

940. DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Petroleum Corporation proposes to set up bottling plants for LPG in different parts of the country shortly;

(b) if so, the details of the locations where bottling plants will be set up ; and

(c) when the proposed plants will be set up and start functioning and to what extent the shortage of LPG will be met ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) These bottling plants are expected to be completed in a phased manner by 1988.

The setting up of these bottling plants together with those being put up by other oil marketing companies will help in meeting the requirements of existing and new customers.

Statement

Locations of LPG bottling plants to be set up by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

1. Uran (Maharashtra)

2. Asud/Pyala (Haryana)

3. Jalbalpur (Madhya Pradesh)

4. Sholapur (Maharashtra)

5. Jalgaon (Maharashtra)

6. Lalru Ambala (Haryana)

7. Trivandrum (Kerala)

8. Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu)

9. Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)

10. Hissar (Haryana)

11. Khurda (Orissa)

12. Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh)

Closing of Sub-Post Offices

941. SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether great difficulty is being experienced by the people with the decision of Government to close down a large number of Sub-Post Offices in the country ; and

(b) whether Government propose to review their decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir. No orders have in fact been issued for the closure of sub Post Offices. The orders issued recently for the down gradation of ED Sub Post Offices have since been withdrawn.

However, in the course of periodical review of workload and other establishment details of Post Offices, those Sub Post Offices which did not fulfil the required norms were merged with the neighbouring Post Offices.

In terms of service rendered to the Members of Public there is hardly any

difference because in all cases the availability of other Post Offices in the area to cater to public needs and delivery arrangements are invariably ensured.

(b) No, Sir. The review of Post Offices is a continuous process. It is essential to ensure that the postal services are efficiently discharged and wasteful expenditures cut down.

[Translation]

Setting up of Industries in U.P. Districts declared as "No Industry Districts"

942. SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that no industry has been set up in the no industry districts in different States in the country so far, in spite of their being declared as 'No-industry district; and

(b) if so, the names of districts in Uttar Pradesh declared as No-Industry districts, year-wise and the names of industries set-up in the said districts, year-wise ?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Names of 'No-Industry Districts' in Uttar Pradesh are given below :

1. Banda 2. Fatehpur 3. Hamirpur
4. Jalaun 5. Jaunpur 6. Sultanpur
7. Kanpur Dehat 8. Chamoli 9. Pauri
Garhwal 10. Tehri Garhwal 11. Uttar
Kashi.

The number of Letters of Intent/Industrial Licences and DGTD registrations issued for setting up industries in these 'No Industry Districts' is as under :

Year	Letters of Intent	Industrial Licences	DGTD Registrations
1984	22	6	76
1985	19	5	67
1986	14	9	26

It generally takes 3—4 years for an Industrial Project to fructify. Actual gestation period, however, varies from Project to Project.

The details regarding name of the undertaking, location etc. are published by Indian Investment Centre in their 'Monthly News Letter', copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

[English]

Powers of MRTP Commission to Punish Offenders

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

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to amend the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 to equip the MRTP Commission with powers to punish offenders under the said Act with fine and/or imprisonment to make the Commission more effective ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) to (c) Government has not yet taken any decision in the matter.

Additional Resources to MRTP Commission

944. CH. RAMPRAKASH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MRTP Commission takes action against manufacturers producing bad quality consumer and electronic goods and giving poor after sales service ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps taken to provide additional resources to the Commission to widen their field of activity in the interest of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIM. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Necessary resources in the form of budget allocations are provided to the Commission to enable them to discharge their functions.

Demand for Cooking Gas in Kerala

945. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total demand for cooking gas in Kerala ;

(b) what percentage of demand has been met ; and

(c) when the demand is likely to be fully met ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) to (c) The average monthly demand for the existing customers in Kerala is around 3332 M.T. Except for occasional backlog in supplies, this demand is being met in full.

The Endeavour to meet the demand in full will be maintained.

Production of Sugar

946. SHRI D.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of sugar production during 1986-87 ; and

(b) whether any increase in sugar production is expected during this year to meet the demands of the country and to have some surplus for export ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) The pro-

duction during 1986-87 season is estimated at 75 lakh tonnes as against 70.03 lakh tonnes of sugar produced during the last season. With the increased level of domestic sugar production during the current season together with the carry-over stock at the beginning of the season and imported sugar, there would be sufficient availability to meet the domestic requirement, as well as small quantities of committed exports.

Two-Tier Telecommunication System

947. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications is thinking of having a two-tier System for telephone communications ; and

(b) If so, what will be the expenditure involved for this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The Department of Telecommunications is exploring the feasibility of setting up a network for the specialised needs of business and industrial subscribers.

(b) This proposal is still under consideration at present. Hence, details for expenditure are not known at present.

[Translation]

Electronic Telephone Exchange at Ranikhet

948. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the site for electronic exchange to be set up in Ranikhet (Uttar pradesh) has finally been selected; and

(b) if so, when the site was selected and the time by which construction work is likely to start there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Electronic Exchange

is being planned to be installed in the existing departmental building in 87-88.

[English]

S.T.D. Facility in Rajnandgaon,
Madhya Pradesh

949. SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) when Rajnandgaon District of Madhya Pradesh will have a direct STD facility with Delhi; and

(b) the reasons for the delay in providing this facility ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) Rajnandgaon, a district headquarter of Madhya Pradesh is planned to be connected with Raipur Digital TAX for STD facilities by using a coaxial cable medium. As Raipur Digital TAX and the coaxial cable medium are likely to be commissioned in 1988-89, STD facility for Rajnandgaon with Delhi is expected after completion of the above two works in 1988-89.

Allocation of Kerosene to Andhra Pradesh

950. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government have approached Union Government for the enhancement of monthly allocation of kerosene oil ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the request has been acceded to ;

(c) the extent to which this allocation will meet the demand of the State ; and

(d) the steps to be taken to meet full demand of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) No such request has been received in the last few

months from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

(d) Allocations have been communicated to the State Government for the ensuing summer allowing an increase over the allocations for the corresponding period of the last year.

[Translation]

Licence Free From Television Owners

951. SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any rules have been framed for charging licence fee from those television set owners who witness television programmes directly through satellite ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In a meeting of the Committee of Secretaries held on 25.6.1986, it was decided that in order to control reception of television programmes direct from various satellites suitable legislation may be framed providing the requirement for obtaining a licence for working, possessing or dealing in such TV sets.

[English]

Setting up of Multi-Fuel Power Station
in Karnataka

952. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :
SHRI H. N. NANJÉ GOWDA :
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared the Karnataka State Government's proposal for establishing the Yelabanka Power Station using Low Stock High Sulphur instead of furnace oil ;

(b) whether the proposal requires clearance from environmental angle also ;

(c) if so, whether the proposal is still with the Ministry of Finance for their concurrence ; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared and work started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The Karnataka Government's proposal to set up a liquid petroleum fuel based 120 MW power plant at Yelahanka, Bangalore, has been accorded 'in principle' clearance. Specific fuel linkage for the project remains to be confirmed.

(b) The proposal has been cleared from the environmental angle.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Survey by ONGC in Bihar

953. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey is being conducted by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission anywhere in Bihar ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Two seismic survey parties are working in Madhubani-Jaynagar and Raxaul-Saugali areas. One geological party is also working in Ganauli area.

Opening of Branch Post Offices in Villages of Backward Areas

954. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special consideration is given in giving priority to the opening of Branch Post Offices in villages of backward areas ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether adequate funds are also provided ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the norms fixed for opening of post offices in rural areas, a post office is opened in hilly, backward and tribal areas if the aggregate population of a group of villages is not less than 2,500 whereas in normal rural areas the aggregate population required to qualify for opening of post offices is 5000. The permissible limit of loss has been fixed at Rs. 2,400 per annum in normal rural areas but in the case of hilly, backward and tribal areas the amount has been fixed at Rs. 4,800/-per annum. It is further provided that the anticipated income of a proposed post office should not be less than 50% of its anticipated cost in normal rural areas and 25% of its anticipated cost in hilly, backward and tribal areas. The sub-allocation of funds under various schemes such as expansion of postal network, is made on the basis of total outlay approved by the Planning Commission every year. The sub-allocation is done to the extent required.

(c) In view of reply (b) above, question does not arise.

[*English*]

Utilisation of Oil and Natural Gas

955. SHRI D. B. PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of places where oil and natural gas struck during 1984-85, 1985-86 and upto 31st January in 1986-87 ;

(b) at how many such places and within what period arrangements were made for use of such oil and gas ;

(c) the extent of loss of oil and gas due to lack of arrangements for its utilisation ; and

(d) the estimated price of such oil and gas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Increase in Postal Tariff

956. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the increase in postal tariff has adversely affected the medium and small newspaper establishments ;

(b) whether Government have received any memoranda from them in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the action taken therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Existing tariff rates for single copies up to 50 grms. and 100 grms. as also multiple copies up to 100 grms. have been increased by 10 P with effect from 1.1.1987. To this extent, all newspapers including small newspapers, have to incur more expenditure than before on such postage.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since the Department of Posts is already incurring considerable deficit in its postal operations and the cost of operations has further increased due to increase in salary and wages of the staff of the Department, as also haulage charges by rail and air, etc. it would be difficult to consider any reduction in the tariff rates as already fixed.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Gangtok City

957. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of applications pending for release of new telephone connections in Gangtok and in adjoining towns on 31st January, 1987 ;

(b) the time by which the waiting list will be cleared in the State of Sikkim ;

(c) whether requisite number of subscribers for installing Telex Exchange at Gangtok have since been registered ; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not providing switching equipments for telex exchange there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The total number of applications pending for release of new telephone connections in Gangtok and in adjoining towns as on 31st Jan., 1987 are 238.

(b) Gangtok Telephone Exchange expanded by 200 lines recently and around 150 applicants are likely to be provided with new telephone connections by end of March, 1987. The remaining waiting list is likely to be cleared to the end of 7th plan subject to availability of resources.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Order for supply of switching equipment placed and priority allotted for supply of equipment.

Domestic Waste Recycling Plant for Power Generation in Delhi

958. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a domestic waste recycling plant at New Delhi ;

(b) whether such power plant is proposed to be set up in collaboration with the Netherlands ;

(c) if so, the capacity of that plant ;

(d) the process proposed to be adopted for power generation in that plant ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (e) A Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) treatment plant for 300 tonnes per day of MSW has been completed at Timarpur, Delhi. The plant will dispose of the MSW through incineration and the heat liberated will be used to generate 3.75 MW electricity through a steam turbo alternator. The specialised equipment for this Refuse Incineration-cum-Power Generation Plant has been obtained from Denmark under a Danish soft loan. The trials have commenced and the plant is expected to be commissioned in April 1987.

There is no proposal under consideration at present for collaboration with Netherland for such a plant at New Delhi.

[*Translation*]

Telephone System in Korba Industrial Town and Bilaspur District

959. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone system in Korba industrial town and Bilaspur district is not functioning properly ;

(b) whether Government propose to equip it with latest machines ; and

(c) if so, the time by which it will be done ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Functioning of telephone system in Korba Industrial town and Bilaspur District is generally satisfactory. However, necessary steps are being taken to improve these systems further.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There is no approved plan for replacement of these exchanges by the latest type equipment. However, 800 line Auto equipment of MAX II type has been allotted to be supplied for Korba during 1988-89.

Increase in Production of Salt

960. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the position of salt industry in Rajasthan ;

(b) the schemes prepared by Government to increase production of salt ; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to improve the present system of salt production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Rajasthan is the third largest salt producing State in the country, after Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. It produces about 1 million tonnes of salt per annum. Despatch of salt from Rajasthan has been satisfactory due to easy availability of rail wagons.

(b) and (c) Licences are being issued liberally, as and when saline lands are assigned by Government of Rajasthan for salt manufacture. Assistance is also being extended to the salt industry from salt cess proceeds to create infrastructural facilities in the form of roads, water supply arrangement and flood relief measures. Government had constituted a Committee to bring about improvement in technology of salt manufacture and quality control. The recommendations of the working Group have been accepted and action has been initiated to implement them.

[*English*]

To be Answered on Tuesday the 3rd March, 1987 Five Year Law Course

961. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated their views on the 5-year law course proposed by the Bar Council of India ;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter ; and

(c) the year from which it is proposed to be enforced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import of Banned Chemicals

962. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether chemicals which have been banned in other countries are being imported into India ;

(b) if so, the details of such chemicals ; and

(c) the reasons for giving permission for their import ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) In India the general import of chemicals is controlled by the Import Export Policy. The manufacture or import of pesticides is also controlled under the Insecticides Act 1968 and no pesticide can be imported which has not been registered for use in the country. Each country has its own standards based on factors such as toxicity, carcinogenicity etc. for banning or restricting the use of chemicals. Of the import of chemicals taking place in terms of the Import Export Policy there may be some chemicals which have been banned or recommended for restricted use in a few countries of the world but which are permitted for use by other countries. Government is not aware of any chemical that has been banned world-wide.

[*Translation*]

STD Facilities in Morena and Bhind Cities in M.P.

963. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS

be pleased to state whether connecting of Morena and Bhind cities of Chambal Division in Madhya Pradesh with S.T.D. System is proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): Yes Sir, Morena and Bhind cities of Chambal Division in Madhya Pradesh are proposed to be connected with S.T.D. system.

[*English*]

Study by Engineers India Limited on Setting Up of Oil Refinery in Assam

964. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government to fulfil the commitment to establish another oil refinery in Assam ;

(b) whether the study made by the Engineers India Limited on the question of setting up the refinery has been completed ; and

(c) if so, the result of the study and if not, when the final report of the Engineers India Limited is likely to be submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT): (a) to (c) The Government of Assam have been advised to identify a suitable private party and get a feasibility report prepared for the refinery to be set up under the Assam Accord. The Government of Assam have asked EIL to take up feasibility studies for this project. EIL are likely to complete their report in a period of 8 weeks, after all the data become available to them.

Drilling by ONGC in Gujarat

965. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of wells planned and drilled by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission during the year ending 31 December, 1986 for exploitation of oil and gas in Gujarat ;

(b) the extent of oil and gas likely to flow from the wells already drilled and the viability proved ; and

(c) the net expenses incurred by Oil and Natural Gas Commission for this drilling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) to (c) The Annual Plan of ONGC is on Financial Year basis, i.e. from April 1 till March 31. 119 wells were planned to be drilled in Gujarat in 1986-87, of which 109 were drilled till December, 1987.

The production in 1986-87 (till December, 1986) was as follows :

oil — 3.42 MMT

gas — 711 MMm3

Expenditure on drilling in 1985-86 was Rs. 89.92 crores.

**Regarding Setting Up of Petrochemical
[Complex at Mangalore]**

966. SHRI NARSING SURYA-WANSHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are examining the possibility of building a petrochemical complex near Mangalore ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND

NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) and (b) It has been decided that a detailed project report for a 3 MTPA petrochemical refinery at Mangalore be prepared by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. jointly with a private co-promotor.

[Translation]

**Sugar Mill in Village Elau in District
Mainpuri—U.P.**

967. SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a sugar mill in the co-operative sector in village Elau, Tehsil Bhogaon in Mainpuri district of Uttar Pradesh in near future ;

(b) if so, the decision taken ; and

(c) by what time the same will be set-up ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c) The Central Government have announced the policy for licensing new sugar factories during the 7th Five Year Plan vide Press Note dated 2.1.1987 issued by the Department of Industrial Development. So far, application has been received for setting up a new sugar factory at Alau, Tehsil Bhogaon in District Mainpuri (Uttar Pradesh), according to new guidelines.

[English]

New Sugar Policy

968. DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) how far the sugar factories in the country reacted to the new sugar policy announced by Government for the Seventh Plan ;

(b) whether the steps are being taken by Government to give incentives for starting new sugar factories in backward areas on priority basis ; and

(c) whether any suggestions have been received from Tamil Nadu Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) Sugar Industry in general has welcomed the new sugar policy announced by Government for the Seventh Plan.

(b) One of the salient features of the new licensing policy is that the establishment of new sugar factories in backward areas may be given priority subject to adequate cane availability and techno-economic feasibility.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Development of Communication System in Kerala

969. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the new schemes proposed for the development of communication system in Kerala ;

(b) the number of telephone applications in the waiting list in Cochin Trivandrum and Calicut ; and

(c) when these waiting lists will be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) There is a proposal to add 85,010 telephone lines in Kerala Telecom. Circle, including electronic exchanges of 5000 lines at Kottayam, 10,000 lines at Trivandrum, 3,000 lines at Ernakulam, 890 telex lines, 30 LDPTs with MARR base station at Kasargod and one satellite digital earth station at Ernakulam during the period 1987-90, 20 cities are also proposed to be put on national dialling network during this period.

(b) The number of applications on the waiting list as on 30.9.86 for Cochin, Trivandrum and Calicut are 9058, 4554 and 4479 respectively.

(c) 7th Plan proposals envisage clearance of waiting list upto 1-4-86 by the end of 7th Plan period for these cities.

Speedy Telecommunication Network Between Different Big Cities

970. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is giving higher priority to establishing speedy telecommunication net-work between different big cities of India with big cities of other countries, especially overseas countries ;

(b) whether lesser priority is being assigned to connect small cities and rural exchanges for speedy tele-communications with different big cities in the country ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No Sir.

(b) No Sir.

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

Allocation of Imported Edible Oil to Vanaspati Manufacturers

971. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the reduction in the percentage allocation of imported oil to the vanaspati industry has hit the industry hard ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER

OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) Reduction in percentage allocation of imported oil had affected some vanaspati units during December, 1986 and January, 1987. The Government has increased the allocation of imported oil from 10 per cent to 30 per cent from February, 1987. Keeping in view the prices and availability of permitted indigenous oil.

Setting Up of Family Courts

972. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of family courts set up so far in Delhi and in other States ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are certain hurdles in regard to setting up these courts ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what steps are being taken to remove them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c) The Government have sanctioned three posts of Judges to preside over Family Courts in Delhi and efforts are being made to establish these courts in Delhi/other States as early as possible. Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have already set up three family courts one each at Jaipur, Lucknow and Kanpur. It is for the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to set up these courts. However, the Central Government is emphasising the need for early establishment of these courts and the State Governments have been reminded from time to time to take expeditious action in the matter.

Cost of Power Generated by Gas-Based Power Plants

973. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the generation cost of the power produced by the three gas-based power plants being set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation along the Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur pipeline will

almost be double of that generated by its thermal stations; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether the high generation cost of power will have a cascading effect all over, even if the power is fed into the grid; and

(c) the steps being taken to cut down the high generation cost of these gas-based plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY. (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) Although the generation cost of power produced by the gas-based stations would be higher than the cost of generation from coal-based thermal stations which may be commissioned in the next few years, the difference will not be double the cost of coal-based thermal generation.

(b) No, Sir. The cost of power produced by the gas-based stations is expected to be averaged out in the per unit cost of the considerably larger quantum of power available in the power systems from other modes of generation.

(c) The thermal efficiency and the capital cost of the gas-based stations compare very favourably with those of coal-based thermal power stations. Also, the gas-based plants will be run as base load stations and with waste-heat recovery systems. To reduce the price of power produced by the gas-based stations, the price of gas has been reduced as compared with the price envisaged earlier.

Additional Junction for Nangal

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

(a) whether the proposal for parenting Santokhgarh SAX in Una District by providing an additional junction for Nangal township CBNM exchange has been sanctioned in view of the heavy demand by the public of the area ;

(b) if so, the date of the sanction and the likely date of installation of the additional junction ; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which the project would be sanctioned and installed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The date of the sanction of the project for installation of the additional junction between Santokhgarh small automatic exchange and Nangal is 27th January, 1987.

The project is likely to be completed during the year 1987-88.

Opening of Branch Post Offices

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

(a) whether the Department of Posts has taken up the case for the opening of such Branch offices as were approved for this purpose on the basis of existing norms, prior to the imposition of the ban on the creation of new posts and the filling up of existing vacancies, with the Minister of Finance ;

(b) if so, the latest progress made in this regard ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore and whether such a reference would be made to the Finance Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) The norms for opening of post offices in the rural areas have since been revised. All the Heads of Postal Circles have been asked to carry out a survey, prepare proposals in the light of revised norms and submit the same to the postal Directorate for further necessary action. In justified cases, the matter will be taken up with the Ministry of Finance for their approval.

Oil Prospects in Bay of Bengal

976. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position regarding oil prospects in the Bay of Bengal ; and

(b) the agency assigned with this task ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) Exploratory work is in progress in Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery, Bengal, Orissa and Andaman offshore basins in the Bay of Bengal. So far, oil has been discovered in two structures each in Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery basins.

(b) Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited.

Target for Production of Coal

977. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for coal production for the year 1987-88 ; and

(b) the steps being taken to increase the production during the period to achieve the target ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The target fixed for production of coal for the year 1987-88 is given below :

Coal India Limited	158 million tonnes
Singareni Collieries Company Limited,	20 million tonnes
Others	
(D.V.C. TISCO, HSCO)	5.5 millions tonnes

(b) Various measures being taken to increase the production of coal in the coal companies include opening of new mines, fuller utilisation of mining capacity already created, more efficient use and better maintenance of equipment, stricter control of inventory and economy in the use of stores, better use of manpower by controlling absenteeism and enforcing discipline and identification of surplus workers and their

redployment after suitable training, better availability of scarce inputs like explosives, timber etc., reduction in pit-head stocks by faster movement and more systematic distribution, expeditious and timely completion of new projects and improvement in law and order situation.

System of TLEL-Locking Phones

978. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(b) the financial savings resulting from the system of tele-locking phones in Government Offices ;

(b) when the system was introduced in Government offices ;

(c) whether the system of tele-locking phone exists in all Central Government offices ; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MOHAN SANTOSH DEV) : (a) to (d) The Department of Telecommunications provides the facility of STD barring for subscribers telephones at the exchange on individual requests on charge basis. STD barring devices are also permitted for use by individual subscribers at their premises as an attachment to their telephones. These devices are the types approved by the Department and no charge is levied for use of these devices. A large number of Government offices have availed of the facility of STD barring at the exchange. There are no financial savings to the Department of Telecommunications by the use of the STD barring facilities.

Setting Up of Petrochemical Industries in Konkan Region

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the fact that fertilizer projects have been set up at Thal and Vaiseth in the Konkan

region of Maharashtra, the Konkan region has become a suitable site for setting up petrochemical industries ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to set up such industries in the Konkan region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) The setting up of petrochemical units is decided on techno-economic considerations on demand-supply balance for the products, availability of feedstocks etc. and is not directly linked with the location of fertilizer project.

IPCL is in the process of setting up a large gas cracker complex and down stream units at Nagothane in Konkan region of Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 1167.00 crores.

Sick Industries due to Financial Mismanagement

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

(a) the number of industries found to have been rendered sick due to financial mismanagement ; and

(b) how many of them were taken over by the Centre during the financial year 1986-87 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Industrial sickness is not caused merely due to a single factor like financial mismanagement. A combination of factors are responsible for industrial sickness in most of the cases. The data regarding the sick industrial units is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. According to the survey of the Reserve Bank of India, the number of sick industrial units as at the end of December 1985 was as follows :

	No. of Units
Large Units	637
Medium Units	1186
Small Scale Units	117783

There has been no case of take over of management of a sick industrial undertaking by the Government under the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 during the financial year 1986-87, so far.

Export of Petrochemicals

981. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :
DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total export of petrochemicals during each of the last three years and the current year and the targets envisaged by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(b) how their cost prices and quality compare in the international market, specially with those of U.K., Japan, South Korea and China ;

(c) the steps being taken to make them competitive in quality and prices in the world market ;

(d) whether any survey of world market has been made in this regard ; and

(a) if so, the findings thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY: (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) The export of petrochemicals is confined to processed goods rather than raw-materials. The export of plastic processed goods during the last three years and the estimated export for current year is as under :

Year	Rs. in crores (Approx.)
1983-84	51
1984-85	72
1985-86	74
1986-87	79

The target of exports by the terminal year of Seventh Plan is Rs. 125 crores.

(b) and (c) The quality of goods exported is generally comparable in the international market. However, in cases where the cost is not competitive in the international market, suitable cash compensatory support, import replenishment and duty draw back are provided. The steps taken to make the goods competitive in quality and prices in the world market include:

(i) the new units being permitted are by and large economically viable and internationally competitive sizes.

(ii) the existing units are being allowed to expand to the minimum economic sizes.

(d) and (e) The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has undertaken a study of world market for export of petrochemicals and processed goods and its report is expected shortly.

[Translation]

State-Wise Waiting List for LPG Connections

982. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of applicants on the waiting list for cooking gas connections ; and

(b) the time by which they are likely to be provided with cooking gas connections ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) A statement is given below.

(b) Enrolment and release of new LPG connections in the country is a continuous process and is made under the annual enrolment programme of the Oil Industry, being determined by augmentation in availability of LPG ; Bottling capacity, transportation arrangements and other infrastructure.

Statement

Name of State/UTs.	No. of persons on the waiting list for LPG connection (1.1.1987)
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1. Andhra Pradesh	26,650
2. Assam	11,000
3. Bihar	30,390
4. Gujarat	5,45,822
5. Haryana	2,10,880
6. Himachal Pradesh	13,345
7. Jammu & Kashmir	47,680
8. Karnataka	6,602
9. Kerala	1,723
10. Madhya Pradesh	1,60,855
11. Maharashtra	6,56,422
12. Manipur	900
13. Meghalaya	400
14. Nagaland	700
15. Orissa	37,972
16. Punjab	1,99,915
17. Rajasthan	2,05,710
18. Sikkim	100
19. Tamil Nadu	2,000
20. Tripura	3,000
21. Uttar Pradesh	6,31,627
22. West Bengal	91,154
23. Chandigarh	65,353
24. Delhi	4,75,659
25. Pondicherry	2,000
26. Arunachal Pradesh	1,000
27. Mizoram	—
28. Goa Daman & Diu	27,026
29. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—

Total :

34,55,885

[English]

Setting Up of Earth Stations

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

(a) the number of earth stations proposed to be set up during the Seventh Five Year Plan to facilitate telecommunication;

(b) the total allocations made in the plan for this purpose;

(c) of these, how many have been already set up with their locations and what was the expenditure involved;

(d) whether earth stations are to be set up at Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(e) what measures have been adopted for the promotion of satellite communication in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :

(a) About 80 earth stations are proposed to be set up in the 7th Five Year Plan for Public telecommunication requirements of the country.

(b) Rs. 174 crores.

(c) One earth station at Kulu (Himachal Pradesh) has been set up at a cost of Rs. 1.15 crores.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The high-lights of the measures adopted by the Department for promotion of satellite communication in the country are :-

(i) Expansion and improvement of telecommunication services to the remote areas of the country including hilly, backward areas and islands.

(ii) Provision of transportable small earth terminals to cater for emergent communication needs from various parts of the country

(iii) Augmentation of the capacity of some of the existing earth stations enabling the provisioning of subscriber trunk dialling services.

(iv) Promoting satellite-based networks for business communication requirements.

Supply of Pulses to FCI by NCCF

984. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :

SHRI MOJIB MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN :

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the investigations into the irregularities in the supply of pulses to the Food Corporation of India by the National Consumer Co-operatives Federation have been completed;

(b) if so, whether any report has been received by Government in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by Government against the officers held responsible in this deal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The report of the C.B.I. is under consideration of the Government.

Strategy for Industrial Development of Backward Areas

985. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :

SHRI KADAMBUR M. R.

JANARTHANAN :

SHRI V. SHREENIVASA PRASAD :

DR. G. S. RAJHANS :

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK :

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level interministerial committee has been set up to formulate a fresh strategy for industrial development of backward areas ;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has finalised its report and submitted the same to Government ;

(c) whether Government have examined the recommendations of the Committee ; and

(d) if so, the main features of the recommendations and by what time these are likely to be implemented ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee are under consideration.

[*Translation*]

Growth of Assets of Monopoly Houses

986. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details in regard to the increase in the assets of monopoly houses during each of the past three years ; and

(b) whether Government have any scheme to put an end to check this concentration of wealth and if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) The increase in the assets of undertakings registered under the MRTP Act and belonging to monopoly houses during the last three years was as follows :

Accounting years ending/ during the year	Value of assets at the end of the year (Rs. crores)	Increase in the value of assets over the preceding year (Rs. crores)
1983	25,962.50	4,274.12
1984	31,628.70	5,666.20
1985	34,655.18	3,026.48

(b) The objective of the MRTP Act is to regulate the growth of monopoly houses keeping in view the national economic and industrial priorities and to ensure that such growth does not result in concentration of wealth to the common detriment. These objectives are achieved by constantly regulating the growth of monopoly houses as per the provisions of the MRTP Act.

[*English*]

System of Accounts of Public Sector Companies

987. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUHEY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the system of accounts of the major public sector companies has been found to be not upto the mark ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) :

(a) and (b) As the accounts of all public sector enterprises are audited by Statutory Auditors as required under the law and/or by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, the question of the accounting system not being upto the mark generally does not arise. In case, however, any deficiencies are noticed, the auditors do qualify their reports and the enterprises also take necessary corrective action.

Board-banding of Textile Machinery Industry

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

(a) whether Government have decided to extend board-banding to the textile machinery industry in order to provide flexibility to manufacturers ;

(b) if so, which industries will be covered under this proposal ;

(c) the measures taken to help these industries ;

(d) what are the conditions that have been laid down for extending broad-banding to the textile machinery industry ;

(e) whether the scheme of broad-banding will not be available for items reserved in the small scale sector ; and

(f) if so, to what extent this new decision is helpful to the Textile Industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. With a view to allowing undertakings licensed for the manufacture of textile machinery the flexibility of manufacturing articles according to market demand, it has been decided to extend the facility of broad-banding to the Textile Machinery Industry.

(b) to (f) The information is given in the Press Note No. 40 (1986 series) dated the 5th December, 1986 issued by the Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Development. Copies of the Press Note are available in the Parliament Library.

Resale of Imported Edible Oil by STC Abroad

989. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has recently decided to resale the surplus imported edible oil in the International market ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the edible oil prices in the International market have been showing a decline ; and

(d) if so, whether the resale being resorted to by the STC will result in loss of foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Some quantity of edible oils contracted to be imported by STC was resold.

(b) This was done to adjust the arrivals of imported edible oils in view of actual allocation.

(c) The edible oil prices in the International market keep fluctuating depending on demand and supply at any given time.

(d) No, Sir.

Pilferage of Power

990. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of energy losses in the country ;

(b) the reasons thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken to control pilferage of power ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The All-India average energy loss during 1985-86 has been estimated to be about 21.7%.

(b) The losses are partly due to technical reasons inherent in the system and partly due to pilferage, defective meters, etc.

(c) One of the important steps taken to control pilferage of energy is amendment to the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 which makes theft of energy a cognizable offence and provides for stringent punishment to the defaulters.

Appointment of Judges in Gujrat High Court and Pending Cases

991. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vacancies of judges in the Gujarat High Court as on 1 January, 1986 and 1 January, 1987 ;

(b) the number of appointments made during 1986 ;

(c) whether any other recommendations were pending with Government in respect of these vacancies as on 31 December, 1986 ;

(d) the date when the recommendations were received by Government from the State Government/Chief Justice of India ;

(e) the reasons for the delay ; and

(f) the arrears of cases in the Gujarat High Court on 1 January, 1986 and 1 January, 1987 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) There were 4 vacancies of Judges as on 1.1.1986 and 5 vacancies as on 1.1.1987 in the Gujarat High Court.

(b) Appointment of one Judge was made in the Gujarat High Court during 1986.

(c) and (d) As on 31.12.1986, three proposals for appointment of Judges were pending ; two of them had been received on 6.2.1986 and the third on 24.3.1986.

Of these three proposals, one has since been approved and the appointment notified on 26.2.1987.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice laid on the Table of the House on 16.4.1987 a statement giving replies to parts (e) and (f) of the question which were left out in the main reply. The replies are as under :

(c) The process of consultation for appointment of a Judge is time-consuming. All relevant aspects of a proposal are taken into consideration before making an appointment. The Government makes all possible efforts to ensure that proposals are processed as expeditiously as possible.

(f) According to information received from the Registry of the Gujarat High Court 41750 cases were pending in the High Courts as on 1.1.1986. The information regarding pending cases as on 1.1.1987 is not available.

Import and Production of Crude

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

(a) the estimated cost of import of crude oil and petroleum products during 1986-87 and 1987-88 ;

(b) the indigenous production during 1985-86 and estimated for 1986-87 ;

(c) the estimated life of indigenous deposits at the current rate of exploitation ; and

(d) the additional resources of indigenous oil discovered during 1986 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) The cost of import of crude oil and petroleum products is estimated to be about Rs. 3050 crores during 1986-87. No estimates have been made for 1987-88 yet.

(b) The indigenous production of crude oil in the country during 1985-86 was 30.17 million tonnes. The targeted production for 1986-87 is 30.21 million tonnes.

(c) The estimated life of indigenous deposit at the current rate of exploitation is 15 years. But with the continued exploratory efforts more reserves are expected to be located.

(d) During 1986, oil was discovered in the following prospects :-

ONSHORE

Kaikalur	Andhra Pradesh
Namti	Assam
Shalmari	

OFFSHORE

R	71	
CD		West Coast
CA		
B	42	
R	7	A

The potential of the finds and the commercial exploitation will depend upon further delineating drilling.

[*Translation*]

Import of Foodgrains

993. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to import foodgrains during the current year ; and

(b) if so, the quantum of foodgrains proposed to be imported and the amount involved ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) There is no proposal to import any cereals during the current year.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Setting Up of Colour Film Plant by Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited

994. SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited proposed to set up a colour film plant with foreign collaboration at a cost of about Rs. 150 crores ;

(b) if so, the likely location of the plant ; and

(c) the progress made in selection of the collaboration ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TIWARY) : (a) to (c) Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd. prepared a Feasibility Report for the integrated manufacture of

cine colour films. The collaborator for the project was indentified but the project has however not been included as a Seventh Plan Scheme for the Company.

[*Translation*]

Scooter Despatch Rider Scheme in Telegraph Offices

995. SHRI RAJKUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Scooter Despatch Rider Scheme in the telegraph offices of Telecommunications Department has been discontinued ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme was found to be uneconomical on review.

Suspension of Work in Oil Refinery at Guwahati

996. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether work in oil refinery at Guwahati remained suspended in January, 1987 due to strike of employees ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the loss suffered by Government as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) and (b) The operations of the Guwahati refinery remained suspended from 6 AM on 27.1.1987 to 6 AM on 9.2.1987 due to a strike by the workmen of the refinery. The shortfall in crude throughput due to this was 37,200 metric tonnes as a result of which the Indian Oil Corporation suffered a loss of Rs. 74.87 lakhs.

[English]

Cases Referred to MRTP Commission

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

(a) the number of cases referred to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission during the financial year 1986-87 ;

(b) in how many cases, the Commission has submitted its reports ;

(c) whether the reports have been laid on the Table of the House ; and

(d) the action taken on the recommendations contained in the reports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) During the year 1986-87, no case has so far been referred by the Central Government to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Increase in Prices of Essential Drugs

998. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether during December, 1986 Government had announced a hike in prices of essential drugs ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) whether Government had also simultaneously announced that the price hike will take effect only after the amendment of Drugs (Prices Control) Order ;

(d) whether Government are aware that several drug manufacturers have increased

the price without waiting for amendment in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order ; and

(e) if so, the action contemplated by Government against such manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government had revised the price of Tetracycline Hcl. in December, 1986 and announced some new measures for rationalisation, quality control and growth of Pharmaceutical Industry for ensuring abundant availability of essential drugs of good quality at reasonable prices.

(c) It was clarified that the existing Drugs (Prices Control) Order continues to operate till a new Drugs (Prices Control) Order is announced incorporating the new measures.

(d) No such instances have come to the notice of Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Permission for LPG Bottling to Private Sector

999. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI P. M. SAYEED :
SHRI MANIK REDDY :
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have allowed LPG bottling to the private sector in the country ;

(b) if so, the names of the private companies who have been permitted ; and

(c) the reasons for allowing it to private sector in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Apart from certain existing LPG bottling plants which are at present being operated on contract basis by private agencies for filling : LPG cylinders for HPCL and IOC, no decision has been taken by Government about induction of the private sector in LPG bottling.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting Up of Max II Type Satellite Exchange in Sikkim

1000. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a request was received by his Ministry from Government of Sikkim in March, 1986 for setting up of Microwave Telephone system in the State and for setting up of MAX II type Satellite Exchange ;

(b) if so, the details of the request ; and

(c) the action taken on the request point-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Statement

Details of request/action taken on the points contained in letter dated 22nd March 1986 from Chief Minister Sikkim.

Points Raised	Action Taken
1. Installation of Microwave communication system in the State.	1) Plan for connecting 3 District Headquarters by UHF System. Namachi-Darjeeling-Namchi 88-89 Gyalzing-Namchi-Gyalzing 88-89 Mangam-Darjeeling-Mangam 88-89
2. Expansion of Gangtok exchange by 200 lines.	2) Expansion by 200 lines (900-1100) by 1988-89.
3. 200 lines satellite exchange at Tadong.	3) Electronic exchange planned, one year after commencement of Indigenous production, subject to availability of Exchange building. State Government has been requested for providing suitable accommodation.
4. Telex exchange at Gangtok.	4) 40 lines Exchange programmed for 1987-88.
5. Electronic exchange at Gangtok.	5) A suitable capacity Electronic exchange is not available.

Plan to Modernise Central Industrial Undertakings in Karnataka

1001. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the industrial undertakings in the Central sector in Karnataka require modernisation urgently ;

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LPG Demand in Karnataka

1002. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) The total demand for cooking gas in Karnataka State ;

(b) What percentage of demand has been met ; and

(c) The time by which full demand is likely to be met ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUIT) : (a) to (c) The average monthly demand for LPG for the existing customers in Karnataka is around 6302 M.T. Except for occasional backlog in supplies, this demand is being met in full.

The endeavour to meet the demand in full will be maintained.

Profit/Losses by Public Sector Units

1004. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the aggregate profits made by the public sector units in the first six months of the financial year 1986-87 ;

(b) the names of public sector units which suffered losses during this period ; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to reduce losses of public sector units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) :

(a) Based on provisional estimates received from 170 operating Central Public Sector Enterprises, the overall working results during first six months of the financial year 1986-87 show a net profit of Rs. 232.96 crores.

(b) A statement showing the names of public sector units out of 170 enterprises referred to in (a) above, which suffered losses during first six months of the financial year 1986-87 is given below.

(c) Government have taken various steps to reduce losses of public sector units. These are modernisation and rehabilitation of plant and equipment wherever considered necessary ; diversification of products mix ; provision of balancing facilities ; training and retraining of personnel ; emphasis on cost control and cost reduction and encouragement of labour participation in management.

Statement

1. IISCO
2. IISCO Ujjain Pipe & Foundry Company Ltd.
3. Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.
4. Steel Authority of India Ltd.
5. Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd.
6. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.
7. Bharat Refractories Ltd.
8. Hindustan Copper Ltd.

9. Hindustan Zinc Ltd.
10. India Firbricks & Insulation Co. Ltd.
11. Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd.
12. National Mineral Development Corpn. Ltd.
13. Uranium Corpn. of India Ltd.
14. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.
15. Central Coalfields Ltd.
16. Coal India Ltd.
17. Eastern Coalfields Ltd.
18. Western Coalfields Ltd.
19. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
20. Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.
21. The Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.
22. The Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.
23. Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.
24. Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.
25. Hindustan Salts Ltd.
26. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Corpn. Ltd.
27. Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
28. Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
29. Sambhar Salts Ltd.
30. Southern Pesticides Corpn. Ltd.
31. Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.
32. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.
33. Bridge & Roof Company (India) Ltd.
34. Burn Standard Company Ltd.
35. Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.
36. Jessop & Company Ltd.
37. The Lagan Jute Machinery Company Ltd.
38. Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.
39. Tungbhadra Steel Products Ltd.
40. Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.
41. Biecco Lawrie Ltd.
42. Central Electronics Ltd.
43. HMT Ltd.
44. National Instruments Ltd.
45. Central Inland Water Transport Corpn. Ltd.
46. Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
47. Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.
48. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.
49. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.
50. Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.
51. Scooters India Ltd.
52. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corpn. of India.
53. Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.
54. National Jute Manufactures Corpn. Ltd.
55. Rehabilitation Industries Corpn. Ltd.
56. Tannery & Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.
57. Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.
58. Hindustan Packaging Company Ltd.
59. Hoolungooree Tea Company Ltd.
60. National Seeds Corporation Ltd.
61. Cawnpore Textile Ltd.
62. NTC (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala & Mahe) Ltd.

63. National Textile Corpn. (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan) Ltd.
64. National Textile Corpn. (Gujarat) Ltd.
65. National Textile Corpn. (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.
66. National Textile Corpn. (North Maharashtra) Ltd.
67. National Textile Corpn. (South Maharashtra) Ltd.
68. National Textile Corpn. (Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry) Ltd.
69. NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd.
70. Bharat Leather Corpn. Ltd.
71. Central Cottage Industries Corpn. of India Ltd.
72. The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.
73. Food Corpn. of India.
74. Jute Corporation of India Ltd.
75. Mica Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.
76. North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
77. Delhi Transport Corporation.
78. Hindustan Prefeb Ltd.
79. Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd.
80. Indian Road Construction Corpn. Ltd.
81. Mineral Exploration Corpn. Ltd.
82. Project & Development India Ltd.
83. Hotel Corpn. of India Ltd.
84. Trade Fair Authority of India.

[Translation]

Bringing Central Telegraph Offices at New Delhi and Bombay Under Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

1005. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring Central Telegraph Offices at New Delhi and Bombay under Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited;

(b) if so, by what time; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) Public Telegraph Services are not within the purview of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in terms of the licence issued to them.

[English]

Shortage of Gas Cylinders

1006. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is still shortage of gas cylinders for filling LPG and supply to consumers in India; and

(b) if so, the taken action to meet the shortage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Cordless Telephones for Public Use

1007. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme regarding cordless telephones has since been introduced for public use; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the range of functioning of such telephones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cordless telephones working in prescribed range and frequencies can be used as an attachment to subscriber telephones after obtaining a licence from the Department of Telecommunications. The cordless telephone is to be subscriber-owned and maintained by him. A licence fee of Rs. 300/- per annum is leviable. The permissible range for cordless telephone is 100 metres.

Resource Position of State Electricity Boards

1008. DR. A.K. PATEL : SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the resource position of the State Electricity Boards during last years; and

(b) the steps taken to improve the position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY. (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The generation of internal resources of the State Electricity Boards, taking into account the rural electrification subsidies by the State Governments, the repayments of loans to institutional creditors, as estimated for the last three years is given below :

Year	Internal Resources (Rs. Crores)
1983-84	315.50
1984-85	215.10
1985-86	(-) 33.24

(b) Steps taken to improve the position include amendment to the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1984 to provide for each State Electricity Board to carry on its operations and adjust its tariffs as to earn a net surplus of 3% regular and prompt payments of R.L. Subsidies by State Governments; and capitalisation of interest during construction as provided in the Electricity (Supply) Annual Accounts Rules, 1985.

Supply of Defective Equipment by BHEL to State Electricity Boards and Thermal Power Plants

1009. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of Energy be pleased to state :

(a) whether the equipments supplied by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited to the State Electricity Boards and other thermal power plants contained defects leading to lowering of performance of the thermal power plants; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to ensure that the equipments supplied by the BHEL and other units strictly conform to the required specifications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY. (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) Some defects have surfaced in the power plant equipment supplied by BHEL to the State Electricity Boards and other power generating organisations. BHEL have been attending to such defects to improve the performance of their units. State Electricity Boards and other organisations generally procure the equipment for their projects after inspection and witnessing prescribed tests at the manufacturers works before despatch of the equipment.

Waiting List for New Telephone in Andhra Pradesh

1010. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS/ be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone connections given during the year 1986 in Hyderabad and other places in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of applicants still on the waiting list for new telephone connection in Andhra Pradesh, and

(c) the steps proposed to clear the waiting list ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :

(a) The number of new telephone connections given during the year 1986 are as under :

(1) Hyderabad - - 9,527

(2) Other places = 15,303 in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The number of applicants still on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh are 64,639 as on 31.12.86.

(c) It is proposed to give around 24,000 & 58,000 lines in Hyderabad & other places in Andhra Pradesh during 7th plan. The objective of 7th Plan is to be clear the waiting list in the following manner :

(i) In Hyderabad up to 1.4.1984.

(ii) In Andhra Pradesh

(1) MAX— I exchanges upto 1.4.1986.

(2) MAX— II exchanges upto 1.4.1987.

(3) MAX— III & Manual exchanges upto 1.4.1990.

Non-Clearance of Coal Bills by State Electricity Boards

1011. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether state Electricity Boards have not cleared coal bills due to Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, corrective steps proposed/taken in this regard;

(c) the State-Wise outstanding coal bills as on 1 January, 1987 and what is the date of longest pending bill, State-wise; and

(d) the loss incurred, including interest by Coal India Limited in these supplies ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir, Certain State Electricity Boards have not cleared coal bill dues to Coal India Ltd, amounting to Rs. 648.37 crores as on 1.1.1987.

(b) The following steps are being taken to realise coal sales outstandings from the State Electricity Boards :

(i) Regular follow up action and steps are being taken by coal Companies and CIL and the Department of Coal to realise outstanding dues from various Electricity Boards/Power Stations.

(ii) CIL/subsidiary companies have taken up with defaulting power stations by addressing letters, and in meetings for clearing outstanding dues and to secure refund of the amounts deducted unilaterally from coal bills.

(iii) Secretary (Expenditure) took a meeting with Government Organisations including Department of power in which a decision was taken that supplies of coal should be made though letters of credit w.e.f. 1.4.1986. Matter is being constantly followed up by CIL and the coal companies.

(iv) In the meeting held in the Department of Coal on 22.12.1986, the problems of coal supplies to power stations/electricity Boards including outstanding dues were discussed and the State Electricity Boards and other Utilities were asked to clear all undisputed bills within 2 months from 22.12.1986 with interest. They were also advised that the disputes should be settled through arbitration.

(c) The Statewise outstanding bills as on 1.1.1987 are as under :

(Rs. in crores)				
State	Consumers	Total outstanding as on 1.1.187		
		Full Bills (Undisputed) amount)	Deductions	Total
1. Bihar	BSEB	29.68	10.98	40.66
2. Uttar Pradesh	UPSEB	56.74	18.00	74.74
5. Orissa	OSEB	16.52	3.46	19.98
4. Punjab	PSEB	17.67	36.74	54.41
5. Tamil Nadu	TENB	2.49	1.34	3.83
6. Haryana	HSEB	44.59	11.75	56.34
7. Rajasthan	RSEB	1.04	0.09	1.13
8. Maharashtra	MSEB	47.14	35.86	83.00
9. Madhya Pradesh	MPEB	10.64	28.45	39.09
10. Gujarat	AEC	4.24	2.59	6.83
	CEB	24.13	5.78	29.91
11. Andhra Pradesh	APEB	0.12	—	0.12
12. West Bengal	WBSEB	17.50	—	17.50
	DPL	18.92	4.71	23.63
13. Delhi	DESU	15.34	10.63	25.97
CENTRAL				
	Damodar Valley Corporation	2.88	53.17	56.05
	Badarpur Thermal Power Station.	8.00	68.53	76.62
	National Thermal Power Corporation	5.90	31.13	37.03
PRIVATE				
	Calcutta Electric Supply Co. Ltd.	0.59	0.13	0.72
OTHERS				
		0.74	0.07	0.81
		324.96	323.41	648.37

The details of companywise longest period of pending bills are as under :

Name of company	State	Consumer	Date of longest pending bills
WCL	Maharashtra	MSEB	30.4.1980
	Madhya Pradesh	MPEB	28.2.1981
	Gujarat	GEB	30.4.1980
	Tamil Nadu	TNEB	31.12.1982
	Andhra Pradesh	APEB	31.10.1984
SCCL	Gujarat	GSEB	1986-87
	Madhya Pradesh	MPEB	1985-86
	Maharashtra	MSEB	1984-85
	Tamil Nadu	TNEB	1986-87
	Orissa	OSEB	1982-83
BCCL	Central	CTPS	25.2.1983
		DTPS/DVC	31.3.1974
		BTPS	24.7.1985
		DESU	30.4.1979
	West Bengal	WBSEB	31.3.1985
	Uttar Pradesh	UPSEB	24.7.1985
	Punjab	GNDTP	12.8.1983
	Haryana	PTPP	5.10.1983
CCL	Uttar Pradesh	UPSEB	15.9.1968
	Bihar	BSEB	31.3.1985
	Delhi	DESU	15.6.1979
		BTPS	4.12.1980
	Central	DVC	29.10.1986
	Punjab	PSEB	13.10.1981
	Haryana	HSEB	24.4.1980
	West Bengal	WBSEB	31.10.1983
	Gujarat	GSEB	31.8.1985
ECL	West Bengal	WBSEB	
		Bandel TPS	6.6.1985

Name of Company	State	Consumer	Date of longest pending bills
		Santhaldih	23.4.1986
		DPL	10.4.1984
		Durgapur	30.4.1984
		Coke Oven	
	Central	DVC	3.12.1984
	Bihar	BSEB	
		Patna Elec. Co.	24.8.1986
		Barauni TPS	18.2.1985
		Muzaffarpur TPS	14.4.1986
	Uttar Pradesh	UPSEB	
		(Balarampur)	19.8.1986
		Kesa (Kanpur)	12.9.1986
		Paricha TPS	28.7.1986
		Varanasi Elec. Supply	23.4.1986
	Haryana	HSEB	10.4.1984
		Haryana TPS	9.4.1984
	Punjab	PSEB	25.1.1986
		Ropar TPS	9.9.1986
NCL	Uttar Pradesh	UPSEB	
		Obra TPS	8.1.1969
		Harduaganj TPS	2.2.1974
		Panki TPS	24.2.1977
	Delhi	DESU	1.3.1985
	Punjab	PSEB	
		Ropar TPS	1.11.1985
		Bhatinda TPS	9.3.1977
	Rajasthan	RSEB	
		Kota TPS	1.11.1985
	NTPC	Singrauli TPS	1.12.1985
		Badarpur TPS	8.1.1981
	Gujarat	GSEB	24.11.1981
	Maharashtra	Nasik TPS	12.9.1986
	Haryana	HSEB	21.6.1983

(d) The heavy outstanding dues from the Electricity Boards are affecting the ways and means position of Coal India Limited. Yearly interest at the bank rate on the outstanding dues from various State Electricity Boards as on 31.12.1986 after adjusting the acceptable deductions and the dues for credit for 7 days comes to about Rs. 91.0 crores.

Withdrawal of Phillips Petroleum Company from Cochin Refineries

1012. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Phillips Petroleum Company of USA has proposed to withdraw its share from Cochin Refineries ;

(b) if so, the details of the shares, held by that company in the refinery and reasons for their decision for withdrawal ; and

(c) whether Union Government propose to purchase these shares and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) to (c) M/s. Phillips Petroleum Company of USA holds 1,85,007 equity shares of Rs. 100/- each in Cochin Refineries Ltd. constituting 26.43% of the total paid up capital of the company. They have offered to sell these shares to the Government of India due to some of their internal corporate reasons. The offer is under the consideration of Government.

Data on Implementation of Letters of Intent for Industries

1013. SHRI S. M. GURADDI : SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have urged the States to complete data on the implementation of letters of intent for industrial units and on utilisation of capacities of existing units in different States ;

(b) if so, the number of States which have so far completed the data and sent the information to the Union Government ; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the case of remaining States ;

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

(a) to (c) Government is anxious to ensure early implementation of all the industrial projects for which letters of intent/industrial licences are issued. With this end in view, besides the concerned administrative Ministries, State Governments/Union Territories have also been addressed in the matter from time to time, advising them to set up suitable institutional structures for undertaking proper monitoring of implementation of letter of intent, industrial licences and DGTD registrations etc. granted for establishment of industries in their respective areas and provide necessary help and assistance to the entrepreneurs in implementing their projects expeditiously. State Governments have responded favourably to the suggestion. Most of them have set up comprehensive monitoring mechanism for the purpose, while others have issued necessary instructions to their Industries Departments for undertaking the monitoring work on a regular basis.

Setting Up of Electronic Exchange Manufacturing Unit at Bangalore

1014. SHRI S. M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up one more electronic exchange manufacturing unit at Bangalore ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in taking up the project ; and

(c) the cost of the project and when it is likely to be taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) Government have approved a proposal in

principle, for setting the second Digital Electronic Switching Equipment factory at Bangalore under Indian Telephone Industries Limited, in replacement of the existing Cross-bar and Strowges factories at the existing site.

The various aspects of implementation of the decision are under consideration.

Control on Drug Prices

1015. SHRI S. M. GURADDI :
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI H. B. PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any direction or advice has been given by his Department to the State Governments to hold drug prices until notification of the New Drugs (Prices Control) Order ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the report on implementation of such direction or advice received, if any, from the States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Immediately after the announcement of some new measures in December, 1986, my Department has clarified to all State Governments that the existing Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 is still operative and advised them to be vigilant against unauthorised price increases by manufacturers and traders.

(c) Most of the State Governments have started sending implementation reports.

Location of New Industries

1016. SHRI S. M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Government have requested the Union Government to have fresh look at the locational policy for new industries in New Industrial areas ; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Certain suggestions were made at the recently held State Industries Ministers Conference by some representatives of the State Governments for delegation of more powers to the State Governments in regard to locational policy for setting up of industries. The question of disposal of industries and correction of regional imbalances are the prime objectives of the industrial policy. In keeping with this policy are taking into account the merits of each case namely the techno-economic and financial viability of the projects, the location of the units requiring approval under the provisions of IDR Act is approved by the Central Government.

Induction of Workers' Representatives into Boards of Coal India Limited

1017. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have announced recently a scheme to induct workers' representatives into the Boards of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries ;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and its implementation ;

(c) whether the trade unions were consulted in the matter and whether this scheme is being supported by them ;

(d) whether a similar scheme has been in operation in Singareni Collieries Company Limited for the last two years ; and

(e) the target of production and annual performance during the last two years and how labour's participation in management has been helpful in achieving the targets ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) A scheme to give representation to workers on the Boards of Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries is being formulated.

(b) Scheme is still under formulation.

(c) Ministry of Labour & Rehabilitation (Deptt. of Labour), in their Resolution No. L-56011/1/83-Desk I (B), dated 30.12.1983, had prescribed a scheme for employees' participation in management at the Shop, Plant and Board levels. Under the scheme, the workers' representatives were to be selected by consensus to be evolved in consultation with the Trade Unions. In the Coal industry, attempts to evolve such a consensus did not succeed in spite of a series of meetings held with the representatives of the Central Trade Unions. At one stage, indeed, it seemed that such a consensus had been arrived at, and, accordingly, a scheme of workers' participation in the management at colliery level was announced by the Deptt. of Coal in October, 1985. Subsequently, however, some of the Unions back tracked and suggested further consideration of the whole issue. This too was arranged and a Committee of the Central Trade Unions was constituted to resolve the tangle and suggest a viable scheme, acceptable to all Trade Unions. The Committee could not arrive at any consensus and ultimately, the effort to evolve such a consensus had to be given up. Now, a fresh scheme is being formulated.

(d) No, Sir: There is no workmen representative on the Board of the SCCL.

(e) The target and actual production achieved during the last two years by the Coal companies are as follows :

	Target	Prodn. Achieved
		(in million tonnes)
CIL		
1984-85	131'00	130'81
1985-86	133'50	134'11
SCCL		
1984-85	17'00	12'33
1985-86	16'00	15'70

The targets set for production and productivity are explained to the workers and their cooperation solicited in achieving them. The workers' representatives are also taken into confidence while preparing working plans of the mines, enforcing safety requirements etc.

Projects Planned by Western Coalfields Limited

1018. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects planned by the Western Coalfields Limited during the period from 1973-74 to 1984-85 ;

(b) the estimated coal production per year and estimated capital outlay of these projects ; and

(c) whether there are cost over-runs in respect of some projects and if so, the extent of cost escalation in respect of each project and the revised estimates as against the original estimates for them ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) 24 projects costing Rs. 5 crores and more were planned for implementation in Western Coalfields Limited during the period from 1973-74 to 1984-85.

(b) These projects on completion are expected to yield an annual production of 20.29 million tonnes and the total capital outlay on these projects comes to Rs. 537.61 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir. Cost over-run has taken place in respect of projects, the details of which are given below :—

Name of project	Sanctioned cost (Rupees in crores)	Anticipated cost (Rupees in crores)
1. New Majri Opencast	22.93	22.93
2. Durgapur Opencast	34.65	70.00 (Revised cost estimate under preparation)
3. Sasti Opencast	25.15	40.00 (Revised cost estimate under preparation)
4. Umrer Opencast	25.44	28.00
5. Hindustan Lalpeth Opencast	11.88	21.85
6. Sarni Underground	9.84	10.50
7. Kamptee Underground	7.86	13.92
8. Pipla Underground	7.85	9.60
9. Hindustan Lalpeth Underground	8.15	11.96
10. Shivpuri Opencast	14.02	14.74

Setting Up of Post Offices in Villages of Kerala

1019. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Revenue Districts, Taluka and villages covered by the Kerala Postal Circle ;

(b) the number of villages in the State of Kerala with no Post Office as on 31.12.1986 ; and

(c) whether Government propose to open post offices in such villages in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The infor-

mation in respect of Kerala Postal Circle is furnished below :

Revenue Districts	—	15
Talukas	—	61
Villages	—	1441
Tehsils	—	5

(b) As on 31.12.86 there were two villages without post offices in Kerala State, while 4066 post offices are functioning in rural areas in Kerala.

(c) Like other Heads of Postal Circles the Postmaster General, Kerala Circle has also been asked to examine the proposals for opening of post offices in such villages in the light of revised norms.

[Translation]

Generation of Electricity in States

1020. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI
PATNAIK : Will the Minister
of ENERGY be Pleased to state :

(a) the details of per capita generation of electricity in different States of the country ;

(b) the steps proposed for making the States which are lagging behind in this field including Bihar, self-sufficient in the production of electricity ; and

(c) whether there is any time bound programme for implementation of any power generation schemes in such States, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) The required information is given in the Statement I laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3863-87]

(b) and (c) In order to improve the availability of power, various steps such as expediting commissioning of new capacity, improving the utilisation of existing capacity, reducing transmission and distribution losses are being taken in different States including Bihar. The power generation schemes to be commissioned during the Seventh Plan in each State are indicated in the Statement-II laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3862-87]

Mankapur Complex

1021. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the site selected for Manakpur complex falls in a low lying area ;

(b) if so, the expenditure and time involved in filling up the area ;

(c) the reasons for selection of this site and whether no other suitable site was available ;

(d) whether Government are considering still to shift the site to avoid the expenditure on levelling ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The site for the ESG factory at Mankapur was selected by a team of experts from out of three sites offered by the UP State Government. This team included representatives from U.P. State Government and based its decision on the information furnished by UP State Government that this area is not flood prone.

However, while the project was in advance stage of implementation, unprecedented floods occurred necessitating filling up of the area to avoid recurrences of floods. Earth filling is expected to cost approximately Rs. 1 crore and is being done alongwith other project activities.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Flood prevention measures have already been implemented in consultation with Central and State Governments. As such it is not considered necessary to shift the site.

[English]

Controls on Industry

1022. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any follow up action has been initiated on the consensus reached at State Industries Ministers Conference held at New Delhi in December, 1986 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reports received from State Governments, if any ?

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

INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM)

(a) to (c) The topics discussed at the Conference of State Industry Ministers held at New Delhi on the 10th December 1986, included industrial policy measures, modernisation and upgradation of technology, industrial development of backward areas, provision of infrastructural facilities by the States, implementation of Letters of Intent and medium and small scale industries registered with DGTD and Directorates of Industries, problems relating to sanction and disbursements of term loan and working capital, maintenance of quality and standards, supply of raw materials and inputs and monitoring of data relating to industrial sectors. A number of useful suggestions were made on all the subjects.

The proceedings of the Conference have been circulated recently to all State Governments/Union Territories and Central Ministries/Departments for appropriate action so far as they concerned. No reports have been received.

[Translation]

Selling of Wheat at Lower Rates in Punjab

1023. **SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :**

SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken to sell 'C' and 'D' grade wheat stored in Punjab at the rate of Rs. 175 per quintal instead of Rs. 195 per quintal ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Considering the stocks of C & D categories of wheat with the Punjab State Government and its agencies as well as the costs of their maintenance and constraints of movement, the State Government of Punjab was authorised to sell C & D categories of wheat lying with them at a price not below Rs.175/- per quintal.

Transmission Losses

1024. **SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :**

SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which measures suggested to check power losses in transmission have borne results ; and

(b) whether some more steps are likely to be initiated in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) :

(a) and (b) The power losses in transmission and distribution continue to be high. The State Electricity Boards have been advised to accord a very high priority to the reduction of transmission and distribution losses and to implement the measures effectively. A Committee has recently been set up to suggest measures to improve the energy accounting procedures, implementation of system improvement schemes and for the rigorous enforcement of the recent amendment to the India Electricity Act, 1910 making the theft of energy a cognizable offence. The Government have also decided to introduce an incentive scheme for reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

[English]

Loss In State Electricity Boards

1025. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :** **SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Union Government have issued guidelines to the state Governments to participate in the equity base of Electricity Boards to the extent of fifty per cent to improve the financial of State Electricity Boards.

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the state-wise details of profits and losses in respect of State Electricity Boards during the last three years;

(d) the steps taken to check the losses ; and

(e) the action taken upon the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee on energy regarding appointment of a high powered committee to study the working of State Electricity Boards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Details are given in the Statement below.

(d) Under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, each State Electricity Board is required to carry on its operation and adjust its tariff in a manner so as to earn a net surplus of not less than 3% of its net fixed assets at the beginning of the year. The State Electricity Boards have been advised to draw up 'Action Plans' to improve their operations and financial performance with a view to achieve the prescribed 3% surplus.

(e) There is no proposal before the Government to appoint a high powered Committee to study the working of State Electricity Boards.

Statement

Profits (+)/Losses (—) in respect of State Electricity Boards during the last three years
(Rs. cross)

S. Name of SEB No.	Profit (+)/Loss (—) during the year ended March.		
	1984	1985	1986 (Provisional)
1. Andhra Pradesh	(+) 10.7	(+) 49.7	(—) 17.2*
2. Assam	(—) 36.4	(—) 76.6	(—) 115.3*
3. Bihar	(—) 12.7	(—) 9.7	(—) 188.8*
4. Gujarat	(+) 14.9	(+) 36.1	(+) 3.0
5. Haryana	(—) 40.7	(—) 13.9	(—) 38.8
6. Himachal Pradesh	(—) 11.1	(+) 22.4	(—) 22.7
7. Karnataka	(+) 3.6	(+) 10.4	(—) 17.0
8. Kerala	(—) 11.7	(+) 9.7	(+) 4.9*
9. Madhya Pradesh	(—) 1.5	(—) 18.2	(+) 66.0
10. Maharashtra	(—) 28.0	(—) 33.1	(—) 40.9
11. Orissa	(—) 1.7	(—) 12.5	(—) 29.5
12. Punjab	(—) 16.4	(—) 6.6	(—) 63.9
13. Rajasthan	(—) 46.3	(—) 73.5	(—) 44.5
14. Meghalaya	(—) 0.5	(—) 1.4	(—) 2.4
15. Tamil Nadu	(—) 3.1	(—) 8.5	(—) 227.6
16. Uttar Pradesh	(—) 30.2	(—) 58.7	(—) 148.4
17. West Bengal	(—) 58.8	(—) 68.0	(—) 72.0

*Do not take into account any subsidy from State Government.

Increase in Commission of LPG Dealers

1026. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA ;
SHRI DHARAM PAI SINGH
MALIK ;
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will
the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the LPG dealers' Commission has been increased by Rs. 1.68 per

Cylinder from 1 February, 1987;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how far it will affect the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

but with effect from 19th January, 1987.

(b) This is to meet the increased cost of the operations of the LPG dealers.

(c) This will not affect the consumers as there is no price increase.

Policy on Administered Prices

1027. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any policy on administered prices taking into consideration the need for the public sector units to generate resources besides neutralising losses incurred ; and

(b) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) : (a) and (b) A Discussion Paper on "Administered Price Policy" has been placed in the Parliament on 4th August, 1986.

Production of Crude Oil

1028. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of crude oil during the current financial year has been less than that during the corresponding period of last year ;

(b) if so, whether it is due to insufficient funds allocated to ONGC ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for fall in production of crude oil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Concession in Telephone Rental Charges for EX-MPs, Ex-MLAs and Retired Government Servants

1029. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering giving concession in the matter of telephone rental charges for ex-MPs, ex-MLAs and retired Government servants including retired Defence Service personnel who own telephone at their residence at their own cost ;

(b) whether Government are also considering giving rebate to those subscribers who would not only not exceed the minimum allocated number of free calls but would also surrender such free calls in each two-month period ; and

(c) if so, when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Reduction in Prices of Truck Tyres

1030. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) have been asked to review the cost structure of tyres used in automobile industry ;

(b) if so, whether BICP has submitted its report ;

(c) the details of its findings ; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to bring down the prices of tyres used in trucks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM):

(a) to (c) An edited version of Phase I of the Comprehensive study by BICP on tyre industry (1983) has been made public and copies of the same are available in the Parliament Library for ready reference. Phase II of the BICP study which will be an indepth analysis (economic, financial and technical) of the tyre industry has not yet been received.

(d) There is no statutory control on the prices/distribution of tyres at present. There are quite a number of manufacturers in the market and prices are determined by market forces of demand and supply. Government have been interacting with both the tyre industry and raw materials manufacturers in this regard.

Coaxial Cable Scheme from Jodhpur to Palanpur Via Pali

1031. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the coaxial cable scheme planned from Jodhpur to Palanpur Via Pali;

(b) the progress of the project as on 1.1.85, 1.1.86 and 1.1.87 respectively;

(c) whether the work on the scheme is progressing as targetted; if not the steps proposed to accelerate the work; and

(d) when the Scheme is expected to be completed and how it will be helpful to subscribers in Pali ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :

(a) The project estimate for 2.6 MHz (600 Telephone channels capacity) coaxial Scheme from Jodhpur to Palanpur was sanctioned in January, 1985. The Scheme is planned to provide communication facilities amongst Jodhpur, Pali, Rani, Falna, Sumerpur, Sirohi, Abu Road, and Palanpur.

(b) The progress of the Project as on 1.1.85, 1.1.86 and 1.1.87 is as below :

	Total to be completed	Up to 1.1.85	Up to 1.1.86	Up to 1.1.87
Land (sites acquired)	6	2	4	6
Building	6	-	-	One building under construction and for the remaining the necessary Estimates are already sanctioned.
Cable =	=	=	319.80 Kms.	
Cable Laid	=	=	54.50 Kms.	
Equipment Receipt (Line Equipment)	=	=	=	

(c) Scheme targetted in 1988-89.

(d) The scheme is likely to be completed by 1988 subject to the timely receipt of coaxial cable and equipments. With the commissioning of this scheme Pali will have access to National Network.

Crisis in Bhopal Unit of BHEL.

1032. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** **SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "BHEL Bhopal Unit in Deep Crisis" appearing in Patriot of 3 November, 1986 ;

(b) if so, the details of supply of power equipment by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to Electricity Boards and other consumers during 1984-85, 1985-86 and from April to December 1986 separately ;

(c) the details of imports sanctioned during this period in respect of items which were earlier supplied by BHEL and reasons for the same ; and

(d) the steps being taken to bring BHEL out of the present crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The details of the power equipment supplied by BHEL during 1984-85, 1985-86

and april to December, 1986 are given in the statement below.

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

(d) In order to improve the capacity utilisation, BHEL have taken the following steps :

- i) Diversifications into new products ;
- ii) Strengthening the services and spares for the power sector ;
- iii) Power Projects have been identified for placement of orders on BHEL, keeping in view the availability of resources for new projects.

Statement

The power equipment supplied by BHEL during 1984-85, 1985-86 and April to December, 1986 is as follows :

Year	Thermal		Hydro	
	Turbine	Genera- tor	Turbine	Genera- tor
1984-85	No/MW	No/MW	No/MW	No/MW
	12/ 2272.5	8/ 1027.5	16/ 424	15/ 504
1985-86	11/ 1985	7/ 1527.5	12 209.5	11/ 186
April- Decem- ber, 1986	3/ 920	5/ 1290	6 105	4/ 55

Electric Supply to Rajasthan

1033. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide more electric supply to Rajasthan :

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard and the mode of help :

(c) if no action has been taken so far, the reason for delay and whether any target

in respect of quantum and time has been fixed ; and

(d) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) to (d) All efforts are made to provide assistance, to the extent possible, to Rajasthan. Assistance has been provided to Rajasthan from Bhakra and Singrauli power stations. Rajasthan has also been receiving some assistance from Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.

In order to improve the power availability in Rajasthan, during the 7th Plan period capacity totalling 385 MR is targeted to be installed. In addition, Rajasthan would also get its share of power from Central Projects being commissioned in the Northern Region.

Appointment of Study Group for Hindustan Petroleum Corporation

1034. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has appointed a Study Group to look into the project formulation, implementation, monitoring and control in respect of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd ;

(b) what were the major suggestions of the Study Group

(c) whether these have been implemented;

(d) if so, with what results, if not, the reasons therefor, and

(e) how does the working of Hindustan petroleum Corporation Ltd., compare with the working of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., so far as the execution of the projects is concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of the answer to part (a).

(e) As different projects have different features and different profiles, inter company comparison of project execution is generally not attempted.

**Tender for Supply of Power
Generating Equipments by Indian
Petrochemicals Corporation**

1035. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian petrochemicals Corporation Limited floated a global tender for supply of power generating equipment;

(b) if so, how many Indian and foreign firms have responded to the tender;

(c) whether any violation of bid evaluation procedure in the tender has been brought to the notice of Government;

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) whether the contract has been awarded to any firm ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In response to the revised bid enquiry, six parties including one Indian party, responded to the tender enquiry.

(c) Yes, Sir M/s. BHEL, the Indian party, has alleged about the violation of bid evaluation procedure.

(d) and (e) A view in the matter is yet to be taken.

**Zone-Wise Cost of Production of
Sugar**

1036. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the zone-wise cost of production of sugar during the last three years, year-wise ;

(b) the zone-wise recovery percentage and duration taken into account [for calculation of cost of production of sugar during these years, year-wise ; and

(c) all-India average ex-factory sugar price notified during these years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c) The zone-wise cost of production of sugar for levy price purposes during the last three years, namely 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87, as well as the all-India ex-factory levy price for these years are shown in the Statement given below.

These prices have been calculated on the basis of minimum cane prices notified for the respective years and the parameters of conversion cost and return recommended by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices in its report of August, 1984.

Statement

The ex-factory levy prices of sugar notified for 1984-85, 1985-86
1986-87 sugar years

S.No.	Zone	1984-85	1985-86	(S-30 Grade)
				1986-87
1.	Punjab	337.98	379.97	397.50
2.	Haryana	367.27	403.46	407.86
3.	Rajasthan	420.45	457.27	456.94
4.	West U.P.	363.47	425.90	428.23
5.	Central U.P.	368.24	421.68	414.53
6.	East U.P.	424.11	452.07	442.58
7.	North Bihar	425.64	445.61	436.92
8.	South Bihar	443.19	490.53	505.00
9.	South Gujarat	333.12)	363.21)	366.96
		)	)	
10.	Saurashtra	)	)	412.53
11.	Madhya Pradesh	417.16	455.20	475.49
12.	South Maharashtra	334.35)	373.64)	382.59
		)	)	
13.	North Maharashtra	)	)	400.08
14.	Karnataka	339.80	365.84	378.74
15.	Andhra Pradesh	345.94	368.29	379.19
16.	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	343.20	391.51	393.54
17.	Assam, Orissa, West Bengal & Nagaland	366.37	414.74	414.41
18.	Kerala & Goa	375.90	429.39	448.86
	All India	351.21	391.24	398.34

Note :- In the case of weak units, included in Schedule VI of the Price Notification, an additional Rs.26/- per quintal has been allowed in the price.

**Enquiry into Incident of Fire in
Bombay-Pune Pipeline**

1037. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an enquiry has been held into the incident of fire which broke out at the Hindustan Petroleum's Bombay-Pune pipeline due to rupture near Central Railway line crossing at Mankhurd in North-East Bombay on 2.1.1987 ;

(b) if so, the findings of the enquiry : and

(c) the action Government propose to take in the order to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) to (c) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has appointed a Technical Committee to enquire into the cause of the rupture of the Bombay-Pune pipeline, which occurred on January 2, 1987, and to suggest preventive measures, if any, to avoid recurrence of such incidents. The Committee's report is awaited.

Availability of Power in Maharashtra

1038 SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) what was the per capita availability of power in Maharashtra at the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan and what it is at present ;

(b) what is the targetted power capacity availability at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan : and

(c) the details of the additional power generating capacity to be installed in Maharashtra during the Seventh Five Year Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The per capita consumption of electricity in Maharashtra at the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan (1984-85) was 291.58 Kwh. During the year 1985-86, the per capita consumption of electricity increased to 312.77 Kwh.

(b) With the capacity additions due to be made in the Seventh Plan, the total capacity will become 7743 MW.

(c) The capacity additions in Maharashtra targeted during the Seventh Five Year Plan is given in the Statement below.

Statement

Capacity Additions Targetted by Planning Commission During Seventh
Five Year Plan (MAHARASHTRA)

Sl. No.	Region/Scheme	Benefits (MW)
1.	Bhira Tail Race H.E. Scheme	80
2.	Tillari H.E. Scheme	60
3.	Pawana H.E. Scheme	10
4.	Bhandardara H.E. Scheme	10
5.	Khadakvasala H.E. Scheme	15
6.	Bhatsa H.E. Scheme	15
7.	Chandrapur Thermal Station Ext.	420
8.	Uran Gas Station Ext.	324
9.	Khaperkheda Thermal Station Ext.	420
10.	Parli Thermal Station Ext.	210
11.	Ujjani Pumped Storage H.E. Scheme	12
12.	Uran Gas Turbine Station Unit No. 8	108
13.	Valtarna H.E. Scheme	1.5
14.	Pench H.E. Scheme (M.P. Maharashtra)	53
Total		1739.5 MW

Installation of Captive Power Plants

1039. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA.

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

(a) whether the Institute of Economic Studies in a note to the Ministry have suggested a review of the Government's licensing policy regarding installation of captive power plants with a view to attaining higher production in the industrial sector ;

(b) whether Government have considered the note and if so, their reaction in this regard ;

(c) how much of the power needs of the industry is being met currently by these captive plants and the uncovered gap ; and

(d) the projections for the next three years so far as power to industry is concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. MARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d) Information on the requirement of power by industry and the extent to which it is met by captive plants etc. is not available. The capacity gap in electrical power at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period has been estimated to be of the order of 10,000 MW. According to the Seventh Plan document, the target of additions to the installed capacity has been fixed at 22,245.25 MW for the Seventh Plan.

Advice of BHEL on Plant Load Factor

1040. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether that Prime Minister has suggested that with a view to augmenting the Plant Load Factor, the State Electricity

Boards should seek the advice of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited;

(b) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited have since received any request from any State and if so, the names of these States ; and

(c) the action proposed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) :

(a) To achieve higher plant efficiency, cooperative action between State Electricity Boards and the Central Government including the equipment producers such as BHEL, has been suggested.

(b) and (c) State Electricity Boards and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited are in regular touch with each other and necessary steps are taken on a continuing basis to improve the performance of Power Plants.

Suspension of Broad-banding of Licences

1041. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's policy to suspend broad-banding of licences has further been followed to see that industrial units are allowed to produce more ;

(b) the percentage upto which the industrial units are permitted to raise their production at present beyond their licensed capacity ;

(c) whether Government are proposing to raise this percentage ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. MARUNACHALAM) :

(a) With a view to optimising utilisation of capacity and encouraging large volume production so as to secure benefits of

economies of scale and streamlining licensing procedure and with a view to providing flexibility to the manufacturers to adjust their product mix depending on the market demand, the scheme of broad banding of industries was introduced by the Government. It now extends to 32 industries. There is no proposal to suspend the scheme of broad banding.

(b) to (d) The reference presumably is to the scheme of re-endorsement of capacity re-introduced by Government in January, 1986. Under this scheme the capacity indicated in the industrial licence could be re-endorsed (without having to obtain a fresh industrial licence) with reference to the highest production achieved during any of the previous five years *plus* one-third thereof. This facility is available during the Seventh Five Year Plan period. However, at present there is no proposal under consideration to increase the percentage of capacity indicated above.

Proposal to Import Captive Power Plant Equipments by Indian Petrochemicals Corporation

1042. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals have proposed to import captive power generating equipments for Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited is capable of supplying the same equipments; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not placing order with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) propose to import on turn-key basis a Captive Power Plant consisting of 3 gas turbine generator sets, 1 steam turbine generator set, 3 heat recovery steam generators, 1 fuel

oil treatment plant and other related accessories, auxiliaries and controls for Maharashtra Gas Cracker Complex (MGCC).

(c) M/s. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is one of the bidders for the supply of captive power plant under the International Competitive Bid Procedure of the World Bank for MGCC.

(d) No decision has yet been taken for placement of orders.

New Wage Pacts in Public Sector Undertakings

1043. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether negotiations have been initiated for new wage pacts in the public sector undertakings where the wage pacts have already ceased to be in existence; and

(b) if so, the details of such public sector undertakings where negotiations have already been started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF (PROF. INDUSTRY K.K. TEWARY) : (a) and (b) Broad parameters governing wage settlements having been communicated, it is for the managements and the workers to start negotiations. Enterprisewise details relating to such negotiations are not available.

Permission to Private Sector to Manufacture Bulk Drugs

1044. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have decided to permit private sector to undertake the manufacture of two bulk drugs - penicillin and polio vaccine, which have so far been reserved for public sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND

PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The relevant details are contained in a note on recently announced "measures for rationalisation, quality control and growth of drugs and pharmaceuticals Industry in India", copies of which are available in the Parliament Library and have also been sent to Honourable Members in reply to starred Question No.8 of Feb. 24 '87.

Setting Up of Family Courts

1045. **SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the States and Union Territories where family courts have been set up pursuant to the Family Courts Act, 1984;

(b) the reasons due to which these have not been set up in certain States/Union Territories; and

(c) the steps taken to set up family courts in the remaining States/Union Territories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Family Courts have been set up in the States of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) It is for the State Government/U.T. Administrations to set up family courts under the Act. The Central Govt. is emphasising the need for early establishment of these courts since the enactment of the Act and the State Govts. have been reminded from time to time for early action in the matter.

Non-Utilization of Funds allotted to Bongaigaon Refinery

1046. **SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds allotted for the expansion of Bongaigaon refinery in Assam remain unutilised ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the total amount allotted for the Seventh Five Year Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) and (b) The proposals for expansion of Bongaigaon Refinery and Petro-chemicals Ltd. cannot be processed now on account of the new refinery proposed in Assam under the Assam Accord.

(c) A provision of Rs. 250 crores was made for the expansion of Bongaigaon refinery in the Seventh Plan.

Beet Root Based Sugar Units

1047. **DR. CHINTA MOHAN :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether beet-root based sugar units are proposed, to be encouraged in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Beet-sugar manufacture is still at an experimental stage in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

Maintenance cases pending in Courts Under Section 125 Cr- P.C.

1048. **SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN :** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the total number of cases of maintenance for divorced wives under the section 125 of Criminal Procedure Code filed in various law courts throughout the country during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : The information is being collected from State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received from them.

Unfair Trade Practices-re. Fake Technical Collaboration

1049. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that many Indian companies are selling their products under the label of "Technical Collaboration" with some foreign company whereas in reality no such collaboration has been approved by Government ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to prevent this unfair trade practice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The MRTP Act, 1969 empowers the M.R.T.P. Commission to take cognizance of mis-representation regarding technical collaboration with foreign companies made by companies, firms, traders and persons where in reality such collaboration either does not exist or has not been duly approved. The Commission, during the period 1.8.84 to 31.1.87, has initiated 36 enquiries which are at different stages.

Achievement of Seventh Plan targets in Industrial Production

1050. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has called for more active involvement of State Governments in crucial areas in order to achieve Seventh Five Year Plan targets in industrial production ;

(b) if so, the details of these areas ;

(c) if so, whether any directive or advice has been issued to the State Governments in this regard ; and

(d) if so, how many States have so far agreed for this active involvement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL

DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Industry convened a Conference of State Industry Ministers in December 1986 to discuss various issues concerning industrial development. Specific issues discussed at the Conference, inter alia, included evaluation and development of industrial policy, modernisation and upgradation of technology, supply of critical raw materials required by industries, industrial sickness, development of backward areas, self-employment scheme for educated unemployed, and location of central public sector undertakings and their ancillarisation programmes, etc. It was stressed that the States have a crucial role to play in implementation of industrial policies and achievement of targets set in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

All the States and most of the Union Territories participated in the Conference.

Recovery of Dues from state Electricity Boards

1051. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have asked the State Electricity Boards to pay for supplies made to them by public sector enterprises ;

(b) if so, whether the Boards owe a lot of money to coal companies, Central Power Corporation and the Rural Electrification Corporation ;

(c) if so, the total dues against the State Electricity Boards ;

(d) the steps proposed to recover the dues from the State Electricity Boards ; and

(e) the names of defaulting States and the extent of default ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (e) Supplies of power and related materials between

the State Electricity Boards and the Public Sector Enterprises, including Coal Companies and Central Power Generating Corporations, are regulated according to the terms and conditions settled mutually between them. The Rural Electrification Corporation grants loans to the State Electricity Boards to finance Rural Electrification Programmes under various schemes, repayment of which is regulated by the terms and conditions prescribed by the Rural Electrification Corporation. While the payments have to be negotiated and settled directly between the parties concern-

ed, the Central Government has also been impressing upon the State Electricity Boards from time to time to ensure regular and timely payments, wherever due. This was also emphasised at the Conference of Chairman of State Electricity Boards held on 18.12.1986 and at the Conference of Power Ministers held on 15.1.1987. Information, as available, with respect to the outstanding dues of NTPC, NHPC, DVC, REC and CIL against the various State Electricity Boards, as on 31st December, 1986, is given in the Statement below.

Statement

Outstandings against State Electricity Boards (As on 31.12.1986)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the SEB	Outstanding Dues of				
		N.T.P.C.	N.H.P.C.	D.V.C.	R.E.C.	C.I.L.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2539	—	—	—	12
2.	Assam	—	964.05	—	—	—
3.	Bihar	174	—	7032	161	4066
4.	D.E.S.U.	2458	59.67	—	—	2597
5.	Gujarat	145	—	—	—	2991
6.	Haryana	1162	1478.66	—	—	5634
7.	Himachal Pradesh	352	641.93	—	—	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	17	—	—	—	—
9.	Karnataka	1828	—	—	—	—
10.	Kerala	339	—	—	—	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1397	—	—	—	3909
12.	Maharashtra	1038	—	—	—	8300
13.	Manipur	—	382.95	—	—	—
14.	Nagaland	—	43.46	—	—	—
15.	Orissa	130	—	—	336	1998
16.	Punjab	10	1118.16	—	—	5441
17.	Rajasthan	1554	—	—	1239	113
18.	Tamil Nadu	439	—	—	—	383
19.	Uttar Pradesh	8622	—	—	—	7474
20.	West Bengal	157	—	2319	608	1750
21.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	441	—
Total :		22361	4688.88	9351	2785	44668*

*Includes some disputed amounts for reference to the Arbitration Committee.

**Cut in Cost of Production in Public
Sector Undertakings**

1052. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJES-
WARI :

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

(a) whether for the first time a detailed exercise has been undertaken in all the Ministries to cut down the cost of production in the public sector undertakings under them ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) the extent to which the cost of production has been reduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) :

(a) and (b) While a renewed emphasis has been given for cost reduction in Central Public Enterprises, this is a continuous process. It is the enterprises themselves that initiate and watch the progress of cost reduction in their respective units. The performance review meeting of public enterprises taken at periodic intervals by the Administrative Ministries/Departments cover, inter alia, the cost reduction and cost control aspects.

(c) It is not possible to quantify the result achieved in this regard.

**Gas for Gas-Based Power Projects of
NTPC from HBJ Pipeline**

1053. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation would be getting only three million cubic meters of gas for its three gas-based power projects from the Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur pipeline ;

(b) whether this is adequate for running these three units ; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to run them in full capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c) Gas to the extent of four million cubic meters per day, against a requirement of six million cubic meters per day, has been committed for supply to the three gas-based power plants being set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation. The deficiency would be met by using alternative fuel on one of the plants till gas in adequate quantity becomes available.

**Recommendation to Train Manage-
ment Personnel in Public Sector**

1054. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :

DR. D.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Advanced Management Programme Advisory Committee has suggested common cadre for management in public sector ;

(b) whether it has also recommended setting up of a National Academy to train high level management personnel in public sector ; and

(c) if so, Government's views on these recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) :

(a) to (c) During the deliberation of the first meeting of the reconstituted Advanced Management Programme (AMP) Advisory Committee, amongst the suggestions made were the setting up of a National Academy of Training for Public Sector managers and creation of a common cadre of public sector executives. No decision has yet been taken on these suggestions.

Digging of Wells for Oil and Natural Gas

1055. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :
DR. V. VENKATESH :

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

(a) the names of the places in the country where digging of wells is in progress for exploitation of oil and natural gas ;

(b) the progress made and results achieved so far, and

(c) the amount spent for digging wells during the year 1986-87 so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) At present drilling operations are continuing in the following basins:-

ONSHORE

1. Cambay
2. Upper Assam
3. Assam-Arakan fold belt
4. Himalayan Foothill and Ganga Valley
5. Rajasthan
6. Krishna-Godavari
7. Bengal
8. Cauvery
9. Kutch-Saurashtra
10. Arunachal Pradesh
11. Orissa

OFFSHORE

1. Bengal
2. Cauvery
3. Kutch Saurashtra
4. Bombay
5. Andaman
6. Orissa (NE Coast)

(b) 283 wells corresponding to 655 thousand meters were drilled during the period April 1986 to January 1987, and the following Oil and gas discoveries were made:

Prospects	Oil/Gas
ONSHORE	
Kaikalur	Oil Andhra Pradesh
Namti	Oil Assam
Shalimari	Oil Assam
Pasralpudi	Gas Andhra Pradesh
Rajgarh	Gas Assam

OFFSHORE

CD	Oil West Coast
CA	Oil West Coast
B-42	Oil West Coast
R-7A	Oil West Coast
B-131	Oil West Coast
G-S-8	Gas East Coast

(b) The amount spent for drilling during the year 1986-87 will be known after accounts are compiled on completion of the year.

Opening of Branch Post Offices in Hilly Areas of Himachal Pradesh

1056. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Branch Post Offices set up in hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh and other parts of the country in 1985-86 have started functioning and staff posted there; and

(b) if not the time by which these post offices are likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No Sir. No new Branch Post Office was set up in hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh and other parts of the country in 1985-86 because there is a ban on creation of new Posts. Existing Post Offices continued to function with staff Posted as usual.

(b) The Proposals for new Post Offices justified on the basis of revised norms will be taken up after the ban is lifted.

Utilisation of Natural Gas being Flared

1057. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any estimate has been made of the daily loss of natural gas; and

(b) the financial outlay required to utilise all the natural gas being wastefully flared, to meet domestic demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) In 1985-86, an estimated quantity of about 3120 million cubic metres of gas was flared.

(b) Increased financial outlay alone cannot eliminate flaring as a major reason for flaring is failure of consumers to lift full quantities of gas committed combined with the fact that at least some small quantity of gas is produced along with production of crude oil - this associated gas has to be flared as its small quantity may not lend itself to economic use. Encouraging fallback users, and additional commitment in the North-Eastern region are some of the steps taken to overcome this problem.

Telephone Service in Urban and Rural Areas

1058. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to balance the levels of telephone services in urban and rural areas ;

(b) the steps proposed to reduce the charges levied on phones in rural areas ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) To extend telecom. facilities to rural areas, objectives for demand planning within the outlay approved for telecom. services have been laid down as follows :

Unit	Meeting average demand for the period upto
Metor	1.4.1984
Major	1.4.1984
Minor	1.4.1985
Circles	
MAX-I	1.4.1986
MAX-II	1.4.1987
MAX-III & Manual	1.4.190

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to further reduce the telecom. tariff for the rural areas. The existing tariff is already low as compared to the urban areas.

Public Telephones in the Country

1059. SHRI K. PRADHANI :

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

(a) whether public telephones all over the country, particularly in Orissa are not properly maintained ;

(b) whether more public telephones will be set up to ease the problems of the public, particularly in Orissa State ;

(c) the steps being taken to have more public telephones all over country ; and

(d) the details of the directions issued in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir. Public telephones are maintained properly in Orissa.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 9,000 long distance public telephones are planned to be opened in the country during the 7th Five Year Plan. Local public telephones are being opened at public places subject to availability of exchange capacity and outdoor plant.

(d) The Telecom. Department normally provides telecommunication facilities wherever they are financially viable. This condition has been relaxed in case of rural, backward, tribal and hilly areas. Further, as a long term objective, it is planned to provide telecommunication facility on fully subsidised basis at least at one principal village in every inhabited geographical area bounded by a hexagon of 5 Km. side

[Translation]

Pact between India and U.S.A. in the Field of Communications

1060. SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a pact has been signed between India and U.S.A. in the field of communications ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the time by which it is likely to be made applicable ; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be borne by the Government for implementing this co-operation in the field of communications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No Sir,

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Supply of Vanaspati to Biscuit Industry

1061. SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether biscuit industry is facing great difficulty due to rise in price of Vanaspati ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make available vanasati to biscuit industry at concessional rates ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) The prices of vanaspati have recently shown a declining trend,

(b) No, Sir,

(c) There is no control on the distribution and prices of vanaspati.

[English]

Toothpaste Tubes

1062. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Financial rape thru the paste" appearing in

the Hindustan Times of 24 January, 1987 regarding the need for reducing the diameter of the tube opening to the size of a "pea" to save the consumers from the "financial rape" ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Government has seen the news item. Indian Standards Institution has not prepared any Indian Standards specifically for the diameter of the tube opening for tooth paste.

However, ISI has prepared an Indian Standards IS: 3101-1979 Specification for aluminium collapsible tubes (Re-affirmed in 1985). This standards lays down the dimensional requirements and tests for aluminium collapsible tubes with short screw nozzles and plastic caps and is suitable for a wide range of semi-liquids, pastes and formulations containing soluble constituents. This standard can be used for tooth paste as well. In this standard, for different sizes of tubes, different nozzles sizes have been recommended. The choice of nozzle size depends on :

- i) size of the tube;
- ii) flow of the contents; and
- iii) one time dose/consumption of the content.

The collapsible tubes covered in the standard are applicable for a wide variety of items like tooth paste, rubber solution, printing inks, pharmaceuticals etc. and in a number of cases same size of the tube can be used for different items. In view of this, no definite recommendation has been made by the ISI in regard to the nozzle size for a particular product.

Funds for Development of Non-Conventional Energy in Haryana

1063. RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allotted in Seventh Five Year Plan for non-conventional energy development in Haryana ;

(b) the number of gobar gas plants installed so far in Haryana;

(c) whether any other non-conventional energy projects are being established in Haryana; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) An allocation of Rs. 250 lakhs has been made by the Planning Commission in the State sector for the development of non-conventional energy sources in the State of Haryana during the Seventh Five Year Plan. In addition, funds are being provided from the Central Sector for various schemes and projects relating to non-conventional energy systems in the State of Haryana.

(b) During the period 1982-83, to 1986-87, (up to Jan. 1987) 11,626 family-size biogas plants have been set up in the State. In addition, 6 Community/Institutional Biogas Plants have also been installed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The on-going projects include promotion of Biogas Plants, promotion of improved smokeless chulhas, construction of a Micro Hydel Power plant at Kakroi Village, Sonapat District, installation of Solar Water Heating systems, Solar Timber Kilns, Solar Desalination systems, Solar Swimming pool, promotion of Solar cookers on subsidised basis and energy plantation in suitable areas.

Consumers Protection Act

1064. DR. G. VIJAYARAMA RAO :
SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to some serious lacunae in the new Consumer Protection Act, specially in respect of defective compensation clause, use of official gazette, conditions of storage, environmental factors and lack of provision for forfeiting defective goods; and

(b) if so, action proposed to be taken to remove these lacunae?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF

FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) An article appeared in the Economic Times on 30 January 1987 which referred to certain lacunae in the Consumer Protection Bill such as inadequate compensation, exclusion of public sector, overlapping of the jurisdiction of the consumer redressal forum and MRTP Act, etc. The consumer Protection Act, 1986 enacted by the Government does not suffer from the defects mentioned in the article. The Act applies to all goods and services except those which are specifically exempted by the Central Government. The redressal machinery provided in the Act has powers to award appropriate reliefs/compensations in cases of complaints of the consumers relating to unfair trade practices (other than those relating to monopoly houses as defined in the MRTP Act), defective goods and services excess prices charged over and above the statutory and/or declared/printed prices. The Act enshrines the rights of the consumers, such as, right to be protected against marketing of goods which are hazardous to life and property; the right to be informed about the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods so as to protect the consumers against unfair trade practices; the right to be assured, wherever possible, access to variety of goods at competitive prices; the right to be heard and to be assured that consumers' interests will receive the consideration at appropriate forums; the right to seek redressal against unfair trade practices or unscrupulous exploitation of consumers; and the right to consumer education. Right to environment is not included in the Act as it is covered in the Environment protection Act, 1986.

Orders Placed with BHEL for Supply of Power Plant Equipment

1065. SHRI R.P. DAS :
SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA
REDDY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have placed any new order with the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. for supply of equipment for Power plants;

(b) the details of the orders placed during the last three years; and

(c) the details of imports during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Branch Post Office, Basot, Almora

1066. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade the Branch Post Office, Basot, Almora district, Uttar Pradesh to a Sub Post Office ;

(b) if so, the time by which it will be implemented ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The daily work load of present Branch Post Office Basot is only about three hours. It should have a minimum work load of 5 hrs per day to qualify for upgradation as departmental sub post office. Loss on upgradation has been worked out to Rs. 20309.88 per annum which is also much above the permissible limit of loss of Rs. 1,000/- per annum.

Construction of Godowns in Almora and Pithoragarh, U.P.

1067. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision was taken by Food Corporation of India to construct foodgrains godowns with five thousand tonnes storage capacity in Almora and

Pithoragarh cities of Uttar Pradesh some-time back ;

(b) whether sites for the godowns have been selected ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c) The Food Corporation of India has selected a suitable site at Pithoragarh and approached the State Government to acquire it. The Corporation has, however not been able to find a suitable site at Almora so far. Efforts are under way to identify a suitable site at Almora with the assistance of the State Government.

Exploiting of Hydel Capacity of Eastern Ramganga by N.H.P.C. in U.P.

1068. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any offer has been made by Uttar Pradesh Government to entrust the work of exploiting hydel capacity of eastern Ramganga to National Hydroelectric Power Corporation ; and

(b) if so, when this offer was made and action taken by Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh had, in November, 1980, conveyed 'in principle' approval to handing over the proposed Eastern Ramganga Hydroelectric Project for investigation and execution in the Central Sector. The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) subsequently pursued the matter with the State authorities. In September 1983, it was agreed between the NHPC and the U.P. authorities that the latter would continue with the detailed investigations of Eastern Ramganga and that expenses incurred by U.P. Government would be reimbursed to them at a

later date in the event that works were entrusted to the NHPC. The investigations of the proposed project are, accordingly, being continued by the U.P. Irrigation Department.

**Linking of Ranikhet with Bareilly
by UHF System**

1069. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand to link Ranikhet with Bareilly by UHF system ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) There are a number of sub-divisional H.Q. and Teshil H.Q. all over the country in need of UHF System. Due to constraint of resources, it has not been possible to provide for all such requirements in the 7th Plan. Priority is, therefore, being given to meet the requirements of District H.Q.s and places with exchanges larger than 1000 lines.

Depending on the availability of resources, efforts will be made to cover other places during the next plan.

[English]

Production of Coconut Oil

1070. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a considerable decline in the production of coconut oil in the country during the last three years ;

(b) if so, the extent to which this low production has affected the hike in the price of coconut oil ; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to bring down the price of coconut

oil to save the poor in rural and tribal areas ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) The Production of Coconut Oil had declined in 1983-84, due to drought in Kerala but it had increased in subsequent years.

(b) Due to favourable weather conditions in 1984-85 the production levels reached the original levels as a result of which prices fell substantially during 1985-86. The prices of Coconut Oil have risen during recent months.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to control the prices are as under :

(i) States have been asked to take stringent measures against hoarders and speculators.

(ii) Supply management of imported edible oils to Public Distribution System has been geared to check the rising trend in the prices of edible oils including coconut oil.

**Allocation of Imported Edible Oil
to A.P.**

1071. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have approached Union Government for allocation of more imported edible oil for public distribution ;

(b) if so, the quantity asked, for allocated and issued to that State as on 31st December, 1986 ; and

(c) whether the supply of edible oil to Andhra Pradesh is the lowest and if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity of imported edible oils asked for, allocated to and lifted by

Andhra Pradesh under Public Distribution System and Scheme of Small Packs during the oil years 1985-86 (Nov. 85-Oct.86) and 1986-87 (Nov.86-Dec.86) is as follows :

(Quantity in Mts)

Oil Year (Nov.- Oct.)	Quantity asked for.	Under Public Distri- bution System	Allocation/Lifting Under Scheme of Small Pack			
			Allo- cation.	Lift- ing.	Allo- cation.	Lift ing.
1985-86	1,95,000	92,400	83,552	10,100	6,761	
1986-87 (Nov.- Dec.)	2,01,000* (Monthly average 16,700)	15,000	19,780	3,200	1,976	

* This figure is for the whole oil year 1986-87 (Nov.86 to Oct.87).

(c) No, Sir.

Telephone System in Andhra Pradesh

1072. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone system in rural/tribal areas in Andhra Pradesh remains out of order due to old equipment and technical faults ;

(b) if so, whether Government have chalked out any scheme to improve the standard of working of rural/tribal telephone exchanges in the State ; and

(c) if so the outlines thereof and the time by which these schemes will be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The functioning of telephone system in rural/tribal areas in Andhra Pradesh is generally satisfactory.

(b) and (c) The functioning of these exchanges is being monitored daily at Divisional and Circles level. Immediate remedial actions are taken to attend to any fault as and when it occurs and every possible measures are taken to ensure satisfactory functioning.

Demand of Andhra Pradesh for Cooking Gas Connections

1073. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government have sent their demand for cooking gas connections required in the State of Union Government ;

(b) if so, district-wise requirements; and

(c) the extent to which Union Government are expected to meet the requirement of the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the remaining period of the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on 1.1.87 there were approximately 26,650 persons on the waiting list in Andhra Pradesh. New connections to these persons and to new applicants will be released by the oil marketing companies in a phased manner, keeping in view augmentation in the availability of LPG, of bottling capacity and requisite infrastructure.

[Translation]

Installation of Electronic Exchange in Faizabad

1074. SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to instal an electronic exchange in Faizabad, U.P.,

(b) if so, reasons for delay in implementing it; and

(c) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

Petrol Diesel Pumps and LPG Dealerships to be Allotted in Faizabad District

1075. SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol and diesel pumps and gas (LPG) dealerships to be allotted in Faizabad district and the places selected for these dealerships; and

(b) the action to be taken to expedite the allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) and (b) A statement indicating the locations and the present stage of proposals for setting up Retail Outlets (Petrol/Diesel) and LPG distributorships in Faizabad district, is given in Annexure.

Statement

RETAIL OUTLET

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Tanda | — Court case pending |
| 2. Akbarpur | — LOI issued |
| 3. Marella Mill near Akbar pur | — Advertised. Interviews to take place |
| 4. Sohanwal Crossing) | |
| 5. Faizabad) city | — Being advertised. |
| (Civil Line) | |

L.P.G.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. Ayodhya) | |
| 2. Jalalpur) | — Advertised. Interviews to take place. |
| 3. Akbarpur) | |

[English]

Financial Assistance to Mobile Fair Price Shops

1076. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have provided financial assistance worth Rs. 114 lakhs for mobile fair price shops in States with large tribal population;

(b) the total population covered under this programme and the amount provided to each State and Union Territory; and

(c) whether the State Governments have been directed to check malpractices in the mobile fair price shops?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) For streamlining and strengthening the Public Distribution System in ITDP areas, the Central Government has provided the following States with financial assistance as indicated below, as a one time measure, during the financial year 1985-86 for the purchase of mobile vans :

1. Bihar	Rs. 16.73 lakhs
2. Orissa	Rs. 22.00 lakhs
3. Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 6.00 lakhs
4. Assam	Rs. 5.29 lakhs
5. Rajasthan	Rs. 8.00 lakhs
6. Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 37.00 lakhs
	Rs. 95.02 lakhs

During the financial year 1986-87, a sum of Rs. 19 lakhs has been released to the State Government of Manipur for the purchase of mobile vans for operating mobile fair price shops in the interior areas of the State. The population coverage for each mobile van is decided by the State Government.

(c) The Central Government has issued guidelines to States/UTs to set up consumers advisory and vigilance committees at various levels to ensure equitable distribution of commodities covered by PDS. States/UTs have also been asked to intensify enforcement measures to ensure that fair price shops function properly and that essential commodities reach the people particularly those belonging to the weaker sections of the population.

Creation of Additional Hydel Capacity

1077. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Advisory Board on Energy has stressed the urgent need for formulating a long term plan to create an additional hydel capacity of 30,000 MW during the next two plans in order to restore the hydel thermal mix to 40 per cent; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Seized of the importance of developing the Hydro power potential a number of steps are being taken by the Central Government to optimize the hydro-thermal mix.

Collaboration with USSR for Oil Industry

1078. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of PETROLUUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and USSR have signed a protocol for economic, scientific

and technical co-operation in oil industry ; and

(b) if so, its details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In pursuance of the Agreement on economic and technical co-operation signed between India and the USSR on November 27, 1986, ONGC has signed a General Agreement with V/O Technoexport of the USSR for carrying out intensive integrated exploration of hydrocarbons in a mutually agreed onshore area in West Bengal with the help of Soviet equipment and specialists.

The Soviet organisation is already carrying out such exploration in Cambay and Cauvery basins, under inter-governmental Agreements of May 22, 1985.

The Soviet Union has extended a long-term Rouble Credit for the execution of these projects.

Complusion in Purchase for Hot Plates from LPG Dealers

1079. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of PETROLUUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that customers are still pressurised by distributors to purchase hot plates from them before releasing gas connection ;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during the year 1986, statewide ; and

(c) the action taken against the concerned dealers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Setting Up of Telecom Commission

1080. DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU :

SHRI YASHWANTRAO

GADAKH PATIL :

SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a Telecom Commission;

(b) the main features of the Telecom Commission ;

(c) whether the policy decisions would be taken up by this Commission ;

(d) how far it will affect the existing set up of the Telecommunication Board and working of the Telecommunication Zonal and Regional set up ; and

(e) whether this Commission would go in detail 'A village a telephone Exchange' scheme.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) Various suggestions for revising the structural set-up of the Department of Telecommunications, including a proposal to form a Telecommunication Commission, are under examination.

(b) to (e) No final decisions have yet been taken in the matter.

Acquisition of Computer Software Packages from U.S.A. by Central Electricity Authority

1081. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority is preparing a long term perspective power plan covering 15 years from 1985 to 2000 with the help of two recently acquired computer software packages from U.S.A.; and

(b) if so, its broad outlines and the capital outlay involved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The basic objective of the long-term power planning study is to determine the capacity additions, that would be needed upto the year 2000 AD including the determination of the most optimal mix of hydro-thermal-gas based capacity for meeting the demand. The study has recently been initiated and hence it will take time to determine the outlays involved.

Generation of Power

1082. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the power generation in 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 till date;

(b) whether this power generation is inadequate to meet the country's demand;

(c) whether power shortage is one of the main reasons affecting production in the public and private sectors in the country particularly in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to generate more power in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The power generation in the country during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 (upto January, 1987) was 156.6 Billion units, 170.0 Billion units and 155.15 Billion units respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir. Inspite of additional generation, demand is higher.

(c) and (d) Power shortage is also one of the factors which affects the production in the country including Gujarat. The steps taken to improve the availability of power include expediting commissioning of additional capacity, improving the performance of the existing thermal power stations, reducing Transmission and Distribution losses, implementation of energy conservation

and demand management measures, and implementing short gestation projects.

Raising Marriage Age of Girl's

1083. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to raise the marriage age for girls to 21 year as a measure to solve the population problem in the country ; and

(b) if so, the decision take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Capacity of Barauni Oil Refinery

1084. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any further increase in the capacity of Barauni Oil Refinery; and

(b) the profit earned by Barauni Oil Refinery during 1985 and 1986 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Profit before interest and tax for the year ending 31.3.85 was Rs. 18.88 crores and for the year ending 31.3.86 was Rs. 6.56 crores.

[*English*]

Allocation of Kerosene to Orissa

1085. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to increase the allocation of Kerosene to Orissa in 1987; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) and (b) Allocations of Kerosene to Orissa for the Winter Block comprising the months of November, 1986 to February, 1987 and the Summer Block comprising the months of March to June, 1987 have been made at the enhanced growth rates of 7½% and 7% respectively, as against the normal growth rate of 5% over the allocations made for the corresponding period of the previous year. The allocation thus made is at the rate of 10080 tonnes per month for the Winter Block and 10160 tonnes per month for the Summer Block. Apart from the above, additional ad-hoc allocations have been made during 1987 so far and will be made later, too, to meet specific situations.

[*Translation*]

Independence to Public Sector Managers for taking decisions

1086. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the widely held view that the managers of the Public Undertakings do not enjoy as much independence of taking decisions as is required for a commercial undertaking; and

(b) if so, whether any review of the rules and procedures is proposed to be made with that end in view ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) : (a) and (b) Government is constantly endeavouring to ensure adequate autonomy to, and accountability of the PSUs to Government and Parliament as huge sums of public money are invested in them. Government has taken various steps from time to time

in this regard. The process of review of autonomy and rules and procedures is a continuing one.

[English]

Sale of Indira Vikas Patra

1087. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices entrusted with the sale of Indira Vikas Patra;

(b) the total sale of Indira Vikas Patra upto the end of January, 1987;

(c) whether Government are aware of the difficulties of bond buyers due to shortage of bonds, especially in Maharashtra ; and

(d) if so, steps taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Arrangements exist for sale of Indira Vikas Patra through all Post Offices doing SB work which number about 1,44,000.

(b) Rs. 475,72,65,000/- (Rupees Four Hundred Seventy Five Crores Seventy Two Lakhs and Sixty Five Thousand only).

(c) No Sir, There is no shortage of the Patras for supply to any Post Office including those in Maharashtra .

(d) Question does not arise.

Setting up of New Research and Development Centre at Bangalore

1088. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANGI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a new Research and Development Centre for the Indian Telephone Industries at Bangalore;

(b) if so, what would be the estimated cost and location of the Centre; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) NO, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Criteria for Providing Temporary Connections, P.C. Os and Departmental P.C. Os.

1089. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the present criteria for providing temporary connections, Public Call Offices and Departmental Public Call Offices with special mention to charges in each case and duration in each case in Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : Required information is given in the Statement below.

Statement

Criteria for Providing temporary connections, P.C.Os. and Departmental P.C. Os.

1. TEMPORARY TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

Temporary telephone connections are generally provided to individuals on medical grounds etc. at residential premises and to meet immediate requirements of Government Departments, industry, exporters, foreign exchange earners etc. subject to availability of exchange capacity. The rental for a temporary telephone in Delhi is Rs.200/- per month at present. An amount of Rs.800/- is charged for installation of a temporary telephone.

A temporary telephone is generally sanctioned for six months initially and the same can be extended thereafter.

2. P.C.Os.

Local Public Call Offices opened by the Department of Telecommunications are of two types-Private P.C.Os. and Departmental P.C.Os.

2.1 PRIVATE PUBLIC CALL OFFICES

Private Public Call Offices are sanctioned subject to availability of exchange capacity, suitability and feasibility. These telephones are generally provided at non-residential premises which are easily accessible to the public in localities where people may not be able to afford telephones on their own, like 'Jhuggi-Jhopri' slum-areas and areas where the Department is not able to provide telephones due to shortage of exchange capacity. A security deposit of Rs. 500/- towards safe custody of the instrument and telephone line etc. is to be deposited. A minimum monthly revenue of Rs. 100/- is to be guaranteed by the hirer in case of private P.C.O. with C.C.B. instruments and Rs. 200/- in case of attended type P.C.O. with ordinary telephone instrument. No installation or rental charges are levied. The hirer pays the call charges according to the meter readings recorded in the exchange while public pays 50 paise for each call.

2.2 DEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC CALL OFFICES

These are of 'attended' type or of unattended coin collecting Box (CCB) type. These are opened at the initiative of the Department at places where these will be secure and would be easily accessible to the general public, like Hospitals, Railway Stations, Airports, Bus Stands, Government and Semi-Government offices, Schools, Colleges, super markets, hotels and restaurants, cinema houses, religious places, public libraries etc. Attended type P.C.Os. are opened at busy places like Railway Stations, Airports, Bus Stands etc. P.C.Os for temporary requirements like exhibitions, melas/circuses and sports meets of wide interest etc. can also be opened. Each local call from the PCO is charged at the rate of 50 paise without any restriction on duration. No installation or rental charges are levied. Trunk calls can also be made from some attended P.C.Os at places like Post Offices, Railway Stations etc.

Release of New Telephone Connections in Delhi

1090. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of requests, exchange wise, pending for release of new connections in Delhi as on 31 January, 1987 ;

(b) the present capacity of each exchange and names of exchanges in Delhi where capacity has been increased during 1986;

(c) the rental charges for OYT as well as Non-OYT connections and number of free local calls limit in each case and rate of each local call beyond the free prescribed limit as on 31 January, 1987;

(d) whether some new connections were released in 1986 through various exchanges of the city; and

(e) if so, the names of areas where such new connections were released and position of requests for registered for Non-OYT-General as well as OYT connections as on 31 January, 1987, area-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Waiting list as on 31.1.87 is given in the Statement-I laid on the Table of the House

[Placed in Library See No. LT- 3863/87.]

(b) As per the Statements II and III respectively, laid on the Table of the House. [placed in Library See No. LT- 3863/87.]

(c) As per the Statement-IV laid on the table of the House.

[Placed in Library See No. LT—3863/87]

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. During the year 1986 the release was given in the following areas :

Idgah, Rajouri Garden, Tis Hazari, Haus Khas, Chankyapuri, Karol Bagh, Sena, Bhawan, Nehru Place, Rajpath, Jorbaghi Lodi Road, (PRX Xge), Janakpuri, Delhi Gate, Janpath, Shakti Nagar and Delhi Cantt.

The position of requests registered for NON-OYT-Genl and OYT connections as on 31.1.87 may be seen as per Statement-I

International Seminar on Productivity

1091. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the observations/suggestions made by the Prime Minister at the International Seminar on Productivity held in New Delhi in May, 1986; and

(b) the specific steps taken on each of the observations suggestions in relation to the public sector enterprises ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister in his Inaugural Address at the International Seminar on Productivity held in May, 1986 had emphasised a wide range of points primarily aimed at improvement in efficiency, quality, productivity and cost reduction, for better performance by public sector undertakings. These aspects are being highlighted and acted upon by the various agencies of the Government and by the public Sector Undertakings from time to time.

Postal Division at Kalahandi, Orissa

1092. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to create a new Postal Division at Kalahandi in Orissa;

(b) if so, when the creation of the new Division will take place; and

(c) if not the reason thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not possible to sanction necessary infrastructure till the ban on creation of additional establishment is lifted.

Water Hyacinth as A Source of Producing Bio-Gas

1093. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the areas in the country where water hyacinth is found;

(b) whether this is a good source for producing bio-gas;

(c) how much of this resource is currently being used and the plans Government have formulated for its full use; and

(d) whether Sangli in Maharashtra abounds in water hyacinth and if so, whether it is being used fully and if not, the extent of unused resources and the time by which the entire resource will be utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Water hyacinth is found practically all over the country. However, its infestation is comparatively more in West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Eastern UP and Orissa.

(b) and (c) Water hyacinth has reasonable potential for generation of biogas as shown by Research and Development efforts sponsored by the Deptt. of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. However, since water hyacinth plant comprises of only about 5% solids, the balance being water, the size and thus the capital cost of such biogas plants is still high. Water hyacinth is also lighter than water and not easily miscible which further complicates the desing. Several Research and Development plants have, however, been built at different locations in the country to study and overcome these problems. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has also constituted a National Task Force on Water Hyacinth to deal with the technologies as well as formulation of plans for large scale use.

(d) Sangli District of Maharashtra has some water hyacinth. A set of plants built at Sangli by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have shown the feasibility of partially cleaning domestic sewage through cultivation of water hyacinth

and its use for biogas generation. However, large scale recycling of water hyacinth can only be undertaken after cost effective technology has been developed.

**Contract for Supply and Installation of
Coal Fired Boilers for Farakka
Power Plant**

1094. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY :
SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI
LAKSHMI : Will the Minister
of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation Limited has signed a Rs. 260 crore contract with M/s Ansaldo Componenti of Italy for supply and installation of two coal-fired boilers of 500 MW each and electrostatic precipitators for the Farakka Power Plant in West Bengal ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) the advantages to the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited under the above contract ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The awarded cost of contract is DM 255.146 million plus US \$ 26.795 million plus Rs. 317.410 million.

(b) and (c) M/s Ansaldo's offer, under assistance made available by Government of Italy, was considered technically and financially suitable. This has helped the National Thermal Power Corporation to bridge the financing gap in respect of Farakka Stage-II project.

Industries Set Up by N.R.I.

1095. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the terms and conditions laid down for setting up of industries by Non-Resident Indians (NRI) in India ;

(b) the number of Industries set up by N.R.I. in India during the last three years, year-wise ; and

(c) the total amount of money invested by N.R.I. for setting up of those industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The terms and conditions laid down for setting up industries by Non-Resident Indians are in accordance with the grant of industrial policy being followed by Government ;

(b) Against the IL applications received from the Non-Resident Indians for industrial licence under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951, a total number of 165 letters of intent/SIA Registration have been issued to them for setting up industrial units since November, 1983 upto-31-12-1986, as per break up given below :

November 1983 to 1984	45
1985	87
1986	33

	165

(c) The total investment by non-resident Indians as indicated in the schemes covered by the 165 approvals mentioned under part (b) above is likely to be of the order of Rs. 184.48 crores.

**Replacement of Sub-Standard Rice
in West Bengal**

1096. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge quantity of rice stored in Food Corporation of India godowns in West Bengal has been declared sub-standard and unfit for human consumption ;

(b) if so, the quantum of rice declared sub-standard ;

(c) whether the Food Corporation of India has replaced the sub-standard rice ; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) As on 1.1.1987, the quantities of 1.40 lakh tonnes of lower category rice and 7157 tonnes of pressure parboiled rice laying in FCI's godowns in West Bengal have been identified as unsuitable for distribution through public distribution system, in addition to 3083 tonnes of damaged rice which has been identified as unfit for human consumption.

(c) and (d) Since only rice of higher category and conforming to PFA limits is issued through the public distribution system, after joint inspection with State Government Authorities of West Bengal, the question of replacing any rice stocks does not arise. Sufficient issuable rice stocks are available in West Bengal for the public distribution system.

Sick Industries

1097. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industries which have, fallen sick in the country (small, medium, big) ;

(b) the total amounts of money sanctioned by the Banks or financial institutions laying with sick industries ; and

(c) the number of sick industries recovered from sickness during 1984-85 and 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (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. The details regarding the number of sick units and the amounts outstanding against

them as at the end of December 1985 are given here under :-

	No. of Units	Amount outstanding (Rs. crores)
Large units	937	2980.24
Medium units	1186	220.02
Small Scale units	117783	1070.67
Total :	119606	4270.93

(c) According to the information compiled by the Reserve Bank of India, the number of sick industrial units deleted from the list of sick industrial units during calendar years 1984 and 1985 was 17890 and 16179 respectively. The figures are inclusive of the sick industrial units whose health was restored.

Procurement and Issue Prices of Essential Commodities

109.8 **SHRI RANJIT SINGH GEAKWAD :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the prevailing procurement and issue prices of wheat, gram, barley and edible oils and when were these prices fixed ;

(b) the total quantity of the above commodities procured and distributed through Fair Price Shops during 1986 ; and

(c) the total stock of the above commodities with Food Corporation of India as on 31 December, 1986 ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c) A statement is given below :

		Statement			
		Wheat	Gram	Barley	Edible Oils
1.	Procurement price, (Rs./Qtl.) from 1.4.1986.	162.00	260.00	132.00	Not fixed
2.	Issue price for the Public Distribution System (Rs./Qtl.)	190.00 (w.e.f. 1.2.1986)	Not fixed (As these items are not being distributed in the PDS from the Central Pool).	Not fixed	900 (in bulk) 1050 (in tins) (w.e.f. 15.11.1985)
3.	Procurement (1986-87 marketing season)	105.26 (lakh tonnes)	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Quantity distributed through the Public Distribution System from Jan. to Dec. 1986.	43.72 (lakh tonnes)	Nil	Nil	6.43 (lakh tonnes)
5.	Stocks with FCI as on 31.12.86.	82.9 (lakh tonnes)	800 tonnes	Nil	Nil

PDS—Public Distribution System.

Enquiry into Sinking of A Rig in Arabian Sea

1099. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :
SHRI NARSING SURYAWANSHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the findings of the enquiry ordered into the sinking into the Arabian Sea of a jack-up off-shore drilling rig DF-83, belonging to the Dixilyn Field Drilling Company of the United States on 21 November, 1986, along with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) equipment and third party material and equipment; and

(b) what alternative arrangements have been made in Bassein field area so that the

work does not suffer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT) : (a) The enquiry has revealed that the probable causes for the sinking of rig, DF-83 belonging to M/s Dixilyn Field Drilling Company of USA, were certain operational mistakes on the part of the barge engineer and a higher air gap being left at the time of the start of the preloading. All ONGC equipment and third party material was covered by insurance.

(b) Adequate number of drilling rigs have been charter hired so that the exploration and development work in the Bassein field does not suffer.

Total Capacity of Imported Power Plants

1100. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN :

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

(a) the total capacity of power plants imported by the country in the last three years with details of gas turbines, thermal sets and hydel sets;

(b) the total capacity of power plants produced by various public sector undertakings in the country in the last three years, item-wise like gas turbines thermal and hydel sets ; and

(c) the actual requirements of power plants during the same period ?

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

Raising of Price of 'Tetracycline' by Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

1101. SHRI R.M. BHOYE :

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has raised the price of Tetracycline;

(b) if so, the extent thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the price of chloramphenicol was also raised earlier; and

(d) whether Government's permission was obtained before increasing the price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has raised the price of Tetracycline in accordance with the revised price from Rs. 801.49 to

971.00 per kg, notified by Government under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order in December, 1986.

(c) As per available information M/s. Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. is not manufacturing Chloramphenicol drug.

(d) Does not arise.

Common Telecommunication Network for Big Users

1102. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan under consideration of Government to provide common telecommunication network for big users;

(b) if so, its broad outlines; and

(c) the cities in which this proposal will be implemented to start with ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, sir. The Department of Telecommunications is exploring the feasibility of setting up a network for business and industrial subscribers.

(b) and (c) The proposal is still under consideration.

Application of Pepsi Cola

1103. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any final decision has been taken in regard to the application of the US multinational Pepsi Cola ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Government have not received any application from Pepsi Cola. However, M/s Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited have submitted an application for manufacture of agro-based products and soft

drink concentrates in participation with one of the Tata Companies and M/s Pepsico Incorporated of USA. No decision has been taken on this application.

(b) Does not arise.

BHEL's Research and Development Organisation

1104. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that BHEL's Research and Development Organisation has not been able to assimilate the imported technology and know how with regard to its power generating equipment ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to revamp the Research and Development efforts of BHEL so that they become self reliant in designing and manufacturing the power generating equipment according to international standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) :

(a) No, Sir. The imported technology and know-how for power generating equipment has been assimilated and suitably adapted for Indian condition. BHEL's in house R&D activities at manufacturing units and Corporate R&D have played a significant role in this process.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) BHEL has set up an Engineering Committee & Technology Policy Committee which regularly review the R&D and Engineering capabilities of the organisation and lay down policy guidelines for continuous improvement.

New Power Projects

1105. SHRI P.M. SAYEED :

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some new power projects are likely to be implemented during the year 1987-88; and

(b) whether with the implementation of these projects, the full demand of power will be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the generation programme for 1987-88 and the tentative assessment of the energy requirement in the country for 1987-88, it is expected that there would be an overall shortage of power of about 9%.

Cost of BHEL equipment

1106. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the equipment supplied by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. cost twice the price of imported equipment and that there is delay on the part of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. in supply ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) :

(a) to (c) Studies by independent bodies like BICP and CEI have shown that the conversion costs of BHEL for its main products are for the most part, same as that of foreign suppliers. BHEL is also by and large able to meet its delivery commitments.

Implementation of Ventures of Punjab Agro

1107. SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) how many ventures of Punjab Agro have been cleared, but not implemented; and

(b) the reasons for delay in implementing them ?

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

(a) Under the provisions of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 3 letters of intent were granted during the last 3 years, i.e. 1984 to 1986, to M/s. Punjab Agro Industries Corporation, Chandigarh. Details of these letters of intent are as below :-

Item of manufacture & Capacity	Date of issue of letter of intent	Implementation position
1. Single super phos phaste--66,000 tns. Sulphuric Acid -- (for Captive Consumption) --33,000 tns.	26.6.84	Converted into Industrial Licence on 14.2.86.
2. Riboflavin (cattle feed concentrate) -- 5600 tns.	31.12.85	Yet to be converted into Industrial Licence.
Other by products.		
Cor 2,000 tns.		
Butanol 1,200 tns.		
Acetone 600 tns.		
Mixed-- 200 tns.		
Solvents		
Maize Oil 60 tns.		
Hydrogen 1000 tns.		
3. Newsprint 33000 tns.	27.22.86	Yet to be converted into Industrial Licence.
Printing & 33,000 tns. writing paper		

(b) A letter of intent is granted with an initial validity period of one year and further extensions are also granted on adequate justification. After the entrepreneur fulfils the conditions of the letter of intent, the same is converted into an industrial licence. The initial validity period of an industrial licence is two years within which the entrepreneur is expected to commence production. However, further extensions beyond the initial validity period of two years can also be granted by the administrative Ministry concerned of genuine grounds. It generally takes about three to four years for an industrial project to fructify. Actual gestation period, however, varies from project to project.

Indo-Soviet Joint Venture for Setting Up Solar Power Plants

1108. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether scientists from India and USSR are working on a joint venture to set up a Solar Power Plant at Vzhokistan in USSR for supplying power to villages there ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) Scientists from India and USSR are working on a

cooperative project for development of an autonomous solar power plant using solar concentrators and Stirling engine. The USSR scientists have intimated development of a small 500 Watt capacity Stirling engine working with a Solar Concentrator which has been set up by them for trial purposes there. The part of the project relating to Solar Concentrator design has gone from India. A similar unit is proposed to be set up in India for experimental purposes. This is purely a research and development project and not a joint venture to supply power to villages in Uzbekistan.

Import of Power Generating Equipments

1109. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the value of the power generating equipments imported during the Sixth Five Year Plan and estimated imports during the Seventh Five Year Plan :

(b) whether any independent evaluation of performance of imported plants vis-a-vis indigenous plants has been carried out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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

Approval to Foreign Collaboration Proposals

1110. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have decided to allow administrative ministries to accord approval of foreign collaboration proposals in specified types of cases ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the procedure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL

DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have issued a Press Note on 16th January, 1987, enhancing the delegated powers of the administrative Ministries to accord approvals for foreign collaboration proposals. Under the new procedure the Administrative Ministries can now decide the foreign collaboration proposals which do not involve a foreign exchange outgo of more than Rs. one crore, in the aggregate, in terms of know-how and royalty as compared to Rs. 50 lakhs earlier. Copies of the Press Note have been sent to the Parliament Library.

Japanese Investment

1111. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) total amount of Japanese investment in India in 1984-85 and 1985-86 ;

(b) whether the liberalisation measures announced by Government during the last two years have increased the process of Japanese investment in India ; and

(c) whether there are certain infrastructure deficiencies and bureaucratic delays which deter Japanese capital inflow in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The statistical information regarding foreign collaborations is maintained calendar year-wise. Year-wise break-up of Japanese Investment during the period 1984 to 1986 is given below in Statement.

(b) and (c) Government policies are applicable to all prospective investors irrespective of the country. Foreign collaboration proposals, financial/technical, are time-bound and every endeavour is made to dispose of the proposals within a period of two months.

Statement

Statement showing year-wise Japanese Investment approved by Government during the period 1984 to 1986.

Year	Investment approval by Government in favour of Japanese firms (Rs. in lakhs)
1984	615.22
1985	1567.62
1986	561.61

Annual Turnover of Beedi Industry

1112. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the annual turnover of beedi industry in the country ;

(b) the break-up of the turnover in terms of labour ; and

(c) other costs and profits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNA-CHALAM) : (a) The total production of beedis in duty paying sector was 366 billion in the country during the year 1985-86. Estimate of annual turnover of beedi industry encompassing very large number of beedi manufacturers in cottage, small and tiny sectors is not possible by the very nature of its activity, widely dispersed in the country.

(b) and (c) Workers employed in beedi industry in the country is estimated to be of the order of 32.75 lakhs. Costs and profits of beedi industry vary widely depending upon several factors including location, wage level, raw material, quality, size and brand. Further, the development of beedi industry is a state subject.

Smuggling out of Coal to Pakistan and Nepal

1113. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantity of coal is being smuggled out of the country to Pakistan and Nepal as reported in the Statement dated 7 January, 1987 ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and measures to check the smuggling ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Reports received by the Government do not indicate that there is smuggling of coal in large quantity to Pakistan and Nepal.

(b) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Papers laid on the Table.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : I have to make a submission to you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have received your adjournment motion notice.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am not pressing for that motion. But I want to tell you that government has failed either to confirm or deny a very reputed journalist's public announcement and assertion that in his long interview with the top scientist in Pakistan of uranium enriched plant ; that they are in possession of the plant. That is neither confirmed nor contradicted officially when the reputed journalist had said that.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are contradictions in that. Yesterday also they had said about it.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let them make a statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, not like this.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : After that the statement had come from Mr. Kuldip Nayar—he said, I had an interview. So, let them try to clarify. The entire House will be happy if it is contradicted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yesterday, we received a calling attention motion regarding this matter.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This is something more.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your adjournment motion related to this matter only.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : After yesterday 24 hours have passed unfortunately.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : They will find out the facts and let you know.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : But let them say something about it. It is something of so much national importance.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Definitely they will do. Don't worry.

Papers to be laid on the Table.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I was not permitted to enter the Akashwani building on my Lok Sabha pass and the Police men stopped me.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You give in writing to us. We shall see what we can do about it.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : I have submitted the entire matter. The police told

me that Lok Sabha pass was not valid there.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is already referred.
Now, Papers to be laid.

12 02 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of Coal India Limited for 1985-86 and Statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): I beg to lay on the Table--

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the Coal India Limited for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the Coal India Limited for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 3759/87.]

Notification under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Review on the working of and Annual Report of Indian Standards Institution for 1985-86

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : On behalf of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad : I beg to lay on the Table--

(1) A copy of the Sugar (Price Determination for 1986-87 Production) Amendment

Order, 1987 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 104 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th February 1987 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3760/87]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Standards Institution for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Indian Standards Institution for the year 1985-86.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3761/87.]

**Notifications under Finance Act, 1979,
Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944,
Customs Act, 1962, and Central
Excise Rules, 1944**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) :** I beg to lay
on the Table :-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 41 of the Finance Act, 1979 :-

(i) G.S.R. 1965(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th December, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to delegates and their spouses who attended the Conference of Chief Justices of Common-Wealth African Countries held in New Delhi from 8th to 10th December, 1986 from the payment of foreign travel tax in respect of their international journey to any place outside India at the close of the said Conference.

(ii) G.S.R. 23(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to Heads of Delegations and their spouses, Members of the delegations and their spouses and other officials of the delegations who attended the Africa Fund Committee Summit held at New Delhi from 19th to 25th January, 1987 from the payment of foreign travel tax in respect of their international journey to any place outside India

at the close of the said Summit. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3762/87.]

(2) A copy of the Central Excise (Seventeenth Amendment) Rules, 1986 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1301 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 1986 under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3763/87.]

(3) A copy each the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :-

(i) G.S.R. 1341 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing a concessional import duty of 25 per cent for raw materials and components imported for the manufacture of goods to be supplied to ONGC/OIL/GAIL subject to conditions mentioned in the notification.

(ii) G.S.R. 1342 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing a concessional import duty of 25 per cent on goods imported for HAZIRA-BIJAPUR/JAGDISHPUR Gas Pipeline project subjection to certification by the authorities mentioned in the notification.

(iii) G.S.R. 1343 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods imported into India in connection with onshore Oil exploration or exploitation from the basic customs duty in excess of 25 per cent AD VALOREM and the additional duty of customs leviable thereon.

(iv) G.S.R. 1344 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum extending complete exemption from import duty available to imports by ONGC/OIL for off-shore operations to imports by India or foreign companies under contract with ONGC/OIL also subject to certification by the authorities mentioned in the notification.

(v) G.S.R. 1345(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1986 together

with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification Nos. 127/82-Customs dated the 1st May, 1982, 210/82-Customs dated the 10th September, 1982 and 13/81-Customs dated the 9th February, 1981.

(vi) G.S.R. 1346 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 312/86-Customs dated the 13th May, 1986 so as to continue auxiliary duty of Customs in respect of certain notifications mentioned in the said notification.

(vii) G.S.R. 1350 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 314/86-Customs dated the 13th May, 1986.

(viii) G.S.R. 13 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to rags, trimmings and tailor cuttings arising in the course of manufacture of ready made garments from the payment of duty leviable thereon when cleared from 100 per cent Export Oriented Undertakings.

(ix) G.S.R. 39 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum reducing the export duty on coffee from the level of Rupees 1000 per quintal to Rupees 600 per quintal.

(x) G.S.R. 66 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to silver when imported into India under the Scheme for export of silver jewellery and articles against silver supplied by the foreign buyer from the whole of the duty of customs leviable thereon.

(xi) G.S.R. 67 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to silver when imported into India by or on behalf of the State Bank of India for being sold as replenishment for the silver used in jewellery or articles exported out of India under the Scheme of Export

Promotion and Replenishment for Silver jewellery and Silver articles from the whole of the duty of customs leviable thereon.

(xii) G.S.R. 80 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods covered by Notification Nos. 30-Customs and 31-Customs dated the 28th January, 1987, from the auxiliary duty of customs leviable thereon.

(xiii) G.S.R. 81 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 129/76-Customs dated the 2nd August, 1976, so as to prescribe a total customs duty of 25 per cent on import of pulses. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3764/87.]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944 :-

(i) G.S.R. 1347 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing excise duty of 10 per cent AD VALOREM on all goods manufactured in India and supplied to ONGC/OIL/GAIL for oil exploration/exploitation.

(ii) G.S.R. 1348 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 123/81-CE dated the 2nd June, 1981 so as to prescribe excise duty of 15 per cent AD VALOREM on goods manufactured by 100 per cent oriented units and supplied to ONGC/OIL/GAIL.

(iii) G.S.R. 1280 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th December, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 376/86-CE dated the 29th July, 1986 so as to substitute the entry '100 deniers and above but not above 750 deniers' for the entry in column 3 against serial No. 4 of the Table annexed to the notification.

(iv) G.S.R. 1355 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1986 with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 44/80-CE dated the 24th April, 1980.

(v) G.S.R. 57 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum appointing the 10th February, 1987 as the date for the purpose of clause (b) of section 2 of the Central Excise Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1986.

(vi) G.S.R. 58 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making consequential amendment in various notifications under the Central Excise Tariff for Chapters 28 to 40.

(vii) G.S.R. 59 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 177/86-CE dated the 1st March, 1986. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3765/87]

Review on the working of and annual Report of Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Ltd. Calcutta for 1985-86, Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. New Delhi for 1985-86, Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Ltd., Calcutta for 1985-86 etc. etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARI) : I beg to lay on the Table —

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

(a) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Limited, Calcutta, and its subsidiary viz Weighbird (India) Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Limited, Calcutta and its subsidiary viz Weighbird (India) Limited Calcutta, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See LT-3766/87.]

(b) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3768/87.]

(c) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3767/87.]

(d) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the National Instruments Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Audited Report of the National Instruments Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3769/87.]

(e) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Jessop and Company Limited, Calcutta for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the Jessop and Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3770/87.]

(f) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Lagan Jute Machinery Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the Lagan Jute Machinery Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited

Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3771/87.*]

(g) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3772/87.*]

(h) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Bombay, for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Bombay for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3773/87.*]

(i) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3774/87.*]

(j) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3775/87.*]

(2) Ten statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [*Placed in Library. See Nos. LT-3766 to 3775-87.*]

Notification under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Review on the working of and Annual Report of Chandigarh Industrial and General Development Corporation for 1985-86 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM):
I beg to lay on the Table——

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :-

(i) S.O. 30 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 1987 regarding repeal of the Paper (Regulation of Production) Order, 1978.

(ii) S.O. 31 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 1987 regarding repeal of the Paper (Control) Order, 1979. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3776/87.*]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under-sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(a) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Chandigarh Industrial and General Development Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the Chandigarh Industrial and General Development Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3777/87.*]

(b) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year, 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the

Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[*Placed in Library. See No. LT. 3778/87.*]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Ernakulam, for the year 1985-86 together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Coir Board, Ernakulam, for the year 1985-86.

(4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3779/87.*]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the year 1985-86 under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the year 1985-86.

(6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[*Placed in Library. See No. LT 3780/87.*]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cement and Building Material, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86.

[*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3781/87.*]

(8) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in

bringing the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3781/87.*]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association, Thane, for the Year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on Working of the Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association, Thane, for the year 1985-86. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3782/87.*]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT.-3783/87.*]

(11) A copy of the Half-yearly Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Ernakulam, for the period from 1st April, 1986 to 30th September, 1986, under section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.

[*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3784/87.*]

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Coir Board, Ernakulam, for the year 1985-86 under section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Coir Board, Ernakulam, for the year 1985-86.

(13) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[*Placed in Library. See No. LT. 3785/87.*]

Statement showing reasons for not laying
Annual Report of and Audited Accounts
of Damodar Valley Corporation for
1985-86 within stipulated time

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1985-86 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting Year. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 3786/87.]

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thirty-Fourth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I beg to move : "That this House do agree with the Thirty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 2nd March, 1987."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 2nd March, 1987."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Prime Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Is it a supplementary budget ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is replying to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

12.05 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S
ADDRESS—CONTD.

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to Parliament. "The debate on the President's Address has, by and large, been very constructive and interesting, and I would like to thank all the hon. members who participated in that debate for making it so constructive. I would like to specially thank the members of the opposition who had so little to raise that they have made it constructive."

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Send them your compliments.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No comments please.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I can answer their comments.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : The Prime Minister is fond of commenting on others' speeches.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, one of the points that was raised was that of having accords and trying to settle differences by talking across the table. Although I have already clarified in great detail outside the House, as it has been raised in the House, I think it is necessary that we put certain records straight in the House.

We have heard criticisms of the Punjab Accord, the settlement in Assam, the discussions, the agreement on Mizoram and in this vein it is relevant to recall Indiraji's Accord with the Sheikh in 1975. I would also like to quote a sentence from the Punjab Accord which says :

"This settlement brings to an end a period of confrontation and ushers in an era of amity, goodwill and cooperation which will promote and strengthen the unity and integrity of India".

I am specially quoting this because in the past few days we have had a joint effort in Punjab with all the opposition parties the parties in Punjab, our own party, all working together. For what? Perhaps, before I come to 'for what' it is necessary to go into how we are working together and how we are able to work together. If there had been no Accord, this would not have been possible. This is only possible because there is a democratic Government in Punjab. That is why it is possible. While it may be difficult to complete every single aspect of the Accord, yes, we are having problems. I am not denying it. On our side I have said, we are ready to do things. But there are problems, whether it is in the States or elsewhere. But the major issue with an Accord is not the issue of whether this BARIKI has been done or that BARIKI has been done. The major issue is that many Members sitting in this House today, more especially in the Opposition, would not have been in this House if that Accord had not been signed. These Accords are a major steps forward in bringing the democratic process to the fore in solving our problems. Let this not be decried.

Hon. Members have raised the question of whether this has not been done or that. We would not have been here to raise that question if that Accord had not been signed. So, let us not forget that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will come to West Bengal later, Dattaji.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will come to West Bengal, do not worry.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Elections are there.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will give you plenty of time for the blood pressure to go up.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Whose blood pressure are you worried about, Mr. Prime Minister? Yours or mine?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Yours, not mine.

Sir, while we believe in accords, many of my friends sitting opposite me believe only in discord.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): Not we.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : And we firmly believe that a large country such as India, a country with a heritage like India's heritage, with our value systems which we would like to restore, with our culture, our diversity, a country such as this can only be run by raising a consensus amongst all our people. And we will continue, in our effort, to run this country, especially on major national issues by getting a political consensus; and I would like to thank our Members from the Opposition who are cooperating with us in having such a consensus on Punjab.

Much has been said about Punjab, about the special problems of Punjab in this House during the past year. I do not want to go into the details and the pros and cons of the debate that has already taken place. But today when all of us are working together in Punjab, the stand of the Government of India stands vindicated. Let that be clear. What we stood for, the support that we have given to the Government of Punjab, today, after a long time, is bearing fruit when we see that the forces of secularism, the forces for separating religion and politics are standing together against factional tendencies, against terrorism, against fundamentalism, against the forces which are out to destroy the country. And, once more, I thank all sections of this House for cooperating in this fight in Punjab.

In the accords on Punjab, on Assam, on Mizoram, we have gone into the implementation. Yes, there are items in the Accords which are not completed. But my stand that there is nothing pending with us, we are not stopping anything, we are not blocking anything from the Centre, remains.

I know the hon. Members from Assam have been agitated. And I am meeting the Chief Minister this afternoon. And I have no doubt that after our meeting I will have convinced him that on our side there is nothing pending. If there are some doubts, we will clear them this afternoon.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : But Mr. Prime Minister, I have pointed out to you in the speech—unfortunately you were not there—that all the queries and all the help that we have asked for, the replies are being awaited in clause 5(4), clause 7 and so on and so forth. I hope, you will give specific answer to this because you have given an impression round the country that the Central Government has done everything. And I have tried to point out... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I did not want to raise it here because we are talking this afternoon. And it would unnecessarily vitiate the talks this afternoon if I took a strong position on what we have done. And I would not like to do that just now... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Why should it be a private talk ? Why do you not take the House into confidence ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Because I cannot take the House into confidence about the talks I am to have this evening.

I will do that if you wish.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I do not want you to take the House into confidence. But I hope, you will revise that position that everything that the Central Government has to do has been done, and Mr. Chintamani Panigrahi's position that 90 per cent of what the Central Government has to do has been done. Kindly revise that position... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : In some items, for example, we have gone well beyond what we were required to do...

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : But in some... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : It is a balance you have got to strike. There is nothing

pending on our side. I will clarify that very clearly today. If the Chief Minister wants we will make a public statement bringing it to the notice and laying it on the Table of the House... *(Interruptions)* You should let that be between the Chief Minister and us and we will decide how to handle it. And if we feel that it should be made public, because ultimately what do we want...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No dialogue...

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Ultimately it is not a question of making a debating point.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Not at all...

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : It is a question of getting things normalised in Assam. I tell you what the problem is... *(Interruptions)* I will tell you what some of the problems are. Some of the problems arise when certain chauvinistic attitudes start coming out. Now, we cannot put up with that. Of course, there are going to be problems. But the Accord does not say that it is to be implemented in the manner in which the Assam Government wants. The Accord says that there will be discussion on certain things which will be done. So do not jump to conclusions that we must do every word that you say, because we are not trying to act in our interest or against your interest. We are trying to act in a manner which is in the interest of the nation, which is in the interest of Assam...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I am not allowing...

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I am not yielding the floor, Sir...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is not yielding...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will not allow it to go on record. Nothing will go on record...

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Goswami, please take your seat...

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am not allowing anything. Nothing will go on record...

*(Interruptions)***

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, we will not deviate from what is written in the Accord. Let me reiterate that. But we will not allow anything to take place which in our view endangers or weakens the national integrity of this nation. Let me be very clear about that... *(Interruptions)*. I am just making a statement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, communalism is one aspect which is worrying every section of this House, which is worrying every section of society in our country. It threatens the nation as a whole and there cannot be any partisan considerations when we are faced with the threat of communalism. We must join together to fight communalism, to isolate and defeat the minority of fanatics and fundamentalists and terrorists who try to build their strength on either religion or other forms of communalism. We must be careful and work unitedly, as we are doing in Punjab, to fight this evil. In Punjab, together we have demonstrated that on issues which are important, we can rise above party differences and we must rise above party differences. We must get together and face these challenges squarely. It is time now, I think, the nation is ready for a full debate on separating religion from politics, and the follow up action from that in this House as may be required from whatever comes out of that debate, and I am willing to start such a debate, participate in such a debate with the Opposition, with anyone, because this spectre must be faced by all of us

together. I hope that we will get cooperation from all sections of the House in bringing these issues up and, perhaps most important, in being able to concretise these issues, and not just have a grand debate and then leave it as a nebulous end with no results. It is time that we concretise these issues and specifically set in motion certain steps to separate religion and politics and the interference of religious bodies in the political system. It is going to be difficult to get the definitions and get the finesse that may be required but even if it is difficult, I think it is time that we put our heads together and get something down on paper and get something going which will stop... *(Interruptions)*. We will welcome any suggestion from you provided it is constructive... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI K.V. SHANKARA GOWDA (Mandya) : ...Provided Government is serious in implementing it... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our economy is very buoyant and just a few days ago, while presenting the Budget, I pointed out many highlights of the economy.

But, perhaps, the biggest indicator of the buoyancy of the economy is the despondency of the opposition.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : How do you measure the depth of that despondency ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The results in the economy have indicated our policies and have indicated that the innovations that we have brought in have been correct.

One important point, and one which I have been reiterating for two years now, but it is necessary to say so again, is the question of socialism. Socialism is not the spreading of poverty as Panditji has said. Socialism is more equitable distribution, it is the uplift of our people and the most important aspect is that we can only move towards socialism if we have a greater productivity, if there is more wealth to distribute, only then can we distribute more wealth. We must generate

**Not recorded.

that wealth. We have shown in these past two years that the Indian economy is resilient and is capable of generating just this sort of development. We have continued the strategy that was started by Panditji. We have continued along the road that Indiraji had taken us.

But just as Panditji, during his 15-16 years of Prime ministership, and Indiraji, during her 16-17 years of Prime ministership, had during these periods modified specific programmes, yet kept in mind the basic ideologies, basic philosophies, that were the roots of those programmes, so are we required to do that to-day. It is no use us now saying that Panditji in the 50s said that steel plants are the most important thing. Yes, steel plants are the most important thing. But Panditji brought in steel plants because that was the need of the day. The idea behind it was technology was required. New techniques were required. New knowledge was required. The steel plants, the massive new temples of India as he called them, were only manifestations of that idea. To-day those ideas must remain the same, but the manifestations will change as technology changes, as India develops and as our needs change. We are going along the same road because we believe that the strength of the country, the integrity and unity of India, our self-sufficiency lies in those very ideas that were laid at the foundations of our development. We do not wish to deviate from those ideas. But we will develop those ideas with time. We have shown that by sticking to those very ideas, those concepts, we are able to show very high growth rates—8%, over 8% over three years. This is the first time in twenty years that the Indian economy has shown this rate of growth.

The other day I was sitting in the House and one of the hon. Members was speaking and he was very confused about the numbers. I do not want to tax his mind further. It seems to have been taxed already too much.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Between the old and the new series... (*Interruptions*) Why did you keep out 95 items of the old series from the new one and not brought them in the new series?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I cannot be held responsible for low rates of growth in certain parts of our country.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Wonderful!

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : And Members from those parts of the country obviously have the perception from their home ground in views.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is a fraud on the nation—the figures that you have put up.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, if the hon. Member really wants some answers, those figures represent new industries. If the hon. Member feels... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What has happened to the old industries? Have they died out? 95 industries have been taken out. Do you know that? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Amal Datta, no interference please.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Certain industries such as petroleum, such as electronics...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has the right to speak. When you were given time, you were also speaking.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Without mentioning my name, he is referring to me.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I beg your pardon. I did not mention any Member by name. It is not for me to identify those that feel guilty of being confused.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is very easy to identify.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, if the cap fits, I can hardly be responsible for the size of the head.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Mr. Prime Minister, don't touch West Bengal. Otherwise, either Kumari Mamta Banerjee will be angry of he will be angry.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, all our Members from West Bengal are needed for campaigning. Some are preferred to be kept outside the state.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : As Prime Minister if he says this, then it is derogatory to Parliament. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, I don't want to hurt the hon. Member's feelings.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : No, no, you are not hurting me ; you are hurting the nation. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Datta, take it easy.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, I did not mean to hurt the hon. Member.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Then what exactly did you mean ? Campaigning is more important than attending the Parliament ? That is what exactly you meant ? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Amal Datta, don't figure out like this.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, if I have hurt the hon. Member's feelings, I apologise to the hon. Member. But if he is upset that he has not been invited to campaign, we are willing to invite him to campaign if nobody else does.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : As Prime Minister, it is not proper for you to say like that. It lowers the dignity of Parliament. Please try to uphold the dignity of Parliament.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, it is an open invitation and if the hon. Member wants to take it up, I will talk with him after the debate.

Sir, we have shown that by improving productivity in our public sector, by improving the efficiency of its functioning, we have brought about a change in our economy. But there are tremendous challenges ahead. It is not going to be an easy task and the biggest challenge is going to be to bring about a new ethos, not just in industry, which is important, in the public sector, which is more important—but, perhaps most important of all, in the system of delivery of the Government. I raised this point in my Budget speech and we intend to go into this in great depth. I have no illusion of quick answers or ready remedies. It is going to be a long drawn out exercise. It is going to require a total change in the way the Government and the organisations of Government function, not only at the Centre which again may be, perhaps, easier to handle because of the type of tasks that are assigned to the Centre, but right down at the State levels, right down at the district levels, where it gets much harder, the lower you go, the closer to the grass-roots you get—And again we will require cooperation from every section of the House if we are to be successful in this. This is not a task which can be left only to Government. It will require the involvement of all our people. And we would like to open a debate on this at any level in the House, outside the House, anywhere, and come to conclusions which we hope will help this process. Again I have no illusions about trying to do this fast or quickly, but we must see that every step is in the right direction, is in the direction of reducing the costs of delivering our programmes. When I go to the rural areas, when I go to the remote villages, we hear tremendous complaints about how the programme that we start from the Centre changes its character, changes its effects by the time it gets down to the roots. Of course, this happens, we do not deny that, but it is not adequate to make noises here, to correct it. That is only the starting point. We must go into this in depth and see why this has happened, what the blockages, what are the problems are, and try and remove those problems. The costs are too high. It is not just a question of

deviation from targets. The cost of the programme or its implementation is too high, the cost of taking it down absorbs so much of the cost of the programme that by the time it is ready to get to the weaker sections, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the other disadvantaged sections, what is left of that programme after—what shall I say?—deductions for administrative costs is a very small fraction of what we started with. So, this is what we have to take as the next step in improving our functioning. Government is very clear that it is going to tackle this, and we would like the full involvement of the whole nation in tackling this task.

In the agricultural sector, growth has not been as what we would have liked it to be. We have invested a lot more in irrigation and power and fertilizers and other inputs for agriculture, we have given higher prices to farmers than have ever been given before, yet production is not increasing as it should, and this needs serious attention. We will be giving it serious attention.

We have had a number of years of drought. A number of Members from different States have been raising this question and it has also hindered agricultural growth. But in spite of these numerous droughts and the damage caused by floods, our agricultural production has increased, admittedly not as much as we would have liked it to increase, but still it has increased in spite of these difficulties and in spite of nature not helping us. The food situation is comfortable. We have used a very large quantity of foodgrains for giving work to those sections in difficulties. I must thank our farmers, our farm technologists, every one involved in the agricultural sector, for giving us this production in spite of the difficulties that they are facing because of bad rains.

The Seventh Plan has envisaged much greater allocations in the first three years than any other Plan. For the first time we will be completing 63 per cent of the Plan in the first three years. This is another major achievement of the Government.

Our investment in the public sector has been much more than in any preceding two year period. This shows the importance that we give to the public sector. It is part of our Plan, it is part of our development process, and we have no intention of reducing its importance. In the Seventh Plan, we have also given tremendous importance to anti-poverty programmes. The amounts that we have allocated for anti-poverty programmes are higher than ever before. As I pointed out in the Budget speech, this year we have allocated Rs. 2,000 crores for rural development. This compares with the total Sixth Plan allocation of Rs. 3,600 crores. And in these two years—1986-87 and 1987-88—we will have allocated more for rural development than in the total Sixth Plan. That is the importance we are giving to rural development; that is the importance we are giving to fighting poverty.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You give us the discounted figures. Value of money has fallen.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why are you interrupting ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will only discount you further by giving you more figures. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Amal Datta...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I want to be confused by you. That is why, you give discounted figures and compare them. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would not allow this kind of interruptions. It should not be recorded.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : We also see anti-poverty programmes in a wider perspective. Anti-poverty programmes cannot be limited to programmes that are hand-outs and help directly because that is only possible within a very limited area, no matter how much we allocate for it. We

have allocated Rs. 2000 crores this year which is a very high figure. But no matter how much we allocate, the figure will always be such that we can only reach those that are really at the bottom and those that are the very poorest. To reach out to the rest, we have to see anti-poverty programmes in a broader perspective and that broader perspective is industrial growth; that broader perspective is agricultural growth. Because that is where the real anti-poverty action is taking place. We only help those who are too poor and too weak to even be able to grasp these programmes by our direct help, anti-poverty programmes.

Perhaps the most important part of an anti-poverty programme and certainly what I think is the cutting edge of our anti-poverty programme, is the education programme. There can be no removal of poverty without education. We can keep handing out, helping, doing everything but if we cannot lift up the next generation—all right, we cannot do it effectively with the generation which is already with us. We have a major programme for adult education but we realise the limitations of that programme. But let us at least... *(Interruptions)* Unfortunately, some Members are totally uninformed and there is very little I can do about that.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What is your programme? A very small amount has been allocated for adult education.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : In case the hon. Member is not aware, we have a technology mission on that.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Nothing has been done on that. Don't harp on things which the Government cannot achieve.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : We only have steel production today because Panditji laid the foundation-stone in the early '50s. You start a programme...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You have the same steel production as in the early '60s.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Except in Bengal where perhaps it is lessening. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : You were present only when he was making his speech. That is creating the trouble.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : No. I was there for other speeches also. But fortunately others were disciplined and stayed within their time limits, while certain other Members just kept on and on and on talking, wasting the total time of the House.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : Most of your time is being spent on Amal Datta.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : You are absolutely right. We shall send him for campaigning!

Education is the basis of our anti-poverty programme.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) : Why are we people also being involved? It is between you and Shri Amal Datta only.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : We are telling you about the education. We hope that some other people will also learn along with you.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : That is right.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Education is the crux of our development. It is becoming more and more important as technology develops in the world. I have been talking about this to other Heads of States. It is not a problem which is limited to India. This same problem exists, the dimensions are different, the details are different but the basis of the problem is the same. Technology, industry develops fast. If our workers, if our younger generation, does not get educated equivalently or at equivalent rates, then they will start falling behind. Much of our self-confidence depends on the confidence of our people to cope with what they are faced with today. We have to decide whether we are going to live by

running our industries as they were run 50 or 60 years ago. Is it really in the interest of our worker to keep him doing the same job that a worker 50 years ago was doing or is it in the benefit of the worker that the working environment changes, that he upgrades himself, his technology is upgraded, his know-how is upgraded and in stead of operating an outdated machine, he operates a much more sophisticated machine, in a much more sophisticated environment ? We should not limit our vision of improving the lot of the worker to only giving him some better cloth and giving him a better salary and perhaps a television set and a little be better food. These are very limited perspectives. We must improve the life-style. We must improve the working environment of that worker and this will require going into our whole industry in depth and it will require a very major shift in thinking of many of our labour organisations. (*Interruptions*). I was not referring to you, Dattaji.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : Modernisation benefits are passing on the employers, not to the workers. That is what happened in textiles.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : He does not want to change his way of thinking !

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIKAGI (Mandsour) : Mr. Prime Minister. Sir, both these Dattas are fighting with you simultaneously.

[*English*]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Benefits should pass on to the workmen.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Absolutely correct. Benefits must pass to the workmen. But what are the benefits we are talking about? This is important. I am trying to get to the root of the problem. Are the benefits only improved salary or are we looking for a better working environment for the worker ?

Do we want him to operate in the same environment ? I have seen how some textile mills operate. I have seen how terrible the

working environment is there. Are we doing anything to improve that ? No. We are only fighting for his wages which is important. Wages are important but wages cannot be the end. (*Interruptions*). Wages are only one part of the package that the worker must get.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : A very candid admission, I must say.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Education is not something which can be limited to educational institutions. (*Interruptions*). Why are you feeling guilty ? I am talking on a very serious matter. Unfortunately, it is going well over your head ? (*Interruptions*). Education is something which must not be limited to educational institutions. Education is not something that ends when you leave college or when you leave school. Education must continue throughout your life because, if it does not then, your society will start stagnating. It must continue throughout the life of an industrial worker. Upgradation of his skill must take place continuously. We must make this investment in our people and it is this that we have tried to start by bringing a new Head called Human Resource Development. It is this broader concept. Unfortunately, the resource has not developed. What can I do ?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Our resources are being stolen by you. What can we do?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will come to that also. We started with many ideas. I do not want to go into great depth on all the ideas. But I think, one is worth mentioning. And that is the Navodaya vidyalayas. We have started a totally new system. The Navodaya Vidyalaya has been called elitist by some, they have been called all sorts of things. But it is necessary I think for me to go into this once again because we keep getting the same argument. What is an elitist education ? I think elitism must be seen in two ways. Elitist, what ? Does 'elitist' refer to money ? If it refers to money and the financial strength of a particular family or a particular individual, it is very bad and we must not allow that to interfere in any way with the education system. But if 'elitist' refers to brains, then, I think, we

must go in for elitism. We must go in for getting the best brains in the country. Today, we are not getting the best brains in the country because we are not able to reach out to the rural area for the brains that are available in the rural areas. We are limiting ourselves to urban area and certain areas, perhaps around urban areas, which can reach out to the better institutions. Today, the system is very categorically elitist. It is weighted against the intelligent brains in the rural areas who do not get an opportunity to come out. The only opportunity that the intelligent people in the rural areas get to get a good education is if they are rich. If they are poor in the rural areas, not a chance. If they are poor in the towns, again they go to our NDMC school or municipality schools or Government schools and the quality of the school is not such, the quality of the teachers is not such, that they can reach out and pick up the intelligent. It is not such that they can differentiate to find out which child is good for which subject and how they should bring them up. We just do not have that capability in our system today. The system today is very elitist because it discriminates against those with brains in favour of those with money, in favour of those in urban areas. This is what we want to change with the Navodaya Vidyalayas. And this is what we are going to change with the Navodaya Vidyalayas.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Perhaps one of the most important aspects of the education system—and this is something again that we must work together on—is the value system that it builds in our society. Unfortunately, for whatever reason our society has drifted away from our traditional value system. It has drifted towards a very materialistic value system. That is even reflected here in the House because when we have debates. On major debates, what do we want ? What are the demands ? They are monetary demands. Invariably, it ends up with monetary demands fiscal control. It invariably reflects very materialistic system of values that we are developing today. Our society has its roots in much deeper values, in spiritual values, in aesthetic values, in

our culture which has developed over thousands of years. Our culture, Indian culture, is not just one culture. It is the culture of tens of different people. It is the culture of Assam. It is the culture of Tamilnadu. It is the culture of our tribals. It is the culture of...

AN HON. MEMBER : West Bengal ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I was going to bring Bengal at the end by raising it. It is the traditional culture of Bengal ; it is not what is sought to be projected as the culture of Bengal—and this is an important point— the culture which sometimes we seek to project because we seem to see it in a very political perspective, we try to make it a tool, a platform, for our own individual benefit or progress. It is this that we must break when we talk of values and bringing back our values. And we hope that the new system will be able to do this. I have no doubt that the directions that we have given are correct. They will require corrections as we learn from experience. It is not something that you can cast and then just let it go. We will have to work, we will have to debate, discuss, develop and fine-tune this policy as it develops. I have no doubt that we will get valuable inputs from every section of the House, and I hope that these inputs rise above our party positions or our regional positions or the petty chauvinism that we hold within us. We must rise above that if we are to strengthen the country today and bring in the values that I know that each one of us sitting here really wants to bring back into our society.

Economic growth is not just the responsibility of the Central Government. It is an area where we work together with the State Governments. Sometimes I have been told that there is a lack of coordination. Sometimes I have been told by Chief Ministers that the Central Government takes too long to clear things. Earlier it was on environment, but we have cleared that block and now environment works very fast. But complaints have been put to me and as Mr. Amal Datta has said, these complaints were put to me by the Chief Minister of West Bengal as by many other Chief Ministers. This complaint was put to me by the Chief

Minister of West Bengal. I had gone to Calcutta for a programme and at that meeting he told me that we were having a very step-motherly attitude towards West Bengal, that the Centre is not paying attention to West Bengal and the Centre is depriving West Bengal. So, I said : "Alright if that is how you feel, we have nothing in our hearts ; we do not want to deprive West Bengal ; we will do everything that is within our power to help West Bengal." Immediately after that either we sent a group to West Bengal or West Bengal sent a group to Delhi, but I think both the exercises were done ; a Group from Bengal came to Delhi and a group from Delhi went to Bengal. We spent a number of weeks going in great depth into every aspect of the problem that was raised with us, all the pending problems that were raised with us. And at the culmination of that exercise, I went to sit down and finally iron out all the problems that were still left and which needed a certain political decision to say, "Alright ; we will override what the bureaucracy has brought up, we will cut through all the red-tape and to certain things which were getting stuck for whatever reasons." And, at the end of that exercise we were able to produce a package of over a thousand crores of rupees for Bengal. This was not something which we thought was a great idea. The idea was that of the Chief Minister of West Bengal and we took him up on that idea. And I am glad we were able to help West Bengal in taking a massive package of a thousand crores of rupees to Bengal ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Election publicity.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I am at a total loss. Just a few minutes ago, the hon. Member questioned my giving a thousand crores to Bengal. Now he says that giving a thousand crores to Bengal is election publicity...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am not questioning the figures—AD HOC Rs. 1007 crores. This was debated in the House, and when the Planning Minister could not answer, the House had to be adjourned. You

must be knowing what a predicament you had put your Minister into...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : There is no question of the total being wrong. We can give the full total.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): You have given a thousand crores to Bengal. Why not give the hundred crores to Bombay which you have promised?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will come to Bombay. The idea of going to a State and sorting out their problems started at this level with the suggestion from CM Bengal and I must thank him for this suggestion because it has helped us in many other States also. But even before that when I tour a State, after the tour, on the last day I would spend five or six hours with the Chief Minister or the Lt. Governor and the Chief Minister and the Administration and iron out all the problems. This is not something which started with West Bengal. We did it in Arunachal Pradesh, we have done it in a number of other States—in Gujarat, in Kerala and a number of areas I don't have the list here. So I don't want to give a partial list.

It is an exercise in removing the red-tape and the blockages. And it is then for the State. Because once we have cleared a package, then it is mostly the responsibility of the State to take advantage of this package. If we give a thousand crores or four hundred crores and the State does not want to make use of this, and the State still whines instead of getting down and going and working, then what can we do about non-implementation? Implementation of almost every single project is with the State Government. There are a very few items with the Centre even when they are our plans and programmes. Almost every programme of the Centre is finally handled by the State Government and the efficiency of the State Government in handling those programmes reflects on the percentage of that programme which actually accrues to the beneficiary. If a State Government is inefficient, then less gets to the people.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No comments.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is allocating money to the capitalists. If they want it, they can have it.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, there is no question of allocating money to the capitalists. But we have also seen and it is necessary to bring another point out that certain State Governments have for the past five or six months stopped all work on their rural development programme and anti-poverty programmes. I wonder why they stopped it. One Particular Government I am aware of, has not done any work.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What particular State ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Well, whomever the cap fits, he is welcome to wear it !

AN HON. MEMBER : Why are you feeling guilty ? The Prime Minister has not named any State.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why are you referring ? Don't make such comments.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : India's foreign policy has been targeted on the basic philosophy of strengthening India. India is strong of non-alignment is strong in the world. If alignment becomes strong, if blocs become strong, then developing countries, those countries which won their freedom after tremendous struggle, will lose that very freedom. Even today we find that, although we have thrown off the colonial yoke and are independent, the world economy is not independent as we would like it to be.

In Many ways, colonialism and imperialism exist in the world economy. This is the next challenge that is facing us. This challenge cannot be faced by looking inwards and ignoring what is happening in the world. If we ignore that challenge, India cannot stand on its own feet, India cannot stand as India is standing today, India will not be independent if we cannot keep the newly independent countries independent all over in the world.

13. 00 hrs.

This is not a task that we can shirk from. It is a task that we must face up to and fight. It is sad sometimes to get a feeling from certain Members that it is irrelevant what happens around the world. It is sad to see certain sections of this House feel that one can ignore what is happening in the world and just look inside and survive. That is the attitude which enslaved us. That is the attitude which dropped India from its heights of glory to the low low levels of slavery that we were reduced to. It is this attitude that we must watch out for today. Today India gives the lead in the world in many areas. We will not give up this lead. We will keep this lead. We will fight for it. What we are looking for today is not a mere change in the economic set-up of the world. That is important. We have fought and we have fought hard and we have won even when we have been faced by the strongest all aligned against just a handful of countries but because we were right, because we have the will, because we have the determination we have fought for what was right and we have won what was right.

Today the challenge is much more important than that. The challenge is to get the world to look at ourselves in a different perspective. Just as we say that we are one nation ; just as we want to remove the caste, region, linguistic barriers which divide our country so we must remove the other barriers that divide humanity in this world. It is only when we start seeing the world as one humanity that the strength of countries such as India, which rely on basic principles and values as opposed to brute force and alignment it is then that our strength will come out. It is then that the world will become a truly livable place. It is this challenge that is in front of us today. It is not a question of helping the blacks in South Africa just because certain atrocities are taking place, but because they are part of our family. We are one humanity, That is why we are reaching out to help them. If we fight against wrong attitude anywhere in the world it is because we want to change this attitude from one of "us" and "them" to all of us together, as one

humanity. It is this that Panditji started off and it is this task that we must continue on.

Today when India speaks it is not the India of 1979 where nobody even bothered to listen to us. Today when India speaks India is listened to. It is heard. India counts. In 1979 in the international scene India did not count. This is the difference that we have made. If we now once more look inwards, if we follow the wrong policies outside, we will be back to the stage where we were the mockery of the world. Do we want our country to go back to that stage?

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : No, Sir.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : We in this Government will not allow it go back to that stage.

We have taken a major initiative on disarmament. The Six Nation Five Continent Peace Initiative has set the stage in the world environment, in the atmosphere in the world for the Reykjavik Summit that took place. We were disappointed that conclusions were not reached but we are not totally disheartened because the proposals are still there. Verification is a major problem. We from the Six have offered certain solutions. We will be continuing along that road. We welcome the new initiative, the new Soviet initiative, on the intermediate nuclear weapons and we hope that this will be successful.

We have been trying to improve relations with Pakistan but some serious problems remain. There is the clandestine effort for a nuclear weapons programme. It has been gathering momentum for the past several years. Those who have had the responsibility and the means to halt this programme have failed to do so. Instead they have helped Pakistan to launch an ambitious armaments programme.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Shame.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The present situation is that notwithstanding legal safeguards against non-proliferation, Pakistan continues to get assistance. It is quite

extra-ordinary. Let there be no mistake about the determination and capacity of the people of India to defend their sovereignty and integrity.

In the south in Sri Lanka, they have sought our good offices and we have offered our good offices. Much progress has been made which culminated in the final clarifications of 19th December, 1986. The clarifications of 19th December 1986 relate to proposals which go back many months and are a consolidated lot of proposals. Unfortunately, certain steps that the Sri Lankan Government has taken have caused us great pain and they have brought this process to a halt. We find it difficult to continue that process as long as violent conditions in Sri Lanka prevail. Violence must be brought to an end before we reopen the issue on our side. We have made this very clear to the Sri Lankan Government. We are clear that there can be no solution with violent means. Only non-violence and negotiations can bring about a solution. We have made this also very clear to the Sri Lankan Government. We hope that they will respond positively by reducing the level of violence and coming to the negotiating table.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Why not we stop this genocide first? Military action is going on.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : That is violence.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Hundreds of people are dying. Today, I have found in the papers some response from Shri Jayewardene to India's call, to the Prime Minister's call. I would request the honourable Prime Minister to let us know the position first.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : After we sent a Communication, a letter to the President, the level of violence has come down. But we are not satisfied with the level it is at today. We hope it will come down further and that we will be able to have a negotiated settlement because no other settlement will be a lasting settlement.

With China, there has been tension on the border. We want a peaceful settlement of the border issue. What is needed is

patience, restraint, wisdom, statesmanship and perhaps, most of all, vision from all concerned.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : And firmness ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : And firmness — that was included in 'wisdom'.

We are two ancient civilisations and it is in this perspective that we have to view solutions to our problems.

Sir, the very survival of a political order is dependent on the foundations of the moral order that it is based on. Our freedom struggle was based on the two values of truth and non-violence. Contemporary nation-building, the moral inspiration that we have in building our nation, comes from these values. It comes from our traditional values of tolerance, of absorption, of synthesis, of respect to all religions, of the cross—fertilisation of ideas. But this only comes about when there is self-confidence in ourselves. If we are not self-confident, we are always afraid of losing our culture, of losing our religion, and we turn within instead of looking beyond. It is this self-confidence that we need in the country today to destroy the barriers that we are building to protect ourselves in our regions, in our languages, in our religions and in our castes. The need of the hour is unflinching secularism, unity in our democracy in maintaining the essential values of our heritage. Panditji has said that we are small men serving great causes, but because the cause is great, something of that greatness falls upon us. It is in that spirit that we shall strive undaunted, undeflected and unfazed. //

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : A number of amendments have been moved by Members to the Motion of Thanks. Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together or does any hon. Member want any particular amendment to be put separately ?

I find nobody is pressing. I shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 17 to 275, 298 to 303 and 312 to 353 were put and negatived.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Just now, the Prime Minister said that there should be no genocide, but you have put all the amendments to genocide.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have done that with the consent of the Members !

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall now put the main Motion to the Vote of the House. The question is :

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms.

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 23rd February, 1987."

The motion was adopted.

13.13 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till
Fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the
Clock.*

— — — —

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch
at Twenty Minutes past Fourteen
of the Clock*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER [*in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we will take up matters under Rule 377 Shri Raj Kumar Rai.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) **Need to take stringent measures to curb the production of spurious medicines in the country.**

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I would like to submit the following :-

Delhi Administration has conducted enquiry into 103 drug manufacturing companies. It is not only a social but also a national obligation that drug manufacturing

companies should manufacture drugs with good intentions and not putting human life into danger because it would not only be immoral but inhuman also. I think people indulging in such activities should be condemned, in strongest words.

The Government should take stern action and fix norms in this regard so that these companies may never dare to play with the life of any person—rich or poor.

[English]

(ii) Need to send a Central team to Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu to assess the damage caused by recurring drought and to suggest relief measures.

SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore) : Sir, in my constituency, in Coimbatore District, the people living in Palladam taluq, Tiruppur, Suler Union, S.S. Kulam, Madukkarai and Perur, have been severely affected due to acute drought and famine condition. On account of failure of monsoon consecutively for the last three years in this part of Tamil Nadu, there is acute scarcity of drinking water. The cattle are the worst affected due to non-availability of fodder and drinking water. All the wells, tanks, small lakes and rivulets have gone dry. In spite of the repeated requests by all concerned, the State Government has not so far come forward to mitigate the sufferings of the people in this District.

I would, therefore, request the Centre kindly arrange to send a team of officials to the District for survey and to know the gravity of drought and famine situations so that the Union Government may be in a position to work out schemes under the new 20-Point Programme for provision of drinking water, employment opportunities and other facilities to the lakhs and lakhs of affected people as also fodder of the cattle.

(iii) Need to provide better terms and conditions of service to doctors selected for appointment in Lakshadweep Islands.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : I make a special mention to point out that a number of vacancies of doctors in Lakshadweep which in itself are not sufficient, remain vacant. Out of the 29 sanctioned

strength of doctors 12 posts are laying vacant. The post of Gynaecologist, ENT Specialists, Paediatrician, Anaesthesia specialist being vacant, cause a great harm to the health of the people. The main reason is stated to be that the doctors selected for the posts fail to join duty in the islands mainly because the amenities available for them are scanty and consequently the public health and family welfare programmes remains most unsatisfactory.

I would, therefore, strongly appeal that special terms and conditions of service for the doctors to be appointed in Lakshadweep be drawn up forthwith. This would work as an incentive for them to serve even under hard conditions of living in the Islands.

(iv) Demand for introduction of a passenger train between Pune and Ahmedabad via Civa Vasai.

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH (Bombay North) : People of Pune in Maharashtra are demanding a passenger train between Pune and Ahmedabad VIA Diva/Vasai line for the last several years. This new line will minimize the distance between Pune and Ahmedabad by about 60 Kms., journey time by about four hours and will give relief to the passengers from their present hardships.

Introduction of this new train will minimize the pressure on suburban traffic of Bombay. People of Pune had a programme for 'Andolan' and 'Satyagrah' but they have faith in the Railway Minister, and are waiting for Minister's early action and announcement for this train.

I request the hon. Minister of Railway to give approval for this new train between Pune and Ahmedabad from 1st April 1987. There is no need of any infra-structure as insisted upon by Railway Board between Vasai and Diva, to run one passenger train daily. Today, goods traffic has been operating with 70 to 80 bogies on this line, for about three years. There is no point in operating goods traffic only.

I hope hon. Minister will make the necessary announcement soon, considering the strong feelings of the people.

- (v) Need to take measures to safeguard the interest of jute growers in the country, particularly in Bihar

SHRI D.L. BAITHA (Araria) : Special attention of the Government is drawn towards the very sad and pitiable conditions of jute growers, particularly in Bihar. The districts of Purnea, Katihar, Saharsa, Madhepura etc. have this as the only cash crop. The jute growers have to face serious difficulties, harassment, and exploitation.

Hence the following arrangements be immediately made in this regard :

(a) To set up a research centre in the area, preferably at Araria, to examine.

(i) if the jute seeds could be produced in the area itself ;

(ii) suitable variety as per local conditions ;

(iii) improvement in jute retting process ;

(iv) better use of jute sticks ;

(v) village cottage industries suitable for diversification of jute fibre produce etc.

(b) Total requirement of internal consumption of jute be assessed, and announced with remunerative prices; before the next sowing season ;

(c) Forward trading in jute be banned by legislation and distress sale of jute be avoided by giving jute growers financial aid loans ;

(d) Total quantity of jute brought to JCL should be bought as per Government's assurance, and refusal on the plea of shortage of space should not be resorted to ;

(e) Each variety of jute fibre sample grown in the area should be exhibited in each centre, showing the buying price rate against each ;

(f) Jute growers should be encouraged to form jute cooperative societies, by giving monetary aid and export licence.

(g) Jute Development Board be made more effective, to tackle these problems by including representatives of jute growers from different States.

- (vi) Need to establish textile mills complex in Assam.

SHRI M.R. SAIKIA (Nowgong) : Bongaigaon Refinery and Petro-Chemicals Ltd. will produce 30,000 M.T. of polyester fibre. The entire quantity should be processed into yarn within the State, in the 25 spinning mills with 25,000 spindles each, or in larger spinning mills with more spindles. As much of the yarn produced, either in the pure form, or blended as yarn possible should be processed within the State, into fabrics. It would, therefore, be necessary to establish a textile mills complex in the State within the shortest possible time. These spinning and textile mills will be able to generate jobs for about 2,00,000 people.

[Translation]

- (vii) Need to reduce the prices of agricultural implements and ensure reasonable prices of agricultural produce to ameliorate the lot of farmers.

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI (Faizabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the occupation of a major part of our population is agriculture and its problems are becoming acute day by day. Our farmers are beset with the problems of increasing families, fragmented land holding, increasing prices of inputs used in agriculture, costly agricultural implements and the hike in the prices of other consumer articles and on top of it, there is not much hike in the prices of agricultural produce which has put the farmers in difficulty.

Today, the politics of pressure by the organised groups to force the Government to accept their demands is in practice. Keeping this fact in mind, the farmers are thinking that as they are not organised, the Government does not pay any attention towards their problems.

Therefore, it is necessary that the prices of fertilizers and agricultural implements should be reduced and the programme of reclamation of waste land should be accelerated. In order to bring more area under

for Raw Cotton

irrigation, more funds should be allocated for the construction of canals and sinking of tubewells and the prices of agriculture produce should be fixed in consultation with the farmers.

I hope that the above suggestions will be considered seriously.

(viii) Need to set up a memorial at Patiali town in Uttar Pradesh in the memory of the great poet Amir Khusro.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Etah in Uttar Pradesh is a Parliamentary Constituency as well as an Assembly constituency. There is an ancient town named Patiali in it. This town has also its historical importance. It is the birth place of the famous Urdu-Hindi poet, Amir Khusro. The riddles written in Hindi and Urdu by Hazrat Amir Khusro are very famous and are very popular even today. But it is a matter of regret that the Central Government has not set up any such institution in this town which may keep the memory of this great poet alive. Hazrat Amir Khusro has a very important place in Hindi literature. Several books have been written on him in Hindi and Urdu.

I want that a literary institution should be set up at Patiali (District Etah), the birth place of the famous poet. Patiali town is one of the important places of the tehsil and has railway station, block and police station also.

The Government should set up an Institution or park in that town to perpetuate the memory of this great poet Hazrat Amir Khusro so as to ensure the development of that town.

14.30 hrs

[English]

Statement regarding price Policy for raw cotton for 1987-88 season.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : Sir, after taking into account all relevant factors including

General Discussion

the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, Government have decided to fix the minimum support prices for the fair average quality of raw cotton for the 1987-88 season as follows :

(a) For the basic variety, H-4, in the long and superior long staple group of cotton, the minimum support price shall be Rs. 550 per quintal. The support prices for other varieties in this staple group will be fixed by the Textile Commissioner in the light of their normal market price differentials with the basic varieties.

(b) For F-414/H-777 variety, the minimum support price shall be Rs. 440 per quintal. For varieties other than those in the long and superior long staple group, the Textile Commissioner will fix the support prices in the light of their normal market price differentials with F-414/H-777 variety.

The Cotton Corporation of India will undertake price support operations in all cotton growing States, except Maharashtra, in case market prices trend to fall below the level of the minimum support prices fixed by the Government.

The minimum support prices of raw cotton of fair average quality fixed by the Government for 1987-88 season mark an increase of Rs. 10.00 per quintal over the corresponding prices for the previous season and are intended to provide continued incentive to cotton growers to increase production and productivity of cotton.

14.33 hrs

[English]

Railway Budget 1987-88 General Discussion

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House shall now take up general discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 1987-88.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are initiating

general discussion on the Railway Budget. I would request you that there is no need to discuss the Railway Budget because only five Members of the Opposition are sitting in the House. What can be a greater indication of the popularity of the Railway Budget than this ?

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Fiah) : you ask about its popularity from us. We are not even given time to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Why are you wasting 10 hours?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to initiate the debate. Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget proposals. I expected a lot from this young, dynamic and also efficient Minister.

Sir, the Budget, if you read it, on the face of it, it looks very attractive, but if you read in between the lines you will find that the Budget is STATUS QUO oriented and not development oriented.

Sir, I do not say that the Railway Minister has not done anything. He has toned up the administration. I know. There has been lot of improvement. That also I know. But I cannot give him credit to the fact that he has not increased the railway passenger fares or the freight charges. He is a very clever gentleman, Sir. Only in November, we have not forgotten, Sir, he spread a very wide net by which he got Rs. 1,000 crores as per year. It is a record ! Sir, if you go through the record of the railway budgets of previous years, I saw them for about ten years, I could not get them before that, no Railway Minister has imposed such heavy levies as the present Minister has done in November. The operation is done without any pain, he has done it. But the people are just finding the pain. There is a hue and cry that the prices are rising. Sir, may I say, that one of the reasons is the operation done by the

Railway Minister, fetching Rs. 1,000 crores.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Post-operation effects.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : They are just feeling it. It takes time, these post-operation effects.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : May I remind the hon. Member that the wholesale price index has fallen ?

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary) : The hon. Member has agreed just now,——and he said it——that he had run it very efficiently.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : There is difference. That is different. I told so, There is no contradiction. I have said it because it is not development oriented. You know it, Madam. You will know it. You are the sufferer. You will also see it yourself.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All the Members are going to raise certain things, their own demands.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell my colleague that whenever some important issue is before the House, the big leaders are found present in the House in order to gain publicity but today when the situation is different, he has been asked to speak. There is no one for thumping tables for him. At least call some more Members to the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please continue, Mr. Iyer.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : I will do my duty. I will do my duty.

Sir, of course, I have never expected, and the country did not expect that he

will increase fares. Even the lay man did not expect it because very recently he has enhanced them.

I take this opportunity—I do not blame Mr. Scindia for all this. I blame those who are in charge of the Planning Commission and the Finance Minister because,...(*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER : What is there to blame ?

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : I will tell you why.

This House has said on several occasions that the Plan allocation for the Railways has been very very meagre. It is just 6.5 per cent or 6.02 per cent or something like that. How can there be an economic growth without growth in the Railways ? A just six per cent ! When the rupee value was nearly 75 paise or 12 annas at that time in the first Plan and Second Plan it used to be 10 or 15 per cent or 16 per cent like that. In the Sixth Plan also it was just below 6%. In the Seventh Plan it is a meagre 6.02 per cent. So, we have said to on many occasions. You do not care or take cognizance of the mood of this House. Irrespective of the party affiliations, everyone of us with one voice we have said that the Planning Commission must allocate more funds for the Railways. But that is not to be. Now, what is the result ? The poor Minister he comes to float a Finance Corporation !

AN HON. MEMBER : He is not poor.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Poor means, not personally poor. He has to constitute a Finance Corporation. For what purpose Sir ? To fetch about Rs. 300 crores. What for ? What for is this amount of Rs. 300 crores, hon. Minister ? What can you do with this Rs. 300 crores ? I say that it is not development oriented. I would like to ask the Government with all seriousness and I am sure the hon. Members will also agree with me, that if we do not find finances during the current year, how can you get money in the next year or next to next year or in the English Plan ? The

things are going from bad to worse. The money allocations are being reduced from year to year, from Plan to Plan. The Railway Advisory Board has stated more than once that there can be no development of railways without introduction of new railway lines to link up the remote places and far off places of our great country. But the hon. Minister has made provision of four or five new lines of 10 or 15 kms length in this budget. He says that he has no money. I would like to ask the Prime Minister ; if you do not give money to the railways, what is the use of these plans ? The plans are meant for the future development of the country. Unless you provide for more allocations to the railways, there cannot be development of the country.

The hon. Minister has said that so far as railways are concerned, we are among the leaders of the world. I am also of the same opinion that we should become leaders. But without giving more funds to the railways, how can we be leaders. We have seen the results. With the same number of wagons, same lines and same number of passenger coaches, he has been able to raise more money and he has been able to improve. I give him credit for that. But as I said already, it is the duty of the Government as a whole that the railways are founded properly. There has not been a single development work undertaken during the last few years. How can there be progress ? I once again plead that this House should pass a resolution at the end of the debate that the Planning Commission should allocate more funds to the railways. It is for the Finance Minister to give requirement of many. Everybody wants new lines, gauge conversion, railway stations to be modernised and improved.

I began my career as an MP with a speech on the railways. Same words and same things we have been saying. Particularly our State demands and our constituency demands are not being met. I once again say that sufficient funds should be provided to the Railway Ministry.

The Minister has said that lot of amenities have been given to the passengers. Of course, I admit that I do not travel so much in the trains. When I come to Delhi

I come by air because I have to come from far south. But I can say that what the hon. Minister has said is not 100 per cent correct. Before he gives cushions to second class berths, please see that bugs and cockroaches are stopped from entering the compartments. These are essential, primary and basic necessities of every passenger. Because he is a poor second class passenger, do not neglect him. I came from Agra by train. Travelling in the train was really a hell. This journey of just four hours was not comfortable. I want that there should be some improvement. Let the bogies be at least clean and tidy. That is very necessary.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister to one or two letters addressed to the editor of a newspaper today. One of the letters has mentioned that at no time the Madras-Dadar Express has been running punctual. Every time it is running two Hours late or more. It has never reached the destinations at punctual time. So also the people who travel from Bangalore to Delhi by K.K. Express have been complaining that the Express reaches Delhi late, very often. I can easily go two hours late and receive my guests at the Delhi Station. I would therefore request the hon. Minister to see that this train runs punctually. I remember when Mr. Hanumanthiah was the Minister he was very rude with the officials, that is quite different, he should not be rude with the officials and I do not want anybody to be rude with them—he saw to it that the trains were punctual. Punctuality means real punctuality. Of course, now-a-days even planes are not punctual. But you don't compare railways with the planes.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): He has referred to Shri Hanumanthiah in this House. He told us the secret of punctuality. He said that Pandit Nehru said when the trains were late, adjust your new timing with the late arrivals of the trains.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Sir, in the budget speech, you have mentioned about the accidents. You have said that there has been decrease in accidents. I agree. The figures speak about it. But I would like to mention that the victims of accident—God forbid, but if the accident occurs—are not given adequate compensation. How much

compensation the victims get? Do you know that they get only Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 20,000? When an air accident occurs the victims get not less than Rs. 1.5 lakhs or Rs. 2 lakhs each as compensation. But you say that they are all ensured. But Railway must also have this kind of insurance system. The present compensation is very very meagre. So, I would request the Minister that the victims due to railway accident God forbid and it is our prayer that no accident should occur and let there be no victims at all should be adequately compensated as is the case of air accident victims. There is no difference at all in a victims dying due to railway accident or air accident and there should be no difference in the compensation.

Then, Sir, I come to rehabilitation. I agree that it is very necessary that rehabilitation is a must. What for the depreciation funds? The depreciation amount is always meant for rehabilitation. But what is the present position? Of course, we have about 77,000 km. railway line throughout the country. According to the report of the Railway, during the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan, about 21,000 Kms. were due for renewal. What is amount provided for this purpose? Now, at the rate at which you are going for renewal, it is doubtful whether this length of 21,000 Kms. would be renewed within the Seventh Plan period. In 1985-86, renewal was done to the extent of 3578 Kms. In 1986-87, it was about 3800 and now this year it would be about 4000 Kms. more. What I would like to point out here is that in the Seventh Plan, a sum of Rs. 2750 crores is provided for track renewals. So, you will only clear the backlog. For the last five years, renewal work could not be completed according to the target fixed. Have you had any survey on this pending work? How many Kms. will be left the end of the Seventh Plan? Have you planned for that? You are only clearing the arrears. But what about the present one? Am I not correct in this respect? If I am wrong, I stand to be corrected. You may please give this clarification in your reply.

Sir, I mentioned about the meagre provision made in the annual plan. There is one point more. Now, the Railway Finance Corporation is there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the necessity for this Corporation. What are the functions

of this Corporation ? Could not any Department of the Government of India or any other Corporation do this job ? Could not this job be done by the I.D.B. ? And you are spending more than Rs. 10,000 crores per year for Railways. If you wanted the Corporation with huge paraphernalia, how are you going to function ? Who are the persons who are to man this organisation ? Are you taking any experts from banking ? Can't your other two autonomous bodies in the Railways do this work ?

Another thing is, if this can be avoided the more economical would have been to take the funds from the Government of India. Their dividend is only 6.5 per cent. Now, you have to pay 10 per cent interest and then one per cent more you have to pay for service charges. On this account the country also loses the tax. It is not economical. So, my point is whether you really need this organisation. If so, if you have decided to have it, how are you going to utilise its services ? Do you treat it as a banker for the Railways or as the post office only. If it is going to be an effective instrument, if it acts as a banker of the Railways, if it mobilises more funds, then it is quite different. So, I would request the hon. Minister to clarify this point.

You have said in your report that about 2940 kilometres new line projects are on going and a sum of Rs. 1700 crores is required for that purpose. But what is the provisions in the plan ? A meagre sum of Rs. 350 crores. And what is the amount you have provided this year ? Rs. 146 crores. You have just provided Rs. 146 crores for the new lines. Just for the on-going projects Rs. 1700 crores out of which Rs. 146 crores are provided during the current year. When are you going to complete them ? It will take years and years. So, I would suggest, there should be no Railway Budget and speeches for the next 10 years. So, it is very meagre and nothing can be done.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : A young Minister has long life !.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Regarding on-going conversion projects, they have a length of 2,013 kilometres and the balance

fund required for this project is Rs. 700 crores. (*Interruptions*).

Sir, Rs. 700 crores are required just to finish the on-going projects. What is the amount provided for this ? Rs. 50 crores. When are you going to convert it ? It is impossible to do it with this meagre amount.

Finally, about the report the hon. Minister has mentioned about the technological upgradation, increasing speed capability etc. I agree, and I admire the Minister for he has really initiated certain steps, and I am sure they will be implemented.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Try to come early to your constituency.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : I will now come to my State straightaway. That is better. (*Interruptions*). About the Karnataka State, I have been pleading for sufficient funds. The Minister has heard me separately. I met him at Bangalore and he gave me a patient hearing. For the broad gauge conversion of Mysore-Bangalore line it is a project costing Rs. 25 crores. It was started 10 years back. Rs. 7 crores have been spent so far. The hon. Minister has made little improvement this year. This year he has provided Rs. 2 crores. When are you going to complete this project with that money ? It is an important line. He has provided only Rs. 2 crores. What for ? It may only meet the establishment charges. At least Rs. 10 crores must have been provided.

Then, I come to the New lines. What is the priority given to the on-going projects ? Is it the way of giving priority by just giving Rs. one crore or two crores ? They should have been completed earlier. When the foundation-stone was laid by the then Minister, he said, "In five years, we are going to hand over the project." Already 12 years are over after the laying of the foundation-stone. Chitradurga-Raidurga line is a Rs. 20 crore project. Only Rs. 3 crores has been spent so far. Last year, only Rs. 20 lacs was provided. This year only Rs. 66 lacs have been provided. It was a gift of Shri Jaffar Sharief. At this rate, when are you going to complete this line ?

And then, I come to electrification, I make a very serious charge on the Railway Minister for this. In the Sixth Five Year Plan, the very House approved an outlay of Rs. 25 crores for electrification Jolarpet-Bangalore city route/line.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now you are going to Tamil Nadu also.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : That project has been almost shelved. You have just provided Rs. 1,000 as a token amount for this project. What is the use ? I make another serious charge. In the year 1984-85 a sum of Rs. 21 crores was surrendered by the Northern Railway under this electrification head. Again in 1985-86, Rs. 53 crores was surrendered. They did not use it. You do not give the money to the persons who are capable of using it. Bangalore-Jolarpet is a very important route.

Similarly, we have been asking for new lines, namely, Hubli-Karwar, Chamraj-Nagara-Satyamangala and Kottur-Harihar routes. Again, gauge conversion is an important one. The lines which need gauge conversion are Miraj-Bangalore, Salem-Bangalore and Mangalore-Hasan-Bangalore. Whenever you come to Karnataka, the development stops at Miraj. It does not go further.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are forgetting Pondicherry-Jolappet-Bangalore route.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : We have to meet Mr. Deputy-Speaker very often. You please convert the Salem-Bangalore line into broad gauge.

Finally, about the rapid transport, you have shelved the responsibility. You want the State to take it up. But you have not given the same treatment to all the metropolitan cities. Again I repeat that the rapid transport system for Bangalore city should be taken up by the Railways. You please see that it is taken up early.

[Translation]

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI (Faizabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Budget proposals presented by the hon.

Minister of State for Railways, I take this opportunity to congratulate him for the sincere efforts he has made for giving a number of facilities to the people through his Budget without putting any extra burden on them. I also congratulate him that last year witnessed the least number of railway accidents. There has been a 9.4 per cent increase in freight loading. Along with this, the Department initiated new schemes and proceeded on the path of development. With a view to strengthen the financial position of the department, he presented the Budget without levying any surcharge on the public and made it a surplus Budget instead of making it a deficit Budget. He deserves congratulations for this. Though a young Member and a young Minister, he has presented the Budget with a vision and we are proud of it and we hope that we shall continue to receive his guidance in the coming years also.

14.59 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE in the Chair]

Just now an hon. Member was speaking. In his speech he remarked that the Budget tends to maintain the status quo. I would like to say that had the Budget a tendency to maintain status quo, it would not have contained those things which have been mentioned in the Budget speech. Perhaps, those people who have said such things here did not try to understand it seriously. Had they tried to know these things, they would have come to know the number of steps that are being taken. In the Budget not only new trains have been announced but the frequency of the trains has also been increased. It has also been announced that 67 railway stations are going to be developed as model railway stations. Announcement has also been made to provide cushioned seats to the people travelling by second class. An announcement has been made to make a provision of Rs. 17 crores for railway overbridges, which was earlier Rs. 11 to 12 crores. Introduction of a scheme for increasing the number of coaches and diesel engines has also been announced. All these things prove that it is a progressive Budget.

With all these achievements, I would also like to give some suggestions to the

hon. Minister in this regard. Though announcement of introducing new trains and increasing the frequency of some trains has been made, yet one thing pains me that eastern Uttar Pradesh, the most backward area of India, has been totally ignored the latter not to introducing of any new train there. The paucity of resources mentioned by the hon. Minister in his Budget proposals appears to be correct. Taking into account the paucity of resources, your limits with regard to extension of lines are appreciated, but there are instances where lines are there but there are not being fully utilised because there is some mismanagement, proper feed back is not being received and there has been no proper utilisation of resources. I am of the opinion that the Varanasi and Lucknow section, under which my district Faizabad also comes, is not being utilised to the extent it should have been. The number of cities and towns coming within this area do not get all those facilities, which they ought to have got, in spite of the infrastructure being available there. There is a need to look into this aspect.

Sir, rail lines pass through the rural areas. The railway crossings in rural areas are unmanned. Recently, the Railways have taken a decision about the railway crossings in the rural area as being put under the control of the States concerned. They would construct hutments there and pay salaries to the persons employed there. The railways would be making arrangements there after only. Recently, in Marai Sahai Singh village in Faizabad this problem has arisen and an agitation to keep the route in operation has been launched. In this connection, I feel the State Governments may not be able to take up this work because they are already short of resources. Therefore, the Railways should themselves take over this work and in this connection, I hope the Railway Board will certainly realise its responsibility and undertake this work.

Sir, according to the rules framed by the Railways regarding construction of overbridges, half of the expenditure is borne by the States. The result is that a number of over bridges have not been constructed for want of resources which are otherwise essential. It is often seen that the funds you provide under this head are not fully

spent. Therefore, I request that you may reduce the States' contribution from 50 per cent to 25 per cent, bringing the Railways contribution to 75 per cent so that the amount earmarked for this work is utilised fully and over-bridges needed urgently are constructed without difficulty. In this connection, I request that over-bridges may kindly be constructed on the railway crossing behind the Government Inter College, Faizabad city and on the railway crossing on Bhailsar-Rudoli route in Barabanki.

I welcome your announcement regarding giving concession in the railway fares for the young, groups of farmers, the handicapped and the war widows. Besides, I would also like to request that the Railway Board has been able to set records in sports and have earned name in various sports events and competitions. It will, therefore be in the fitness of things that your attention may be drawn towards national and state level players who should also be provided railway passes. In addition to the sportsmen and women serving in the Railways, you can help the national level players also to travel in the country through your transport system.

Alongwith these general things, I would like to say, specifically about the problems relating to the Railways of the district coming under Faizabad Lok Sabha constituency. It gives me much pleasure to say that whenever I have submitted the problems of this area before the hon. Minister, he has listened to them attentively and shown personal interest and has tried to solve the same. With the same confidence we have been placing and explaining these problems before him because we are confident that he will find some remedy to these things. His approach and understanding of the problems has emboldened us to place more and more problems before him. I would like to submit these problems with this background.

Ayodhya is the famous place of pilgrimage of the country. There has been a demand for quite a long time to construct a railway bridge over Saryu River. A road bridge is already there and there is railway line on both its sides. But in the absence of a Railway bridge we have not been able

to connect not only Faizabad, but also Lucknow, Faizabad, Gorakhpur and Gorakhpur-Sultanpur etc. for Considering its necessity, you will realise that it is a very big scheme which requires assistance of the Planning Commission also. But if you take initiative in this regard, it will definitely yield results.

Only one train, Ganga-Yamuna Express runs between Delhi and Faizabad and that too 4 days a week. A proposal to run it daily between Varanasi and Lucknow by dividing it into 2 trains is pending with you. You have assured also that you would certainly try to provide it from 1st May. I am hopeful that your decision on the above proposal would be reaching us. The Ganga-Yamuna Express, which remains unutilised for 22 hours at Varanasi, can be put to use between Varanasi and Faizabad during morning and evening hours by increasing its speed. In this way a new train would be made available between Faizabad and Varanasi and thereby the difficulties of the people would be removed.

Saryu Express running upto Allahabad is your achievement and has been given by you. If it is linked with the Mahanagari Express for going to Bombay, then we can directly connect Bombay with Faizabad and Ayodhya, which is a place of pilgrimage and for doing this you do not require any additional engine or train. The only thing to be done is to link this train with the other and run both the trains as one train. Excepting the construction of railway bridge, I am not giving a proposal involving any financial implication.

The Kisan Express, Ganga Sutlej Express, running 4 days a week on this route, need to be run on all the 7 days of the week. It should run in such a way that the long time demand for running an inter-city train between Faizabad and Lucknow could be fulfilled. If the train leaves for Lucknow in the morning and returns via Ludhiana in the evening to Faizabad, then the problem of thousands of passengers, who travel between Faizabad and Lucknow will be solved and at the same time we shall also be utilizing this train with additional capacity.

We have been requesting for a long time that a new train may be introduced to link Ayodhya and Rameshwavram. We are hoping that at the time of delivering the next Railway Budget, speech you will certainly include it in the series of new trains and we are ready to wait for the whole year for this.

A scheme has been prepared for expansion of the railway stations at Faizabad, Ayodhya and Rudoli. All these expansion schemes about these three railway stations are pending for financial sanction. I hope that we shall receive the sanction of your Ministry on the schemes regarding expansion of these railway stations so that work could be started on them also. Along with it, these stations should be included in the scheme of developing certain stations as model stations.

With these words, while giving my full support to the Budget proposals submitted by the hon. Minister of State for Railways, I extend him many congratulations because he has inculcated in the Railway Department his personal traits of honesty of labour, behaviour and character.

SHRI D.L. BAITHA (Araria) : Sir, at the outset, I would like to convey my heartiest thanks to the Minister of State of the Ministry of Railways for presenting a very good Budget in the House. The Railways and the Communication Minister is are such departments of the Government of India as have direct link with the common man. The common man, does not have any direct information about the activities of the Government and whatever information they get, it is through the State Governments. The people judge the performance of the Government by evaluating the functioning of both these departments and whether the trains run in time or not. If they are functioning properly, the people assume that everything is going on smoothly. The Railway Department reflects the functioning of the Central Government. A very good Budget has been presented this time in the House after a long time. Earlier, deficit Budget used to be presented every year. This time surplus Budget has been presented and that also

at a time when substantial sum from the Depreciation Fund has been released for rehabilitation and other works. Besides, it maintained its contribution of dividend to the General Revenue in accordance with the recommendation of the Railway Convention Committee. I would like to congratulate the Railway Minister that it has contributed dividend to the tune of Rs. 570 crores to the General Revenues and it also made up the deficit of Rs. 196 crore.

The Ministry have, by its efforts, reversed the trend that was there up till now and has put the Railways on such a sound footing from which we can expect much.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, We all know that the Railways are an important infrastructure on which the development of any area depends. If any industrialist wants to set up an industry, he first ensures whether facility of railways in that area is available or not. Not only this, our present day civilisation is based on the railway lines, good roads and air routes. Now you can imagine the condition of the areas where there is no facility of the railways. The Railway Minister is looking after 61,826 kilometer railway lines in the country. Therefore, he will have to keep this in mind that India is not limited to the triangle of only Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. I think that our hon. Minister might be knowing that by connecting the railway lines with this triangle, it cannot be presumed that one has provided railway facility to the entire country. The Britishers came to India with the sole motive to carry on trade here. They linked big cities with railway lines from the point of view of trade and their other aim was to transport military personnel and military equipment to the strategic points so that their administration may function smoothly. These were their only two aims. But the area of functioning has changed now. Now we shall have to take care of those areas also which are backward. There are still such areas in the country where children have not seen a train.

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : We also come in that category.

SHRI D.L. BAITHA : I would like to tell the hon. Railway Minister that he has done a very good job. The loading of goods has surpassed all the previous records. In the history of the railways, never has there been such a record loading of goods. We have high hopes from you. The entire railway administration extends its full cooperation to you. You have shown efficiency in such a short period and I would again like to congratulate you for this. I hope you will be getting cooperation of the entire railway administration and all the employees and you will place the railways on new footing.

You have stated a sum of Rs. 1100 crores is granted to meet the subsidy on the suburban railways and on transportation of goods which become necessary during the time of floods, drought and other calamities. But I would like to know as to how much amount is spent on the suburban railways.

In regard to the expenditure on the suburban train service of the three metropolitan cities about which you have mentioned in the Budget speech also, the matter should be taken up with the concerned State Governments and it should be segregated from the General Railways. A separate provision may be made for it so as to check the loss of revenue to the Railway. How far is the concept of subsidising the suburban railways justified? Because if some one sets up a factory in Bombay, he would not make provision for houses for his workers. The workers will come from the suburbs and the responsibility of their transportation will fall on the Railways. How far it is justified? Therefore, I would suggest that at the time of granting licence for setting up an industry, the Government should also see to it that the industrialist makes provision for houses for his workers. If he does not do so, the Railways should charge the amount of expenditure on the transportation of workers from the factory and the State Government should make arrangement for it.

I would like to give a few suggestion also to the hon. Railway Minister. Many areas are still very backward so far as the Railways are concerned. The area on the border of Nepal, on our side of the country

is very backward whether it belongs to Uttar Pradesh or Bihar. Nepal is a land locked country whose doorway is Calcutta Port in India. Nepal has been demanding that although broad gauge line has been provided from Jogbani to Katihar still a portion of 90 or 100 kilometers has been left without broad gauge line between Katihar and Jogbani. A survey in this regard has been carried out. I would like to request that partly from international point of view and partly from the view that Nepal is a friendly country, this work should be taken up expeditiously.

Besides, I would like to submit that in the absence of bridges at many places it takes three days to reach the destination which otherwise could have been covered in three hours. You will be surprised to know that the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi while laying the foundation stone of Chitouni-Bagaha bridge had said that this rail bridge would be helpful in connecting the north India with Assam which is situated in the far east. Similarly, the bridge at Nirmali Saraigarh in the Saharsa district has been damaged. The Government should get surveyed and repaired. As far as I know the expenditure on the construction of a bridge is recovered very soon. Then what is the hitch in constructing the bridges? For example, I have been told that the expenditure on the construction of Hathidah bridge near Makama has been made up and it is being run on profit. If Nirmali Saraigarh bridge is repaired and a bridge at Chitanni is constructed and alongwith that the 70 km stretch from Forbesganj to Thakurganj is linked with a railway line, then this will become a strategic line which will connect Assam. At present, all the railway lines to Assam are affected by the floods but this line will be free from the menace of floods.

I wanted to raise many more points but the time is short. We know that our Railway Minister is very efficient and capable and we hope that he will find out some ways to carry out the rest of the works. I do not want to take much time and would like to convey my thanks for such a good Budget. I hope that the pace of development in the country will accelerate. With these words, I again convey my thanks to him.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for pro-

viding me an opportunity to speak. I fully support this Budget. It is a good Budget because there is no increase either in any tax or in freight rates. A very beautiful Budget has been beautifully presented by a handsome Minister. I congratulate the hon. Minister for providing relief to the youths, the handicapped, the kisan, war widows and to the people living in flood and drought affected areas. It was an omission which should have been corrected much earlier but this time the hon. Minister has done it.

Sir, Just as a hungry man we dreams of bread only are needy as far as that Rail lives are concerned and have certain complaints of our own. Therefore, we would like to submit them to Shri Madhavrao Scindia in this House and would request him that when a person like him is preparing the railway development plan and certain areas are left out, that is injustice. What I am telling you is a matter of principle. During that British time, they altogether ignored those areas from where the people had revolted against them. Not only this. If any area was already connected with the railway line and some problem arose there, that area was altogether ignored. I want to cite an example that a big agitation was started by Gandhiji in Champaran. There was a Bagaha-Chhatauni bridge which due to some reason was damaged. The then British Government did not re-build the bridge keeping in view the fact that most of the agitators were from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and even small farmers and workers were participating in the agitation. They are apprehensive that they might unite on the call of Gandhiji, any. Therefore, the bridge, which was previously constructed by the Britishers on priority basis, was not reconstructed. Several times this matter has been raised in the Parliament and through letters by some hon. Members. I thank late Shri Genda Singh who approached Shrimati Indira Gandhi in this regard. The then Railway Minister late Shri Lalit Narayan Mishra had announced in a public meeting of Gorakhpur that this bridge should be reconstructed and after few months he laid its foundation stone. But it is a matter of regret that such an important bridge has been forgotten, which belongs not only to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar but is also part of the entire country.

It would also demonstrate that the Government wants to enter the backward areas of northern region to undertake development works. It clearly shows what Government wants to do for the development of an area which has made sacrifices during our freedom struggle. You do not take these things into account when you undertake the laying of Railway tracks, construction of bridges and conversion of lines. At that time the only thing which you have in your mind is as to how Calcutta and Bombay can be connected, how Super fast trains can be run between them because you consider that betterment of the country lies in these types of works. Seven weekly trains are started and it's considered a big achievement by the Railway Ministry. But I think it is an insignificant achievement for the Railways in view of its vast network. I want that at first our Government should pay attention towards our villages. Had there been only one example I would have kept quite. You can see the condition of Balia district in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. This Balia district was declared independent even before our country achieved independence. Our tricolour was hoisted there. At that time Madhuban and Darba incidents took place. All the people of Azamgarh, Balia, Jaunpur and Basti districts stood by Gandhiji and Nehruji. When Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru was going by a train to attend a programme, an attempt was made to prevent him; but a peon of Eastern region took Nehruji on his cart and the programme was made successful. Today those areas are being ignored. If the railway line between Shahganj and Balia cannot be constructed, the dream of entering the 21st century will remain a dream. You are doing nothing for these areas. The other people will progress but we will lag behind. What was the fault of the people of Eastern region? Was it their fault that they fought against the Britishers, they took Nehruji on the cart or they followed Gandhiji? This was not a sin. Under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the Minister like Shri Scindia is holding the portfolio of Railways. Therefore, I would like to tell him that the people will not forgive him if Eastern region remains ignored by this Ministry. A decision was taken to convert Varanasi-Bhatani line into a broad gauge line which people have been demanding

for the last twenty years. Shrimati Indira Gandhi had stressed its need. It was also made an election promise. Its foundation stone was laid in 1980 and since then a meagre amount, say Rs. 50 lakh or Rs. one crore has been spent on it. I thank Shri Scindia that this year he conceded our demand and sanctioned Rs. 6.5 crores for this purpose though it is still insufficient. It was promised in 1977, in 1978 and again in 1980 that it will be completed. It should have been completed in five years i.e. by 1985 but could not be completed and now in 1987 funds are being sanctioned which are also not sufficient to complete it. Therefore, I would request that other expenditures should be curtailed and at least Rs. 10 to 15 crores should be sanctioned for this purpose so that it may be completed in a year or two. You should fix a target and a time bound programme should be chalked out to complete the Varanasi-Bhatani line. I can understand your financial limitations. But I would say that nobody wants to travel by train running on narrow gauge from Dohrighat to Allahabad because of the defective steam engine, lack of any first class bogie and stinking latrines. It is a record that in Azamgarh trains do not run properly for even a small distance. Keeping in view your liberal policy I would request you to extend it upto Allahabad by providing diesel engine to it. Coal can be saved though diesel will be consumed. Therefore I request you to provide a diesel engine so that people may get some relief. Till the conversion order of Shahganj to Balia railway line is not issued due to some financial hardship, cannot you provide diesel engine in place of steam engine and cannot you start fast trains on this line so that we may also enjoy the pleasure of trains as the Members of the Parliament and as such we do not enjoy Railway facilities but travelling by rail is not an attractive proposition. The trains neither run in time nor anybody wants to travel in them. People prefer to travel by bus and that is the difficulty. I was saying that whatever mistakes we have committed till now, should be corrected and we should agree in principle that in future in those areas which had contributed a lot to the freedom struggle and are more poor and backward and are populous areas, railway lines will be extended at least by 10 kms. But for the present

we are getting assurances only. You have provided for 50 halt stations which is like a drop in the ocean. When we made a demand for it, we were told that very few passengers detrain there and as such no halt will be granted. Therefore, I would like to ask what would be the use of trains if you do not provide halt stations or stoppages. You say that it will bring down the speed of trains to which I agree. But you have to fulfil the requirements of the people. I had requested that a halt be provided for at least one or two trains at Haldharpur. This demand was also raised in a big public meeting of Shri Rajiv Gandhi held at Mau and the Hon. Prime Minister also admitted that this demand could be acceded to. Leave aside a halt, what difficulty can be there in providing a stoppage of a train at a station. A stereotyped reply of the officials that it will reduce the speed of the train is sent. I do not know as to how much speed of trains they are maintaining and how much punctuality they are maintaining. Persons like me who have limited time do not travel in these trains because they know that these trains never reach in time. The trains on metre gauge move at a snail's pace which is of no use. When people make any demand or the people's representatives make any demand it should sometimes be considered on norms other than the ones fixed by the offices of the Board. I have drawn your attention towards the above mentioned points. These might have troubled you but I am sorry for that. I do not want to take much time. I would only like to point out that our area is very backward and that is why I have to draw your attention towards it. With these words, I once again support this Budget wholeheartedly.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary) : Sir, I rise to support the Railway Budget. I would like to congratulate the hon. young Railway Minister and our respected prime Minister for managing the affairs of the Railways so efficiently as to give a surplus budget. Through strict financial management and greater revenue efforts, the Indian Railways presented a surplus of a few hundred crores. The Railways have discontinued depending on budget revenues and they have started mobilising resources, on

their own. The main object of pooling resources is for expansion and modernisation. With this object in view, the Railway Department has entered the capital market and they want to raise resources by issuing 25 lakh secured redeemable 10 per cent tax-free bonds of Rs. 1000 each aggregating to Rs. 250 crores.

Sir, I am glad to thank the hon. Minister for having extended so many concessions during this year. Concessions were given for the young, for the handicapped, for those persons who are affected badly by drought, for supply of fodder etc, for kisans in the villages and for the families of those brave people who gave their lives in defence of our nation. But Sir, I have a doubt as to how these concessions are going to benefit the people. Because, though concessions are there, at the time of implementation we do find that there is a lot of inconvenience caused to the students as well as others due to the harassment caused by station masters by charging some other rates and getting money from these persons who are given the benefit of concessions. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to take firm steps and see that whoever errs should be punished severely. Otherwise, the concessions will have no benefit at all.

I would like to state that more emphasis should be given to protect the railway property. Railway Protection Force should be strengthened to keep a constant vigil on tracks, platforms and trains also, to check the increasing incidence of crime. Railway Protection Force should be provided with the most modern electronic devices for the purpose.

If I speak of the properties, Railways are having huge property of land on either side of the tracks. These lands have been leased to various persons indiscriminately. There is no set of rules as to how it should be given to the people.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to find out the extent of land which is in possession of the Railways and how they have been leased and what is the amount of revenues that they are getting today? So, I would like the hon. Minister to look into the affairs at the time of the disposal or leasing, etc., otherwise, we will

be losing a lot of revenue. Therefore, the Minister should take every possible step to find out the extent of land under the possession of the Department, we do have some urban lands also on either side of the tracks and those lands are very-very valuable and they are not properly taken care of. If these lands are not taken care of I am afraid, that slums will come about there and it would be very difficult to vacate such persons occupying Railway lands. Therefore, immediate care should be taken to protect the landed property on either side of the railway tracks.

Sir, modern electronic devices should be used to detect the planting of explosive material, if any, on or near railways, tracks, particularly, in the troubled State of Punjab. Despite the Indian Railways Property (unlawful Possession) Act, 1966, the incidence of crime still presented a grim picture. I would also like to see that the cases of payment of compensation to the victims of railway accidents should be settled early and payments should be made as early as possible because ours is a welfare State and there should not be any legal lacuna to settle it. There should not be any dispute at the time of payment of compensation. Similarly, trials of offenders should be expedited and deterrent punishment should be awarded to the persons who commit crimes.

Sir, I would like to stress about overcrowding in Second Class Reservation Compartments. This is my personal experience. Even on the reserved seats, the Conductors are permitting the un-reserved passengers to occupy them. It has happened so many times. By doing so, fighting starts between the reserved and unreserved passengers and unnecessarily trains are detained for hours together and not only, that, it causes a lot of inconvenience for women and children, who travel in such type of compartments. So, Conductors who are committing such crimes should be punished severely. They are being paid bonus and they should be made responsible for result oriented inputs.

Late running of trains could be stopped and punctuality could be enforced more vigorously if Railway Staff are more vigilant.

Sir, I would like to stress upon the Minister about the following points for which I had been struggling to fulfil, which are very genuine and are concerning my Constituency. Therefore, I appeal to him once again that he should consider them on an urgent basis keeping in view its importance.

1) Construction of proposed new meter-gauge railway line between Harihar-Kottur, Bellary District, Karnataka.

2) Starting of independent broad-gauged night trains from Hospet to Bangalore via Guntakal, Bellary.

3) This has been already ordered by the ex-Minister Shri Bansi Lalji and instead of running an independent train, only two bogies are being attached from Hospet to Guntakal.

These bogies are being attached to Secundrabad-Bangalore Train which has caused a lot of inconvenience to the passengers who come to Guntakal and the same compartments are being detained for hours together at Guntakal during night time. So, I urge upon the Minister to start an independent night train from Hospet to Bangalore via Guntakal and a day train which is running from Bellary to Bangalore may be cancelled, if they are prepared to start a night train.

I have been hearing that the route of the Navajivan Express is going to be changed. Under no circumstances, should the route which is being followed by this train should be changed, because this train is feeding a number of places in Northern Karnataka. If the route is changed, the passengers from that area will be affected very much. So, I would request the Minister to retain the present route.

The Amaravati Express which is coming from Guntur VIA Guntakal to Hubli has been converted into a fast train and dieselized. Very recently, its timings have been changed. Instead of leaving Guntakal at 9 a. m., it leaves now at 7 a.m. All the passengers who are arriving at Guntakal from broad-gauge trains from the sides of Madras, Bombay, Renigunta, Secunderabad and by K.K. Express from Delhi are put

to a lot of inconvenience, after the change in the timings of Amaravati Express, for want of connecting trains. So, I would request the hon. Minister to see that the previous timings are restored, for this Amaravati Express.

I have been writing to the hon. Minister to see that the Kittur Express is named after the freedom fighter, viz. Kittur Chennamma. But I have received a reply from the hon. Minister that it is not possible to do so. The Minister has named another train as Tippu Express. Here also, this lady in question is the first lady to fight against the British for our freedom. Instead of having it as Kittur Express, you can call it as the Kittur Chennamma Express, so that the entire people of Karnataka will be very happy.

I have been told that out of the 20 model stations mentioned by the Railway Minister, Bellary is one. I would request the hon. Minister to take up this model station at Bellary during this year itself, and see that the provision of a foot over-bridge at Bellary station, connecting broad gauge and metre gauge platforms is covered within the overall development programme at Bellary.

The meals served at Bellary station have since been discontinued. I would urge upon the Minister to see that meals are served at Bellary once again. Otherwise, the passengers will be put to inconvenience.

With these remarks, I am sure that under the dynamic leadership of our young Railway Minister, Railways will become self-reliant at all levels, to enable India to become strong and united. I wish him success in fulfilling all the ideas he had expressed in his speech on the Railway Budget.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today while speaking on President's Address, our hon. Prime Minister expressed his concern and said that at present, the main weakness of the Administration was that Government

officials do not perform their duties properly and the inefficiency of the administration is causing delay in the completion of various schemes. He expressed concern over this matter and warned the officials that measures will have to be taken to improve the efficiency.

In this regard if we look at the Railway Budget I would congratulate the Railway Minister because this Budget could have been a deficit Budget also as the Railways had to meet the additional expenditure on account of enhanced salaries of its employees as per the recommendation of the pay Commission. Budget has been changed into a surplus Budget. Therefore, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for the fact that though coaching fleet has not been increased, more facilities have been provided for the passengers and more trains have been started. In addition, loading of goods has also increased. It is all possible because of the administrative efficiency. We hope that if other Government departments also function likewise, the difficulties of the people can be removed to a great extent.

I do not want to enumerate the achievements of the Railways because efficiency has increased in every department of the Railways, be it loading of goods or facilities for the passengers or any other job. Therefore, all units deserve congratulation. The Railways are the biggest department of the Government of India. There are more than 7000 railway stations throughout the country and about 17 lakh employees are working in it. I would like to congratulate the hon. Railway Minister for his effective management of such a big department and for improving its efficiency, and I hope that he will maintain this efficiency in future also.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIKAGI (Mandsaur) : You want to congratulate him or want to bid farewell to him ?

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH : I have said congratulation but you might have heard something else. I would not like to take much time to enumerate your achievements because there is hardly any Member in the House who will not mention about them. In the Depreciation Fund, you have increased the amount from 3 per cent to 12 per cent which is a good beginning. It will

help in further improvement and development of the Railway department. Similarly, the allocation for pension has been increased by Rs. 350 crores and a sum of Rs. 570 crores has been contributed to the General Revenues as dividend. The way you have brought a surplus budget and have invested that money on the productive items, it is praiseworthy.

Now, I would like to say something about my constituency. My constituency is adjacent to the constituency of the hon. Minister. Anyone who comes to our area after visiting that area feels the difference in both the regions. In comparison to the development which is going on in Guna and other areas of Madhya Pradesh, there has not been any improvement in our region. Due to this, the people of our area are resentful. The Government has not paid attention towards this area as it should have.

No new train has been introduced for the last many years on the track between Nagda and Kota. Quite a large number of passengers travel on this route. They are not getting any amenities. Therefore, this long standing demand should be met. Similarly, there is a demand to introduce a train between Kota and Delhi. There is only Dehradun-Mathura-Vadodra Parcel train for the ordinary passengers but the Dehradun Express does not go beyond Ratlam now a day. This also causes inconvenience to the people. I had said about the train running between Mathura and Vadodra earlier also, that the required number of coaches are not attached to this train. Also it does not run on time. Besides, there is no proper facility of electricity and water in this train. Although I have got some assurance for this and some improvement has also taken place but all the same it runs without the required number of coaches. I would like to submit that already there are very few trains running on this track and if no improvement is brought there and inefficiency is not removed, it will continue to cause great inconvenience to the people. Six coaches of Bombay-Dehradun Express are attached to the train running from Indore to Bombay and six coaches are attached for Delhi to the Indore-Delhi train. As a direct train has started running from Indore to Bombay, a new train

should also be started from Indore to Delhi by attaching these 12 coaches without any extra burden on the Railways. At least it will give some relief to the people because there is a great demand for trains on this track and one extra train will also be available between Kota and Nagda.

As the hon. Minister has said in his speech they have started more trains without increasing the coaching fleet and by better utilisation. It will be an example of better utilisation, if six coaches are withdrawn from each of these two trains and a new train is started between Indore and Delhi with a different timing. This will give great relief to the people.

I would like to congratulate you on introducing Kota Bhopal Express train. You have opened a new station Kesholi also. But still there is need to open stations at one or two new places on this track because there is a considerable distance between the two stations. I would request that a flag station should be opened at Chattarpur. I think it is under examination and I hope that the report will be favourable. This railway track is contiguous to the railway track in Guna. Therefore, it will be of much convenience for the people if some improvements, though not equivalent to the adjoining track, is brought about them. Adequate number of sheds are also not there on the stations on Rajasthan side and their look is also not good. Much improvement has been made on the side of Madhya Pradesh. The Railways should bring about some improvement in the adjoining tracks also.

Just now an hon. Member, who spoke before me, has said that little facilities have been provided to the passengers travelling in the second class and they have travel in overcrowded compartments. Additional facilities should also be provided to the passengers travelling in the second class. Although there are many long distance trains running on this line yet majority of the passengers travelling on this line are the common people. They have not been provided as much facilities as have been provided to the long distance passengers. Therefore, I would request that some improvement should be brought about in this direction also.

I would like to say one thing more. There are some tracks which are regarded as disturbed tracks. For example, in Uttar Pradesh passengers constantly complain that they have to face difficulties while travelling in the trains. Undesirable elements enter the compartment and harass the passengers. Incidents of chain pulling take place and passengers do not feel comfortable during the journey. Vigilance should be kept on such trains as are identified by the Railway Department. There is need to improve the situation by paying special attention towards them and by employing extra staff and extra security force in these trains so that the passengers may feel that they can travel without fear and without interference. If such trains are identified, this work could be taken up. There are a number of trains in which incidents of chain pulling take place. There are a few places in Rajasthan also where such incidents of chain pulling take place repeatedly. Such trains should be identified and arrangement of additional security should be made in them. I hope by taking up such measures we can improve the situation.

16.00 hrs.

In conclusion I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for his excellent performance and for increasing the efficiency of the Railways without incurring any additional burden. I would like to repeat what Shri Balkavi Bairagi had said over the T.V. that the hon. Minister has converted the Railway administration into a family and I think it is a very big achievement. If the staff of any department of the Government treats the Minister as a member of the family, it reduces tension and increases efficiency. I have noticed that such feeling has arisen in the mind of the staff of the Railways and they have started taking interest to effect improvement in the department which is not to be seen in other departments. I would like to particularly congratulate the hon. Minister for this. The hon. Minister has brought about a vast psychological change in the minds of the employees. He deserves our congratulations. I think the same efficiency should have been brought in other departments also so that the administrative efficiency may increase there which is greatly needed and which our Prime Minister also wants.

[English]

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU (Madras North) : At the outset, I want to say that the people of Madras city are greatly disappointed by this Railway Budget. The Madras Beach—Luz Rapid Transit System, though it is presently under execution I do not know when it will be completed. It is an important project for the Madras city people. Traffic is too hazardous in the Madras city. Now the suburban trains are running to full capacity. There is no difference between peak hours and ordinary hours. Always they are full. Therefore, it is very essential to complete the Madras Rapid Transit System immediately.

In the Budget it is said that the State Government should bear 67 per cent of the cost whereas railways would bear 33 per cent of the cost. I do not know the principle behind it. It is the railway project. The railway should bear its cost in full. I do not know why such an attitude from the railways asking the State Government to share two-third of the cost. It is the duty of the railways to see that the Madras city people should get this very essential system immediately.

The State Government is now facing a very serious drought situation. Though I belong to the opposition party in Tamil Nadu, I still say that the State Government cannot pay such a big amount as its share for the MRTS. The State Government has to solve water and drought problems. I think, it cannot be in a position to contribute to this. Why not Railway Administration itself can do the MRTS? Yesterday, our Prime Minister has announced a grant of Rs. 100 crores to solve the Bombay slum problem. I welcome it. It is a grant. An amount of Rs. 100 crores is given in no minute as a grant. Likewise, such a grant should also be given to Madras to construct MRTS. That is my humble opinion. I request the hon. Minister to consider this. This is the sincerest request of the Madras city people.

While extending the southern railway at Madras Central Station, the Moore market area was to be acquired. Then there were so many litigations and stay orders in the courts. But suddenly two

years before at midnight the entire Moore market was burnt. I rushed to the spot at midnight. I saw the business people crying like anything. Crores of rupees worth goods were burnt in their presence. With burning heart they cried and cried only to see the entire market into ashes. Till now it is undetected. Who has done this sabotage? The culprits are not brought to book. Two years have passed. But we do not know who are the persons behind this great calamity. Nobody knows this. Neither the State Government nor the Central Government nor the Railway authorities are able to find the culprits. The Moore Market was one of the beautiful architectures in Madras. Not only that. Many important and precious books which cannot be purchased from anywhere outside this Market have all been burnt down. They are valuable books. This is the actual drawback of not only the Madras City Police but also the Central Police and the Railway Police and that is why they could not track down the culprits so far. Many small businessmen engaged in business in the Moore Market have died of heart-attack, some of them have gone mad and some others are wandering on the streets as beggars because they have lost everything in the Market that was burnt down. The compensation given to them was very very meagre. I would therefore request the Government kindly to interfere in this matter immediately and arrange to give suitable place for those people who have lost their things and the business in the fire so that they can re-start their business. I would request the hon. Minister to see that those people are rehabilitated.

16 00 hrs.

[SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI *in the Chair*]

Then, coming to the Sanitary conditions in the Railway Stations, especially in the suburban areas, it is very very poor. In the mofussil railway stations, the conditions are still worse. I would request the Minister to pay immediate attention to this pressing problem. Sir, I have already requested the hon. Minister thrice in this august House for taking immediate action at the level crossings in North Madras. In Korukkupet area which falls in my constituency of North Madras, there are level

crossings and these crossings are always busy because of their being near to the Madras Central Station where incoming and outgoing trains are continuously keeping the railway crossings busy. The people living in those areas have to wait for a long time to have access to the other part of the city. I would therefore request the hon. Railway Minister kindly arrange to construct subways at these crossings to avoid hardships faced by the people.

Sir, the Station Masters of the whole Railways are agitating for parity of scale of pay with that of Yard Masters. Now, the Yard Masters are placed two grades above the scale of Station Masters. The Association represented that while there was no minimum qualification necessary for appointment of Yard Masters, the Station Masters are to be Graduate. Moreover, the drivers and their crewmen are given running allowance, but in the case of Station Masters this is denied though they also play equally important role in the running of railways. I would request the hon. Minister kindly to look into this and try to redress the grievance of the Station Masters as early as possible.

Sir, I represent North Madras Constituency where I.C.F. is located at Perambur. The target fixed for the manufacture of coaches in 1986 was 1000. But the budget presented by the hon. Minister shows a very small amount for this project. I would therefore request the Minister to allocate sufficient funds for this purpose so that the I.C.F. will be able to reach the target of thousand mark in the manufacture of coaches at least from 1988 onwards so that this can generate more employment opportunities and other facilities in the country.

Sir, there has been a repeated demand for the issue of railway passes for the workers coming from Arakonam to Parambur Railway Workshop. At present, they are not given free passes only between Arakonam and Tiruvallur. The workers have to pay for their tickets from Tiruvallur to Arakonam. This is a great injustice done to the workers. When the Railway Administration is giving free passes between Perambur and Tiruvallur, why cannot they extend this free-pass facility between Tiruvallur and Arakonam. I have made

several requests in this august House and I also met the hon. Minister in his Chamber in this connection and in the Central Hall. I would therefore once again humbly request him kindly to redress the grievances of the Railway employees. I would request him to consider this request and amend the rules suitably so that the workers get the benefit. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Railway Minister has presented an attractive Budget in an attractive way. I welcome it. I would like to read out that part of his speech which to me seems the most important one :

[*English*]

"In fact so great was the improvement in transport efficiency that it is a matter of pride for me to state that the Indian Railways are amongst the leaders in the world in freight capacity utilisation leaving behind almost all Railways even in the developed world."

[*Translation*]

The increase in the net tonne kilometre per wagon is praise-worthy. I take this opportunity to say that the performance of the Janata Party during their tenure had been very disappointing. The progress made in the capacity utilisation during the last four years, particularly since he became the Minister, has been very satisfactory. In this Budget neither the fares nor the freight rates have been increased. I would like to request that while preparing the next Budget, the price rise should be kept in mind. Taking this factor into consideration, there is no scope for further increase in the fares and the freights. It should not happen that you may disappoint us by presenting a Supplementary Budget. Therefore, I am giving this suggestion to you.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Why are you apprehensive ? Let those people be apprehensive .

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : The reason for this apprehension is that the

way demands are being made, a Supplementary Budget may have to be presented. If the railway lines are laid in the backward areas, and for that if Supplementary Budget has to be presented, we shall have no objection to it. The provision for depreciation which was 3 per cent earlier has been raised to 12 per cent now. It is bound to increase efficiency. The Central Government in the Fifth Five Year Plan had made 21 per cent contribution for the plan expenditure on behalf of the Railways which has now been increased to 58 per cent which is really praiseworthy. I am thankful for the facilities that have been provided in my area. We welcome the new train service introduced from Samdari to Ranibara. We also welcome the extension of 265, 266 Jodhpur—Bhilri Express train upto Ahmedabad. The departure time of Agra Fort train which leaves Barmer at 4.00, pm and reaches Jodhpur at 9.00 p.m. should be changed to 10.00 p.m. so as to enable it to reach Jaipur at 5.30 in the morning. Its arrival timing should be linked with the Hawra Mail so that we may be able to reach Agra Fort at 11.00 a.m. and are able to catch Toofan Mail from Agra for Calcutta. In this way people from Barmer will reach Jaipur at 5.30 a.m. and Agra at 11.00 a.m. and will reach Calcutta by Toofan Mail very soon. This will be a great achievement. We have already given this suggestion to the concerned officials. We have also brought this to the notice of the General Manager of the Northern Railway. I have another suggestion. One train runs between Jodhpur and Barmer and the other for Agra Fort. The former leaves Jodhpur at 6.10 a.m. and the latter after two hours at 8.50 a.m. There is a difference of two hours between their departure time. We want that its departure time should be 1.30 P.M. instead of 8.50 A.M. so that Jodhpur Mail which arrives at 11.00 A.M. may be connected with it. The area of my constituency is equal to the area of Punjab and double that of Kerala. Jaisalmer is a very important place from tourism point of view. A survey was conducted by the Maharaja of Jodhpur from Faloudi to Kolayat and some developmental work was done during his time. After that no railway line has been constructed in Jaisalmer. What I mean to say is that if the railway line between Faloudi to Kolayat is constructed, there

will be direct railway line between Jaisalmer and Delhi which will reduce the distance by 300 kms. Kolayat is 101 kms from Faloudi and if a railway line is constructed there, that can gradually be further extended from Jaisalmer to Barmer and from Pathankot to Kandala. Besides Railways contribution, it requires the contribution of Defence and Irrigation departments also. Only then its work will go on smoothly. Coal is very costly in the desert area and it is brought from the east to Jodhpur. There is scarcity of water and steam engines are provided there. Therefore, the steam engines running between Jodhpur and Jaisalmer should be maintained properly. You are talking about the afforestation in desert area but during summer heavy, dust storms form sand dunes in that area. Therefore, you should make some permanent arrangement so that such heavy storms may not cause obstruction in the movement of the trains. The most important point is that the recommendation of the Reforms Committee to set up a separate Zone for the areas having metre gauge lines, should be accepted. It is very important for the development of our area. Today you have set up Coach factories in Punjab and in other places but in spite of continuous demand it has not been set up in Rajasthan. One coach factory should be set up in Rajasthan also whether it is in Ajmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur or at any other place in Rajasthan. From the Model Station point of view, Jaisalmer has become a famous place of tourism. Therefore, it may also be included in the list of those stations which are to be developed as Model stations. Barmer should also be developed as a Model station. I would like to say something about the improvement in catering which you are making. You are closing pantry system and now packed meal will be supplied. But the packed meal is not of good quality. Therefore, pantry system should not be stopped. It is being done entry with in Jodhpur Mail.

A first class coach is attached to Ahmedabad Mail at Jaipur which runs between Jaipur and Delhi but it keeps on bumping. I have been raising this matter for the last seven years but nothing has been done to replace it. It is of no use. Station Masters, Guards and Assistant

station Masters are also entitled to travel in first class and Railway employees themselves occupy most of the seats, and rest of the seats are occupied by the military officers. In this way no other person is able to sit in first class compartment. It has become a big problem in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts. Even an M.P. or MLA does not get seat in first class. A seat meant for three passengers is occupied by six persons. You should look into this matter.

With these words I support the Railway Budget.

[English]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol) : Madam, let me congratulate the Railway Minister for presenting the Budget. He has shown some profit in the end but he could have shown deficit or loss as well and allocated funds to some new railway lines and given some more concessions specially for the goods which are meant for export and which are loaded towards gate way ports so that our exports could have increased more.

I would like to emphasise one point. There are still some district head quarters in the country which are not connected with the railway lines. These district headquarters should be taken on priority basis for the purpose of allocating new railway connections irrespective revenue earnings. If you consider the revenue earnings it may not be possible for 10 or 20 years more. In case of communication Department, sanctioning and installation of automatic Exchanges as far as district headquarters are concerned was given on priority basis. Here also we would like you to consider these thing. There are two or three districts in every State. For example, there is Buldhana and Garchoroh in my Constituency in Maharashtra. If you, see even the airlines, they are touching about 84 stations in the country. They are increasing the airports very fast. But our new railway lines are not coming up that fast and wherever they are coming up, they are more concentrated in the Northern India specially Bihar and U. P. Now the Minister has taken up some parts of Central India and he has sanctioned one line between Guna and Etawah.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): You are saying that concentration of railway lines is more in Bihar and U.P.

[English]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : It is good. Since independence, these things have taken place. In the name of mines, the railway lines have been constructed. In the name of border security, Bihar and UP and Punjab also have got more new railway lines. This time the Minister has taken some part of Central India for construction of new railway lines. That is why, I am thanking him. So for that has not been done. I repeated it three times in this august House that the survey of one railway line between Agra-Gwalior Guna-Indore and Manmad should be undertaken and construction should be considered because it should be one more connection between Delhi and Bombay which is very much required. That is a long pending need for the development of this area.

We are electrifying the portion between Jhansi and Agra. Agra-Delhi line is already electrified. We wish that this should be connected as early as possible up to Bhusaval so that super fast trains can run in more frequency on this line. It has already been heavily loaded because the Southern Railways joins this line on Itarsi-Bhopal section. I would also like the Minister to consider allocation of more funds on Central Railway and to consider the creation of new Zone i.e. Western Central Zone, for the development of Railways in this area. We are facing shortages. Different Departments of the Central Government should try to share the facilities, equipment amongst themselves. For example, we think of sharing of the towers of Communication Department for erecting the Antennae of I & B Department. We can also think of sharing communication towers and other facilities of the Railway Department with the Communication Department so that the equipment utilised can be more economically utilised. There can be most cost-effective ness. This can also be considered.

There is another aspect also. Coordination between different Departments should also be considered. Now a days, we see there is more strain and lack of coordination between the Departments specially between the Departments of Communication and Railways. The Communication people complain about the Railways. The railway people say that they want more space and they have got the Stations. The Communication people say that they want some space for building for the purpose of postal sorting stations and other purposes. So, you can get that coordination and acquire more and more lines. You can coordinate with them. I would like to say that these things should be more properly planned. Even at the Ministers' level, the meeting can take place. Then, development will be more faster and more economical.

Lastly I would like to say that the steam engines are now belong used only for the sake of using them. They are more costlier and they are not economical. They should be phased out in toto-Whatever may be the case. Diesel engines which are being produced at a faster rate at the Chitharanjan Locomotive Works should be brought into use as early as possible so that the losses to the Railways will be reduced.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH (Jaunpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wholeheartedly welcome and support the Railway Budget presented by the hon. Railway Minister. This Budget presented by the hon. Minister will definitely benefit the poor, the farmers, students and the youth. It is a welfare-oriented Budget. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for the reason that the Budget presented by him has been appreciated by the people throughout the country. This Budget will definitely benefit the people belonging to the working class of the society and the poor.

The officers and the employees of the Railways who are working under the leadership of the hon. Railway Minister have definitely worked efficiently, be it the job of good loading or carrying the passengers

and it is a good achievement. For this I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister and his officers and employees.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards some problems relating to my area.

I come from Jaunpur constituency which is a backward area. There is no direct train for Delhi from that area. I want that a Super fast train should be started on this line. Several times I have requested the hon. Minister for this purpose and today I again want to request through you that such a train should be provided on this line so that we may be able to travel at night and reach the Parliament in the morning. I hope that the hon. Minister will pay attention towards it.

I want that the condition of distance imposed in respect of Puri Express and Kalka Express trains for going from Mirzapur to Allahabad should be lifted. I heartily thank the hon. Minister for providing a new train, Varuna Express to us which has benefited lakhs of people between Varanasi and Lucknow. Earlier people used to travel at night and had to wait there for as many as two days. Now this train has definitely solved their problems. It starts from Varanasi at 4.55 and perhaps you are going to extend its timing by one hour. There is no objection to it but the train should start in time. Once we had made a complaint to you regarding its departure time from Lucknow. That was not a matter of one or two days but it continued for many days. I would like to request you that the departure time from there should not be changed.

The Varanasi-Bareilly Passenger train in our area runs with steam engine and its speed is also not fast. Clothes of the people get blackened with soot. I, therefore, request you to provide diesel engine to this train. In Jaunpur city station, there is only one platform. Therefore, I would like to request that double platform should be constructed there because many trains like Himgiri, Ganga-Yamuna etc. pass through that station. In addition to it, there is no godown to keep the goods. Drinking water and toilet facilities are also not available at this Railway station. Therefore, all these arrangements should definitely be made there.

The Mahanagriya Express train runs upto Varanasi about which our colleagues from Eastern regions Shri Raj Kumar Rai and Shri Nirmal Khattri also spoke. About 30 lakh people of Northern India live in Bombay. If any new train cannot be given for this region, then at least this Mahanagriya Express should be extended upto Jaunpur which is only 58 km. from there. This train can run from Jaunpur to Bombay VIA Varanasi and it will definitely benefit the people. During summer, people face too many difficulties because when they want to come to attend marriages etc., they do not get reservation. This makes these problems more complicated.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : What is that wonderful railway station where you have only one platform and no goods shed ?

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : It is the Jaunpur railway station.

There is one Bhandari Railway station in our area which has no shed. It causes great inconvenience to the passengers during summer and at noon time. Therefore, a shed must be provided there. Similarly, sheds should also be constructed at Jaunpur city station and Barsity station. A shed is also required at Shahganj junction in our area so that passengers may not face any difficulty during rains, winter and summer.

In my constituency there are many small Railway stations which do not have sheds. Therefore, I would request you to get a comprehensive survey conducted and the Railway stations which do not have sheds, may be provided with sheds.

In the end I would once again like to say that one Super Fast train should be started from Jaunpur to Delhi and the Mahanagriya Express which terminates at Varanasi should be extended upto Jaunpur. With these words, I wholeheartedly support the Railway Budget presented by you.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Salemur) : Madam Chairman, the Budget

presented by the Minister of Railways deserves maximum appreciation. It is a fact that there would hardly be a person who may not praise this Railway Budget, presented by the Hon. Minister this year. I also support it. I thank the Minister of Railways that he presented a very good Budget ; a Budget which would also please all the persons having socialistic views.

Besides, I would like to place some problems of my area before the hon. Minister and I do so with the hope that the hon. Minister is a fair minded person and will consider this justified demand. If I do not say this thing, I will not be fulfilling my duties. It is a matter of regret that the conversion of Varanasi—Bhatni line into broad gauge has been under construction for more than 4 to 5 years but it has not been completed. The bridge has been constructed there. All other work has been done. Every year promises are being made that it would be done but it has not been constructed so far. When I went through this year's Budget, I was greatly disappointed. What are the reasons ? Why is it being neglected ? People are facing a lot of difficulties in the eastern sector. Just now I saw in the Budget that the latest anticipated cost is Rs. 66.07 crores. The estimated expenditure for the year 1986-87 has been shown as Rs. 12.77 crore rupees and for the year 87-88, it is 6.50 crore rupees. The amount still required is Rs. 47.43 crores. It is a matter of great disappointment. Not only the Prime Minister but the Ministers also say that any work that has been undertaken will be completed. This work has been going on for the last 5 to 6 years. What is the cause of annoyance with Deoria and Varanasi that the work has not been completed so far ? They do not complete the work, Lakhs of rupees have been spent unnecessarily and the work remains incomplete. Every year a taken amount of a few lakh rupees is earmarked. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister with folded hands that if it is genuine and justified case then arrangements should be made to lay a railway line from Varanasi to Bhatni without delay.

Similarly, our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had laid the foundation stone of Chhatauni Bridge,

some 8 to 9 years back in 1973-74 with a view to connect Bihar with U.P. and the people of that area were very much happy with it. It is a fact that everybody takes the name of Shrimati Indira Gandhiji and Gandhiji but I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the bridge, whose foundation stone was laid by a person who was the leader of our nation, will be constructed or not ? Why the above bridge on Narayani is not being constructed ? If there are some technical difficulties, why cannot these be removed when the man is moving in the space and has reached the moon ? In this connection we were told in the last year's Budget that Governments of U.P. and Bihar are not paying their share. But we know that Chief Ministers of both the States had come and they had announced in a large public meeting and also told the Government that they are ready to pay their shares. When the Chief Ministers of U. P. and Bihar are ready to make payment of their shares, what are the difficulties on account of which this railway bridge is not being constructed by the Railway Ministry. It is very necessary to construct this bridge both from strategic point of view and also with a view to connect both the States. The area is on the Nepal Border and on the border of our country and late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had laid the foundation stone of this bridge. She was a great leader of this great country. It should be your duty to at least complete the project whose the foundation stone was laid by her. A commitment made by our fore fathers must be fulfilled. Recently, the people of that area observed Satyagraha and courted arrest because they were facing a lot of difficulties. I would request you to include this Chhauni bridge in your Budget and make arrangements to construct it.

Alongwith this, I have to submit that a train, called Vaishali Express runs from Barauni to Delhi. The Hon. Minister himself visited the place and saw that it was overcrowded. The people of that area have been facing a lot of difficulties and it is the long outstanding demand of the area, that at least one more train be introduced. Prior to this, an express train was running from Guahati to Delhi but this has since been cancelled. Keeping in view the demands of the people

of that area and difficulties being faced by the passengers, I would request the hon. Minister that the old train from Guwahati to Delhi, which has since been cancelled, may please be re-introduced.

Besides this, 3 to 4 years back a question was raised in this august House that rail lines may be laid from Deoria to Chhatauni. Survey to this effect had also been conducted and survey data had also been received. I would request the hon. Minister that he should look into this. Kushi Nagar is the city of Lord Budha and it is a famous city not only of India, but also of the entire world. Therefore, in order to connect this city by rail, it was decided that a rail line will be laid from Deoria to Chhatauni. Survey to this effect had also been conducted and its estimated cost worked out. When a decision had been taken that this line will be laid, why has this been abandoned. It is a place of international importance and past commitment is also there to undertake the work. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister that the work on the proposed railway line between Deoria and Chhatauni may be undertaken.

Similarly, 2 to 4 years back, there was a proposal for laying a railway line from Belthara road to Balia because there is no arrangement for traffic movement there. People travel on the roof of the buses. In this connection it was told last year that it will be included in this year's Budget but it has not been done.

I would like that the hon. Minister may please fulfil the commitments made in the past about laying railway line from Belthara Road to Balia.

I would also like to bring to your notice that the employees approach us - they must be approaching other hon. Members also - with the request that the employees working in temporary capacity for last 2 to 3 years may be made permanent. When you need their services and there are vacancies also - if there is no vacancy then it is altogether a different thing - they should be made permanent.

One more important work is that between Varanasi and Bhatni where the line is being converted into broad gauge line, there comes

Salempur Barhaj, a place of pilgrimage. There is narrow gauge railway line there which is hardly 10-15 kms long. I would like that the hon. Minister may kindly convert this line into broad gauge line. In the eastern sector, the condition of the trains running between Gorakhpur to Siwan via Kaptanganj is very bad; there is not a single express train on this line and a journey of 50 kms takes 4 hours time. An express train may kindly be introduced on this line.

Sir, I am not mentioning these things just for the record. These are the problems which I have felt by visiting that area and seeing the condition of those people and whatever just and genuine demands have merged have been placed before the Railways which require due attention to be paid to them. It is our duty to convey the feelings of the people of area to you for which we get elected and we have conveyed their voice. I will say only this much to the people of my constituency that we had made a fervent request to the hon. Minister and we are hopeful that their desire will be fulfilled. We thank you for the nice Budget you have presented and we hope that you will pay attention towards our backward areas. Sir, it is a pity that ghar ghar diwali hai aur mere ghar andhere. There is happiness everywhere but ardent hope of people of my area that Bhatni to Varanasi line will be converted into broad gauge line, work on Chhatauni-Deoria line will be undertaken and an express train will run from Guwahati to Delhi has not been fulfilled as nothing has been done there. Therefore, I would request that when you are meeting the demands of other regions you may meet the demand of our eastern sector also.

With these words, I thank the hon. Minister and once again pray that he may pay his kind attention towards the demands put forth by me.

SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU (Ranchi) : Madam Chairman, since independence, Shri Scindia is the youngest Railway Minister who has presented this Railway Budget and I wholeheartedly welcome it. Such an ideal Budget had never been presented before. There is shortage of time and, therefore, I will express my views in brief.

The hon. Minister has shown a surplus of Rs. 69 crores in the Budget which unheard of before. It is an admirable thing. Last year 165 lakh new trees were planted by the Railways has been according to the programme of our young Prime Minister. This year also lakhs of new trees are being planted for which the Railway Minister deserve congratulations. Not only this, concession provided in the freight rates for transporting goods to the drought and flood affected areas has been raised from 8 per cent to 25 per cent for which also he deserves congratulation. Not only this, if the farmers sometimes feel bored and want to go on a pilgrimage, the hon. Railway Minister has provided a concession of 33 per cent for them in the rail fare upto a distance of 1000 kms. for which also he deserves congratulations. You have set an ideal by providing 75 per cent concession in rail fare to the sportsmen of the country and war widows. I come from Bihar. Just now Shri Mishra was saying *ghar ghar mein Diwali hai aur mere ghar mein andhera*. There may be darkness in his constituency but our entire State of Bihar is in darkness. In this Budget and in the Seventh Five Year Plan, the Bihar State has been completely left out and not even a single new railway line has been given to it. It is gross injustice and has caused great dissatisfaction among people. I come from Ranchi which is an area of Chhota Nagpur. Chhota Nagpur abounds in minerals without which our country will not get clothes, iron, coal, copper etc. Today ours is the most poverty stricken area. Japan says that if it had two to four areas like Chhota Nagpur, it could have built four more Japans from that land. But we are starving. I am not talking of India. About 2.5 lakh labourers of Ranchi and Palamu are working all over the country. You can see this from Punjab to Gorakhpur, Balaia and Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh that Munda and Oraon adivasis are working in all brick-kilns because of unemployment in that area. The biggest reserves of Bauxite in Asia are in Lohardaga and Gumla districts. The Hindalco company of Birla has prepared a blue print to set up a plant with a capital of Rs. 400 crore in collaboration with Bihar State but as they are not getting a new railway line to that place they are

unable to set up the plant. A survey from Ranchi to Lohardaga and Horo has been conducted for the third or fourth time. It has been said that it is not a profitable project because it involves an expenditure of Rs. 58 crores. I agree that it is not profitable but it is the poorest area of our country inhabited by Tana tribes which had taken part in our freedom struggle. Now 2.5 lakh people of this area are fleeing their native place in search of jobs. This is something strange. Late Shri Lalit Narayan Mishra had declared just one minute before his death in the bomb explosion that in Chhota Nagpur area, new broad gauge railway line would be constructed from Ranchi to Lohardaga and from Lohardaga to Tohri but that promise has not been fulfilled. Now Shri Mishra is not with us. Late Shri Kedar Pandey had also promised in a public meeting at Lohardaga that a new broad gauge railway line would be constructed from Ranchi to Lohardaga and from Ranchi to Kodarma via Hazaribag but that promise has also not been fulfilled. Shrimati Indira Gandhi had also said it in a meeting held at Hazaribag that the railway line would be constructed from Ranchi to Kodarma VIA Hazaribag even if it results in loss. But today Shrimati Indira Gandhi is not with us. Chhota Nagpur is an extremely backward area. Today even our reasonable demands are not being conceded. Today a demand of separate province is being raised there. Dissatisfaction is spreading among the people of Bihar. The people of Chhota Nagpur ask us what Congress has done for them. Their demand of laying new railway lines is not being conceded. Today the opposition parties are inciting the feelings of separation. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that the railway lines from Ranchi to Lohardaga and from Ranchi to Kodorma via Hazaribagh should be constructed in public interest even if that results in loss to the Government. These lines should be constructed for the upliftment of the adivasi and the poor people of that area. During the British rule, in 1946 the construction work of a 72 km. long railway line from Palamu Barwadih station to (Sarguja) Sarandih was undertaken. Railway stations were constructed and the pillars over the rivers and nullahs

were also erected. The earth work was completed. This work was carried out upto 1956 and then it was abandoned. Lakhs of rupees were spent on it and about 75 per cent work was completed. Then it was said that the project was not profitable. It is very strange that this work was initiated when our country was not independent but it was abandoned when India became independent. You are playing with our Chhota Nagpur. Therefore, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the situation in Chhota Nagpur is becoming explosive and timely attention should be paid towards it because the opposition is taking advantages of it. I am repeatedly saying this thing in the House. Without taking much time I would like to request the hon. Minister that attention should be paid to the construction work of these three lines. Otherwise the opposition parties and separatist forces will get encouraged and that will cause disturbance. Ranchi is called the second capital of Bihar. It is also being demanded that a new rail service should be started from Ranchi to Bombay. The Chamber of Commerce, Chhota Nagpur and Hatia factory which is called the mother of Indian factories have also demanded a new rail service from Ranchi to Bombay. In the end I would like to congratulate the hon. Railway Minister for presenting such a magnificent Budget and also thank the young Prime Minister. I would request that new Railway lines should also be provided for Chhota Nagpur and other areas of Bihar where they have not been provided.

[English]

SHRI SALAHUDDIN (Godda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I rise to support the Railway Budget presented by the young Railway Minister of India. I feel that the proposed Railway Budget is a watershed in the history of our Railways.

[Translation]

I think that the present Railway Budget is a matter of pride for our countrymen and from its contents we can guess and also hope that a revolutionary change may be brought about in our Railways in the

coming years. The trend of deficit Budget during 1983-84 and 1984-85 Budgets has changed during last two years and it is a good indication for the coming years. In addition to it, our sleepers were becoming outdated and infrastructure was not being prepared for new trains and for increasing their speed. I have seen during the last two years that a portion of the Budget has been earmarked for the renewal of Railway tracks. I think that the track renewal process can play an important role in augmenting the railway infrastructure. You have increased the loading capacity by 13 per cent. I would like to congratulate the young Railway Minister who has brought about such a revolutionary change in the Railway administration with his hardwork devotion and honesty. It can be an ideal for the other departments as well and they can learn a lesson from the way improvement and changes have been brought about in the Railways. You have raised the Depreciation Reserve Fund which is a commendable thing. If you spend this Reserve Fund now, we may earn applause from the people. The Reserve Fund earmarked for wear and tear of the machines, is never diverted which is a very important from administrative point of view. It may not be important from the public view point but it carries much importance from administrative point of view. Then you had shown a deficit of Rs. 95 crores in the Supplementary Grants but due to your hardwork and honesty, you have not only made it up but have also shown Rs. 11 crores as surplus. In addition, you have contributed dividend to the General Revenues and in spite of it you have shown a profit of Rs. 11 crores which is an index of the Railway administration's efficiency.

17.00 hrs.

You have also promised to introduce 40 new suburban trains. I feel that this figure is quite meagre. In a country like India this figure should have been at least 400. This figure of 40 is nothing ; it serves no purpose. Therefore, I hope that the hon. Minister will certainly, increase it.

You have a programme to do reservation through computer.

[English]

I think this is a doubtful programme because your infrastructure is not even ready to receive computerisation programme.

[Translation]

I feel that our infrastructure is not yet ready for this, it is not prepared to receive your computer programme. There should be co-ordination between these two. Only then computerisation programme will be successful. Only time will only tell whether your computerisation programme is right or wrong.

You have also announced development of 67 stations into Model stations. In this connection I would like to suggest one thing to the Railways that wherever Pilgrim stations like Varanasi, Baba Dham Deogarh or Ajmer Sharif are there, where there are temples, mosques and other seats of religions you may convert them into Model stations. India is the land of sages, gods and goddesses and saints. Therefore, I suggest that such stations should be developed into Model stations. You have increased punctuality in the Railways. Simultaneously, you have also reduced the accident rate in the Railways by 13%. For this I would like to congratulate the Railways specially....

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Madam, the opposition has no interest in the Indian Railways, because no one from the entire opposition is present.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIKAGI (Mandsaur) : Madam, this is for the first time in the history of Lok Sabha when the entire opposition is absent. Therefore, it may be written at the end of the speech that the opposition did not oppose the Railway Budget.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I think a party meeting could have been convened.

SHRI SALAHUDDIN : Till now, I have covered the entire Railway Budget. I have drawn your attention towards its merits and demerits. Now I would like to

say a few things about my State. I will conclude my speech thereafter.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that no provision for Bihar has been made in this Railway Budget. I was not able to find any provision for even an inch of railway line in that State.

In the proposed Budget the only mention that has been made about Bihar is about the old railway line of Jamalpur, which was already there. I don't find any provision for a new railway line.

Now, I want to submit a few demands of my area. There is one Baba Baijnath Dham in my area. Lakhs of pilgrims visit that place and pour holy water at the feet of Baba Baijnath by fetching the same from Sultanganj. Pilgrims in lakhs go to that city carrying water with them but they do not get train in time. I would request the hon. Minister to introduce a train from Quel to Asansol so that the pilgrims do not face any difficulties. To end their difficulties a local train may also be provided so that they may feel comfortable.

I would like that this train may be named Baba Baijnath Express after Baba Baijnath. I hope that our demand will certainly be met keeping the holy city in view.

AN HON. MEMBER : Hon. Minister had been there recently.

SHRI SALAHUDDIN : I was there and I accompanied him upto the temple. I would also like to say that Santhal Parganas is a tribal belt dominated by Santhals and other tribals. The entire Santhal Parganas has been divided into 4 districts but it is deprived of railway service. I would like to say to the hon. Minister that he may kindly connect the head quarters of Santhal Parganas at least with Deoghar so that the neglected area, the tribal belt might be benefited. It is the policy of our Government. Our Government talks of regional planning. Our area is a sub-plan area and I feel that the Planning Commission should have no objection to it because the Government is interested in allocating funds under sub-plan. I, therefore, feel that you will get the

approval of the Planning Commission in this regard.

There was a steam shed in Madhupur; you have closed it in the name of diesel train. It is the programme of the Government to run diesel and electric trains. I welcome it. You have closed the steam shed but steam engines are being brought to that place from Asansol and Jhajha to-date. There has been no change in it. You may please note my point and examine it. Even now, steam engines are being brought. The only difference is that previously engines used to remain at Madhupur and now trains are being run by bringing engines from Asansol and Jhajha. There has been no change in the working style and structure. The purpose for which this work was undertaken has not been fulfilled so far. It has been shown in your papers that dieselisation has been carried out but the same steam engines are being used. You may examine this.

It is my request to you that you may set up a workshop there so that you are able to meet the demand of the people of that area.

With these words I conclude.

17.10 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

DR. GOLAM SAZDANI (Raiganj) : Madam Chairman, I support the Railway Budget. In this connection, I want to thank the hon. Minister for the progress he has been making in West Bengal for certain railway lines. For example, the construction work has been taken up at Digha-Tamluk railway line and a final location survey has been in progress for the Lakshmi-kantapur-Namkhana line. Now I thank him very much for this, but I am drawing his attention to some other problems about new lines.

I want to tell the hon. Minister that during the partition of the country, West Dinajpur District was the victim of partition, and it is all known to everybody that West

Dinajpur District was devoid of any railway line after partition, connecting West Dinajpur District to Calcutta because Sant a Parbutipur line connecting Calcutta fell on the Pakistan side and West Dinajpur District was devoid of it; that means West Dinajpur District did not have any railway connection with Calcutta after partition. So, that district is a victim of partition. Now, whenever, the government talks about refugees from West Pakistan and some other areas, they just give attention to their rehabilitation etc. But what about the rehabilitation in terms of railways. When there was no railway line, then they should pay more attention to make this district connected with Calcutta directly. But I have been drawing the attention to the hon. Minister to this for many years but no attention is being given. There is an existing line from Barsoipur to Radhikapur on the Bangladesh border through Raiganj and Kaliaganj and that line is a metre-gauge line, and trains run every irregularly, and there is a popular demand that this line—about 50 kms.—should be converted into a broad-gauge line, but nothing has been done. Then there was a longstanding demand for a railway line from Eklaukai to Balurghat because is the headquarters of the District connected with no railway line. So, a scheme was taken up and the construction work also started in 1983. But I do not know why this construction work has been stopped. At one time, we had heard that the scheme was dropped. I do not know about it. The Minister can only say whether that scheme was dropped or whether that construction work will again be taken up or not. At that time, we drew the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that only making a railway line from Eklaukai to Balurghat would not be because it will be a blind line. So, there must be continuous line somewhere. So, ultimately a scheme was taken up to connect this line from a Point Bunniyadpur to Raiganj and Raiganj to Gunjuria on the main line. But the survey work from Bunniyadpur to Gunjuria has not yet been taken up nor there is any indication in the budget whether it will be done or not. So, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this very acute problem of West Dinajpur and request him to immediately start the construction

ork of Ekloukai to Balurghat. The gauge conversion from Barsoai to Radhikapur should be taken up so that the People of Jaiganj at least can be directly connected with Calcutta through Barsoai.

There has been a long outstanding demand for an over-bridge at Dalkola and Siliguri and a site has been selected at Dalkola and some work has started; now again it has been stopped. I do not know why it has been stopped. There is a tremendous rush and the traffic gets jammed for hours together. For hours together the traffic is stopped over there and also at Siliguri. So, I want the hon. Minister to pay attention to North Bengal and pay special attention to the overbridges at Dalkola and Siliguri. So, these things should actually be done immediately and the other aspects of the problem regarding railway lines are also there.

I may say that the Punctuality of the trains is one—the Minister has said many things about punctuality—but I only mention about one train. I want the hon. Minister to see that No. 347 Up and Down Calcutta-Jaipaiguri passenger runs regularly. Ministers have come, Ministers have gone, but no Minister has been able to just run this train in time. It runs three hours, four hours, 15 hours or even 24 hours late! But that is the only train, for the poor people. This is a third class train, it is a passenger train connecting Jaipaiguri to Calcutta. That train is very very irregular. I want the hon. Minister to pay special attention to this train. No. 347 NJP, New Jaipaiguri Passenger.

About punctuality of other trains, hon. Members have said and the hon. Minister will pay general attention to all those. Only about one more train I want to mention. There is a Gaur Express running from Malda to Calcutta. When it comes to Malda town from Calcutta, that engine is put kept a side and another engine takes the connecting train from Malda town to Katihar. And in the evening the same train comes to connect Gaur Express, if the same diesel engine goes to Katihar with the Malda Katihar passenger and comes back in the evening, then that train from Katihar will not be late to catch the

Gaur express. Because the train from Katihar to Malda comes late the Gaur Express becomes late. So, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this I had spoken to the Manager so many time. It is a simple thing. But I do not know, whatever is simple to us may not be simple to them, it may be difficult. But the engine which brings the Gaur Express up to Malda should go to Katihar and in the afternoon go to Malda carrying the passengers from Katihar, so that it is not late. And there is another aspect I want to ask the hon. Minister to pay attention about this Gaur express and connecting train from Katihar to Malda from Katihar to Kumedpur that portion which is in Bihar. That is a very unsafe area. There is constant chain pulling always there. The train is late, one hour, one and a half hours, and then the Gaur Express has to wait for this train to come. So please see that chain pulling does not occur in that part of the train from Katihar to Kumedpur.

Another point I want to draw the attention of the Minister to, is that if you have got the time you may please come in disguise and travel by the train which has only first class from Malda to Katihar. You will find that the accommodation is not worth the name. I am telling about the first class. All condemned coaches are attached. There is no water. Sanitation is very bad and it is most disgusting to travel in first class as it is always full with school students and with other people who always travel ticketless. They sit in first class, and bona fide first class passengers do not get any accommodation.

I want the hon. Minister to pay special attention to this aspect. I some times travel in the second class—I do not travel in the first class—just to save my honour; because it is always full with all those second class travellers, and they just go on singing and dancing and doing what not. They say that the first class compartment is the safest compartment to travel without ticket.

I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that when the construction of Eklakshmi—Balurghat line

was started, many casual workers were taken. When the Minister was changed, these casual workers were suspended. Some of the suspended workers went to the court. The court has given the verdict that they should be taken in service without any break in service. Some of them have been given service. But many others have not yet been given service. I have got a reply from the hon. Minister. I am going to give names of all those persons who have not yet got the service. I request him to pay attention to this.

I request the hon. Minister that the survey work of Buniyadpur to Gunjuria via Raiganj line should be done as early as possible.

Lastly, I repeat one thing which is very much in our hearts. Please see that 347 passenger train which is for the poor people, run punctually so that the people may go to Calcutta in time.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak on the Railway Budget. Last year I did not get the chance to speak but before that I had the chance to speak. I congratulate our young Railway Minister that he has not increased the fares. He has as far as possible, tried to extend the facilities, be it farmers students, players or ex-servicemen. He has also promised to provide cushions in the second class within three years. We hope that he will stick to this commitment in the Supplementary Budget also and would not make any increase in the fares etc. Being a young man, our Railway Minister works for 18 hours a day and he has tried to give a new dimension to the functioning of the Railway. I also congratulate the officers and members of staff of the Railway Ministry without whose co-operation no improvement could have been possible. The hon. Minister has been able to take alongwith him the Railway officers and members of staff. Now a days trains run mostly on time. The station Masters themselves monitor the movement of the train. Whereas previously the trains used to run late by 6 to 12 hours, now they run late by half an hour or so which is not

to be worried much. Still there are some short comings which require to be removed.

The hon. Minister has given subsidy of Rs. 1200 crores in this Budget-Rs. 900 crores for passengers, farmers, youths and others and Rs. 200 crore for the movement of essential commodities. Rs. 80 crores will be spent on uneconomic lines. I think our Railways are not a commercial proposition, but they are for the welfare of the people. If you look at it from the national integrity point of view, it would be a good thing for the country if our countrymen are provided travelling facilities on lesser fares from Jammu to Kanya Kumari i.e. from one corner of the country to the other. Our States have different languages and different cultures. It would, therefore, be in the interest of the country if our countrymen try to visit different places of the country. Therefore, I want that the hon. Railway Minister while considering the proposals for providing new railway connections should not take revenue into account. I think the hon. Railway Minister should not make it the basis for development. Expansion of the Railways is essential.

It is true that the number of train accidents has reduced to a great extent but the thefts are increasing. I think we should look into the problem of passenger safety also. Last time I had given a suggestion in this regard. Today one of our colleagues from Calcutta while speaking on safety has emphasised that every Government department depended on State Police department for safety purpose. The Railways have their own police force. Why should we not constitute a safety department through which we may exercise proper control and we may provide proper safety to our passengers in trains?

Though the Railways are functioning a bit honestly and its administration is being improved yet some more improvement can be brought about in it. The Planning Commission has not allocated as much grant to the Railways as it should have. I think our Railways are the cheapest vis-a-vis the rest of the surface transport.

In every state Railways are cheaper than the road transport. All the States have heavily increased the bus fares. That is why the poor people prefer to travel by train. Now-a-days bus fares are continuously increasing but the railway fares do not increase to that extent. That is why we observe that most of the passengers in trains are poor people. Therefore, it is necessary that the railways are expanded more and more in the country. When the expansion of the railways is necessary, more funds should be made available for it. You have brought efficiency. You should get more funds for the Railways.

In spite of the hike in cartage, people prefer to send their goods through road transport because of lesser theft risks and it is convenient for them to book their goods there. Proper arrangement should be made to carry the goods in trains safely. You can further increase the loading which you have achieved upto 300 million tonnes because you are incurring loss even when wagons are not unloaded. The traders utilise the wagons as godowns. They should unload the wagons quickly so that other people who want to use them may utilise them. The traders use railway wagons as godowns which is not a good thing.

Now I will talk about farmers. You have given concession of 25 per cent infreight for fodder and 33 per cent to the farmers for tours etc. It has been said that the tours should be sponsored either by the Central or the State Governments. I want that some officers of the Central Government or State Government should issue certificates to the group of 100 or 200 farmers who have gone on tour. I do not know as to what procedure Government is going to follow? The poor farmers or labourers of India never cheat or will never cheat any one. They never tell a lie. You have to check cheats.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : We shall have to be very cautious about it. It is necessary to maintain proper check on it so that the persons other than the farmers may not take advantage of it. The practical way is that such tours may be sponsored by the Central or the State Governments.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : You can ask the farmers to produce certificates.

[English]

The Collector or the Mamledar or the Deputy Collector can certify that these are kisans. So, your Government officers cannot cheat..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

You have used the word 'sponsored'. The word 'sponsored' can have different meaning and the word 'certify' can have different meaning and this can create some difficulty. I would like to say that you should make improvements to the extent you can so that the farmers may get facilities.

You may recall that I approached you for giving priority to the perishable goods. The vegetables and fruits are sent from one corner to the other of the country and the farmers are getting reasonable prices. The goods' trains remain stands at different stations such as Manmad, Shri Rampur, Bombay etc. You know that fruits are sent from Delhi to Bombay and from Bombay and Kolahapur to Calcutta by trucks. Why cannot these be sent by trains? Because by rail they suffer loss in prices and in the case of trucks, damage is less and arrival is timely. You have to see as to how you can give priority to it. You have done the right thing by increasing the speed of trains. I have no doubt that you are working speedily and the speed of trains will also increase with this but we have to be more cautious because our tracks are quite old and it is dangerous to run trains on them with fast speed.

I would like to say two more things. In my constituency ~~Dona~~ Manmad rail line is a link line which was constructed mainly for loading purposes for South and North India. Load is considerably increasing there. The goods and passenger traffic have increased by more than 200 per cent. Therefore, either two more bogies should be attached or a new train should be introduced. For example, tickets are not available for Pune-Jhelum Express. Therefore, people are demanding that a new train should be introduced

from Pune to Calcutta VIA Delhi on the same track. It has come to my notice that you are starting Navjiwan Express from Bombay instead of Pune because there was a demand by some people of Ahmedabad and traders of Rajasthan. I think it will not be proper to discontinue the train from Manmad because it is an industrial track. There are many industries on this track and because of the industries, large number of passengers are also there. Therefore I want that you should pay more attention towards it. Seats are not available in Dhone-Manmad passenger train. Therefore, two more bogies should be attached to it. It will make hardly any difference if it has 18 bogies instead of 16. I would like to thank you for giving diesel engine to this train. Thirdly, I would like to say that from Nasik to Bombay the third line has been completed upto Igatpuri. Therefore, why do you not extend the local train upto Igatpuri instead of Kasara. By extending it to Igatpuri a major part of traffic from Nasik will be terminating near Bombay i.e. Igatpuri. It will also be helpful in diverting the Bombay traffic and 2 over rowding due to the increasing population of Bombay will also be eased. I think the extension of local train upto Nasik or Manmad will be much beneficial. It will be better if it is extended at least upto Igatpuri. In addition to Panchvati Passenger Express, one more train should be introduced from Manmad to Bombay. I would like to submit three points.

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Bombay South) : Will not the Ghat come on this route ?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Third line has been laid in Ghat. As it has been laid in Pune, similarly... (Interruptions) There is already a train on Igatpuri Kasara Ghat section. (Interruptions)

As we have local train from Pune-Khandala to Lonawad, similarly for Kasara also if we construct a new track and two separate local trains are provided it will be much beneficial. Just as you have connected Pune with Bombay similarly you can connect Manmad, Nasik, Igatpuri and Kasara with Bombay by providing local trains and I think that would be much beneficial.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : You have done your home work.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Thank you. I was saying another thing. The people have been demanding that by de-linking Karudbadi, Pandarpur and Pardi Baijnath from metre gauge and linking them with a single train will bring the coal field nearer also. Now it is upto you to see how you can do it. Because, earlier the Railway department has incurred the expenditure on it and now I believe that the Railways will get revenue from it. In the end I would like to know how you propose to lay the new railway line. One survey has been conducted. Some tracks are already there. Kalyan Ahmed Nagar, Baithan, Pardi Baijnath and Hyderabad lines are already there. The survey has been done several times for the new railway lines during the period of Shri S.K. Patil.

In the end, I would like to say that an agitation is going on in Marathwadra in Maharashtra for a converting metre gauge line into broad-gauge because M.I.D.C. lines have been completed in six districts. Aurangabad and Jalana are yet to be covered whereas Parbhani and Nanded have already been covered. A very meagre amount has been allocated for conversion work. For the conversion work, it has been decided by the Government that work other than that included in the scheme will also be undertaken under the Employment Guarantee Scheme and the present ratio of 60: 40 will be made as 50: 50. Therefore I would request you to think over it and more funds should be allocated for the conversion of metre gauge line into broad-gauge. With these words I congratulate you and your officers for presenting a very good Budget and giving a new direction. I once again thank you and with these words I conclude.

SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA (Hoshangabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Railway Minister, through you for the Budget he has presented and I support that Budget.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIKAGI (Mandsaur) : You could go to Rail Bhavan and meet him; why do you waste time.

SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA : Ever since Mr. Scindia assumed the charge of the Railways an atmosphere amongst the railway employees has been created which has resulted in all around efficiency. Earlier also, we used to travel as railway users, as Members of Parliament, as a common man but now all round development is seen everywhere. I would like to thank the Railway Minister for it. To-day we see cleanliness on the railway stations, we find that trains run on time and also see the good behaviour of Railway employees. Seeing all these things we feel, as has been told by the Railway Minister at the outset of his Budget speech, that all these works have been done by the Railway employees. All the officials from top to bottom in the Railways say only one thing that they have accepted Mr. Scindia and Mr. Scindia has accepted them. They both have created a family like atmosphere by accepting each other. Because of this, efficiency is seen everywhere in the entire Railway Department. I would like to thank him for that. He arranged loading in such a manner during last few days that 286 million tonnes of foodgrains could be transported. He has solved the problem of wagons, which to date continued to be the greatest problem. He deserves congratulations for this and also for the facilities he has extended to the youth, to the farmers and the war widows. I thank him for presenting a Budget of this kind in which he has played the role of a railway passenger, a railway employee, a railway officer and a Railway Minister. He has giving true shape to the sentiments of our young Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi who wants to take the country to the 21st century and to bring modernisation gradually. He deserves congratulation for this. I do not want to take more time because Mr. Bairagi has already advised me to meet him at Raji Bhavan and get my problems solved there. A few days back he had visited my Parliamentary constituency. He had told that the problems of the area would be solved. I would like to resubmit these problems so that these could be solved expeditiously. He has made rake loading arrangements in the Railways which has increased efficiency. Pulses are produced in large quantities in Piparia, Gadavara, Narsinghpur and Kareli. There are two hundred pulses mills in that area. Pulses

are supplied all over India from that area. The rake loading arrangement does not suit the small stations. The problem cannot be solved until and unless wagons are supplied to small stations in addition to rakes. Problem of rakes continues to be there. I am sure that arrangements to supply the wagons alongwith rake loading with rake loading will also be made. I expect this from him. He had also inspected the Hoshangabad station and had found that 2 lakh passengers come to that station every month and this station did not meet their requirements. It is a place of pilgrimage. Therefore, the station should be constructed in such a way that it may look as if it is meant for the people who come for worshiping, for having a darshan of Mother Narmada. He had given directions for this and also realised the prevailing shortcomings. I am sure that a suitable station will be constructed at Hoshangabad. At the same time he has talked of 67 Model Stations and we may remind him that Itarsi is situated in the heart of this country and it is a very important function. Therefore, I request that Itarsi may also be developed as a Model station. He had also visited Goteagaon and people had placed their demand before him. People had given a memorandum also to him to the effect that its name may be changed to Shridham. I also request him that by taking necessary action in this regard the name of this station may be changed to Shridham. Alongwith this, he has provided several stops in my area. Itarsi is a very important station. Therefore, I request him that if he can provide stoppages for Tamil Nadu, K.K. and A.P. Super Fast Trains coming from South, it will be quite useful for those passengers who are going to Bombay or Allahabad. It will certainly be convenient for the pilgrims going to visit the four 'Dhams'. It is also my request to you that arrangements be made to stop the Ganga Cauvery Express at Narsinghpur, Mahanagarj Express at Gadavara and Bombay Howrah mail at Soha Kareilly and Gote Gaon. Although some trains stop there but tickets are not issued. Ticket are not issued from Itarsi to Bhopal.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : You must get ticket from Hoshangabad to Delhi; take this guarantee from him.

SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA : That is there. When ticket is not made available, it becomes inconvenient to the people, people come to Bhopal but it results in loss of revenue to you. People have to make some other arrangement, they have to go through back door they have to please some railway employees to make arrangements that we will go out from this place and we will pay you something every month. In this way the Railways themselves encourage them to indulge in corruption. Railway employees are being encouraged indirectly in this manner. For this, you may ensure availability of tickets where tickets are not available.

With these words, I would like to give two more suggestions. Catering service is going on very well. On big stations, a single big contractor has taken up the catering arrangement and has given the same to vendors on hire basis. For example, he charges Rs. 100 each from 'Pan' vendors, Rs. 200 each from tea and Rs. 300 each from sweet vendors and Rs. 100 each from fruit sellers. In this way they wield control over vendors. If this is the arrangement, then why do we not award these contracts direct to the vendors. They have to pay Rs. 100 to 200 to the contractor. They do not use good quality material like tea-leaf, milk etc. as they have to pay money to the contractor. If they save this money then catering arrangement will be better. At the same time the Railway can provide employment to un-employed persons indirectly. It is also my submission that there is a long standing demand of my state. Hon. former M.P. Shri Kamta had also raised this point and I also request that if Bina-Itarsi fast passenger train is extended upto Bhopal, then you will not have to lay any separate rail line, nor you will be required to make arrangements for the rake. This would facilitate the people to go to Bhopal. There is much rush in the train that runs during night. This arrangement can reduce this rush. If you do not want to do this, then another suggestion is also there. This train may be divided into two trains. One train may run between Bina and Jabalpur and the other may run between Jabalpur and Bhopal stations. It will be of much convenience to the passengers. To promote sports, a stadium should be constructed in Itarsi.

With these words, I thank you very much for the manner in which you have created an atmosphere in the Railways and at the end of your speech you have resolved alongwith the railway officials to build the country under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister. You have said that we are engaged in building this new India, brick by brick, line upon line. We, in the Railways take pride in being participants in this grand enterprise, and we re-dedicate ourselves to the fulfilment of these ideals. I congratulate you for the resolve you have made and the spirit of dedication you have shown towards the country and I assure you that wherever you feel our necessity in implementing this resolves, we will be available to you and we will co-operate with you.

With these words I thank you for presenting a very good budget.

SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK (Saharsa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Railway Budget. Mr. Scindia has presented a Budget which is as good as his sweet nature. Therefore, I support it. I want to draw his attention towards some points. This Budget lacks approach and thinking. Its approach and thinking has been limited to the fact that it considers only Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras as India. All efforts are made for the convenience of these cities and the entire amount of the Budget is spent on these cities. Those who are neglected otherwise, have remained neglected in this Budget also. You know that Bihar and eastern U.P. are the most backward area in the country but not a single item for these areas has been included in this Budget. Not to speak of starting some new work, no provision has been made for Chhatauni-Bagah bridge whose foundation stone was laid by the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi who has been our inspiration.

My area Nirmali is at a distance of 13 kms from Bhaptiyati. This line was washed away in Kosi floods some 40-45 years ago. There is no provision in the Budget for its construction also. I am not asking for a new line but for the construction of an old line; the people have been demanding this for years but that too has been neglected. Until and unless the backward

and neglected areas of India are given priority, these cannot be developed and until that time the country cannot progress. Development is possible only at a place where transport facilities and electricity facilities are available. Hence, until and unless you pay attention towards this, the backward areas cannot develop. I would like to ask that if the backward areas are not developed, how can you dream of reaching the 21st century. How this dream will take shape. Therefore, I request you to first develop the backward areas. Therefore, you may please encourage the people of that area be at least starting the work of the Nirmali Bhopatyal and Bagah-Chhatauni bridges.

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Hon. Chairman. I am very grateful to you for giving me a few minutes towards the end of today's sitting to speak on the Railway Budget. I wholeheartedly support the Budget placed by our hon. Minister for Railways for the reason that this is the Budget which was expected for the last more than a decade, so to say that this type of Budget could not come to the House. This is, for the first time, that our young Minister, Scindiaji has brought forward this Budget.

From the Budget you will see, the internal contribution to railway plan in the 4th Plan was 27.85%. In the Fifth Plan, it was 25.24%. In 1978-79 and 1979-80, during the Janata regime, it was only 26.35%. But in the Sixth Plan, when Mrs. Indiraji came to power, the Congress party came to power, it was 42.26% and 1985-86, it was 53%. In 1986-87, it was 59% and for 1987-88 it was targeted for 63%. It is unique. I must say. In spite of track renewal and many other developmental works executed by Railways. In the Fifth Plan, track renewal was 1,400 KM per annum on an average. In 1978-79, it was reduced to 1,000 KM and in 1979-80, it was still reduced to 900 KM. Now after the Congress party, under the leadership of late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi came to power, in 1980-81, it was about 1,200 KM per annum. In 1981-82, it was about 1,300 KM. In 1982-83, it was more

than 1,900 KM. In 1983-84, it was 2,700 KM. In 1985-86, after our beloved Prime Minister Shri Rajivji came to power, it was 3,200 KM. In 1986-87, it was 3,900 KM and this year, the young Minister has targeted for 4,200 KM. So, we may see that not only in these fields the Indian railways have shown their very good performance but also have shown very good performance in track renewal and other things. Contribution provided for depreciation is also very significant.

In 1977-78 it was 2.9%. In 1978-79 it was the same 2.9%. In 1979-80, it was 3.6%. But in 1987-88, it would be 11.7% and the railways would have surplus of about Rs. 1,100 crores. If the contribution would be fixed as in the Janata regime, it would be 2.9%.

For such significant performance, I must congratulate the young Minister who is the youngest one among all the railway ministers in India. I must congratulate the hon. Minister and the Railway Board as well as millions of railway employees for their sacrifices and sincere efforts by increasing loading of goods for the last two years even though not a single wagon was added to it. I will not go into the details because I have lot of other points to cover. Furthermore, our beloved Prime Minister Shri Rajivji and his young colleague Shri Madhavrao Scindiaji are to be heartily congratulated for the concessions they have provided for almost all sections of people and particularly for the young, handicapped farmers and war-widows. It is proposed that 35 railway stations should be declared as model railway stations and I hope these railway stations, are converted and declared as model railway stations. lot of improvements would be therein those Railway stations.

In this connection,* I would draw the attention of the Minister that Balasore which is the headquarters of my Constituency, has been recommended by the South-Eastern Railway authorities to be declared as Model Railway Station. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly include Balasore Railway Station among the 35 Railway Stations which are to be declared as Model Railway Stations.

Sir, the computerisation of passenger reservation is really a praiseworthy matter. It became very convenient for the passengers in the matter of ticket booking. It also checks the corruption in such reservations which were there in the past. I would request that the Railway Stations like Puri, Bhubaneshwar and Kharagpur in South-Eastern Railway should be included in the 1987-88 budget along with Bombay and Calcutta for which it has already been proposed.

Further, I must congratulate our hon. Minister that the percentage of accidents for the last 9 months have declined up to 12.7 per cent in comparison to corresponding period of last year. In this connection, I would like to suggest one thing i.e. to check the ticketless travel and chain-pullings and unsocial activities etc. in the trains. The PR section of the Railways should contact the students and educate them through lectures. They can take up the schools and colleges located nearer to the Railway Stations all over the country and educate the students. They should be made known that the railway properties are the nation's properties and nation's wealth.

I am grateful to the hon. Minister for proposing additional train facilities to be provided in the year 1987-88. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that in 1984 the South-Eastern Railway Authorities have announced before the Chief Minister and the PR Department of the Railways also issued notification. This news was published in almost all the newspapers of our State that a fast passenger is to be introduced between Balasore and Bhubneshwar, which is the capital of the State. This has not been implemented. I would request that in 1987-88 this should be taken up and this facility should be provided.

I would further like to say that track electrification is really a praiseworthy matter. In the year 1979-80, it was 97 kms. This year they have targeted for 560 kms. In 1986-87, it was 560 kms. In 1987-88, it was targeted for 570 kms. So, I am thankful to the hon. Minister on this issue. The portion from Howrah from Kharagpur has been electrified. But the middle portion of Kharagpur to WALTAIR has not been

electrified. It is causing a great loss to the railway exchequer. This may be given top priority for electrification.

Modernisation of workshop, rolling-stock, signalling and telecommunication system are another factor of significance. In this connection, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister about the completion of the second phase of MUNCHESWAR Coach Building Factory in Orissa for which the first phase has been completed. Due to constraint of resources, they have not made allocation for the second phase. Production is suffering to a great extent.

This may be taken up in right earnest. In the 1987-88 budget, funds should be provided for the completion of the second phase of Mancheswar coach-building factory.

Due to resource constraint, conversion of railway track from narrow gauge and metre gauge to broad gauge has been totally stopped. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the narrow gauge line from Rupsa to Bangriposi which was constructed about 100 years ago. In case due to resource constraint the conversion cannot be taken up in the Seventh Plan, I would request that at least diesel engine should be provided with good coaches and the speed of the trains on this time should also be increased.

Leasing of railway land has been banned. I would request the Railway Ministry to reconsider it and lease out the land to poor people, particularly the low-income group people, not only for agricultural production purposes but also for commercial purposes. This will help the railway exchequer. The ban must be withdrawn.

The power of allowing stoppages of express trains is now with the Railway Board which is making it very inconvenient for the railway-users. I would request that the previous practice be restored, namely, this power should be vested with the Zonal Managers.

It is really a matter of great satisfaction that the hon. Minister is trying his best to improve the catering services in the railways

and also the base kitchen. In this connection I would like to submit that one Member should be there exclusively on the Railway Board to look after the catering services which have increased ten-fold compared to what they were before nationalisation. I would request that this may be given due consideration.

Casual labourers who were recruited at the time of construction of doubling lines were retrenched after the completion of the work. They should be taken back as CPC gangmen.

Coming to my State, there are two points which I want to make. Regarding Sambalpur Division, the construction work has not yet been started. I would request that necessary funds for this purpose be provided. Doubling of Khurda Road-Puri railway

line should be taken up in right earnest because we know the importance of Puri—it is not only a pilgrimage centre but also a tourist place. I would request that in the Seventh Plan priority should be given for doubling of this railway line from Khurda Road to Puri.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11.0 a.m.

18.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the Clock on Wednesday, March 4,
1987 (Phalguna 13, 1998 (Saka)).*
