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Tuesday, February 24, 1987
Phalguna 5, 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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LOK SABHA DEBATES

1

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, February, 24, 1987/Phalguna 5,
1908 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Electricity Tariffs for Agricultural Operations

+

*2. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be
pleased to state :

(a) Whether Union Government are
aware of high increase in electricity tariffs
all over the country for the agricultural
operations and the consequent resentment
amongst farmers ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether Union Government are
considering any steps to have these tariffs
reduced so as to ensure that the agricul-
tural production is not adversely
affected ?

2

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE
MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI
SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c).
Under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948,
it is within the purview of the State
Governments/State Electricity Boards
to revise tariffs for various categories of
consumers. The State Electricity Boards
supply electricity to the agricultural
sector considerably below the cost o
supply.

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL (Yavat-
mal) : Mr. Speaker Sir, (a) and (b)
parts of my question have not been
answered and in reply to part (c) of my
question, it has been stated that this
matter is under the jurisdiction of the
State Governments. Agricultural Finance
and similar other subjects are also under
the State Governments, but doesn't the
Central Government have any connection
with them ? By saying that the subject
is under the State Government and that
it has no connection with it, can the
Central Government really shirk its
responsibility ? This is my first sup-
plementary.

Now, I want to ask my second sup-
plementary. In reply to my original
question, it has been stated that the State
Electricity Boards supply electricity in
all the areas considerably below the cost
of supply. But the details have not been
given and I would urge the hon. Minister
to kindly furnish the details also in
the House.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI :
Sir, so far as the question of not replying
to parts (a) and (b) of the question is
concerned, I would like to refer to the
original question which reads :

[*English*]

“Whether Union Government is aware of high increase in electricity tariffs all over the country for the agricultural operations....”

[*Translation*]

The reply to it is given in parts (a) to (c) at the end.

[*English*]

“The State Electricity Boards supply electricity to the agricultural sector considerably below the cost of supply.”

[*Translation*]

From the above, it is clear that there has been no high increase in electricity tariffs, and hence it cannot be said that the reply has not been given.

In regard to the second question, which concerns the responsibility of the Central Government. I want to say that it is within the powers of the State Electricity Boards to increase the tariff etc., and the State Electricity Boards are under the State Governments. Letters have been sent through the Planning Commission and the Central Electricity Authority, wherein it has been suggested that the commercial bodies should, as far as possible, manage the Boards in a manner that the losses which are mounting every year, are kept in check. This has been given priority in view of our current expansion programmes—which is essential too—because it includes supply of electricity for irrigation purposes and electrification of rural areas. Due to these reasons, electricity tariffs in seven States have been slightly revised upwards but not to the extent that they could be put in the ‘high’ category. If the hon. Member wants, I can give the names of those States.

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : My question was whether the Central Government were aware of the increase in electricity tariffs effected by the State Electricity

Boards or the State Governments. I had asked a categorical question which has not been replied to. Later, in regard to the supply of electricity to the agricultural sector, the hon. Minister has said that electricity is supplied in this sector at very low tariffs. In this connection I want to submit that in Maharashtra, Gujarat and some other States, tariffs have been recently increased, and consequently the agriculturists have to pay more on account of higher electricity bills. Will the Central Government advise the State Governments to charge minimum tariffs for agricultural operations ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, a memorandum of demands was received from some farmers of Uttar Pradesh, which was at once forwarded to the Chairman U.P. Electricity Board.

MR. SPEAKER : I also received a copy.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : It was forwarded to them so that it could be given a serious consideration. Whatever action was possible to take in this connection, that was taken. However, I would certainly like to submit that the Government of Uttar Pradesh had set up a Commission to go into the question of tariffs. The Commission had suggested that it should be increased by 50 paise per unit. The Government felt that the increase would be burdensome for the farmers. Hence the above suggestion was not accepted and a tariff of 30 paise per unit which is, of course, slightly higher than the earlier tariff, is being imposed. In Assam, the tariff has been increased from 30 paise per unit to 50 paise. In Gujarat, the tariff per unit has been increased from 33.50 to 36.51 paise; in Haryana from 28.68 to 32.35 paise; in Karnataka from 7.66 to 11.49 paise, and in Uttar Pradesh the increase has been from 22.90 paise to 30.64 paise. I have supplied the information as per the statistics available with me.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has not given a satisfactory

reply. She has said that electricity is supplied at very cheap rates. I want to tell the hon. Minister that in Haryana the rate of electricity was 12.5 paise per unit in the beginning. Later, the rate was increased to 20 paise per unit, then it became 25 paise per unit, thereafter it was raised to 28 paise per unit and now it stands at 32 paise. The rate is really very high. In addition, flat rates are also charged and there is a surcharge of Rs. 20 per month per horse-power, but in spite of all this, electricity is not supplied at all. The farmers pay their bills without getting the benefits. Last times, I raised a question as to why there had been such a high increase in the power rates in Uttar Pradesh. The Central Government also supplies electricity to the States through its thermal plants, then will the Central Government like to reduce their rates I would also like to know how much does it cost to the Central Government to generate one unit of power ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : Mr. Speaker Sir, at the outset, I want to submit that 80 per cent of power in this country is generated by the State Electricity Boards. The Central Electricity Boards, wherever they are located, for example, Singrauli, Korba, Ramagundam and so on, do not generate much power. Today, 48,000 MW of electricity is produced in the country, of which not even 8000 MW is produced in the Central Sector. Although the initial cost is 40 to 45 paise per unit, the total cost after taking into account the transmission losses etc. comes to 60 paise per unit. However, we are not able to supply adequate power to the State Electricity Boards for agricultural operations; it is not possible for the time being to do so. This is the actual position which needs to be understood.

The fact is that if the cost of generation comes to 53 paise per unit and the total cost including transmission comes to 69 paise per unit, then if the Government wants, it can take a national average of 50 paise and supply electricity to either agricultural or industrial sectors

at subsidised rates. Even after all this, I want to tell you that the cost per unit in Assam is Rs. 1.60 and after taking the average of 50 paise, a loss of Rs. 1.10 is incurred. In Gujarat, the cost is 81 paise and after charging 36 paise, a loss of 45 paise per unit is incurred. The loss per unit in Haryana, is 33 paise, in Karnataka it is 42 paise, in Uttar Pradesh it is 53 paise, in Rajasthan it is 41 paise per unit, in Maharashtra it is 50 paise and in Tamil Nadu it is 64 paise per unit.

MR. SPEAKER : Satheji, the farmers also sell their produce at a loss.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : You can supply electricity free of cost to the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : The farmers also sell their produce at a loss.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : You can supply power free of cost to the farmers. I am prepared for it. But the question is

MR. SPEAKER : They do not want it to be free.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The State Electricity Undertakings are commercial units. If they are made to run at a loss, how can you expect them to earn 3 per cent profit ? The State Electricity Boards have to bear losses amounting to Rs. 1200 crores per year. The House is the authority, the hon. Members are the authority, whatever they say, that will be done.

MR. SPEAKER : I am speaking in favour of both the parties. Neither one nor the other should suffer loss. They sell their produce to you at a distressed price.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I want the House to give the guidelines. I am in favour of the farmers. They are

getting subsidies in fertilizers and power ...*(Interruptions)*...I am coming to theft of power *(Interruptions)*...Let me speak. I am coming to corruption also.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : The losses are incurred due to inefficiency. This must be done away with.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I myself have said that there is theft of power in the transmission lines and 10 per cent loss is incurred on this account. There is a loss of 12 per cent on the technical side. Who are the thieves? There are power losses.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : They are not doing it, but they are being made to do it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : All right, someone must be doing it. Let it be debated. I want that there should be a detailed discussion on it same day.

MR. SPEAKER : We shall do it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Let me get the directions from Parliament. If they are to run at a loss, then these losses should be made good. Let there be a discussion on it.

MR. SPEAKER : Of course, we will do it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Let there be a discussion on the basic issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arun Kumar Nehru.

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : Sir, the issue of profit and loss is a very relative term which can be applied either way. But in the recent past of all the price increases which have taken place, how many have gone for increase of salaries and wages in the State Electricity Boards because every time you increase the tariff, all that is happening is that the

salaries and wages are going up and the losses are increasing and there is no question of getting any reduction or parity anywhere in the system. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what specific measures have been taken to ensure that the cost of the State Electricity Boards does not go up, that the corruption comes down and that this 21 per cent transmission loss which is taking place on an average, comes down. As far as the Central projects are concerned, the transmission loss is much lower compared to what is happening in the State Electricity Boards. So, I would also like to know what concrete steps have been taken in this regard.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, as I said, power generation and transmission is basically under the States. We do not have a national grid system.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is an excuse.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is not an excuse...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him have his say.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : If you want to hold the Central Government responsible for generation and distribution, then the Power Boards, the power plants under the State Governments and the Electricity Boards also must come under our control. Authority and accountability must go together. You cannot hold me responsible for an inefficiency of a State Electricity Board which is under the control of the State Government, which is not under my control .. *(Interruption)*.

SHRI RANA VIR SINGH : Then he should not defend the inefficiency of the State Electricity Boards.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I am not defending the inefficiency of the State Electricity Boards at all.

All I am saying is that to-day the factual position is that these are the costs,

Transmission losses, as my friend who put the question and had the experience of this Department knows, I myself stated, are basically because theft of power. We enacted a law here. The States also have enacted laws and those laws will have to be implemented. But there are vested interests, those who are using power freely, a substantial portion is also agriculturists, major agriculturists. Laws will have to be implemented at that level. We can only persuade. In the Power Ministers Conference, the Prime Minister himself asked the State Electricity Boards to ensure that transmission losses are reduced. We can use our persuasive power. You should also use your persuasive powers in the States.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The hon. Minister has been trying to shift the entire burden on the States. I would like to raise the basic issue. I would like to get a clear answer from him. I am raising the question of planning priority. Repeatedly, the Finance Minister announced that Agriculture and Rural Employment will have priority No. 1 in this country. I hope under the new Finance Minister the priority is not changed. I am asking a categorical question because the issue that you are raising is also related to priority. I will give a concrete instance about the Railways. As far as electricity supply is concerned and some times, the power cut is concerned, it is as accepted convention that since the Railways provide the infra-structure, wherever there is a power cut, it should be the last which should suffer from the power cut. Even the States have been instructed that if there are any difficulties in their respective States, as far as the Railways are concerned they should not disturb the power supply to the Railways. Similarly, in the context of your planning priorities, will you send guidelines to all the States that agriculture being the first priority in this country, in fixing up the relative tariff rates, priority should be given to agriculture because it is also linked up with the question of remunerative prices? The Greater the cost of inputs for agriculture, less remunerative is the price and since you are also supposed to over-see the question of remun-

erative prices for the agricultural produce, tariff also enters into the input and therefore, please give guidelines to all the States. Do not make any pretences, do not try to say as one of the hon. Members has said that administrative expenditure of the Electricity Boards is increasing and as a result of that agriculturists are suffering and, therefore, you also try to oversee the working of the Electricity Boards and see that the priority fixed by the Centre is adhered to and agriculture is given the first priority in liberal tariff for the agriculturists.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : All the advice given by the hon. Member is being implemented.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is not the advice. Question is also asked. I do not give advice. I have asked the question-whether they will issue guidelines to the States keeping in mind the priority?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Before you gave the advice we anticipated and I said it should be implemented.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am not giving advice. You are beyond advice.

MR. SPEAKER : Beyond redemption.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I am happy to tell you that your advice is already being carried out.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : In advance.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker Sir, the whole House is aware that the farmers form the backbone of India. But, Sir, whenever the issue regarding their interests crops up, every hon. Member as well as the Government back out. Just now our hon. Minister stated that there was theft of power. The farmers never do it. He has only a small electric motor, so, how can he indulge in power

theft? You very well know where power theft actually occurs. What steps are you going to take to check it?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the generation cost is actually Rs. 5. It is increased to Rs. 10 on the pretext that the farmers are provided electricity at the rate of Rs. 2. You have not done much for the farmers. What steps are being taken for checking power theft so that the farmers are able to get power at a cheaper rate? The price of agricultural produces like wheat, cotton, rice do not increase.

MR. SPEAKER : Put your supplementary.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Shri Tulsiram wants to say that when the farmer does not get full price for his produce, and sells it at a loss, then the Government is not doing him any favour by providing him electricity at subsidised rates. Hence they should be given priority.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I want to humbly submit that the farmers are the backbone of our country and so, if we give them power at subsidised rates, we are not doing them any favour. I fully agree with the view of the hon. Member. We should supply electricity to farmers at cheaper rates all right. Let a Committee of the House decide as to what should be the ex-cost of generation including transmission minus theft, if the electricity board or the producer is quite efficient.

SHR GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow a discussion on the subject.

MR. SPEAKER : If you so suggest, of course, we shall do it. But let this question be completed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Theoretically, if we accept the cost as 50 paise, then at what rate should we buy power

from State Electricity Boards? Should they be allowed to run at a loss? Would that be in the interest of the nation? This should be discussed and whatever decision the House takes should be adhered to. I would not like the farmers to suffer.

MR. SPEAKER : Make the hon. Members from Uttar Pradesh understand it.

[English]

Parallel Telecommunications System

*3. SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposals were received from the private sector for setting up a parallel telecommunications system to relieve congestion in the existing lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No such proposals have been received from private sector for setting up a parallel telecommunications system to relieve congestion in the existing lines.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though communication System is the most important organ of the country, yet there is so much of line congestion that we cannot communicate from one place to another easily. The Government has stated that on proposals from the private sector are under consideration, agreed. But I want to know whether efforts are being made to improve the communication system to relieve congestion in the existing lines while continuing to retain it in the public sector?

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, in March 1986, an Inter-Ministerial Committee was set up to examine a special tele-communication system for business and industrial network. They have submitted their Report in October 1986 and this is under the active consideration of the Government. If it is implemented, there will be a new type of tele-communication system for the industrial and business houses.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Has expert opinion from other countries been taken to relieve congestion in the lines ?

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, there are enough experts within the country to look after the maintenance of the tele-communication system and a continuous process is going on to improve the service. There is no need to get any foreign experts for this purpose.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister, in view of the Government's decision not to give to the private sector the tele-communication system, whether the Government is now considering to set up a Nigam in Calcutta considering the fact that the Calcutta Telephones has at present got no administration, it is not working at all. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government has got any positive proposal to set up a Nigam in Calcutta, instead of Calcutta Telephones.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, the Calcutta Telephone system is working, but it certainly needs improvement.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : It is not working at all. On 199, 197 and 188 there is no response. Nobody can get any response for the trunk calls, STD, Assistance—nothing at all. There is no tele phone system working there.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, as I said, the telephone system is working there. There are certain improvements necessary and the Government is not considering creation of any Nigam at the moment.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : In this context, I would like to know how many applications are pending throughout the country—it is just to show the gravity—and how you are going to cater to their needs. Still are you viewing it as a luxury or utility and what is your plan to cope up with the situation ? Is there any programme for the Government in that manner ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, at present there are about 10 lakhs in the waiting list in the country. In the Seventh Five Year Plan our target is to commission 16 lakhs, thereby not only the existing waiting list, but future prospective consumers will also be looked after.

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 4—
Shri V.S. Krishna Iyer.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY : Mr. speaker, Sir, I want to put a question regarding telephones.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called the next name you can put it later on.

[*English*]

Setting up of Ess III and Ess IV units
of Indian Telephone Industries

*4. **SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :**
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up electronic switching system III and electronic switching system IV units of Indian Telephone Industries;

(b) if so, the places where these are proposed to be set up;

(c) whether all the existing employees of Indian Telephone Industries will be absorbed in the proposed units;

(d) whether fresh recruitments are to be made; and

(e) when will the proposed units be set up ?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that there is no proposal to start third and fourth systems. May I know at least what is the fate of the second electronic switching system to be installed at Bangalore and when will it actually commence the work ? Also what is the capacity of that factory ? Will all the employees of the cross bar exchanges be absorbed in that factory and how much investment is necessary ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, as far as ESS II is concerned, the location is finalised as Bangalore. The technology has not yet been decided. Once the technology is decided, then only we will be able to say how big will be the factory, but generally like Mankapur which is equipped to produce 5 lakh lines, the second ESS—ESS II — is also to be considered to have infrastructure to have 5 lakh lines.

As regards the employees, we shall take all necessary steps so that they get alternative employment or they are absorbed. At this stage we are not in a position to say anything.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : For the past two years I have been getting the same answer. Sir, when are they going to decide upon the technology ? For two years they have been saying that they are yet to decide about the technology. I would like to know what is the require-

ment of the country so far as the electronic equipments are concerned and whether Mankapur is able to cope up with the situation. Is it not necessary that we should start the second unit immediately ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, the question itself is quite contradictory because we have to see the position about the cross bar and strowger factories which are not only in Bangalore, but also in Rae Bareilly vis-a-vis the new line which is to be adopted. As a Minister I would like to get more electronic exchanges like Mankapur, but at the same time we have to think about Rai Bareilly as well as Bangalore cross bar and strowger exchanges. A Committee has been formed, they are looking into the pros and cons of this. Mr. Krishnamurthy, Chairman SAIL, is the Chairman of that Committee. After we get their report, we shall be able to take the final decision of the Government on it.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : Sir, every time we have been getting the reply from the Minister of Telecommunications that our technology is good. How is it that no improvement has taken place at all ? I would like to say that whenever our politicians fall ill they would like treatment to be done in a foreign country. What is wrong, if we bring technology experts from outside country to set our telephone system all right ? That is my question.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : The hon. Member is within his rights to say as to who wants to get medical treatment from which place he desires. That is an individual matter. But this is a national matter and...

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : That is why, I am saying.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : That is why, I am answering.

I would like to make it very clear that in the choice between the indigenous

technology and the foreign technology, the choice where any foreign expertise or technology is called for, we will do so if it is absolutely necessary. We are firmly of the view that the technologists and the technology that are developed in the country also measure up to the best in the world.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, will the Minister be kind enough to inform whether the Engineers Association has made an offer to the Minister for Communications that within three months they can improve the communication system by about 50% more in terms of efficiency? If such an offer is there, what is the position at the consideration level?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : It is correct that such an offer has been made and I would like to place on record our high appreciation of the attitude shown by the workers in the Telecom. Department in making such an offer and we shall leave on stone unturned to see that the efficiency, with the help of the workers, is improved in the Telecom. Department.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, it is an important question. Please allow me.

After setting up the auto manual exchange in Calcutta, 4 employees have been admitted in the hospital because of 'tele shock'. What I want to know from the Minister is, whether the Government is aware that only to condemn the Central Government, this has been done. Whether it is a political conspiracy or sabotage and whether the Government have any proposal to set up a high-powered committee to review the whole situation and find out the real fault and protect the interests of the employees and the common people also?

(Interruptions)

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Let the Minister give the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Hon. Madam's question is important because I was present in Calcutta on that day, and I too received a shock.

MR. SPEAKER : Whenever Mamataji stands up to say something, you also stand up.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : It would also be appropriate for the hon. Member to tell us as to who caused this shock.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, this is a fact that there was some incident. But I am happy to inform that since yesterday most of the employees have come back and resumed their work and the problem which was there has been solved. We do not presume there is any sabotage there. And I do not like to comment on it. But the work is gradually coming to normal condition and I thank the Members of Parliament from both our Party and Opposition who have helped us to bring back normalcy there.

New Drug Policy

+

*8. **SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :**
SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently announced a new drug policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) whether prices of some drugs have fallen as a result of the new policy and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND

PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Government have announced in December, 1986 certain measures for rationalisation, quality control and growth of drug and pharmaceutical industry in the country.

(b) Copy of the measures is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. LT/3734/87].

(c) The prices have not yet been revised since the new Drug Price Control Order has not yet been announced.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is due to the policy of the Government that medicines are not available in the market and patients are dying in the hospitals. (*Interruptions*) We shall observe 'Delhi Bandh' and we shall also silence you.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he cannot be blamed. He is still under the impression that he is standing at the Boat club.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the hon. Minister's reply to Part (C), I would like to ask why are the prices of the medicines not declining? When is their Drug Price Control Policy going to be announced?

[*English*]

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : I have answered in Part 'C' that the DPCO has not yet come into existence. It will come into existence only after the categorisation of Category-II for which an Expert Committee has also been appointed. We had expected that the Committee would submit its Report within three months. But it will take more time. Once that is submitted, then the DPCO will come into existence. Once the new DPCO comes into existence then the revised prices will be announced. As of now, there is no price increase or decrease.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Hon. Minister Sir, it is due to your policy that medicines are not available in the market and the essential drugs are also reported to be out of stock.

MR. SPEAKER : Medicinal herbs can be used instead.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : How many years will you take to announce the policy?

[*English*]

The prices have not yet been revised since the new Drug Price Control Order has not yet been announced.

[*Translation*]

When will that auspicious moment arrive? It is because you are manufacturing certain medicines in the Government factories that the private manufactures are not manufacturing them, which is resulting in the shortage. Hence, tell us as to when are you going to implement the policy?

[*English*]

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Because of various factors, as I have said earlier, it will take a few more months. Once the categorisation is over, the new DPCO will come into existence. Once that comes into existence, then the price issue will be decided.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : A book-let containing 19 pages has been given to us in reply. We require time to go through it. So, I would request that Half an-Hour discussion on this may be allowed.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : My colleague announced that we have not yet implemented this Drug Price Control Order. After

the Notification only we will announce the prices.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is I who will decide on the question of Half-an-Hour Discussion. Shri. Basudeb Acharia.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Sir, I would like to put the question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The earlier policy which was adopted in the year 1978 was based on the Hathi Committee Report. Although all the recommendations of the Hathi Committee were not adopted, nevertheless that policy attempted to stop the infiltration, and penetration and activities of multinationals in drug industry. That policy also encouraged indigenous production of drug in the country and also it discouraged the imports and encouraged the indigenous expansion of production of drugs by forming a drug price equalisation fund. Sir, I would like to know whether it is not a fact that by increasing the number of de-controlled drugs from 14% to 16% by this new policy—which was announced just after the winter session by-passing the Parliament—this will result in increase in the prices of all essential drugs.

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, the report of the Hathi Committee which was submitted to the Government in 1975 is still the basis for this particular measure, the measures of rationalisation, the measures of quality control, of growth in the drugs and pharmaceuticals industry which have been announced in December, 1986. These are based on the Hathi Committee report. There is no deviation from that.

The Hon. Member mentioned that the earlier policy in 1978 also did not adhere to a number of proposals which were put forth in the Hathi Committee report. It was a very large report wherein a number of suggestions were there. We could not implement all those suggestions in 1978.

All that we are now trying to do is to implement it a little more effectively.

The question of giving more leverage to multinationals has come up from a number of quarters. It needs a little bit clarification. In fact, the ratio of parameters for companies which belong to FERA has been reduced from 1.5 to 1.4. As a result of it, we have taken a much narrower view. Now we are trying to ask the FERA companies to go in for more production in the basic area. For every bulk drug that they produce, from the basic stage they will only be allowed now to produce 4 formulations instead of 5 formulations. Therefore, the question of giving more leverage to the multi-nationals does not arise. In fact, we have reduced the span of drugs which can be manufactured by the FERA companies.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He has not answered my question about the number of de-controlled drugs which has been increased from 14% to 16%. I would like to know whether this will result in increase in the drug prices.

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : We do not control the prices of the de-controlled drugs. Earlier we had three categories—Category 1, Category 2 and Category 3 ; drugs coming under those categories are price controlled. There was a category 4 also which was unspecified drugs and it was not controlled. Now in the new policy measures that we will have, Category-I consists of drugs which will be used for the national health programme. It depends on the policy framed by the Government from time to time to see which of the drugs will come under Category-I. Because the priority has been given to those of the drugs which will be used for the national health programme. For example, today we find that malaria is a problem in our country. After one or two years we may find that malaria has been eradicated. Therefore, all those drugs which are used for combating malaria disease will go out of the purview. So, it depends on the national health programme to determine which of the drugs will come under category-1.

As far as category-2 is concerned, as I said, a committee has been appointed to look into this and draw a list of essential drugs. They will be submitting their report within two or three months.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : What about my question Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : I gave you a chance, Madam. You asked whether there should be a half-an-hour discussion and that for all. I did not stop you from asking your question.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Has it come to the notice of the Government that under the new categorisation some of the drugs which were exclusively kept for the public sector undertakings will now be opened for foreign companies also—for example, penicillin—with the result the public sector undertakings like IDPL will face a closure ? I understand some of the public sector undertakings have made this point to the Government. What is the reaction of the Government to it ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : Sir, as far as penicillin is concerned at present we are producing only 30 per cent of our requirements. The remaining 70 per cent of our requirements we are importing. That is why in respect of penicillin we have liberalised the policy for manufacture by private companies.

IOC Mobile Laboratories for Petroleum Products

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***9. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :**

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

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

(a) Whether the Indian Oil Corporation has recently launched a mobile labo-

ratory for testing petroleum products in Delhi ;

(b) if so, the details of the petrol pumps etc., on which IOC conducted raids during the last one month ;

(c) what action has been initiated against the petrol pumps in Delhi which were found selling adulterated petroleum products ;

(d) whether Government propose to introduce such mobile laboratories in other cities also ; and

(e) 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) to (c). A mobile laboratory for testing of petroleum products in the Northern Region has been fabricated and positioned at Delhi by the Indian Oil Corporation but it has not yet become operational and hence the question of any action based on the reports of this laboratory does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Indian Oil Corporation has positioned mobile laboratories for use in the Eastern and Southern Regions also where they will soon become operational. Extension of this system will depend on the operational experience.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an acute problem of adulteration of Kerosene with diesel and petrol throughout the country. The farmers are not able to get kerosene, petrol and diesel that they get is adulterated, which causes damage to the engines. The most effective solution to the problem of adulteration is to punish those who are doing it. The Government must take appropriate measures in this regard.

A mobile laboratory was inaugurated

on 13th January and one month has passed since then yet that laboratory has not been made operational so far. I have an important question to ask in this regard. Is the Government going to pay more attention to it? I would also like to ask as to how many people are going to work in that unit and how many samples will be tested daily? A network of such laboratories should be set up in the country so that those who are involved in adulteration are punished and the consumers get the necessary relief. What are the schemes of the Government in this regard?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that there should be a network of such laboratories in the country. We are setting up 4 mobile laboratories in the country, out of which one is positioned in Delhi. The question of calibration is involved here. Besides, we are making efforts to check adulteration by using other systems and we are taking several steps as a result of which this problem will be solved.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : My question has not been replied to.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : He is not trying to reply to it, he is only dodging.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Although the mobile laboratory scheme was inaugurated one and a half months ago, it has not started functioning so far. Why has it not been made operational? May I know the details of your future plans? How many people are going to work under the Laboratory Testing Scheme and how many on the spot sample tests will be undertaken?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : I have already mentioned that calibration work is being done at present. Its equipment and testing facilities are being calibrated and as soon as it is done, the laboratory will become operational. Moreover, testing work is being carried out in static laboratories as well.

MR. SPEAKER : How many persons are employed in it?

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : My second supplementary is whether there is any proposal for launching of such laboratories in big cities like Nagpur, Indore, Kanpur, etc. and if so, the time by which they will become operational?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : 4 mobile laboratories will be set up regionwise. There are enough number of static laboratories in the country.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, adulteration of kerosene with petrol is the order of the day. The Government is adopting a policy of less consumption of petrol and diesel so that we can minimise the loss for the nation. Sir, at the same time, the companies like the Indian Oil Corporation, the Bharat Petroleum and also the Industan Petroleum are issuing surplus to the outlets and petrol pumps to sell more. Is it with the concurrence of the Government that they are adopting this policy of selling more?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Government policy is to conserve petroleum products. But when the outlets are there, they have to sell more because they are commercial concerns. The policy is of conserving the petroleum products by using the efficient machinery but not by reducing the quantity of petroleum products.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the percentage of the cases where adulteration has been found in the petroleum products tested by the static laboratories? Besides, it has been found that most of the adulteration cases are not identified and the static laboratories are not functioning well and the officials who are supposed to look into such complaints remain in collusion with the guilty persons and consequently, no action is taken.

My second question is that there are no Central Government officials at the district level. There are only State Government officials who are designated as D.S.Os. The State Government does not have the power to take any action against the culprits. Will the Government set up some machinery to deal with cases of adulteration so that adulteration of diesel and petrol could be checked and stringent punishment could be awarded to those are found guilty ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member's first submission. But the point is that it is the responsibility of the Central as well as the State Governments. The State Governments also undertake the distribution of essential commodities. In order to check this problem, we are trying to see if kerosene could be given a colour and it is being tested as well. Besides, our companies are also conducting inspections and the State authorities are also looking after this work. The system is being strengthened. After the setting up of the mobile laboratories, it would be further strengthened. What is needed most is that the system should be strengthened.

[English]

Closing of Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh

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*11. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :**

SHRI B.N. REDDY;

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for closing down 60 post offices in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) to what extent frequencies of services will be affected due to this measure;

(c) how the people will avail of postal services; and

(d) whether this is an economy measure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

The number of post offices discontinued in Andhra Pradesh since 1-4-1986 is 69. These post offices were discontinued for one or more of the following reasons.

- (1) Postal business transacted in the post offices being insufficient to justify its further retention;
- (2) Location of the post office within a short distance (of less than 1.5 kms in urban areas and less than 3 kms in rural areas) from other post offices in the area; and
- (3) Post office not being financially self-supporting, in the case of urban areas.

Of the 69 post offices, 46 were departmental sub post offices of a subsidiary status known as town sub offices with no postal delivery functions. The counter services offered by these offices can conveniently be availed of at other post offices situated within the area. The remaining 23 are extra-departmental post offices, of which all but 2 were situated in towns/cities. These offices are also no-delivery post offices, the counter services offered by these offices are provided in the other neighbouring offices. The two rural post offices are also extra-departmental but with no delivery functions. In these cases also, there are other post offices in the area to provide adequate counter facilities. There has, therefore, been no dislocation of service whatsoever by the discontinuance of these post offices.

The action taken is not part of any special economy drive. Under the normal procedures also, the workload, cost and revenue of individual post offices and consequently, the justification for their further retention, are periodically reviewed. Post offices which are under-

utilised or, in the case of urban localities, financially not self-supporting, or are found to be otherwise unjustified for further retention are liable to be discontinued.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : The postal service is a public utility service. I have gone through the statement and have seen the arguments advanced that because the post offices are not self-supporting, they have been closed. When the postal service is a public utility service, the question of financially self-supporting does not arise. The arguments put forward here can be applicable in the case of other post offices also. If you put forward the same argument, then you have to close down several post offices in the country. So, I think, the Government has taken a specific stand to close down many post offices and sub post offices in the country. It is not an isolated affair which is happening in Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, my specific question is : how many post offices and sub post offices have been closed down in the country and how many post offices and sub post offices will be closed down during the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : There is no such proposal of closing down any post offices in the country. This is a continuous process. Where a post office run by the department is uneconomical, or its services can be clubbed to an adjacent post office, if it is within 1.5 or 2 kms from the nearest post office, we are clubbing their functions to the neighbouring post office. In our country, we have got 1,24,356 post offices and out of that about 15,000 are in the urban areas. There are certain areas where there is necessity for opening post offices and there are certain areas where we have post offices which were opened for political reasons etc. Which is adding to our losses. As we are not allowed to increase the tariff and we are getting subsidy to the tune of Rs. 231 crores only annually for our postal services, we are trying to protect the interest of the country by doing this. As

against that, we have introduced licensed postal services within the country. Though we have closed only 69 post offices in Andhra Pradesh, we have given licences for 244 licensed post offices. Review of postal establishment is a continuous process and we have to protect the interest of the country and the hard earned money of the tax payers. There are certain areas where the post offices need to be closed and there are certain areas where we will have to open new post offices; these are the areas which are not having that facility. This is a continuous process and it is not applied particularly for any particular State.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : My specific question was : like Andhra Pradesh how many post offices or sub post offices have been closed in the country ? That has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER : He said that 69 post offices had been closed and 244 opened.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : That was for Andhra Pradesh only. I wanted to know for the whole of the country.

MR. SPEAKER : You have only asked for Andhra Pradesh. Have you got any answer for that, Mr. Minister ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Two hundred and fifty seven post offices have been closed all over the country. I think, the next is Maharashtra, then Madhya Pradesh and like that all over the country, some post offices are being closed. If you want the figures I will lay the statement on the Table of the House and you can get it.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : How many workers were employed in those post offices ? How many of them will be re-employed and how many of them will be retrenched ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : No staff has been retrenched. Whenever we close a post office, the staff is utilised in the neighbouring post office or some other post office. No staff will be retrenched in the process of closure of post offices. They are the permanent staff of the Department.

SHRI B.N. REDDY : According to the statement laid on the Table of the House, those post offices which are not financially self-supporting, apart from certain other reasons, will be closed. The fact that the post offices are not self-supporting in that region is not due to the public, it is due to administrative reasons and lapses. I would like to know whether before closing these post offices, which had been functioning, any enquiry was held to find out the reasons for their not being self-supporting, and whether this was due to administrative reasons and administrative lapses.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : When we decide to close down a post office, we take into consideration the cost of operation, revenue generated, work load to engage minimum staff, distance from other post offices etc. There are certain relaxations for tribal and backward areas. There are certain norms for city areas and there are certain norms for rural areas. Self-support is not the only consideration. Various other factors are taken into consideration and a decision is taken on the overall situation of the post office operating in a particular area.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Central Assistance to promote Coconut Oil

*1. **SHRI K. MOHANDAS :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala have sought the help of the Central agen-

cies to popularise the use of coconut oil outside Kerala ; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF
FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI
H.K.L. BHAGAT) :** (a) Government of Kerala has submitted a Project to the National Cooperative Development Corporation for Procurement, Processing and Marketing of Coconut, Copra and Coconut Oil ;

(b) The Central Government has supported the project for international assistance.

Laying of Pipeline from Krishna-Godavari Basin for Development of Gas-based Industries in Andhra Pradesh

5. **SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has decided to lay a 70 K.M. long pipeline from Krishna-Godavari gas basin to an Amonia-manufacturing plant ; and

(b) whether a perspective plan for development of gas-based industries in Andhra Pradesh is being formulated ?

**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) No, Sir.

(b) ONGC are in the process of identifying suitable consumers of the natural gas available from the Krishna-Godavari basin.

Difficulties of Tin and Metal container Industry

*6. **SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tin and metal container industry units working in the country ;

(b) whether Government are aware of the difficulties faced by metal container units due to non-availability of essential inputs for tin container makers as against those making plastic containers ;

(c) whether Government are aware of the price advantage that plastic industry enjoys over the tin container units ; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to remove adverse working of tin container making units ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) : (a) There are 54 tin and metal container industrial units in the medium and large scale sectors and about 3000 units in the small scale sector.

(b) The requirements of the metal container industry for tin plates are met both from indigenous as well as imported sources as in the case of plastic container industry.

(c) The prices of tin containers and plastic containers may not necessarily be the same as these two industries use different process of manufacture and different raw material. Besides, the cost of fixed assets and other inputs is different for both the industries. The profitability of a unit depends upon many factors such as size and efficiency of operation, the demand pattern of the product, the level of technology etc. and therefore the working results of these two industries are not comparable.

(d) The Government is already engaged in efforts to improve availability of raw materials to the tin container industry.

Report of Committee to study sick Industrial Units

*7. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI :

SHRI R.M. BHOYE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee has been constituted to study the working of sick industrial units and make suggestions for improving their working capabilities ;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee ; and

(c) the time by which the report of the Committee will be submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) : (a) No committee has been constituted by the Government of India to study the working of the sick units and make suggestions for improving their capabilities. However, the Reserve Bank of India had appointed a committee to study the problem of rehabilitation of sick units in the small scale sector in February, 1986.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee constituted by the RBI were as follows :—

- (i) Definition of sick S.S.I. units ;
- (ii) Identification of incipient sickness in SSI units ;
- (iii) Establishment of a suitable machinery for identification of sickness, preparation of rehabilitation packages in the case of potentially viable units, and follow-up and monitoring of their implementation ; and
- (iv) Formulation of parameters for provision of reliefs/concessions by commercial banks, State Financial Corporations, State Governments.

and other agencies under rehabilitation packages evolved for sick SSI units considered as potentially viable.

(c) The Committee submitted its report to the RBI in October, 1986.

Ratio between the Number of Post Offices and Population

*10. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the ideal ratio worked out between the number of post offices and the population;

(b) whether this has been changed recently; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) :

(a) There is no fixed 'ideal ratio' as such between the number of post offices and the population. However, the target adopted for the second U.N. development decade was one post office to serve 3000 to 6000 people on an average. As against this target, in India the average population served by a post office is 4745. As a matter of fact post offices are sanctioned based on a variety of criteria which include not only the population factor but also the distance from the nearest existing post office, the terrain assessment of postal traffic in the area and the likely cost to be incurred as well as the revenue expected to be earned.

(b) The change effected recently relates to the population norms to be followed in rural areas. Under the earlier norms, inter alia, a village should have a minimum population of 1000 to be eligible for a post office. In backward and tribal areas the population of a village together with its hamlets should be 1000 or more.

In the revised norms, a post office will be planned for a group of villages, the

combined population of which should be 5000 in normal rural areas and 2500 in hilly, backward and tribal areas. Within the group, a suitable village will be selected for locating the post office.

(c) The main reason for the change is that, by and large, the larger villages have already been provided with post offices. Further extension of postal services needs to be based on groups of smaller villages. Further, the 'group' concept also allows flexibility in location of a post office at the most suitable village.

National Conference on Telecom, Industries

*12. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently a two day National Conference on Telecom, Industry was held in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the main conclusions arrived at this Conference; and

(c) what follow-up steps have been taken to achieve self-reliance in this field ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. A National Conference on Telecom Mission was held at New Delhi on 3rd and 4th February, 1987. The main participants in the conference included : Ministers, political leaders, representatives of the Consumer Movement, eminent citizens, Technocrats, Scientists, Planners, Administrators, Telecom Managers, Management Experts, Journalists, Labour Leaders and representatives of industry and business, Government and large public sector user departments, the media and financial institutions.

(b) This conference was convened by the Department of Telecommunications to

give a sense of participation in its mission for better communications to all sections of the community. All the suggestions made have been noted and are being given due consideration.

(c) One of the important steps already taken for the achievement of self-reliance in the field of telecommunications is the setting up of a Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) which has been entrusted with the development of a family of digital systems for telecommunication needs. A new unit to manufacture the ESS of C-DOT design under the I.T.I. is under consideration. Private industries have also been encouraged to manufacture some of the telecommunication equipment like telephone sets PABX etc so that the country can achieve self-reliance in this field. Other suggestions made by the participants in the conference are being examined by the Government.

Publication of extracts from Official records by 'Indian Express' regarding Reliance Industries

*13. DR. A.K. PATEL :
SHRI H.N. NANJE GO-
WADA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since completed the enquiry into appearance of certain extracts from official records in the articles published by 'Indian Express' regarding reliance Industries; and

(b) if so, the result thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) : (a) and (b) The enquiry has been entrusted to the CBI and the same is in progress.

[Translation]

Achievements under Self-employment Scheme

*14. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the achievements under the self-employment scheme ;

(b) the performance of Rajasthan State in the implementation of the said scheme ;

(c) whether there is a resentment because of wrong selection of educated unemployed under this scheme ;

(d) whether the unemployed youth selected under this scheme have not been successful in their vocation because they do not get loans and power connections in time ; and

(e) if so, the special steps being taken to remove these difficulties ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) : (a) The achievements under Self-employment Scheme in the country are given as under :

Year	Target	No. of cases sanctioned by banks
1983-84	2.5 lakhs	2.42 lakhs
1984-85	2.5 lakhs	2.29 lakhs
1985-86	2.5 lakhs	2.21 lakhs

(b) The performance of State of Rajasthan in the implementation of this scheme is as follows :

Year	Target	No. of cases sanctioned by banks	% age of achievements
1983-84	10,000	15,054	150.50
1984-85	15,000	15,382	102.55
1985-86	10,300	10,986	106.66

(c) to (e). The scheme is implemented through the District Industries Centres which are under the control of State Governments. DIC Task Forces screen applications for recommending it to the banks who in turn are responsible for sanctioning of loans. State Governments are responsible for taking appropriate action on the complaints received regarding the implementation of the scheme.

It is understood that a few complaints have been received by the Government of Rajasthan and that Government has already initiated appropriate action regarding these complaints.

It is the responsibility of the respective State Government to provide necessary infrastructure and other support for successful establishment of the units under the scheme. Shortage of power affect all the units irrespective of the scheme under which they have been established.

An evaluation study of the scheme conducted during 1985 for the loan sanctioned during 1983-84 revealed that 76% of the units set up by the beneficiaries under the scheme are working satisfactorily in the country. To plug certain loopholes, as observed by the evaluation team, a few modifications in the scheme have been introduced for the year 1986-87. The modified scheme envisages submission of an affidavit by the applicant stating that his total income does not exceed Rs. 10,000/- per family per annum.

[*English*]

Issue of Special Postal Stamps

*15. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the list for issuing of special stamps in the honour of outstanding public personalities during next year has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the names of such personalities ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) The programme for issue of stamps during 1988 is under consideration.

(b) Question does not arise..

Increase in price of Vanaspati

*16. SHRI AMARSINH RATHWA :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

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

(a) the price of vanaspati as on 1st January, 1986 and as on 1st January, 1987, zone-wise;

(b) the amount of increase per kg. in each zone and the reasons for the same;

(c) whether there is any proposal to put control on the sale of Vanaspati to

check the increase in its price very often; and

(d) if not, what other measures are proposed to be taken to check the rising trend of its price ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) The prices of vanaspati in major cities of different zones were as under :

Consumers price per 15 Kg. tin
(in Rs.)

	North Zone (Delhi)	South Zone (Madras)	East Zone (Calcutta)	West Zone (Bombay)
Jan. 86	262-265	298-305	284	286
Jan. 87	338-345	348-365	348-365	360-365
Increase	76-80	50-60	66-84	74-79
Increase/Kg.	5.06-5.33	3.33-4.00	4.40-5.60	4.93-5.26

The increase may be attributed to reduction in allocation of imported oil to vanaspati industry and increase in the prices of indigenous permitted oil.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Effective supply management of imported edible oils has led to decline in its prices. This will be continued. Checking of vanaspati units has been intensified.

[Translation]

Factory for cooking gas Cylinders in Bihar

*17. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a factory to manufacture cooking gas cylinders in Bihar during the next one or two years; and

(b) if not, whether Government have received any proposal to set up such factories in the private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) : (a) and (b). No industrial licence is required for manufacture of LPG (cooking gas)

cylinders. 14 Units are registered with DGTD for manufacture of LPG cylinders in the State of Bihar. The Central Government has no proposal to set up a unit for manufacture of LPG cylinders in Bihar.

[English]

“Golden Handshake” Scheme in Public Sector Undertakings

*18. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce the “golden handshake” scheme in the public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the names of the public undertakings to be covered under this scheme; and

(d) the number of employees, industry-wise, who took retirement during 1986 under this scheme

and the number expected to seek voluntary retirement during 1987 ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) : (a) to (d). Some public sector undertakings, for implementing their employees rationalisation programmes, have introduced schemes for voluntary retirement from time to time with diverse experience. The figures of retirement during 1986 under such scheme are not readily available and it is not possible to project such figures for 1987. Proposals for exgratia payments over and above statutory dues on retrenchment of surplus staff would be dealt with on case to case basis.

Action Plan For Expansion and Improvement in Telecommunication system

***19. SHRI SRIHARI RAO :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has formulated an action plan for expansion of and qualitative improvement in telecommunication system;

(b) the cost of the action plan and the details thereof; and

(c) how the finances for this plan will be raised ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) The Action Plan for the year 1987-88 is under preparation and finalisation.

(b) These are being worked out.

(c) Finances are proposed to be met from Internal resources, budgetary support and by borrowings from domestic markets through bonds.

Thermal Power Station in Rayalaseema Region, Andhra Pradesh

***20. SHRI T. BALA GOUD :** Will

the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have submitted a proposal for the establishment of a Thermal Power Station in Rayalaseema Region and its inclusion in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, 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) : The Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board have submitted a Feasibility Report for the establishment of a thermal power station in the Rayalaseema region of the State. The proposal was not complete in all respects and the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board have yet to communicate environmental clearance. Coal linkage for the project has also not been tied up so far.

Delay in Supply of LPG Cylinders in Biharsharif

1. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is great demand for LPG cylinders in Biharsharif, District Nalanda, Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that hundreds of consumers have not received the gas cylinder for the last more than one month; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps Government propose to take to solve the problem and ensure regular supply of the gas cylinders to the consumers ?

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) and (b) : A backlog in supply of LPG refills in Biharsharif has developed due to industrial relation problems at the

Barauni Refinery in September 1986, and owing to the strike by Bihar transporters in January 1987.

(c) Efforts are being made by the oil marketing companies to reduce the backlog by stepping up supplies to markets in Bihar including Biharsharif, by supplementing supplies from bottling plants at Haldia and Kalyani. Additional LPG bottling capacity is being set-up in the region under the LPG phase III project, as a long-term solution.

Production and Requirement of Penicillin

2. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of penicillin units functioning in the country at present and the annual production of penicillin in those units;

(b) the requirement of penicillin in the country annually ;

(c) Whether there is any proposal to establish a plant to manufacture penicillin in the country in the near future to meet the demand of penicillin; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be established with its location ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Details are given below :—

Production of Penicillin (MMU)

Name of Company	Year, 1985-86	
i) IDPL	—	32.40
ii) HAL	—	73.81
iii) Alombic	—	91.47
iv) Standard Pharma	—	71.43
Total :—		269.11

(b) The Working Group on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals for the 7th Five Year Plan have estimated the requirement of Penicillin as 1520 MMU during 1986-87 and 2470 MMU by 1989-90.

(c) and (d) Under the policy recently announced, the manufacture of penicillin has been dereserved from the Public Sector with a view to boost production. In response to this, applications have been received for setting up Penicillin projects in the country.

Procedure for Car Manufacturers to obtain Fuel Efficiency Certificate

3. SHRI H.B. PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government have laid down detailed procedure for car manufacturers to obtain fuel efficiency certificates for availing fiscal concessions; and

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

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

(b) : A Statement giving the details is given below.

Statement

Fuel Efficiency Certification Procedures

Notifications issued by the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India on 24th December, 1986 prescribe the conditions to be fulfilled by fuel efficient motorcars for availing of the fiscal concessions granted under those notifications. The following procedure is laid down for obtaining fu

efficiency certificate under these notifications :

(1) The manufacturer shall submit an application in duplicate to the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry, giving the model and complete technical specifications of the vehicle in the proforma prescribed for this purpose.

(2) The manufacturer shall simultaneously send a copy of the application and the proforma to the Director, Vehicle Research and Development Establishment (VRDE) Ahmednagar—414002.

(3) The Department of Industrial Development in the Ministry of Industry shall advise the VRDE to carry out the fuel efficiency test.

(4) On receipt of such advice, the VRDE shall depute an officer to select 5 vehicles at random from the production line of the manufacturer after giving notice to the manufacturer.

(5) Such random selection shall be made from a minimum number of 20 vehicles out of the current production in the plant of the manufacturer. The engine number, chassis number and the colour of the selected vehicles shall be noted by VRDE.

(6) It shall be the responsibility of the manufacturer to deliver the 5 selected vehicles at the premises of the VRDE, Ahmednagar within two weeks of the selection of the vehicles, with running—in duly completed by the manufacturer.

(7) The manufacturer may, if he so desires, depute one representative to observe the fuel efficiency test at VRDE. It is, however, obligatory for the manufacturer to depute one good mechanic to attend to the repairs of the vehicles during the testing at the VRDE.

(8) The VRDE shall carry out the fuel efficiency test on the 5 vehicles in accordance with the procedures prescribed

in this behalf. A copy of this may be obtained on request from VRDE, Ahmednagar.

(9) The fuel efficiency test reports of the VRDE shall be considered by a Fuel Efficiency Committee in the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry. The Committee shall examine all relevant aspects and make its recommendations regarding the issue of the certificate.

(10) Based on the recommendations of the Committee, a fuel efficiency certificate will be issued by an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary in the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry.

(11) The fuel efficiency certificate shall be issued only if all the 5 tested vehicles achieve the fuel efficiency norms prescribed under the aforesaid notifications of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. If even one of the tested vehicles does not achieve the prescribed fuel efficiency norms, the Committee shall not recommend the issue of a fuel efficiency certificate.

(12) The fuel efficiency certificate issued shall be valid for a period of 6 months from the date of issue.

(13) For renewal of a fuel efficiency certificate, the manufacturer shall submit his application at least 2 months in advance of the date of expiry of the current certificate.

(14) Before the fuel efficiency tests are undertaken by the VRDE, the manufacturer shall pay the VRDE through a Demand Draft, a testing charge of Rs. 10,000 per vehicle.

(15) After the VRDE has carried out the fuel efficiency tests, the tested vehicles shall be collected by the manufacturer from the VRDE premises at Ahmednagar.

**Fair Price Shops in Rural and
Urban Areas**

4. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise break up of rural and urban fair price shops out of the total of 3.15 lakh fair price shops as on 31 January, 1985;

(b) the details of areas in the country not covered so far by public distribution system; and

(c) the details of mobile fair price shops operating in far flung regions of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) A statement indicating the number of fair price shops functioning in rural and urban areas of various/U.Ts. as on 1.1.1985 is given below in the statement.

(b) According to available information, the entire country has been covered under the net-work of Public Distribution System.

(c) According to the information received from State Governments/U.T. Administrations, 153 mobile fair price shops are operating in Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Statement

*State-wise number of Fair Price Shops in the country as on 1/1/85
Number of Fair Price Shops*

Sl. No.	Name of State/U.T.	Urban		Rural		Total
		Cooper- atives	others	Cooper- atives	others	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	933	5780	2024	23711	32448
2.	Assam	145	1919	1363	17852	21279
3.	Bihar	552	6718	2686	29072	39028
4.	Gujarat	653	2204	3157	4428	10442
5.	Haryana	124	1395	1539	2898	5956
6.	Himachal Pradesh	101	93	2140	470	2804
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	2264
8.	Karnataka	2290	2778	5059	5692	15819
9.	Kerala (1/10/84)	1505.....		10861.....		12366
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2024	2716	10404	3612	18756
11.	Maharashtra Urban+ Rural	1960		5949	24200	32109

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Manipur	11	143	19	1214	1387
13.	Meghalaya	20	378	54	1823	2275
14.	Nagaland	9	104	Nil	48	161
15.	Orissa	530	2455	4349	12269	19603
16.	Punjab	197	1776	2591	5992	10556
17.	Rajasthan	874	2398	5124	* 4447	13091@
18.	Sikkim (1/4/84)	27	550	43	445	1065
19.	Tamil Nadu	2362	656	12990	4488	20496
20.	Tripura	30	65	294	572	961
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2188	6962	9442	8945	27537
22.	West Bengal	578	4705	560	13275	19118
23.	A & N Islands	11	36	60	109	216
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	48	279	327		654
25.	Chandigarh	28	197	28		253
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	34	15	49
27.	Delhi	111	2639	38	300	3088
28.	Goa Daman & Diu	59	46	152	204	461
29.	Lakshadweep	11	—	14	—	25
30.	Mizoram	2	151	30	571	754
31.	Pondicherry	95	46	103	25	269
					3,15,290	

@ Includes 248 shops opened in 84-85 for which breakup is not available.

Changes in Telecommunication Structure

5. CH. RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring major changes in telecommunication structure;

(b) if so, the plans for the proposed changes; and

(c) what would be the cost involved in the new structure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Structure of various organisation is under continuous review to improve efficiency. This applies to Telecommunications organisations also.

(b) and (c) No concrete proposals have been finalized.

Setting up of Public Sector units in North Bengal

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

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to set up at least two public sector units in the five backward districts of North Bengal ; 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) and (b). The information is being collected and the same will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Fair Price Shops

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

(a) the number of fair price shops opened in the country so far ; and

(b) their State-wise distribution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). The total number of fair price shops in the country as on 30.9.1986, is about 3.30 lakh. The State-wise break-up of the fair price shops is given in the statement given below.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Fair Price Shops as on 30/9/86
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	34030
2.	Assam	22968
3.	Bihar	39028
4.	Gujarat	10843
5.	Haryana	6355
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2873
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	2325
8.	Karnataka	16023
9.	Kerala	12717
10.	Madhya Pradesh	18875
11.	Maharashtra	33190
12.	Manipur	1485
13.	Meghalaya	2480
14.	Nagaland	185
15.	Orissa	19666
16.	Punjab	10801

1	2	3
17.	Rajasthan	13445
18.	Sikkim	1119
19.	Tamil Nadu	20723
20.	Tripura	1042
21.	Uttar Pradesh	35080
22.	West Bengal	19852
23.	A & N Islands	228
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	384
25.	Chandigarh	286
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	53
27.	Delhi	3118
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	502
29.	Lakshadweep	25
30.	Mizoram	718
31.	Pondicherry	293
		3,30,712

Holding of Assembly Elections

8. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

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

(a) the States where the Assembly elections are due during the current year and when it is due in each case ;

(b) whether some of these State Governments had suggested to the Election Commission certain dates for conducting the elections ;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons given by the Election Commission for not conducting the elections on these proposed dates ;

(d) whether the dates of elections to the State Assemblies which are likely to be due before May this year have been announced ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) The States where the assembly elections are due in this year are West Bengal, Haryana, Kerala, Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir. In the case of West Bengal, Haryana, Kerala and Nagaland, the general elections are for the purpose of constituting a new Legislative Assembly, on the expiry of the term of the existing Legislative Assembly, while in respect of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the State Legislative Assembly was dissolved in November, 1986, and the election should be held before March for completing the requisite financial business. The dates on which the term of the Legislative Assemblies of the States are due to expire are as follows :—

1.	West Bengal	13-6-1987
2.	Haryana	23-6-1987
3.	Kerala	23-6-1987
4.	Nagaland	28-11-1987

(b) to (d). The Government of West Bengal had requested the Election Commission to hold the elections to the State Assembly on the 22nd February, 1987. A request was also received from the Government of Kerala that the elections to that State Assembly should be held in March, 1987. As the process of election, including the period of advance notice and the period which may have to be left after the date of poll for providing for unforeseen contingencies, takes about 45 days, the process of general elections should have been initiated in the case of West Bengal around the last week of April, 1987 and in the case of Haryana and Kerala, in the first week of May, 1987, and in the case of Nagaland, in the early part of October, 1987. The Commission was not in favour of holding the general election on the date suggested by the State Government of West Bengal, as it was felt that in view of the complaints received from time to time with respect to the revision of rolls, some time for receipt and disposal of appeals and for receipt of fresh applications for enrolment in the electoral rolls should be allowed. The Commission was also anxious to follow the convention of holding, as far as possible, general elections due around the same time according to a common programme. In the light of these considerations the Election Commission has announced the programme of general elections to Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal and Kerala Assemblies in such a manner as to have the date of poll on the 23rd March, 1987. By this process, the request of the Government of West Bengal was met half way and the request of the Government of Kerala was accepted.

(c) The details of the programme of general elections to the Legislative Assemblies of West Bengal, Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir, as announced by the Election Commission, are as follows:—

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| (1) Issue of notification | 16-2-1987 |
| (2) Last date of making nominations for the election | 23-2-1987 |

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| (3) Date of scrutiny of nominations | 24-2-1987 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| (4) Last date of withdrawal of candidature in the case of Jammu and Kashmir and Kerala | 27-2-1987 |
|--|-----------|

AND

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| in the case of West Bengal | 26-2-1987 |
|----------------------------|-----------|

- | | |
|------------------|-----------|
| (5) Date of poll | 23-3-1987 |
|------------------|-----------|

Improvement in Telephones in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri Districts

9. PROF. MADHU D'ANDAVATE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been recurring complaints regarding telephone communication in the Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri Districts of the Konkan region in Maharashtra due to outmoded telephone exchange system ; and

(b) if so, whether these defects are proposed to be removed in a time bound programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. There have been no recurring complaints in the Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts of Konkan region. Prompt action is taken to attend to complaints as and when they are received.

Decentralisation of approval of Foreign Collaboration

10. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have further decentralised approval of foreign collaborations and authorised the

respective administrative ministries to issue sanctions ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding this new regulation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (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. The main thrust of the new policy is that 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. Copies of the Press Note have been sent to the Parliament Library.

Cement Factories in Andhra Pradesh

11. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of existing cement factories in Andhra Pradesh, their location and licensed capacity ; and

(b) the particulars of Cement plants for which industrial licence/letter of intent/registration with Directorate General of Technical Development from Andhra Pradesh have been given ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Details are given in the Statement given below .

Statement

Details of Cement Units in production in Andhra Pradesh

S. No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity (LTPA)
LARGE :			
1.	Cement Corporation of India (PSU)	Yerraguntla Cuddapah	4.00
2.	Cement Corporation of India	Adilabad	4.00
3.	Priyadarshini Cements	Kodad, Nalgonda	4.00
4.	Andhra Cement Ltd.,	Vijayawada	2.40
5.	—do—	Visakhapatnam	2.50
6.	—do—	Nadikudi, Adilabad	2.50
7.	Ramakrishna Cement (KCP)	Macherla, Guntur	2.54
8.	Orient Paper Mills (Ph. I)	Asifabad, Adilabad	4.50
9.	Sri Vishnu Cements (Ph. I)	Kodad, Nalgonda	6.00
10.	Raasi Cements	Vedapalli Nalgonda	3.00
11.	Associated Cement Co. Ltd.	Kistna, Guntur	2.14
12.	—do—	Mancherla, Adilabad	3.35
13.	Panyam Cements & Minerals Industries	Bunganapalli	5.31

1.	2	3	4
14.	Kesoram Cements	Poddapalli	9.00
15.	Coromandal Fertilizers	Chilamkur, Kalamalla	10.00
16.	Texmaca	Yerraguntla	5.00
MINI & REGISTERED :			
1.	Deccan Cement Ltd.,	Huzurnagar, Nalgonda	0.99
2.	Kaketiya Cement	Kodad, Nalgonda	0.66
3.	Someswara Cements	Asifabad, Adilabad	0.66
4.	Nagarjuna Cement Ltd.	Huzurnagar, Nalgonda	0.66
5.	Srivijaykrishna Cement	Jaggayyapet	0.20
6.	Himadari Cements	Vadri, Krishna	0.66
7.	Parthasarathi Cements	Karampudi, Guntur	0.66
8.	Sagar Cement Ltd.	Huzurnagar, Nalgonda	0.95
9.	Annapurna Cement Ltd.	Asifabad	0.66
10.	Amreshwari Cements	Pedaveedu	0.33
11.	S V Cement Ltd.	Kanakadripalli	0.33
12.	Suvarna Cements Ltd.	Mellacheruvu, Nalgonda	0.66

Details of Cement Units under Implementation in Andhra Pradesh

S. No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity (LTPA)
I. LARGE :			
(A) Industrial Licence			
1.	Cement Corporation of India	Tandur, KV Rangareddy	10.00
2.	Andhra Cement Co. Ltd.	Nadikudi Vizag (SE)	5.00
3.	Sri Krishna Cements	Yadiki, Tadpatri	4.00
4.	Orient Paper Mills	Asifabad, Adilabad (P. II)	4.50
5.	Sri Vishnu Cements	Kodad, Nalgonda (P. II)	4.00
6.	Madras Cements	Jaggayyapet, Krishna	7.50
7.	Raasi Cements Ltd.	Vedapalli Nalgonda (SE)	8.00
(B) Letters of Intents			
1.	Cement Corporation of India	Yerraguntla (SE) Cuddapah	11.20
2.	Priyadarshini Cements	Kodad, Nalgonda (SE)	6.00

S. No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity (LTPA)
3.	Andhra Cements Ltd.	Jayanthipuram, Krishna	3.00
4.	K C P Ltd.,	Macherla, Guntur (SE)	1.46
5.	Walchand Industries Ltd.	Tandur, Rangareddy	7.00
6.	Zenith Steel Pipes Ltd.	Yapalagudam, Adilabad	5.00
7.	Associated Cement Co. Ltd.	Mancherla, Adilabad (SE)	4.65

II. MINI UNITS :

(A) *Industrial Licence*

1.	Bogeshwara Cement Minerals	Kurnool	0.66
2.	Coromandel Cements	Nalgonda	0.66

(B) *Letters of Intent*

1.	Shri A Baba Vardhnarao	Krishna	0.66
2.	Chanakya Cements Ltd.,	Kodad	0.66
3.	Devi Cement Ltd.	—do—	0.66
4.	P R Cement Ltd.	—do—	0.66
5.	P R K Raju	—do—	0.66
6.	M/s. Shej Cement Ltd.	—do—	0.66
7.	Bhagyalaxmi Cement Ltd.	—do—	0.66
8.	P V Laxminarayan Reddy	Huzurnagar	0.66
9.	Gautam Cements Ltd.	Guntur	0.66

(C) *DGTD Registration*

1.	Bishamber Cement	Nalgonda	0.33
2.	Seetharam Cements Ltd.	Mehboobnagar	0.33
3.	Essar Cements	Nalgonda	0.15
4.	Jindender Reddy	Kodad	0.33
5.	R R Koteswara Rao	Nalgonda	0.33
6.	Shri Kotagiri Pandu	—do—	0.33
7.	P Subbhu Raju	—do—	0.33
8.	M/s. Rockland Minerals & Chemicals	—do—	0.30
9.	C N Reddy	Adilabad	0.27
10.	M A Muneer	Nalgonda	0.33
11.	Shri V. Puchpamala	—do—	0.33

1	2	3	4
12.	V. Narendrā Reddy	—do—	0.33
13.	Pandarangayya	—do—	0.33
14.	Shri Meda Ramaiah	Kurnool	0.33
15.	B. Gopalakrishna Reddy	Mehboobnagar	0.33
16.	Sheikh Abdullah	—do—	0.33
17.	Micael Watsa	Anandpur	0.33
18.	Vijay Kumar	Mehboobnagar	0.33
19.	K. Rajeshwar Rao	Rangareddy	0.33
20.	P. Hanumantha Rao	Adilabad	0.33
21.	S. V. Bhadrappa	Anandpur	0.33
22.	Padmavati Cement	Krishna	0.33
23.	Nailari Suresh	Anandpur	0.33
24.	B. Gausurderrajan	Karnool	0.33
25.	M. Nageshwar Rao	Nalgonda	0.33
26.	Rambhadra Raju	—do—	0.33
27.	A Venkateswara Rao	—do—	0.33
28.	R. Rangayya	—do—	0.33
29.	Apravapalli S. Rao	—do—	0.33
30.	D. Srinath Reddy	—do—	0.33
31.	D. Satyavathi	Anandpur	0.33

[Translation]

**Construction of Godowns in
Uttar Pradesh**

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

(a) whether any steps to create additional storage capacity for foodgrains are being taken ;

(b) if so, whether more godowns are proposed to be constructed in Uttar Pradesh ;

(c) the number of new godowns to be constructed there ;

(d) whether there is a proposal to construct a godown in district Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh also ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) and (c) The Food Corporation of India has taken up construction of additional storage capacity of 65,930 tonnes at 15 centres in Uttar Pradesh.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) The existing storage capacity in Barabanki district is considered sufficient.

[English]

Telephone Exchange in the Country

13. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSAIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of manual telephone exchanges functioning in the country till now, State-wise details thereof ; and

(b) the number of automatic telephone exchanges functioning in the country till date State-wise details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) The detail of the telephone exchanges manual and automatic State-wise working in the country as on 31.3.1986 is given in the Statement below.

Statement

Details of Manual & Automatic Exchanges State-wise as on 31.3.1986

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Manual Exchanges	No. of Automatic Exchanges
1.	Andhra Pradesh	159	1702
2.	Bihar	71	313
3.	Gujarat	166	662
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	20	70
5.	Karnataka	142	1000
6.	Kerala	19	574
7.	Madhya Pradesh	115	622
8.	Maharashtra	248	990
9.	North East (includes All 7 States)	32	268
10.	North West (includes Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh & Chandigarh)	160	646
11.	Orissa	44	262
12.	Rajasthan	136	480
13.	Tamil Nadu	63	1086
14.	Uttar Pradesh	136	792
15.	West Bengal	58	390
16.	Delhi	—	52
		1569	9909

**Taking over the State Electricity Boards
Generating Loss Power**

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to amend the Electricity Supply Act, 1948 for taking over those electricity boards whose generation is below 50 per cent and those who do not comply with

the directives of the Central Electricity Authority ; and

(b) if so, when ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

**Installation of Public call offices
under Hexagon Scheme**

15. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2207 on 18th November, 1986 regarding installation of Public Call offices under Hexagon scheme and state :

(a) the targets for each year of the Seventh Plan i.e. 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 for each circle;

(b) the actual number of Long Distance Phones provided in the Hexagons in each State alongwith the shortfall in each case;

(c) whether efforts would be made to ensure the provision in all the 7125 inhabited Hexagons with Public Phones by the end of the Seventh Plan and the nature thereof ; and

(d) if so, the financial allocations required for this purpose during the remaining two years of the Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The information is given in the Statement below.

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

(c) No, Sir.

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

Statement

Targets of long Distance public Telephones (IDPTs) for 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88 and Identified Inhabited Hexagons and those provided with Telephone Facility

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Targets for IDPTs			Identified Inhabited hexagons	Hexagons provided with telephone facility as on 31-12-1986
		85-86	86-87	87-88		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	150	40	Target for 87-88 will be fixed at the beginning of the year depending on the availability of financial resources and stores.	4991	4867
2.	Bihar	250	100		4740	1303
3.	Gujarat	100	100		2387	1215
4.	J. & K.	30	75		885	269
5.	Karnataka	200	75		3648	2290

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Karala	10	—		546	546
7.	Madhya Pradesh	200	100		6103	3158
8.	Maharashtra	200	100		4842	2189
9.	North Eastern (including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura).	50	50		3308	747
10.	North Western (including Punjab, Haryana and Himachal)	120	70		2023	1069
11.	Orissa	100	100		2110	871
12.	Rajasthan	220	150		6193	1633
13.	Tamil Nadu	50	30		1672	1657
14.	Uttar Pradesh	200	70		4055	2241
15.	West Bengal (including Sikkam)	120	60		2777	848
Total		2,000	1,120		50,280	24,903

**Electronic Exchange at Ghazipur,
Uttar Pradesh**

17. **SHRI ZAINUL BASHIR :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to State the progress made in regard to completion of Electronic Exchange at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : A 400 line electronic exchanges is expected to be commissioned at Ghazipur after completion of building in the last quarter of 1987-88. The equipment for exchange has been received.

Installed Capacity of Power Projects

18. **SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the installed capacity of various power projects, State-wise, and the extent to which the capacity has been utilised during the last three years ;

(b) the reasons for shortfall in the capacity utilisation, if any ; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The required information is given in statements I, II and III below.

(b) The reasons for the shortfall in the capacity utilisation of thermal power stations include system load conditions, deficiencies in equipment, declining quality of coal, deficiencies in operation and

maintenance, lack of financial resources with State Electricity Boards and problems of industrial relations.

(c) The measures taken to improve the performance of thermal stations include periodic field visits by Roving Teams and Task Forces comprising engineers from C.E.A., BHEL and ILK when specific action plans are drawn up to help the power stations in overcoming their

problems. A Centrally sponsored renovation & Modernisation scheme has been initiated in 32 thermal stations in the country to improve their performance. Assistance is also being provided to the State Electricity Boards in matters such as training of power sector personnel, procuring of spare parts from foreign and indigenous sources, and in the supply of requisite quality and quantity of coal.

Statement-I

State-wise, Year-wise and Plant wise capacity, Actual Generation and PLF of Thermal Power Stations During 1983-84 to 1985-86

State/UT/ Station	1983-84				1984-85				1985-86			
	Cap. (MW)	Gen. (Gwh)	PLF (%)	PLF (%)	Cap. (MW)	Gen. (Gwh)	PLF (%)	PLF (%)	Cap. (MW)	Gen. (Gwh)	PLF (%)	PLF (%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DELHI												
Badarpur	720	3078	48.7	720	3014	47.8	720	2901	46.0			
I.P. Station	282.5	1245	50.2	282.5	1516	61.70	282.5	1579	63.81			
HARYANA												
Fabad Exten.	180	441	27.9	180	440	27.9	180	397	25.18			
Panipat	220	630	32.6	220	7766	39.7	330	750	38.97			
PUNJAB												
Bhatinda	440	2204	57	440	2385	61.9	440	2330	60.45			
Roper	—	—	—	210	557	59.10	420	1946	56.98			
RAJASTHAN												
Kota	—	—	—	220	1106	57.2	220	1109	57.54			
U.P.												
Obra	1550	4855	35.70	1550	4038	29.70	1550	4885	41.62			
H'Ganj A	90	162	20.5	90	252	32.0	90	185	23.47			

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
H'Ganj B		430	1424	36	450	1164	29.6	450	1204	34.32
Pankt		249	1024	46.80	252	1091	49.70	284	851	34.21
Paricha		—	—	—	110	27	2.8	220	469	28.22
Singrauli		1050	3245	55.7	1050	5326	59.3	1050	6332	68.84
GUJARAT										
Dhovan		534	3241	69.1	534	3096	66.2	534	2700	57.72
		640	2791	49.65	640	2233	50.57	850	3362	49.93
Gandhinagar		240	1350	63.1	240	838	39.8	240	1450	68.97
Wanakbori		630	1374	37.26	630	2768	59.2	840	2613	47.33
A.E. Co.		161	1093	77.3	161	1005	71.3	161	916	64.95
Sabarmati		110	707	73.2	220	732	71.4	220	1298	67.35
M.P.										
Satpura		932.5	4179	54.97	1142.5	4549	45.57	1142.5	5176	51.72
Korba-I		100	486	55.3	100	483	55.1	100	481	54.91
Korba-II		200	1136	64.7	200	777	44.3	240	1215	57.79
Korba-III		240	755	35.8	240	1181	56.2	240	1215	57.79
A' Katak		300	1559	59.12	300	1729	65.82	300	1658	63.09
Korba STPS		630	1323	62.1	630	2849	52.2	630	4105	74.38
Korba West		420	318	22.12	420	1070	47.2	840	1843	45.74
MAHARASHTRA										
Nasik		910	4083	51	910	4141	52	910	5094	63.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Koradi	1100	3450	36	1100	3403	35	1100	4028	61.99
K' Kheda	90	223	28.2	90	147	18.6	90	252	31.96
Puras	92.5	357	43.9	92.5	279	34.4	92.5	372	45.94
Bhusewel	482.5	1992	47	482.5	1932	46	482.5	1522	59.67
Parli	270	1658	70	270	1754	74	480	2030	66.98
Trembay	830	2309	75.1	830	4680	65.7	830	3982	54.77
Chandrapur	—	—	—	420	735	23.2	840	1735	44.71
A.P.									
K' Gundeh B	220	467	24.2	220	617	32.1	220	693	35.96
K' Gundem A	240	1227	58.2	240	1237	58.9	240	1135	53.99
K' Gundem C	220	551	28.5	220	735	38.20	220	1058	54.9
Nellore	30	146	55.4	30	117	44.5	30	119	45.28
Vijayawada	420	3106	84.2	420	2847	77.4	420	3272	88.93
K' Gundem STPS	200	205	—	600	1491	57.4	600	3789	72.09
TAMIL NADU									
Neyveli	600	3910	74.2	600	4057	77.2	810	3937	74.9
Ennore	450	1103	24.9	450	1426	36.2	450	2056	52.2
Blair Bridge	70	87	14.1	70	87	14.2	70	22	3.59
Tuticorin	630	2793	50.5	630	3421	62.0	630	3616	65.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
KARNATAKA									
Raichur	—	—	—	—	—	—	210	207	33.5
D.V.C.									
Chandrapura	780	3718	54.3	780	3606	52.8	780	3218	47.10
Durgapur	460	1413	35.0	460	1625	40.3	460	1910	52.60
Bokaro	205.5	977	54.10	205	915	51.0	415	931	51.84
BIHAR									
Patratu	730	1866	34.3	730	1984	33.0	840	2559	40.0
Barauni	210	280	15.57	255	508	21.30	365	408	16.97
ORISSA									
Talcher	470	1270	33.3	470	1326	32.2	470	1305	31.70
WEST BENGAL									
Santalidih	480	1156	27.4	480	1039	24.7	480	1208	28.61
Bandel	530	2089	44.9	430	2248	48.4	530	2381	51.28
Kolaghat	—	—	—	210	227	17.7	420	942	50.28
D.P.L.	280	746	30.3	280	705	28.7	390	677	26.30
C.E.S.C.	328	1446	50.2	328	1309	45.6	319	1242	49.77
Titagarh	180	545	60.9	240	1005	71.3	240	1222	62.33
ASSAM									
Namrup	111.5	377	38.5	111.5	373	38.2	111.5	455	40.33
Chandrapur	30	131	49.7	30	92	35.0	30	106	40.33
Bongaigaon	120	206	19	120	167	16	180	74	1.90

Note : This does not include the samller station of less then 20 MW unit capacity.

Statement-II

State-wise, Year-wise and Plant-wise capacity, actual generation and Plant Load Factor of Nuclear Stations during 1983-84 to 1985-86

Station	1983-84			1984-85			1985-86		
	Cap. (MW)	Gen. (Gwh)	PLF (%)	Cap. (MW)	Gen. (Gwh)	PLF (%)	Cap. (MW)	Gen. (Gwh)	PLF (%)
RAJASTHAN									
1. RAPS	440	1192	30.8	440	1078	28.0	440	1292	33.3
MAHARASHTRA									
2. Tarapur	420	1857	50.3	420	1930	52.5	320	1962	63.4
TAMIL NADU									
3. Kalpakkam	235	445	—	235	1070	52.0	470	1731	80.8

Statement III

State-wise, Year-wise and Plant-wise capacity and actual generation of Hydro Stations during 1983-84 to 1985-86

Station	1983-84		1984-85		1985-86	
	Dap. (MW)	Gen. (Gwh)	Cap. (MW)	Gen. (Gwh)	Cap. (MW)	Gen. (Gwh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Himachal Pradesh						
Dassi	60	295	60	272	60	292
Giri Bata	60	272	60	190	60	253
Binwa	—	—	6	6	6	31
Jammu & Kashmir						
Lower Jhelum	105	578	105	565	105	574
Chenani	70	316	69	207	69	289
Upper Sindh						
Others						
Punjab						
UBDC	45	272	45	264	45	259
Shanan	110	551	110	472	110	522
Anandpur Sahib	—	—	—	—	134	485
Mukerian	45	93	45	232	45	223
Rajasthan						
R.P. Sagar	172	3881	172	473	172	491
Jawahar Sagar	99	287	99	374	99	392
Mahi Bajaj	—	—	—	—	50	40
Uttar Pradesh						
Riband	300	520	300	923	300	703
Yamuna St. II (Chhibro)	240	987	240	775	240	894
Khodri	120	50	120	380	120	424
St. I & IV	114.8	592	114.8	523	114.8	571
Obra	99	198	99	332	99	252

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ganga Canal	45.2	190	45.2	208	45.2	176
Matitila	30	37	30	37	30	87
Ramganga	198	236	198	355	198	266
Khatima	41.4	250	41.4	240	41.4	244
Chilla	144	850	144	708	144	787
Maneri Bhali	—	—	90	113	90	173
Gujarat						
Ukai	300	1091	300	626	300	291
Madhya Pradesh						
Gandhi Sagar	115	271	115	438	115	415
Maharashtra						
Koyna Dam	920	4478	920	4073	920	3838
Vaiterna	60	116	60	159	60	83
Paithan	—	—	12	—	12	2
Others	47.5	117	47.5	124	47.5	87
Banderdhara	—	—	—	—	10	—
Andhra Pradesh						
Machkund	114.7	655	114.7	831	114.7	679
T.B. Dam	72	214	72	259	72	210
Upper Sileru	120	422	120	487	120	302
Lower Sileru	400	1095	400	1266	400	823
Nagarjuna Sagar	510	2081	710	1958	810	1513
Nagarjuna Sagar (RBC)	60	122	60	122	60	40
Nizam Sagar	10	37	10	30	10	10
Srisailem	330	659	440	2007	550	2116
Donkarayi	25	51	25	77	25	51
Karnataka						
Sharavathy	891	4695	891	4851	891	3917
Jog	120	554	120	511	120	309
Bhadra	33.2	49	33.2	65	33.2	37
Sivasamudram	30	131	30	138	30	129

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Shimshapura	16	123	16	138	16	134
Munirabad	27	100	27	95	27	82
Linganamakki	55	249	55	216	55	149
Kalinadi	810	1880	810	2350	810	2328
Kalinadi (Supa Dam)	—	—	—	—	100	225
Kerala						
Iddukki	390	1435	390	1936	650	2511
Sabarigiri	300	849	300	1377	300	1402
Kuttiady	75	252	75	272	75	239
Sholayar	54	220	54	270	54	235
Sengulam	48	131	48	149	48	118
Neriamangalam	45	255	45	291	45	293
Palivasal	37.5	209	37.5	237	37.5	218
Poringalkuttu	32	216	32	235	32	212
Panniar	30	76	30	111	30	129
Tamil Nadu						
Kundan 1-5	535	858	535	1665	535	939
Mattur Dam	240	426	240	680	240	215
Periyar	140	441	140	567	140	462
Kodayar	100	210	100	245	100	238
Sholayar	95	276	95	215	95	298
Pykara	70	219	70	393	70	241
Aliyar	60	132	60	145	60	136
Sarkarpathi	30	97	30	144	30	124
Moyar	36	91	36	170	36	103
Papanasam	28	85	28	125	28	104
Suruliyar	35	107	35	103	35	85
Sevalarur	—	—	—	—	20	—
Bihar						
Kosi	20	18	20	11	20	14
Subernrekha	130	170	130	263	130	221
Orissa						
Belimela	360	1310	360	1166	360	872

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hirakud	270	1082	270	1103	270	1099
Rengali	—	—	—	—	100	198
West Bengal						
Small Stns. (W.B.)	41	116	41	122	41	121
Sikkim						
Lower Lagyap	12	23	12	16	12	30
Meghalaya						
Kyrdomkulai	60	181	60	155	60	162
Manipur						
Umium Umtru	65.2	229	65.2	238	65.2	192
Tripura						
Gumti	15	59	15	60	15	65
Central Sector						
Bairas Siul	180	846	180	656	180	678
Loktak	105	49	105	259	105	413
B.B.M.B.						
Bhakra	} 1205	7007	1337	59	337	5995
Ganguwal						
Kotta						
Dehar	990	2733	990	2935	990	3085
Pong	300	1521	360	1190	360	1490
D.V.C.						
Maithon	60	117	60	201	60	210
Panchet Hill	40	112	40	140	40	174
Tillaiya	4	4	4	21	4	21
Meghalaya						
Kyrdemkulai	60	181	60	155	60	162
Khongdang	25	1	50	99	50	166
Maharashtra						
Tata (Hydro)						
Tata (Pvt.)	276	1453	276	1370	276	1235

Reduction in levy quota for Cement Industry

19. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some reduction in the levy quota for the cement industry has recently been announced during the current year;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the other facilities extended by Government to the cement industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Cement units which had gone into production after 1.1.82 and those which have been declared as sick were required to give 40% of their production as levy quota as against 60% of actual production in the case of units which had gone into production prior to 1.1.82. It has been decided to reduce the levy quota of all cement units by 10% with effect from 15th December, 1986.

(c) : The details of other facilities extended by Government to the cement industry are as under :—

- (i) The retention price (payable to cement producers) of levy cement has been increased by Rs. 24.50 per tonne with effect from 15.12.86.
- (ii) Contribution by cement units to the Cement Regulation Account at the rate of Rs. 9 per tonne of production of non-levy cement has been discontinued with effect from 15th December 1986
- (iii) With a view to ensure expeditious installation of additional capacity, the schemes of expansions and modernisation are being encouraged.

(iv) To encourage maximisation of production out of the existing installed capacities, the level of levy obligation had been reduced in relation to the production beyond 100% and upto 125% of the licensed capacity.

(v) To compensate the cement industry for higher direct cost for generation of power from the DG Sets installed after 28.2.82, appropriate relief is provided by reduction in their normal levy obligation.

(vi) In order to encourage modernisation of the cement units, in general, and conversion of wet process kilns into dry process kilns in particular, by scrapping/modifying the old kilns, it has been decided to treat the production of cement from such modernised plant as production coming out of the new plants for the purpose of computing levy quota subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

Lifting Control on Movement of Foodgrains

20. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have instructed State Governments to lift the controls on the movement of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations were advised to ensure that no inter-state restrictions were imposed on the movement of wheat, paddy, levy-free rice and coarse grains. If there were any special reasons for

imposing any such restriction, they have been advised to obtain the concurrence of the Central Government.

Fire in Bombay-Pune Pipeline

21. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the cause of the fire that was reported to have engulfed Hindustan Petroleum's Bombay-Pune pipeline near Mankhurd Railway crossing on 2nd January, 1987;

(b) whether the Government have assessed the loss caused thereby; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) There was leakage of High Speed Diesel from the Bombay-Pune Pipeline near the Mankhurd Railway Crossing on January 2, 1987 on account of a rupture from the welded longitudinal seam in one of the pipes of the Pipeline. The leaked product flowed through a water drain to a spot about half a kilometre away where it caught fire.

(b) and (c) An assessment of the loss caused by the fire has been made by the Bombay Municipal Corporation. It has been estimated that approx. 150 huts were destroyed and the total loss including all the belongings therein was approx. Rs 150 lakhs. There was no loss of human life.

Facilities/Concessions for Setting up Industries in Backward Districts

22. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of facilities/concessions provided by the Union Government to the different State

Governments in regard to setting up industries in the backward districts during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : A number of incentives/concessions like Central Investment Subsidy, Transport Subsidy, Income Tax incentive, facility for purchase of machinery on hire purchase basis to small scale units, consultancy for technical services etc. are being offered to entrepreneurs for setting up industries in industrially backward areas. Details of all the incentives are given in the booklet on "Incentives for Industries in Backward Areas" as updated upto 20.10.86; copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

During the last three years a sum of Rs. 235.37 crore and Rs. 684.05 lakhs were reimbursed to the various States/ Union Territories under the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme and Transport Subsidy Scheme respectively. Year-wise and State-wise reimbursement statements are available in the Parliament Library.

Conversion of Manual Telephone Exchanges into Automatic Exchanges

23. SHRI MATILAL HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is any proposal for conversion of all manual telephone exchanges into automatic one;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) All the manual exchanges at all the district headquarters are proposed to be automatised during the 7th plan on priority. The manual exchanges at the remaining places are to be automatised progressively during the 7th and subsequent plans depending upon the availability of automatic switching equipment.

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

Proposal of OPEC for Fixed Price Structure

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries are contemplating to phase out the free marketing prices of oil and usher in a fixed price structure of 18 dollar per barrel with a cut in production;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied the adverse effects of this proposal on the Indian economy ;

(c) whether the current oil output by members of the OPEC is likely to be below overall output ceiling; and

(d) if so, how Government propose to meet the situation ?

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) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) Government are constantly watching the market situation to derive the best advantage in its purchases.

Soviet offer on Bakreswar Thermal Power Project in West Bengal

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

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision on the revised Soviet offer on the proposed Bakreswar Thermal Power Project in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the present stage and how long it will take to process the Soviet offer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) (a) to (c) An offer has been received from a consortium led by M/s. Technopromexport (USSR) for turn key implementation of the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project. The Soviet side have indicated their intention to submit a revised offer, which is awaited.

Pending Applications for Telephone Connections in Trichur, Kerala

26. SHRI P.A. ANTONY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending applications for telephone connections in Trichur district of Kerala ;

(b) the number of connections given in the district during the last year ; and

(c) the number of connections likely to be given during this year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The number of pending applications for telephone connections in Trichur District of Kerala as on 31-1-1987 is 9195.

(b) The number of connections given during the past year (1985-86) is 1217.

(c) The number of connections likely to be given during this year (1986-87) is 1985. Out of these 1672 have already been provided.

Setting up of Coir Board in Orissa

27. **SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS :**
Will the Minister of **INDUSTRY** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a Coir Board in Orissa; 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) Coir Board has already been set up under the Coir Industry Act 1953 with jurisdiction over the entire country. Coir Board proposes to set up Regional Coir Training and Development Centres in major coir producing States including one at Bhubaneswar (Orissa) to develop Coir Industry.

Capital investment for ongoing Coal Mining Project under Eastern Coalfields Limited

28. **SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :**

Will the Minister of **ENERGY** be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of capital investment sanctioned by the Union Government for three ongoing coal mining projects under Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

(b) the particulars of the ongoing coal mining projects;

(c) by which year such coal mining projects are expected to be commissioned; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The capital investment sanctioned for the three ongoing major projects costing Rs. 100 crores and more in Eastern Coalfields Limited is Rs. 594.78 crores.

(b) to (d) The particulars of these three projects are as under :—

S. No.	Name of project	Date of sanction	Capacity (mty)	Sanctioned cost (Rs. in crores)	Expected date of completion
		Original/Revised			
1.	Jhanjra Underground	December, 1982	3.50	184.55	March, 1994
2.	Rajmahal Opencast (Revised Cost Estimates)	August, 1980 May, 1985	5.00	217.27	March, 1991
3.	Sonepur Bazari 'A' Opencast	July, 1985	3.00	192.96	March, 1991

[Translation]

Telephone Bonds

29. **SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :**
Will the Minister of **COMMUNICATIONS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam have raised funds through debentures; and

(b) if so, the names of the projects in which Government propose to invest the capital mobilised through telephone

bonds and the number of the subscribers proposed to be benefited thereby ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir, through Telephone Bonds.

(b) The funds raised are for the developmental projects of both MTNL and the Department of Telecommunications. Since it is an integrated network, it is likely to benefit all the existing subscribers as well as subscribers who will get connected to the network in future.

**Charges for Overseas Express Letter
Under National Postal Service**

30. SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the charges for the overseas express letter weighing 10 gm under the National Postal Service;

(b) the names of countries for which this service is available; and

(c) the time taken to deliver these letters at their destinations in Japan, Australia, America and Britain after their receipt at the express letter counters ?

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

(a) We do not have any Express Letter service in the International Postal Service. However, there is an International Speed Post Service for some countries. Charges for a Speed Post Item weighing up to 500 gm. sent through the International Speed Post Service are Rs. 250/- for the U.K., the Federal Republic of Germany, Hong Kong and Japan and Rs. 300/- for the U.S.A.

(b) The International Speed Post Service is presently available for Hong Kong, Japan, the United Kingdom, the

United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany from the following 14 centres in the country viz. Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Indore, Pune, Vadodara, Cochin, Kanpur, Jaipur and Guwahati.

(c) The time taken to deliver items sent by International Speed Post Service to these countries varies from next day to seven days depending upon where the items are booked and where they are to be delivered. The items booked at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Cochin and Bangalore are delivered between one to three days in the major cities of the five countries.

No International speed post service is available for Australia at present.

[English]

Expansion Plan by H.M.T. Limited

31. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the H.M.T. Limited propose to increase watch output;

(b) if so, the details of the expansion plans;

(c) whether Titan Watch, a joint sector project of Karnataka Government and Tatas is also entering into a collaboration agreement for production of Casio watches in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether projects at (a) and (b) above are complementary and there will be no over-production ?

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

(a) and (b). As against a production of 45.34 lakh watches in 1985-86, HMT

has plans to increase its Watch production as follows :—

Year	Annual estimated production (Nos. in lakhs)
1986-87	50.00
1987-88	60.00
1988-89	61.80
1989-90	61.80

(c) No proposal has been received from M/s. Titan Watches Ltd., for entering into a collaboration agreement for manufacture of Casio Watches in India.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

Allotment of Gas Agencies in Gujarat

32. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of gas agencies allotted in various districts of Gujarat during the last three years; and

(b) the number out of them allotted to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, women, ex-servicemen, widows, disabled, blind persons and minority communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b) Oil Industry has awarded 93 LPG distributorships in various districts of Gujarat during the last three years, i.e. 1984-86 and out of them 21 and 13 distributorships have been awarded under 'SC/ST' and 'Physically Handicapped' categories, respectively. There is no separate reservation for women, ex-servicemen, widows, blind

persons and minority communities and as such no statistics are separately maintained on them.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Refinery Project at Mangalore

33. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA
WADIYAR :

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :

DR. V. VENKATESH :

SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA :

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :

SHRI S.M. GURADDI :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHER-
JEE :

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

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has undertaken the programme of setting up a Refinery Project at Mangalore in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the capacity and cost of the project and the technology proposed to be adopted in that project;

(c) the total area of land identified for the location of the Refinery Plant and the township;

(d) the steps taken to execute the project at an early date; and

(e) when it is likely to be commissioned ?

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 (e) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has been permitted to prepare a detailed project report for a 3 MTPA petro-chemical refinery at Mangalore,

jointly with a private co-promotor. HPCL have initially identified an area of about 1800 acres for this purpose. The details of the cost, the technology proposed to be adopted and the likely date of commissioning will be known only after the detailed project report is ready and a decision is taken thereon.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

34. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the projects taken up by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the Bay of Bengal for the exploration of oil and natural gas, especially in the 'E' Zone of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) the upto-date results of the exploration by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission ?

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) ONGC has taken up seismic data acquisition and exploratory drilling in offshore areas of Bengal, Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery and Andaman basins.

(b) Hydrocarbon have been discovered by ONGC in G-1, G-2, GS-8 structures in Krishna-Godavari offshore, PH-9, PY-1 and PY-3 structures in Cauvery offshore and AN-1 structure in Andaman offshore.

Containerised Electronic Exchanges Lying Unused in Bombay

35. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some containerised electronic exchanges in Bombay are lying unused for the past several months;

(b) if so, the names of such Exchanges, the period for which these are lying unused and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the consequent loss to the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and the steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation ?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

Ban of Opening of New Post Offices

37. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a ban on the opening of new post offices in cities like Bombay;

(b) if so, the justification thereof; and

(c) the manner in which Government hope to meet the growing postal needs of the urban people in the future ?

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

(a) No Sir. There is no ban on opening of new post offices as such. However, there is a ban imposed by the Ministry of Finance on creation of new posts. If there is a clear and pressing justification for a new post office and if matching savings can also be located such proposals are taken up with the Ministry of Finance for exemption from the ban.

(b) The question does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

(c) Reviews have shown that by and

large, the existing post offices in urban areas are adequate to meet the needs. In addition, the Department has also appointed a number of Licensed Postal Agents in different parts of the country who sell postage stamps and stationery to public and also book registered letters.

**Central Renovation and Modernisation
Programme in Thermal Power
Sector**

38. PROF. RAM KRISHNA MORE :
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :
SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :
SHRI S.M. GURADDI :
DR. G.S. RAJHANS :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) when the Central Renovation and Modernisation programme in the thermal power sector in the country was launched;

(b) the number of thermal power

plants, State-wise which are covered under the programme and the period by which the renovation and modernisation programme is scheduled to be completed;

(c) the achievements made so far and the estimated amount spent so far on their renovation and modernisation as against the estimated expenditure, State-wise; and

(d) the State Governments which are lagging behind, with reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The programme was initiated in 1984-85.

(b) to (d) The programme covers 32 thermal stations and is expected to be completed in a period of three to four years. State-wise details of the information required are given in the statement below. The reasons for the slow progress of the programme in some of the States include delays in finalisation of offers and placement of supply orders, and delays in the actual execution of various renovation/modernisation activities.

Statement

State-wise details of thermal power plants covered under the central sponsored renovation and modernisation programme

(Rs in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State and station	Sanctioned Cost*	Estimated Expenditure incurred upto 19.2.1987*
1.	2	3	4
	NTPC		
1.	Badarpur	2870.60	411.43
	DESU		
2.	Indraprastha	4402.85	2921.84
	Haryana		
3.	Faridabad	4001.64	985.41
4.	Panipat	1869.65	482.35

1	2	3	4
Punjab			
5.	Bhatinda	4173.70	3239.85
Uttar Pradesh			
6.	Panki	3703.11	1308.72
7.	Obra	5030.00	940.76
8.	Harduaganj	6947.42	2229.70
Madhya Pradesh			
9.	Korba	1714.06	305.79
10.	Amarkantak	1044.98	22.47
11.	Satpura	2390.70	1569.76
Gujarat			
12.	Gandhinagar	1921.47	1205.78
13.	Dhuvaran	1948.69	783.37
14.	Ukai	3387.82	379.27
Maharashtra			
15.	Koradi	3329.80	494.50
16.	Nasik	847.00	258.10
17.	Bhusawal	88.50	34.72
18.	Paras	259.75	16.01
Andhra Pradesh			
19.	Kothagudem	4688.35	2111.70
Tamil Nadu			
20.	Tuticorin	712.76	497.40
21.	Ennore	9081.48	4904.62
22.	Neyveli Lignite Corp.	4970.78	74.81
Orissa			
23.	Talcher	3572.50	653.77
Bihar			
24.	Patratu	3845.00	728.49
25.	Barauni	1946.00	292.10
26.	Karbigabia	518.00	273.42

1	2	3	4
West Bengal			
27.	Santaldih	2192.00	733.33
28.	Bandel	3581.00	402.44
29.	Durgapur (D.P.L.)	2380.00	569.95
Damodar Valley Corporation			
30.	Chandrapura	3212.60	795.91
31.	Bokaro	1002.00	289.32
32.	Durgapur	835.20	501.06

*NOTE : The above information includes the cost & expenditure under the central scheme & the State Plans.

Electrification of Villages and Pump Sets

39. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADKAR PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages electrified and pump sets energised during 1985-86 and 1986-87 as against the targets fixed;

(b) the reasons for shortfalls, if any; and

(c) the measures taken to boost rural electrification ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The targets and achievements of village electrification and pumpsets energisation during the last two years are as below :

	Villages		Pumpsets	
	Targets	Achievement	Targets	Achievement
1985-86	20,648	20,058	2,89,783	4,43,412
1986-87 (Upto 12/86)	11,011	9,496	2,23,406	2,78,009

(b) The main reasons for the marginal shortfall in achieving the targets of village electrification are short supply of certain construction materials, inadequate power supply and difficult terrain in hilly and tribal areas, etc.

(c) Review meetings are held with the State Governments/Electricity Boards/Rural Electrification Corporation from time to time to remove the bottlenecks in order to accelerate the pace of electrification programme and achieve the targets.

Import of Edible Oils

40 SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

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

(a) the quantity of edible oils imported during 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) whether it is a fact that on acco-

unt of fall in production of oil seeds in the country, the demand and supply gap of edible oils has widened and now twelve lakh tonnes of edible oils are short of the demand;

(c) the steps taken to import the edible oils according to the requirement in the country; and

(d) when the self sufficiency in edible oils is anticipated to be achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) The quantity of edible oils imported during oil years 1985-86 and 1986-87 (upto January, 1987) is given below :-

Oil Year (Nov-Oct)	Quantity Imported (in lakh tonnes)
1985-86	11.79
1986-87 upto Jan. '87	3.28

(b) The gap between demand for and supply of indigenous oil exists.

(c) The quantum of edible oils to be imported is decided by the Government from time to time keeping in view various factors such as gap between demand and supply, incentive to farmers, international prices etc.

(d) It is not possible to indicate a definite period but Government has taken a number of effective and urgent measures to increase the production of oilseeds and oils so as to achieve self-sufficiency early.

Equipping of New Power Stations in Karnataka with Solid State Relays

41. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether all new power stations in Karnataka have been equipped with solid

state relays as a protective measure against faults;

(b) if so, to what extent these solid state equipment has helped in detecting the faults; and

(c) whether this equipment will be provided to other States also ?

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.

Setting up of new L. P. G. Bottling Plants.

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

(a) the number of L. P. G. bottling plants in the country and in Karnataka State;

(b) whether there is any plan to set up new L. P. G. bottling plants in Karnataka State during the year 1987-88; and

(c) 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) At present there are 46 LPG bottling plants in the country including 4 in Karnataka State.

(b) and (c) A 12,500 MTPA LPG bottling plant is under construction by HPCL at Hubli in the state of Karnataka and will become operational during 1987-88.

Import of Hydro Sets from Foreign Sources

43. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :
SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :
SHRI ANIL BASU :
SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are allowing import of hydro sets of various types from foreign sources although such sets can be manufactured by the BHEL;

(b) if so, the particulars of these imports and the reasons for such a decision; and

(c) whether there is a shift in the policy towards public sector undertaking ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c) Primary reliance for procurement of power generating equipment, including for hydro sets, continues to be placed on the indigenous manufacturers. Import is resorted to only selectively and, on merits, depending on the totality of circumstances.

[*Translation*]

Manufacture of low priced cars

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement has been signed between India and Soviet Union for the manufacture of low priced cars ;

(b) if so, the time by which the production of this car is expected to commence and the proposed price thereof ; and

(c) the details about use of indigenous and imported parts if the proposed car ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) Some proposals have been received for the manufacture of passenger cars in collaboration with USSR Organisations. These will be considered in terms of the new automobile policy to be announced by the Government.

[*English*]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

45. SHRI MUKULI WASNIK :
DR. G.S. RAJHANS :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that more than one million people are on the waiting list for phone connections ;

(b) if so, whether Government have recently drawn up a plan to improve communication facilities in the country ; and

(c) if so, the details of the new plan, when it is to be implemented and to what extent the waiting list for new phone connections in different parts of the country will be covered ?

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

(b) and (c) The plan proposals were chalked out at the commencement of the 7th Plan period. Physical targets proposed to be achieved during the 7th Plan period are to add the following facilities.

(i) About 11 lakhs direct exchange lines ;

- (ii) About 9000 long distance public telephones.
- (iii) About 13,000 route KMs of microwave systems and 4000 route KMs of fibre optical system.
- (iv) About 30,000 telex lines.
- (v) Rural integrated digital networks in 15 secondary switching areas (coterminus with one or more revenue districts). This will cover the demand as under :—

Unit	Meeting overage demand for the period upto
Metro	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	1-4-1990

These objectives cover average demand for a telecom unit and the actual dates will vary somewhat from area to area.

Licence for manufacture of passenger cars

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

(a) the names and brief particulars of the passenger cars presently manufactured in the country :

(b) the number of units of each model likely to be manufactured during the current year and the projected production for the next three years ;

(c) the ex-factory price of the standard car of each model ;

(d) whether there are any proposals under consideration for licensing the manufacture of additional models of passenger cars ; and

(e) if so, the brief particulars of the proposals along with the names of foreign collaborators, if any ?

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

(d) and (e) Statement II is given below.

Statement I

Models of car	Estimated production 1987-87	Production projected by the mfrs.			Ex-factory price
		1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	
Maruti-800	52,000	68,000	Yet to be decided by the manufacturers		Rs. 63,900/- in- cluding excise duty and dealers commission
Maruti-DX	5,920 (Dec. 86)	Yet to be decided by the manufacturer			Rs. 93,800/- in- cluding excise duty and dealers commission
Ambassador (Petrol)	22,000	18,000	18,000	20,000	Rs. 59,547/-
Ambassador (Diesel)					Rs. 74,962/-
Contessa Classic	500	12,000	14,000	15,000	Rs. 91,000/-
Premier Padmini	24,675	22,000	20,000	17,000	Rs. 57,193/-
Premier-118 NE	2,600	14,000	21,000	25,000	Rs. 83,950/-
Standard-2000	1,700	3,000	Yet to be decided by the manufacturer		Rs. 1,49,346/-
*Montana 2—D	5	—	—	—	Rs. 44,953.15
(During Jan. '87)					
Montana 4—D	—	—	—	—	Rs. 52,029.13

* M/s. Sipani Automobiles Ltd., Bangalore have discontinued manufacture of Dolphin model and has instead introduced Montana 2-D and Montana 4-D models.

Statement—II*Details of Proposals for the Manufacture of Additional Models of Passenger Cars*

Name of the Indian Party	Name of foreign collaborators	Name of M Model
1. Premier Automobiles Ltd., Bombay	Nissan Motor Co, Japan	Sunny B-11
2. Escorts Ltd, Faridabad	Citroen International, France	Citroen-2CV
3. TELCO, Bombay	Honda Motor Co., Japan	Accord
4. Hindustan Motors Ltd., Calcutta	Isuzu Motors Ltd., Japan	Gemini-FF
5. Kerala Commercial Vehicles, Trivendrum	FIAT, Italy	500—700 cc small car
6. Gujarat Industrial Investment Corpn., Ahmedabad	Jeanean, SA, France	Micro-EP or 125 cc
7. Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Bombay	Automobile Peugeot, France	PEUGEOT—505
8. Ke-Di Ma Automobiles, Bombay	Not indicated	Not Indicated
9. Mrs. Nirlep Kaur, New Delhi	Autoexport, Moscow	LADA NEVA
10. Shri P.K. Aggarwal, Bombay	Autoexport/Prommash-export, Moscow	VAZ-2121
11. Vama Motor Wagons, Hyderabad	Volvo car, Holland	Volvo-300
12. Shri T. Venkat Ram Reddy, Hyderabad	FIAT Auto, Italy	PREMIO-1300
13. Asian Vehicle Industries New Delhi	Autoexport & Volga Auto, Moscow	NIVA SAMARA 2121-2103
14. Sikkim Lada Ltd., Gangtok	Autoexport & Prommash-export, Moscow	Lada-2121
15. Aqua Marine Ltd., Madras	Not indicated	UNDER 400 cc Diesel car
16. Shri N.N. Kar, Howrah	Not indicated	500 cc Baby car
17. Bajaj Tempo Ltd. Pune	Daihatsu, Japan	1000 cc. "Charade"

Identifying Employees of Public Sector Undertakings for Retirement

47. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have asked the public sector undertakings to undertake an exercise of identifying their employees who could be persuaded to take voluntary retirement ;

(b) if so, what yardsticks have been applied by the undertakings in identifying employees for the purpose ; and

(c) the response of the employees thereto ?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Finalisation of Seventh Plan for Communications

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

(a) whether Seventh Plan for Communications is yet to be finalised ;

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

(c) whether the Plan will ensure improvement in the existing poor telephone services ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) 7th Plan proposals of the Department of telecommunications have already been firmed up on the basis of funds allotted to the Department.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Improvement by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam in Communication Lines

49. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) when did the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam start functioning ;

(b) the improvements made by the Nigam since then ;

(c) the number of requests for telephone connections pending when the Nigam came into being ; and

(d) the number out of them cleared by the end of 1986 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam started functioning from 1st April, 1986.

(b) Steps have been taken for :

1. Reduction in faults on lines.
2. Improvement of call completion rate.
3. Acceleration of major projects.
4. Streamlining of financial system.
5. Laying down targets for expansion and improvement of services to users on short term & long term basis.
6. Formulation of action plans to achieve the targets laid down.
7. Thrust towards computerisation of services.
8. Improvement in interface with subscribers.

With the above noted steps, the appreciable improvement of services is expected gradually.

(c) About 3.4 lakhs requests for telephone connection were pending when the Nigam came into being.

(d) About 84,500 new telephone connections have been provided from 1.4.86 upto the end of the year 1986.

**Indo-Soviet Discussion on Cooperation
in the Field of Power and Energy**

50. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

SHRI JAGANNATH PAT-
TNAIK :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level Soviet delegation visited India to hold discussion on cooperation between the two countries in the field of power and Energy in January, 1987 ;

(b) if so, the main features of the discussions held ; and

(c) the outcome thereof ?

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

(b) and (c) The discussions with the Soviet delegation mainly related to measures to implement the Tehri Hydro power Complex, review of the progress of the Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project and its associated transmission system, and the Kahalgaon super thermal power project. The possibilities of further cooperation between the two countries in the power sector, such as the construction of the Dulhasti-Srinagar 400 KV transmission line, were also explained.

Power Shortage in Karnataka

51. DR. V. VENKATISH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka is facing power shortage ;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have given any assistance to Karnataka Government for meeting power requirement during 1985-86 and 1986-87 ; and

(c) the allocations made for the power sector during the Seventh Five Year Plan period to Karnataka State ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Approved outlay for Power Sector during Seventh Plan for Karnataka State is Rs. 800 crores.

**Setting up of Petrochemical Complex
in Andhra Pradesh**

52. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government have sent any proposal to the Union Government for setting up any petrochemical complex in the State based on the natural gas available from Krishna Basin in the State ;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard ; and

(c) the time by which the complex is expected to be set up ?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Alternate Hydro-Electric Power Project for Kerala

53. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether an alternate hydro-electric project was assured to Kerala in place of Silent Valley Project when it was given up ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by 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 India had advised the Kerala authorities to consider formulating proposals for power projects in North Kerala. The Manathavady hydro-electric project proposed by the State authorities has not been found acceptable environmentally and also involves inter-State aspects relating to utilisation of Bhavani waters, a tributary of the Cauvery, which are yet to be resolved.

Clearance of Power Projects

54. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the target of 22000 MW capacity is going to be achieved during the Seventh Five Year Plan period ;

(b) if so, the details of the projects cleared uptill now ; and

(c) the projects pending clearance by the Union Government, if any, project-wise details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c) All possible measures are being taken to achieve target of implementing 22,245 MW capacity during the Seventh Plan period. Project-wise details of the above capacity, including the Mukerian, Anandpur Sahib and Bargi hydel projects which have not yet been cleared, are given in the statement below.

Statement

Power Generation Capacity to be installed in VII Plan

S. No.	Region/Scheme	Benefits (MW)
1	2	3
Northern Region		6649
1.	Western Yamuna Canal H.E. Scheme (Haryana)	48
2.	Dadupur H.E. Scheme (Haryana)	10
3.	Panpat Thermal Station Stage-II (Haryana)	220
4.	Panipat Thermal Station Stage-III (Haryana)	210
5.	Andhra H.E. Scheme (Himachal Pradesh)	17
6.	Rongtong H.E. Scheme (Himachal Pradesh)	2
7.	Bhabha H.E. Scheme (Himachal Pradesh)	120
8.	Thirot H.E. Scheme (Himachal Pradesh)	4.5
9.	Upper Singh H.E. Scheme Stage-II (J & K)	70

1	2	3
10.	Karnah H.E. Scheme (J & K)	2
11.	Stakana H.E. Scheme (J & K)	4
12.	Mukerian H.E. Scheme (Punjab)	162
13.	U.B.D.C. H.E. Scheme Stage-II (Punjab)	45
14.	Daudhar Mini Hydel Scheme (Punjab)	1.6
15.	Dhariwal H.E. Scheme (Punjab)	2.4
16.	Thuhi H.E. Scheme (Punjab)	0.8
17.	Rohti H.E. Scheme (Punjab)	0.8
18.	Nidhampur H.E. Scheme (Punjab)	0.8
19.	Ropar Thermal Station Stage-II (Punjab)	420
20.	Anandpur Sahib H.E. Scheme* (Punjab)	134
21.	Kota Thermal Station Ext. (Rajasthan)	210
22.	Ramsgarh Gas Turbine Station (Rajasthan)	3
23.	Mahi H.E. Scheme (Rajasthan)	140
24.	Mangrol H.E. Scheme (Rajasthan)	6
25.	Charanwala H.E. Scheme (Rajasthan)	2
26.	Suratgarh H.E. Scheme (Rajasthan)	4
27.	Anoopgarh Canal H.E. Scheme (Rajasthan)	9
28.	Pugal H.E. Scheme (Rajasthan)	2.1
29.	Jakham H.E. Scheme (Rajasthan)	9
30.	Maneri Bhali H.E. Scheme Stage-II (Uttar Pradesh)	304
31.	Anpara 'A' Thermal Station (Uttar Pradesh)	630
32.	Tanda Thermal Station (Uttar Pradesh)	440
33.	Unchahar Thermal Station (Uttar Pradesh)	420
34.	Salal H.E. Scheme (Central Sector)	345
35.	Chamera H.E. Scheme (Central Sector)	180
36.	Singrauli Super Thermal Station Stage-I PH-II (Central Sector)	1000
37.	Rihand Super Thermal Station (Central Sector)	1000
38.	Narora Atomic Power Project (Central Sector)	470
Western Region		6531.5
39.	Ukai Left Bank Canal H.E. Scheme (Gujarat)	5
40.	Kadana Pumped Storage H.E. Scheme (Gujarat)	120

1	2	3
41.	Banakhori Thermal Station Extn. (Gujarat)	630
42.	Sikka Thermal Station (Gujarat)	120
43.	Gandhi Nagar Thermal Station Ext. (Gujarat)	210
44.	Hasdeo H.E. Scheme (M.P.)	120
45.	Bargo H.E. Scheme (M.P.)	90
46.	Korba West Thermal Station Ext. (M.P.)	210
47.	Sanjay Gandhi (Birsingpur) Thermal Station (M.P.)	210
48.	Bansagar H.E. Scheme (M.P.)	210
49.	Bhira Tail Race H.E. Scheme (Maharashtra)	80
50.	Tillari H.E. Scheme (Maharashtra)	60
51.	Pawana H.E. Scheme (Maharashtra)	10
52.	Bhandardara H.E. Scheme (Maharashtra)	10
53.	Khadakwasala H.E. Scheme (Maharashtra)	16
54.	Bhatsa H.E. Scheme (Maharashtra)	15
55.	Chandrapur Thermal Station Extn. (Maharashtra)	420
56.	Uran Gas Station Ext. (Maharashtra)	324
57.	Khaperkheda Thermal Station Ext. (Maharashtra)	420
58.	Parli Thermal Station Ext. (Maharashtra)	210
59.	Ujjani Pumped Storage H.E. Scheme (Maharashtra)	12
60.	Uran Gas Turbine Station Unit No. 8 (Maharashtra)	108
61.	Vaitarna H.E. Scheme (Maharashtra)	1.5
62.	Pench H.E. Scheme (M.P./Maharashtra)	160
63.	Korba Super Thermal Station Extn. (Central Sector)	500
64.	Korba Super Thermal Station Extn. (Central Sector)	1000
65.	Vindhyachal Super Thermal Station (Central Sector)	1260
Southern Region		5452.75
66.	Balimela H.E. Scheme (Andhra Pradesh)	60
67.	Nagarjunasagar H.E. Scheme Stage-II (Andhra Pradesh)	100
68.	Srisailem H.E. Scheme Stage-II (A.P.)	300
69.	Penna Ahobilam H.E. Scheme (Andhra Pradesh)	20
70.	Nagarjunasagar L.B. Canal H.E. Scheme (Andhra Pradesh)	60
71.	Nagarjunasagar R.B. Canal H.E. Scheme (Andhra Pradesh)	30

1	2	3
72.	Pochampad H.E. Scheme (Andhra Pradesh)	27
73.	Vijaywada Thermal Station Extn. (Andhra Pradesh)	210
74.	Kakatiya Canal H.E. Scheme (Andhra Pradesh)	1.5
75.	Varahi Canal H.E. Scheme (Karnataka)	239
76.	Supa Dam H.E. Scheme (Karnataka)	100
77.	Ghataprabha H.E. Scheme (Karnataka)	31
78.	Raichur Thermal Station (Karnataka)	210
79.	Mallapur H.E. Scheme (Karnataka)	9
80.	Kailmalaigenekal H.E. Scheme* (Karnataka)	0.75
81.	Sirwar H.E. Scheme (Karnataka)	1
82.	Madur Branch H.E. Scheme & other Mini/Micro* (Karnataka)	175
83.	Idamalayar H.E. Scheme (Kerala)	75
84.	Kakkad H.E. Scheme (Kerala)	50
85.	Iddukki H.E. Scheme Stage-II (Kerala)	390
86.	Kallada H.E. Scheme (Kerala)	15
87.	Servalar H.E. Scheme (Tamil Nadu)	20
88.	Kadamparai H.E. Scheme (Tamil Nadu)	400
89.	Kundah H.E. Scheme Stage V (Tamil Nadu)	20
90.	Lawer Mettur H.E. Scheme (Tamil Nadu)	120
91.	Vaigai Micro H.E. Scheme (Tamil Nadu)	6
92.	Pykara Micro H.E. Scheme (Tamil Nadu)	2
93.	Lower Bhavani H.E. Scheme (Tamil Nadu)	8
94.	Mettur Thermal Station (Tamil Nadu)	420
95.	Mettur Thermal Station Extn. (Tamil Nadu)	210
96.	Tuticorin Thermal Station Extn. (Tamil Nadu)	210
97.	Ramagundam Super Thermal Station Extn. (Central Sec.)	1000
98.	Neyvalli 2nd Mine Cut Thermal Station (Central Sec.)	210
99.	Neyveli 2nd Mine Cut Thermal Station Extn. (C.S.)	210
100.	Kalpakkam Atomic Power Project Unit 2 (Central Sector)	235
Eastern Region		3182.60
101.	Patratu Thermal Station Unit-10 (Bihar)	110
102.	North Koel H.E. Scheme (Bihar)	24

1	2	3
103.	Sone Western Link Canal H.E. Scheme (Bihar)	6.6
104.	Eastern Gandak Canal H.E. Scheme (Bihar)	15
105.	Muzzaffarpur Thermal Station Unit-2 (Bihar)	110
106.	Tenughat Thermal Station (Bihar)	210
107.	Sone Eastern Link Canal H.E. Scheme (Bihar)	3.3
108.	Upper Kolab H.E. Scheme (Orissa)	240
109.	Hirakud H.E. Scheme Stage-III (Orissa)	37.5
110.	Rengali H.E. Scheme (Orissa)	100
111.	Potteru H.E. Scheme (Orissa)	6
112.	Rengali H.E. Scheme Extn. (Orissa)	100
113.	Rongnichu H.E. Scheme Stage-II (Sikkim)	2.5
114.	Rimbi H.E. Scheme (Sikkim)	1
115.	Ramman H.E. Scheme (West Bengal)	50
116.	Kolaghat Thermal Station (West Bengal)	420
117.	Kokaghat Thermal Station Extn. (West Bengal)	210
118.	D.P.L. Thermal Station Extn. (West Bengal)	210
119.	Teesta Canal H.E. Station (West Bengal)	22.5
120.	Richington H.E. Station Augmentation (West Bengal)	1
121.	Fazi H.E. Scheme Augmentation (West Bengal)	1.2
122.	Panchet Hill H.E. Project (DVC)	40
123.	Bokaro 'B' Thermal Station (DVC)	210
124.	Bokaro 'B' Thermal Station Extn. (DVC)	420
125.	Gas Turbines (DVC)	90
126.	Farakka Super Thermal Station St. I (Central Sector)	630
127.	Diesel Scheme in A & N Islands*	12
North Eastern Region		429.40
128.	Lower Borpani H.E. Scheme (Assam)	100
129.	Lakwa Gas Station Extn. (Assam)	15
130.	Chandrapur Thermal Station Extn. (Assam)	30
131.	Bongaigaon Thermal Station (Assam)	60
132.	Lakwa Thermal Station Ph-II (Assam)	60
133.	Dhansiri H.E. Scheme (Assam)	20

1	2	3
134.	Lokechao H.E. Scheme (Manipur)	0.4
135.	Kaithalmanbi H.E. Scheme (Manipur)	0.6
136.	Laimakhong H.E. Scheme (Manipur)	1
137.	Nangsungkhang H.E. Scheme (Manipur)	1.5
138.	Gelnel Micro H.E. Scheme (Manipur)	0.4
139.	Booning H.E. Scheme (Manipur)	1
140.	Diesel Sets (Manipur)	2
141.	Dikhu H.E. Scheme (Nagaland)	1
142.	Maharani H.E. Scheme (Tripura)	1
143.	Baramura Gas Thermal Station (Tripura)	10
144.	New Gas Turbine* (Tripura)	10
145.	Tago H.E. Scheme *(Arunachal Pradesh)	4.5
146.	Sossa H.E. Scheme *(Arunachal Pradesh)	1.5
147.	Snall Hydels *(Arunachal Pradesh)	3.60
148.	Kopili H.E. Scheme (NEC)	100
149.	Small Hydel *(Mizoram)	0.9
150.	Small Diesels *(Mizoram)	5
Total : (1 tilities)		22245.25

**Expansion of Telecommunication Facilities
in Goa, Daman and Diu**

55. SHRI SHANTIRAM NAIK :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-
TIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry have any
plan for the expansion of telecommunica-
tion facilities in the Union Territory of
Goa, Daman and Diu ;

(b) if so, the details of the
plan ; and

(c) the number of new telephone ex-
changes proposed to be opened with their
locations and the time-frame within
which the said exchanges are proposed
to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICA-
TIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN
DEV) : (a) Yes Sir.

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

(c) The details are given in the State-
ment-II below.

Statement—I

*Details of Tentative plans for expan-
sions of Telecommunications facilities in
Goa, Daman and Diu during 7th Plan.*

Goa, Daman, Diu

1. Bombay-Punjim-Mangalore-Bangalore
Madras 6 GHZ 140 Mb/s Digital
Microwave Scheme.

2. Panjim-Margao 7 GHZ Digital scheme to replace existing analogue system.
3. Panjim-Karwar Narrow band M.W. scheme.
4. Belgaum-Panjim wide band M.W. scheme to replace existing narrow band scheme.
5. Panjim-Ponda UHF
6. Panjim-Kudal UHF
7. Provision of two Earth Stations at Daman and Diu.
8. Provision of two openwire 3 channel carrier system and six FM VFT systems.
9. (a) 20 line Telex exchange at Mapusa.
(b) Expansion of Margao Telex exchange from 60 to 100 lines.
10. Expansion of Panji exchange from (3300 to 4800) lines.
11. Expansions of Margao exchange (3000 to 4000) lines.
12. Provision of National Subscribers' Dialling facilities at Mapusa.
13. Expansion from (1500-1700) of Vasco MAX-II Exchange.
14. Expansion of Mapusa MAX-II exchange (800-1000).
15. Automatisation of Ponda Exchange.
16. Expansion Daman MAX-00 exchange (500-600).

Statement—II*Proposals of New Exchanges*

Name of Exchanges & Location	Likely Commissioning	
1. Manjre	50 line 1986-87	
2. Majroda	-do- 1987-88	
3. Curtarim	-do- 1988-89	} Depend- ing on Demand & financial viability.
4. Chandor	-do- 1988-89	
5. Betul	-do- 1989-90	

Disposal of Bad Quality Rice in Kerala

56. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of rice destroyed in 1984, 1985 and 1986 in the various godowns of Food Corporation of India in Kerala ;

(b) the quantity of rice auctioned being unfit for supply through Public Distribution System ; and

(c) the reasons for supplying bad quality rice to Kerala State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No quantity of rice was destroyed in 1984, 1985 and 1986 in godowns of Food Corporation of India in Kerala.

(b) No rice stock have been disposed by way of auction. However, a quantity of 46232 tonnes of rice found unsuitable for issue through Public Distribution System is being disposed of through tender enquiry in Kerala.

(c) The entire rice received in Kerala is carefully examined. Rice conforming to PFA Limits is only issued for distribution through Public Distribution System after joint inspection with State Government Authorities. Stocks found unfit for distribution through Public Distribution System are sold otherwise. Therefore, no bad quality rice is supplied to the consumers through Public Distribution System in Kerala.

Delivery of Telegrams

57. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications embarked in 1985 on a three year action in telegraph network moderni-

sation scheme to ensure that at least ninety-eight per cent of the telegrams are delivered within twelve hours ;

(b) if so, the details of the said scheme and when and where was it introduced ;

(c) whether the same has been extended to other places also by now ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) the details of achievement in this regard ; and

(f) if target has not been achieved, the reasons for the same and on whom responsibility has been fixed ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Telecommunications has launched a three-year Action Plan for modernisation of the telegraph network to ensure that 98% of telegrams are delivered in 12 hours.

(b) The Action Plan envisages preparation of a telegraph message switching network plan for the country, development of building blocks for the network like Store and Forward Message Switching Systems and terminal devices like Electronic Key Boards and Electronic Key Board Concentrators. The Action Plan has commenced with effect from November, 1985 and covers the entire country.

(c) to (e). The Action Plan envisages modernising the entire country's telegraph network. The telegraph message switching network plan for the country has already been prepared. After identifying the building blocks, the development work for prototype 128-Line Store and Forward Message Switch, 64-Line Store and Forward Message Switch, Electronic Key Boards, Electronic Key Board Concentrators has started and progressing satisfactorily.

(f) The targets achieved are reasonably satisfactory.

Setting up of Refinery at Karnal

58. **SHRI VISHNU MODI :**
SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA :
CH. RAM PRAKASH :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to S.Q. No. 116 on 11-11-1986 regarding Karnal Oil Refinery Project and state :

(a) whether the offers of various parties for setting up oil refinery at Karnal in the joint sector have been examined ;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter ; and

(c) when the work is likely to start on the project and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon ?

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) Government have taken a decision in principle, to set up a 6 MTPA refinery at Karnal. The details of its financing etc. are to be worked out, before the project is started. The present estimate of the cost of the project is of the order of Rs. 1500 crores.

Strike by employees of Super Bazar, New Delhi

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Super Bazar strike hits

morning supplies" appearing in the Hindustan Times of 3 February, 1987 according to which 700 employees of the Super Bazar, New Delhi went on a two hour strike ; and

(b) if so, what are the demands of the employees and the action taken to meet the same ?

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

(b) The Cooperative Store Ltd., New Delhi (popularly known as Super Bazar) has informed that the demands of the employees are as under :—

- (i) To stop new recruitment and to regularise the service of temporary workers employed upto 20-1-87.
- (ii) Grant of Interim Relief of Rs. 500/- per month to all employees with effect from 1-1-85.
- (iii) To extend all the benefits as recommended by the Fourth Pay Commission to the employees of Super Bazar with effect from 1-1-86.
- (iv) To immediately reinstate Shri Subhash Shankar Dubey without any preconditions.

The Super Bazar has informed that the demands of the employees are being examined and negotiations with their representatives are in progress.

[*Translation*]

Cities to be provided with S.T.D. Facilities during 1987

60. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cities in the country proposed to be provided with S.T.D.

facilities from January, 1987 to December, 1987 ; and

(b) the number of cities in Madhya Pradesh proposed to be covered under this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) 451 cities in the country are having STD facility as on 31-12-86. 60 more cities in the country are proposed to be provided with STD facility from January, 1987 to December, 1987.

(b) 17 cities in Madhya Pradesh are already having STD facility as on 31-12-86. 8 more cities in Madhya Pradesh are proposed to be provided with STD facility from January, 1987 to December, 1987.

[*English*]

Violation of I.D.R. Act by Multi-National Cigarette Companies

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

(a) whether it is a fact that multinational cigarette companies have violated the provisions of I.D.R. Act by producing double the sanctioned capacity during 1986 ; and

(b) if not, the details of production of all multinational cigarette companies in India during 1986 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The approved capacities and the production reported by the companies for 1986, as per returns submitted by them to D.G.T.D., are given in the statement below.

Statement

Approved capacities and reported production during 1986, as per returns submitted to D.G.T.D. by companies having foreign equity participation cigarette companies.

S. No.	Name of the Company/Unit	Approved Capacity	Production during 1986 (Provisional) (in million pieces)
1.	M/s. ITC Limited, Bombay	7,700	3,447
2.	M/s. ITC Limited, Calcutta	4,800	3,546
3.	M/s. ITC Limited, Bangalore	19,000	13,002
4.	M/s. ITC Limited, Monghyr	6,800	6,277
5.	M/s. ITC Limited, Saharanpur	13,700	7,615
6.	M/s. Godfrey Phillips India Limited, Bombay.	8,000	3,355
7.	M/s. VST Industries, Hyderabad	25,600	13,600

Fuel efficient models of motor cars

62. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of motor cars in India, their yearly production and demand ;

(b) the number of motor cars in Delhi and Bombay respectively ;

(c) the progress of fuel efficient models of motor cars in India ; and

(d) the number of cars imported per year in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNA-CHALAM) : (a) As per publications—“Facts & Figures 1986”—of Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India, estimated number of registered motor cars in the country as on March, 1986 was 1,414 300. The total production of motor cars during

the year 1985-86 was 102,904 Nos. A Sub-group appointed by the Government had estimated a demand, of 1,40,000 Nos. of passenger cars by 1989-90 in the country.

(b) In January, 1987, the number of registered motor cars in Delhi was 2,05,893, and in Bombay it was 2,13,671 Nos.

(c) In recent years, new models of fuel efficient motor cars have been introduced in the country.

(d) Quantity and value of import of various items including automobiles and their parts are being published in the ‘Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India, Vol. II-Imports’ copies of which are available in the Parliamentary Library.

Setting up Telephone Division at Kharagpur, West Bengal

63. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal for setting up a telephone division at Kharagpur in West Bengal ;

(b) whether Government propose to shift Calcutta West Division of Telephones to Kharagpur for better functioning ;

(c) whether Government have required suitable land for the purpose from the Railways ; and

(d) if so, the reasons why the said division at Kharagpur is not yet coming up ?

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, under the new scheme of management based on Secondary Switching areas, there will be a Telecom. District for Kharagpur SSA which will include part of the existing Calcutta West Division falling under Kharagpur SSA. The Divisional Engineer Telegraphs Calcutta, West Division will be designated as Telecom. District Engineer, Kharagpur.

(c) Yes, Sir. A plot of land has been acquired for providing accommodation for Telecommunication needs.

(d) The Division at Kharagpur has not come up for reasons furnished under a & b above.

Opening of Branch Post Offices in Maharashtra

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

(a) the number of branch post offices sanctioned in each district of Maharashtra during 1982-83 and 1983-84 ; and

(b) the number out of them already opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :
(a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non-Conventional Energy Sources in Madhya Pradesh

65. SHRI MAHENRA SINGH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) how far non-conventional sources of energy are being explored in Madhya Pradesh in terms of generation of power source-wise, at present;

(b) the comparative figures for other States and Union Territories; and

(c) the corresponding targets to be achieved by the end of the current Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c) A comprehensive programme for exploring non-conventional energy sources is being implemented by the Deptt. of Non-Conventional Energy Sources throughout the country including the State of Madhya Pradesh. At present in respect of power, initial electrification of remote villages through solar photovoltaic street lighting systems in about 50 villages in Madhya Pradesh has been taken up. A 50KW wind electric generator is operational at Kukru in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh. Biomass based electrical and mechanical power generation systems using biomass gasifier technology has been taken up in Madhya Pradesh, where so far 950 KW comprising of 80 units have been taken up. Besides photovoltaic street lighting systems in about 500 villages throughout the country, notable projects in other states and Union Territories are wind farms in Gujarat (1.75 MW), Tamil Nadu (0.88 MW), Maharashtra (0.55 MW), Orissa (0.55 MW) and Goa (55 KW); 3.75 MW incineration of urban waste power plant at Delhi. During the 7th plan period, it is expected that several such projects will be taken up. However, the extent of the installed capacity and the final targets to be achieved will depend on the availability of financial resources.

Hike in Prices of Slack Wax by Indian Oil Corporation

66. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether small scale units manufacturing paraffin wax are facing closure due to recent hike in prices of Slack Wax produced by Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) if so, whether All India Wax Producers Association has made any representation to Government in this regard; and

(c) the action being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTTI) : (a) to (c) After considering the representations made by the users of the slack wax, Indian Oil Corporation have reduced the selling price of slack wax from Rs. 4800/MT to Rs. 4200/MT ex-Barauni and from Rs. 3970/per MT to Rs. 3735/MT ex-Haldia with effect from 1.2.1987.

Establishment of Sugar Factories in Cooperative Sector

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

(a) whether the co-operative sector will be able to establish a sugar factory with an initial capacity of 2500 tonnes cane crushing per day (TCD), on the basis of the new sugar licensing policy announced by Government recently, instead of 1250 TCD, which has so far been the policy of Government; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to assist the new co-operative sugar factory with an initial capacity of 2500 TCD ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As techno-economic feasibility of a project is considered before grant of a licence, the question of assisting new co-operative sugar factories separately does not arise.

Gasification of Coal

68. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether coal gas will be a cheaper source of energy as compared to nuclear power;

(b) whether any field underground coal gasification tests at deep levels have been carried out or are proposed to be carried out to make an economic evaluation as also production on a large scale for commercial purposes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) As gasification of coal for power generation is still in an experimental stage in the country, no comparison has yet been made on the relative economics of such power generation and nuclear power.

(b) and (c) A Research and Development Project on in-situ underground coal gasification has been undertaken by Oil and Natural Gas Commission at Mehsana in Gujarat where coal deposits exist at depths ranging between 1000 to 1700 metres. The production testing of all the 14 zones has been completed at UCG-1 well. Detailed chemical and studies on coal samples of the well have been completed.

Proposal to Stop Subsidy to Public Sector Units

69. SHRI H.M. PATEL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to stop subsidy to public sector units; 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) and (b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the food and fertilizer subsidies. There is no proposal to stop these subsidies.

Import Bill For Crude and Petroleum Products

70. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the import bill for crude and petroleum products during the year 1987 and the details of the import in the year 1986-87;

(b) the demand for petroleum products for the year 1987-88; and

(c) the domestic petroleum products output for each of the years 1984, 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 BRAHMA DUTT) :

(a) It is too early to estimate the import bill for 1987. During the year 1986-87, a quantity of about 15.6 million tonnes of crude oil and 3.7 million tonnes of petroleum products is expected to be imported at the estimated value of Rs. 3050 crores.

(b) The demand of petroleum products during 1987-88 is estimated to be 47.17 million tonnes.

(c) The domestic production of petroleum products during the last 3 years is given below :

		Qty. (million tonnes)
1984	...	33.22
1985	...	38.61
1986*	...	43.20

(*Provisional)

Bio-Gas Resources in Madhya Pradesh

71. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) how far bio-gas resources are being explored in Madhya Pradesh and in other States and Union Territories at present; and

(b) the State-wise and Union Territory-wise figures targeted for the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) Biogas resources are being explored in the State of Madhya Pradesh and also in other States and UTs under the Central Sector Scheme 'National Project for Biogas Development'. It was envisaged to instal about 55 lakh biogas plants during the Seventh Plan period. State-wise targets are fixed on annual basis. A total of over 1.95 lakh biogas plants have been installed against a target of 1.50 lakh plants during 1985-86. For 1986-87, an annual target of 1.50 lakh plants has been fixed. Reports received from the State Governments and programme implementing agencies indicate that over 92,500 plants have been set up during April, 1986 to January, 1987. State-wise position is indicated in the Statement given below. In Madhya Pradesh, 4028 and 1138 biogas plants have been set up during 1985-86 and 1986-87 (up to December 1986), respectively.

Statement

*National Project for Biogas Development-Targets and achievements for the period
1985-86 and 1986-87 (upto January, 1987)*

S. No. State/UT/Agency	1985-86		1986-87	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement (April, '86- January '87)
1. Andhra Pradesh	20,000	21,137	20,000	5574
2. As-sam	1,000	108	1,000	370
3. Bihar	6,400	8,000	6,400	3005
4. Gujarat	4,800	8,592	5,000	5799
5. Haryana	2,200	2 251	2,200	1623
6. Jammu & Kashmir	120	140	120	56
7. Karnataka	7,000	7,756	7,000	3794
8. Kerala	2,400	2,405	2,400	968
9. Maharashtra	35,100	58,232	40,000	23852
10. Madhya Pradesh	3,000	4,028	3,000	1138 *
11. Orissa	2,500	5,347	2,500	2202
12. Punjab	1,600	1,752	1,600	1880
13. Rajasthan	5,000	5,304	5,000	3019
14. Tamil Nadu	13,000	18,059	13,120	13063
15. Uttar Pradesh	20,000	27,295	20,000	11711 *
16. West Bengal	2,800	2,830	2,800	2937
17. Himachal Pradesh	2,500	2,650	2,500	2605 *
18. Tripura	10	—	10	—
19. Pondicherry	100	65	100	22
20. Goa, Daman & Diu	100	101	100	85
21. Manipur	25	—	25	—
22. Meghalaya	100	—	30	—
23. Nagaland	10	—	10	—
24. Andaman & Nicobar	10	5	5	3
25. Chandigarh	5	5	5	—
26. Delhi	100	80	60	—
27. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7	7	10	—
28. Mizoram	100	68	150	97
29. Sikkim	10	—	5	16
30. Lakshadweep	1	—	—	—
31. Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	—	—
32. Khadi and Village Industries Commission	20,000	18,252	15,000	8726
Total	1,50,000	1,95,069	1,50,150	92,574

*Report received upto December, 86.

Supply of Foodgrains to Kerala

72. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the demand for foodgrains from Kerala and the supply from the Centre during the last six months; and

(b) the steps being taken to supply the full quantity as demanded by that State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) A statement indicating the demand, allotment and offtake of rice and wheat for the public distribution system in respect of Kerala during the last six months is given below.

(b) The allocations of foodgrains from the Central Pool are only supplemental to open market availability. However, the demand of the State Government is being met, by and large, by increasing allocations to the extent possible.

Statement

Statement indicating Demand, Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat for Public Distribution System in respect of Kerala during the period August 1986 to January 1987

(In '000 tonnes)

Month	Demand		Allotment		Offtake (P)	
	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
1986						
August	150.0	35.0	150.0*	35.0	157.1	11.4
September	200.0	35.0	165.0 @	35.0	155.9	8.0
October	150.0	35.0	150.0*	35.0	127.8	8.9
November	150.0	20.0	125.0	35.0	124.6	9.2
December	150.0	20.0	140.0**	35.0	131.1	9.2
1987						
January	150.0	20.0	125.0	35.0	121.7	8.0

(*) Includes special additional allocation of 25,000 tonnes.

(@) Includes special additional allocation of 40,000 tonnes.

(**) Includes special additional allocation of 15,000 tonnes.

(P) Provisional

Delay in Commissioning of Ramagundam Units of N.T.P.C.

73. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any delay in commissioning of Ramagundam units of National Thermal Power Corporation ;

(b) the causes of the delay and whether these have been rectified;

(c) when were the units planned to be Commissioned in the normal course;

(d) the time by which they are likely to be commissioned; and

(e) the additional expenditure that is likely to be incurred due to delay and cost escalation ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The commissioning programme of the various units of the Ramagundam STPP is as under :

Unit	Commissioning Schedule	Actual date of commissioning
I (200 MW)	February, 1984	October, 1983
II (200 MW)	August, 1984	May, 1984
III (200 MW)	February, 1985	December, 1984
IV (500 MW)	July, 1988	
V (500 MW)	July, 1989	
VI (500 MW)	July, 1990	

(e) There is likely to be an increase of about Rs. 274.88 crores over the approved cost estimates of the project (2100MW) alongwith the associated transmission lines, mainly owing to price escalations.

Import of Paper

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

(a) whether Government propose to import paper when only 58 per cent of the installed capacity of the small paper mills is being utilised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps envisaged for full capacity utilisation of small paper mills in the country and to provide them incentives to meet the requirements of the country from within ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Import of paper and paper board is negligible. However, certain special varieties of paper which are not available indigenously in adequate measure is allowed to be imported. The Central Government has no proposal to import at present ordinary varieties of paper.

(c) In order to increase production and improve capacity utilisation and financial viability, the following reliefs and concessions have been extended to the Paper Industry :—

1. Import of pulp, waste paper and wood chips has been placed on OGL and allowed free of customs levies.

2. Import of wood log placed on OGL and concessional customs duty levied.

3. Manufacture of writing and printing paper containing not less than 75% by weight of pulp made from bagasse exempted from payment of excise duty.
4. Manufacture of paper and paper board using un-conventional raw materials is charged excise duty at concessional rates.
5. The facility of payment of excise duty on incremental basis for successive slabs extended to the small paper mills from 1.4.1986.
6. Flexibility allowed to the industry to manufacture all varieties of paper and paper grade pulp including paper board/straw board within the overall licensed capacity.
7. Requirement of Industrial Licence has been dispensed with in the case of manufacture of writing, printing and wrapping paper from agricultural residues, wastes and bagasse.
8. New units commissioned between 1.4.79 and 31.3.87 are exempted from excise duty upto 50% for five years.

[Translation]

Under-Filling of Gas Cylinders

75. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of complaints regarding under-filling of L.P.G. cylinders is increasing despite attention of Government having been drawn repeatedly in this regard ; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

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) and (b) While some such cases continue to be reported to the oil marketing companies in the normal course of business, their incidence is very low. Institutional arrangements exist in LPG bottling plants as also with LPG distributorships to ensure filling and supply of LPG cylinders of correct weight. The oil marketing companies are taking steps for increased use of superior quality cylinder seals to prevent pilferage/loss of product in transit. The field staff of oil companies carries out periodic inspections of distributors' showrooms/godowns and makes random checks of cylinders for correctness of weight.

Increasing Storage Capacity of Warehouses

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

(a) the number of warehouses in each State where foodgrains had been stored during 1985-86 and 1986-87 and the details of the foodgrains stored in these warehouses as on 31 January, 1985, 31 March, 1986 and 31 December 1986 ;

(b) the steps taken to increase the storage capacity of warehouses during this period, State-wise, indicating the places where the new warehouses were constructed and expenditure incurred on them separately, state-wise ;

(c) whether it is a fact that major portion of buffer stock of wheat and other foodgrains in these warehouses had been declared rotten after six months ; and

(d) if so, the quantity of foodgrains declared rotten during this period and the estimated loss suffered thereby ?

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

giving State-wise the number of warehouses and foodgrains stored therein by the Food Corporation of India as on 31-1-1985, 31-3-1986 and 31-12-1986 is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See LT No. 3735/87]

(b) Steps were taken to increase the storage capacity by construction of additional capacity and by hiring capacity from various sources. A statement giving State-wise the storage capacity constructed by the Corporation during April, 1985 to January, 1987 and the capacity under construction at present is attached. Another statement indicating the centres at which the storage capacity was constructed during the period and the centres at which it is under construction at present is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See LT No. 3735/87].

The State-wise break-down of the expenditure incurred on the construction of these warehouses is not readily available with the Corporation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The quantity of foodgrains damaged during 1985-86 was 0.87 lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 11.44 crores.

[English]

Regularisation of Extra Departmental Employees

77. PROF. K V. THOMAS : Will

Statement

Category of ED Agents	Revised Allowances	
	Minimum Rs.	Maximum Rs.
(a) EDSPM/ED Sorters/ED Record Clerks	292	360
(b) EDBPMs	202	254
(c) E.D. Stamp Vendors	202	254
(d) Other E. D Agents		
(i) Working for 2 hours or more	199	242
(ii) Working for less than 2 hours 174 (fixed)		

the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Extra Departmental employees now working in the Communications Department ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to regularise them ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to revise their allowances ?

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

(a) 2,9,042 as on 31-3-86.

(b) No, Sir. An Extra Departmental Agent, who performs only part time job for the Department for fixed hours of work on consideration of a consolidated monthly allowance, cannot, in the very nature of things, be regarded as full time Government servants. Therefore there is no question of regularising the services of ED Agents against regular departmental posts. However, they are selected to Group D/Postmen cadres on the basis of their seniority, provided they qualify the written test to be conducted for the purpose subject to certain conditions.

(c) The remuneration of Extra-departmental Agents are revised annually in the context of price rise. These have been revised from 1-9-86 in the statement given below.

Steps to Prevent Flaring Up of Natural Gas

78. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state : (a) whether Government have estimated the quantum of natural gas being flared up at different places in India and if so, the details thereof indicating reasons therefor;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to prevent flare up;

(c) whether it is a fact that the production of natural gas is expected to become double the existing production by the end of the Seventh Plan; and

(d) whether Government propose to revise the price of natural gas downward for the consumers and if so, when ?

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) and (b) In 1985-86, an estimated quantity of about 3120 million cubic metres of gas was flared. Gas flaring occurs due to various reasons and the following steps are being taken to reduce this :

- Additional compression facilities are being provided in the Western Offshore region.
- Plans are being made for getting small quantities of associated natural gas, which is being flared in isolated fields in Gujarat region.
- In the Eastern region, ONGC and OIL have committed gas to new consumers.
- GAIL have also undertaken a study on connecting various oil fields in Assam by a network of pipelines to form a grid.

— Fall back consumers are being developed to utilise gas when regular consumers fail to lift committed quantities.

(c) It is expected that by the end of the Seventh Plan the production of natural gas would be about 40 MMCMD.

(d) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Difficulty in Running Rice Mills in Punjab

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Association of Rice Mill Owners in Punjab has expressed its inability to run its mills;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) A representation has been received from the Punjab Rice Millers Association stating that they are suffering losses on account of low rates of paddy milling and driage and that they might be compelled to close down their operations.

(b) The rates for custom milling of paddy and driage are settled by the public procuring agencies, including the Food Corporation of India, directly with the millers according to their best commercial judgement.

[English]

Industries Working to less than 50 per cent Capacity

80. SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a marked increase in the number of the letters of intent issued during the recent past as compared to the corresponding period in last year and also in their conversion into industrial licences;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that inspite of this rising trend in expansion and investment, many and important industries are working to less than 50% of their capacities; and

(c) if so, what ails our industrial policy to allow to this trend when the country is in the grip of demand recession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Industrial approvals accorded by way of grant of letters of intent and registration letters pertaining to de-licensed industries registered substantial increase during 1986 as compared to 1985. As many as 1130 letters of intent and 287 registration letters were issued by the secretariat for Industrial Approvals during 1986 as compared to 1457 letters of intent and 1167 registration letters issued during 1985. There has also been an increase in the conversion of letters of intent into industrial licences in 1986 as compared to the previous year. In 1986, 506 letters of intent were converted into industrial licences as against 432 during 1985.

(h) and (c) Capacity utilisation has been low in certain industries due to factors, such as, infrastructural and raw material constraints, demand bottlenecks, adverse industrial relations, inadequate technological upgradation, etc. To improve capacity utilisation, the Government have been laying emphasis on modernisation investment in balancing equipment and technological upgradation. Higher capacity utilisation is also being secured through industrial licensing and import policies as well as through monetary and fiscal measures and improvement in infrastructure. There is no evidence

to show that the country is in the grip of any general demand recession.

Working of Cement Units

81. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the unsatisfactory working of cement units set up since 1982 leading to their inability to raise fresh capital for further capacity;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made about the cases responsible for this position; and

(c) the outcome thereof and steps taken or contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Representations have been received from the Cement Manufacturers' Association as well as some individual units about the financial problems faced by such units. However, no specific report has been received about the inability to raise fresh capital for future capacity by such units.

(h) and (c) The position has been examined by the Government and following reliefs have already been given :—

(i) Levy obligation of all new units has been reduced from 40% to 30% of actual production with effect from 15th December, 1986. This will help in generating additional funds from the sale of larger quantity under non-levy category.

(ii) Retention price for levy cement has been increased by Rs. 24.50

per tonne with effect from 15th December, 1986.

- (iii) Payment of Rs. 9/- per tonne by the cement factories to Cement Regulation Account on the non-levy production of cement has been discontinued from 15.12.1986.

Public Sector Industries Incurring Losses

82. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :
SHRI S.M. GURADDI :
SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of industries in the public sector which are incurring losses continuously, the amount invested in these industries and the accumulated losses so far; and

(b) whether Government propose either to close down such sick industries or to hand over these industries to private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) : (a) A Statement showing the names of Central Public Enterprises incurring losses continuously for the last five years ending 31.3.1985 is given below. Amounts invested therein and the accumulated losses are given in the Public Enterprises Survey for 1984-85.

(b) There is no such decision at present.

Statement

1. Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd.
2. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
3. Graden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.

4. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.
5. Eastern Coalfields Ltd.
6. The Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.
7. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.
8. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.
9. Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.
10. Jessop & Co. Ltd.
11. Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd.
12. Triveni Structurals Ltd.
13. Bharat Brakes & Velves Ltd.
14. Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.
15. Scooter India Ltd.
16. Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.
17. National Instruments Ltd.
18. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.
19. Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.
20. Tannery & Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.
21. The Mim Tea Co. Ltd.
22. Biecco Lawrie Ltd.
23. Central Inland Water Transport Corpn. Ltd.
24. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.
25. Delhi Transport Corporation.
26. The Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.
27. Bharat Refractories Ltd.
28. Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.
29. Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.
30. Hindustan Copper Ltd.
31. Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Ltd.

32. Central Electronics Ltd.
33. Artificial Limbs Mfg. Corporation of India.
34. North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
35. NTC (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala & Mahe) Ltd.
36. NTC (Dehi, Punjab & Rajasthan) Ltd.
37. NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.
38. The British India Corporation Ltd.

Glut in Production of gas at Bombay and Gujarat

83. SHRI S.M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a glut in the production of gas in Bombay and Gujarat;

(b) whether the Assam Refinery had been closed for some time recently; and

(c) 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) There has been substantial increase in the production of Natural gas from Bombay Offshore and to some extent from Gujarat. However, the utilisation has also increased.

(b) and (c) The Guwahati Refinery had to be shut down from 17.1.87 due to a strike resorted to by the employees on various demands. The issues have, however, been settled and the strike was called off with effect from 9.2.1987.

Production and Employment in Public and Private Sectors

84. SHRI RAMASHRAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the production of all public and private sectors during the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 ;

(b) the employment in all public and private sectors till date ;

(c) whether employment has increased in public sector as compared to private sector ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Production figures in public and private sectors are not available for the years 1985-86 and 1986-87. However, gross output figures for public and private sectors, available for the latest two years 1981-82 and 1982-83 in the Annual survey of Industries covering factory sector, were as follows :

Sectors	Gross Output (Rs. crores)	
	1981-82	1982-83
Public Sector (Central, State & Local Govts) ,	20,531	24,927
Wholly Private	47,418	54,076

(b) to (d) According to the latest Abstract of Annual Employment Review; 1983-84 of the Ministry of Labour, figures of employment in public and

private industries sectors (manufacturing, mining & quarrying, electricity, gas & water) as on 31st March of 1983 and 1984 were as under :

	(in lakhs)	
	1983	1984
Public Sector	32.39	33.77
Private Sector	47.83	46.25

Telephone Connections in Haryana

85. CH. RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for telephone connection received by Government during the last three years in Haryana in different cities ;

(b) how many connections have been provided to applicants ; and

(c) how many applicants are still waiting in Haryana State in each city ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) The desired information is given in columns 3, 4 and 5 respectively of the statement given below.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of City	No. of Applications Received during Last 3 years (1984-85, 85-86 upto 31-1-87)	Connections Provided during last 3 years	Waiting List
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Ambala Cantt.	874	940	521
2.	Ambala City	1163	1010	1014
3.	Badarpur	105	144	163
4.	Bahadurgarh	390	9	381
5.	Ballabgarh	1192	1092	664
6.	Bhiwani	506	320	186
7.	Dabwali	215	191	86
8.	Faridabad	5353	1220	5148
9.	Fatehabad	177	71	88
10.	Gurgaon	2258	1268	2423
11.	Hansi	222	189	34

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Hissar	1296	763	1164
13.	Jind	198	255	187
14.	Kaithal	669	398	352
15.	Kalka	202	93	73
16.	Karnal	1082	149	1473
17.	Kurukshetra	646	396	206
18.	Narnaul	151	149	39
19.	Naewana	147	198	30
20.	Palwal	246	202	90
21.	Panipat	1802	122	2300
22.	Rewari	280	340	175
23.	Rohtak	1826	1099	727
24.	Shahbad	236	175	29
25.	Sirsa	1065	599	817
26.	Sonepat	826	615	211
27.	Tohana	212	171	85
28.	Yamunanagar	1669	1129	787
29.	All other remaining exchanges (below 500 lines capacity).	7860	6148	1818

Installation of Turbines by Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking

86. DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has installed small size turbines and ignored the advice of experts ;

(b) if so, whether the small size turbines cannot meet the capital's power needs ;

(c) the reaction of Union Government in this regard ; and

(d) the action proposed against DESU which has ignored the experts advice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The size of the units (30 MW) for gas turbines in DESU system was decided keeping in view the functions to be performed by these units. These include facility for black start and also to operate for improving the voltage system. Such facilities are not available in the bigger size units.

(b) The purpose of installation of gas turbines was to meet the peak requirement of Delhi and improve the system voltage whenever required. The gas turbines are meeting these requirements.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of replies to parts (a) & (b) above.

Bonds for Bakreswar Thermal Power Project

87. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have refused permission to float Bonds for the Bakreswar Thermal Power Project ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such refusal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) The present scheme of floating Bonds introduced by the Central Government is confined to Central Public Sector Undertakings, primarily in the infrastructure fields. The question of extending the facility to financially viable State Undertakings in similar fields will be decided by Government after sufficient experience has been gained in the operation of the scheme and in the light of the overall resources position of the Central Government in relation to its commitments.

Conservation on Energy

88. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTY :

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the measures envisaged for conservation of energy in the country; and

(b) the results yielded so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The measures envisaged for conservation of energy

in the country mainly include :

- Energy audits in industrial units to determine the pattern of energy consumption, identify areas where the energy efficiency can be improved and suggest ways to achieve this improvement.
- Reporting of energy consumption figures by industrial consumers and fixation of industry-wise/plant-wise norms.
- Training of Energy Managers and Energy Auditors.
- Promoting use of energy saving devices through grant of fiscal incentives etc.
- Modification of ISI specifications pertaining to various energy driven appliances to denote minimum levels of energy efficiency.
- Encouraging the use of equipment and machinery conforming to standard specifications.
- Rectification of inefficient agricultural pumpsets.
- Awareness campaign to educate and guide consumers.
- Reduction of T & D losses.
- Encouraging the manufacture of fuel efficient transport vehicles.
- Programme of improved Chulhas (wood stoves).
- Propagation of systems based on Solar, wind and bio-mass energy.
- Promotion of Research & Development in energy conservation technologies.

(b) In the case of the demonstration programme of rectification of agricultural pumpsets funded by the Government,

it has been observed that the energy efficiency of the rectified pumpsets improved by about 25% on an average. Similarly, the conservation activities conducted by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association have so far resulted in an annual saving of Petroleum products worth Rs. 150 crores. An overall assessment of the energy savings which might have accrued as a result of the energy conservation measures initiated/adopted by all the user sectors is however not possible.

Profit/Loss by Public Sector Undertakings

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

(a) whether public sector units have turned profitable in the first half of 1986-87 and if so, the details of profits, undertaking-wise, indicating total corresponding investment (cumulative) in each of these including losses suffered so far, if any;

(b) whether Government have plans to privatise the sick units or close these down or upgrade their technology or productivity; and

(c) whether the losing public sector units which are at present manned by bureaucrats are hereafter to be fully professionalised ?

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

(a) Final figures relating to financial performance of Central Public Enterprises for the first half of 1986-87 are not available. However, based on provisional estimates received from only 170 enterprises, the overall working results during first half of 1986-87 show a net profit of Rs. 232.96 crores. Details of undertaking-wise profits, total corresponding investment (cumulative) and losses suffered upto 1984-85 are available in the Public Enterprises Survey 1984-85 which was laid on the Table of the House

on 27-2-1986. Further details upto 1985-86 are under compilation and the Public Enterprises Survey 1985-86 giving these details is being placed on the Table of the House very shortly.

(b) Government have, so far, not taken any decision to either privatise or close down any of the sick Public Sector Units. To upgrade their technology or productivity Government have been taking various steps including, inter-alia, modernisation and rehabilitation of plant and equipment wherever considered necessary, diversification of products; provision of balancing facilities; training and retraining of personnel; emphasis on cost control and cost reduction and encouragement of labour participation in management.

(c) Government has always stressed the need for professionalisation of all the Public Sector Units. Government has, also decided that in future bureaucrats intending to shift to Public Sector can do so only on immediate absorption basis generally.

Target for Extra Power Capacity

90. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) what was the target for extra power capacity addition during the first seven months in 1986-87;

(b) the target achieved during this period; and

(c) the various reasons for fall in this target and the measures Government are taking to improve generation of power capacity in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) Against a target of commissioning of additional capacity of 1505 MW during the first seven months of the year 1986-87, a capacity of 749 MW was commissioned.

(b) The delay in supply of equipment, detection of geological faults and shear zones, in hydel projects, were the primary factors which have contributed to targets not being maintained. Regular reviews are made by the Department of Power and Central Electricity Authority to expedite delivery of the equipment. Senior Officers of the Central Electricity Authority also visit the sites and provide guidance.

[Translation]

Letters of Intent for Industrial Units

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

(a) the number of letters of intent

issued during the last one year for setting up industrial units in each State and the number of those letters of intent, out of them which were converted into industrial licences; and

(b) the state-wise number of letters of intent cancelled on account of their non-utilisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the State-wise break-up of number of letters of intent granted during the year 1986 and their implementation position is given below.

Statement

Statement showing the State-wise break-up of number of letters of intent granted during 1986 and their implementation position

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Total No. of letters of intent issued	Implementation position (as on 31-1-87)		
			No. of letters of intent converted into industrial licences	No. of letters of intent treated as lapsed	No. of letters of intent pending for conversion into indl. licences
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	111	1	—	110
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	—	1
3.	Assam	20	—	—	20
4.	Bihar	18	—	—	18
5.	Chandigarh	2	1	—	1
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	8	—	—	8
7.	Delhi	17	2	2	13
8.	Goa, Daman & Diu	23	1	—	22
9.	Gujarat	105	5	—	100
10.	Haryana	57	4	—	53
11.	Himachal Pradesh	18	—	—	18

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	—	—	5
13.	Karnataka	76	6	1	69
14.	Kerala	17	—	—	17
15.	Madhya Pradesh	55	1	—	54
16.	Maharashtra	173	4	—	169
17.	Manipur	1	—	—	1
18.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	1
19.	Nagaland	4	—	—	4
20.	Orissa	17	—	—	17
21.	Pondicherry	12	—	—	2
22.	Punjab	47	2	4	45
23.	Rajasthan	54	1	1	52
24.	Tamil Nadu	104	5	—	99
25.	Uttar Pradesh	135	5	2	128
26.	West Bengal	42	—	—	42
27.	State not indicated/ more than one state	7	—	—	7
Total :		1130	38	6	1086

*[English]***Proposal for Uniform Civil Code**

92. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 20 on 4th November, 1986 re: Voluntary Civil Code and state :

(a) whether the group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Human Resource Development set up to consider the question of a uniform civil code has since settled any draft on a Uniform Civil Code;

(b) if so, whether the draft has been considered by Government and whether Government propose to bring any Bill on the same; and

(c) whether Government are thinking to give up the idea of bringing forward Uniform Civil Code altogether ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Power Connections to Villages in
Extended Lal Dora in Delhi**

93. SHRI BHARAT SINGH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether electricity connections were provided in extended Lal Dora area of villages of Delhi before 1983 ;

(b) whether the issue of connections has since been discontinued ;

(c) whether Government propose to review issuing of power connections to these villages ; and

(d) if so, when ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Withdrawal of Voluntary Price Control on Vegetable Oil

94. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that voluntary price control on vegetable oil products has been withdrawn ;

(b) if so, reasons therefor ; and

(c) the measures taken to check the repeated increase in the selling price of vegetable oils ?

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

(b) The Voluntary price agreement was withdrawn in January, 1986 as a part of Government's continuing efforts to minimise controls and in view of the satisfactory availability and reasonable prices of vanaspathi.

(c) Effective supply management of imported edible oils is being maintained.

[English]

Rengali Hydro Electric Project in Orissa

95. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the latest estimated cost of the Rengali Hydro-Electric Project in Orissa ;

(b) the amount spent on the above project as on 31 December, 1986 ;

(c) whether commercial production has started in that project ; and

(d) if so, since when and the total M.W. electricity generated so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SMT. SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The latest estimated cost of Rengali Hydro-electric Project (2 × 50MW) is Rs 205.87 crores out of which Rs. 125.52 crores is chargeable to Power.

(b) The expenditure on the Power portion incurred upto end October 1986 is about Rs. 118 crores.

(c) and (d) Unit-I was put into commercial operation in August, 1985 and Unit-II in March 1986. The total energy generated during 1985-86 was 198 MU and during the period April 1986 to January 1987, 510 MU.

[Translation]

Allotment of Wheat and Rice to Gujarat

96. SHRI C D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat Government have demanded increased

supply of wheat and rice for famine affected persons and if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) the quantity allotted by Government and the quantity actually supplied so far ?

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

(a) Yes Sir. The Government of Gujarat have in their Memorandum to the Central Team asked for special allocation of 4.82 lakh tonnes of wheat for the period January 1987 to June 1987 on the N R E.P. and R.L E.G.P. pattern. A request was also made for additional allocation of 15,000 tonnes of rice over and above the normal monthly allocation for public distribution system, besides a monthly allocation of 20,000 tonnes of coarsegrains during January 1987 to July 1987.

(b) The monthly allotment of wheat to Gujarat is 60,000 tonnes, and rice 20,000 tonnes, for public distribution system. An additional allotment of 15,000 tonnes of rice has since been made for February, 1987.

[*English*]

Offshore Exploration with Assistance of Foreign Companies

47. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that talks were held with the foreign oil companies for offshore exploration in 1987 ;

(b) if so, the nature of the discussions held ; and

(c) the outcome 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) to (c) Yes, Sir. Preliminary discussions with the foreign oil companies regarding their bids for offshore exploration are being held.

Power Projects Behind Schedule

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

(a) whether twenty two of the twenty eight on-going power projects in the country are behind schedule and all except two have cost over-runs; and

(b) the facts in this regard in each case and the revised time and cost schedules is each one ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) The information required is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up More Power Plants in Karnataka

99. SHRI H.B. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have sought any report from the State of Karnataka regarding position of power generation and possibility of establishing more power plants in that State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) No, Sir. There is a power shortage in Karnataka and it is for the State authorities to explore the possibility of establishing more power plants in the State sector.

(b) Does not arise.

International Congress of Public Enterprises

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

(a) the recommendations made by the three day International Congress on Public Enterprises held in New Delhi from January 20, 1987 to January 22, 1987; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) : (a) and (b) The recommendations of the three day International Congress on Public Enterprises held in New Delhi on January 20-22, 1987 are yet to be formalised by the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE). Government shall consider taking action on receipt of the recommendations.

Setting up of Heavy Industries in North Bengal

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

(a) whether Government are considering to set up some heavy industries in North Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the initiative so far taken by Union Government in this regard ?

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 the same will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Chukha Hydel Project in Bhutan

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

(a) whether the Chukha Hydel Project in Bhutan executed with the assistance of India has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the quantum of power that would be made available for the districts/ North Bengal and when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) Two out of four units of 84 MW each of the Chukha Hydel Project in Bhutan have started generation of power. The remaining two units are under construction.

(b) All the surplus power from the Chukha Hydel Project in Bhutan (4×84 MW) will be purchased by the Government of India, through the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation for distribution in the Eastern region including West Bengal. West Bengal has been allocated a share of 29.10% of the power received in India. The distribution of power within the State of West Bengal is done by the West Bengal State Electricity Board.

Meeting with Trade Unions to Discuss Safety Measures in Coal Mines

103. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to call a meeting of the trade unions in the coal sector alongwith the management of Coal India Limited to discuss safety measures in coal mines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) A meeting of the Standing Committee on

Safety in coal mines was recently held on 4th February, 1987. It was attended to among others, by the representatives of the trade unions, managements of coal companies and Director General of Mines Safety. The safety situation in the Coal India group of coal companies and S.C.C.L. was reviewed and it was observed that there had been an overall improvement in the safety situation in CIL group of Coal Companies. The rate of fatalities per million tonne of output has come down to 1.03 in 1986 as compared to 2.37 in 1973 and 1.16 in 1985. Likewise, the rate of serious injuries came down from 19.49 in 1973 to 4.07 in 1985 and 3.65 in 1986. A number of other decisions were also taken to improve the safety situation further. These are :—

- (a) To launch a special drive to improve travelling roadways;
- (b) To provide better lighting on travelling roadways so as to minimise haulage accidents which were found to be the second most important cause of fatal accidents after roof-fall;
- (c) To prepare roof support plan for every mine in consultation with the DGMS and Pithead Safety Committee;
- (d) To launch a special drive to identify accident prone mines so that greater attention could be paid to them to minimise accidents and reduce security risks;
- (e) To introduce electronification and automation, wherever possible and feasible, to eliminate human errors so often responsible for causing accidents;
- (f) To put greater emphasis on training of drivers and other staff engaged in operation of Heavy Earth Moving Machineries (HEMM) to make them safety-conscious. The HEMMs have

been identified to be principally responsible for accidents in open-cast mines.

- (g) To associate workers' representatives in all accident inquiries, undertaken by the internal Safety Organisation (ISO) of the Coal Companies, where the fatalities are three or more, to inspire confidence among the workers and lend credibility to such inquiries.

Indo-Italy Telecommunication Pact

104. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Indo-Italy Telecommunication Pact has been reviewed in the last week of January, 1987; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir, Government have not signed any Pact with Italy on cooperation in Telecommunication.

(b) Question does not arise.

Power Distribution System

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

(a) whether the power distribution system at present is not satisfactory;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce a new system; 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 power distribution systems in certain

parts of the country need strengthening. Guidelines have been issued to the State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments to take up system improvement schemes for the strengthening of transmission and distribution systems. Efforts are being made to ensure that adequate funds are provided for this work and to ensure their timely completion through effective monitoring.

**Release of Commemorative Stamp on
Shanti Deva**

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

(a) whether any request has been received for the release of a commemorative stamp to mark the 1300th Birth Anniversary of the famous Sanskrit Poet and Mahayana scholar Shanti Deva in 1987;

(b) if so, the decision taken on this request; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which a decision would be taken and the date on which the stamp would be released ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Philatelic Advisory Committee functions in the Department to advise the Government regarding issue of special/commemorative postage stamps and other related matters. This proposal will be placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee, for consideration, at its next meeting. The Date for which has not yet been fixed.

[Translation]

**Allotment of LPG Agencies in
Uttar Pradesh**

107. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of towns having population of more than twenty thousand in Uttar Pradesh which have been selected for allotment of L.P.G. agencies;

(b) the number of towns out of them where L.P.G. agencies have been allotted and where these are yet to be allotted;

(c) the time by which L.P.G. agencies will be allotted in the remaining towns; and

(d) the target for covering such towns by L.P.G. agencies by the end of current 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 BRAHMA DUTT) :

(a) to (d) The oil industry is presently marketing LPG in U.P. in 101 towns with a population of more than 20,000; LPG distributorships in another 46 such towns will be established in a phased manner, subject to augmentation of LPG availability, bottling capacity and infrastructure facilities. LPG distributorships for covering these 46 towns are likely to be set up during the seventh Plan period though indication of firm dates is not feasible.

[English]

Power Generation Target

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

(a) whether a high level review by his Ministry has indicated that the current fiscal year will close with shortfalls both in targetted power generation and additional installed capacity;

(b) if so, the details regarding power generation target for the current year fixed as well as the actual generation likely to come out against the targetted programme alongwith the extent of shortfall; and

(c) the reasons thereof ?

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

(b) and (c) Against the Power Generation target of 190 B.U. during 1986-87, the generation expected is 186.5 B.U. The shortfall will mainly be in the hydro generation on account of low hydel reservoir levels.

Rise in Power rates for Small Units in Delhi

109. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power rates for the small units in Delhi which comprise 90 per cent of the industrial units, have been raised from 35 paise to 75 paise recently;

(b) if so, whether due to the steep increase, many of the small units will be faced to close down;

(c) whether Government have received representation from the body of small scale industries to reconsider the hike and bring it down; and

(d) if so, whether Government have considered it and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) Power rates for small units were revised from 35 paise to 75 paise with effect from 9th April, 1985.

(b) While increase in tariff rate affects all consumers of electricity, power supply rates for small units are still lower than non-domestic (commercial) consumers.

(c) and (d) DESU had received representations from certain industrial

associations, Chamber of Commerce etc. against the revised tariff effected in April, 1985. Keeping in view the cost of power generation it has not been considered feasible to reduce the power rates in Delhi.

Appointment of Judges from Bar

110. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have studied the situation arising out of best talents in the bar shying away from joining the Bench; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) No such study has been undertaken by the Government. The Government, however, make all possible efforts to appoint the best available talent in the Bar as Judges of the High Courts. In order to attract better talent, Government have also decided to substantially raise the salary of Judges by having the Constitution (Fifty fourth Amendment) Bill, 1986 passed by Parliament. The Government have also substantially improved the service conditions of Judges of the High Courts by enacting the High Court & Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 1986 which was brought into force with effect from 1.11.1986.

Commissioning of Electronic Telex, Etc. at Ernakulam and Palghat (Kerala)

111. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Electronic Telex and the Digital Electronic Trunk Automatic Exchange at Ernakulam (Kerala) is ready to be commissioned;

(b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be commissioned; and

(c) the time by which the Electronic Telex at Palghat will be commissioned?

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

(b) The Electronic Telex at Ernakulam is expected to be commissioned during 1987. The Electronic Digital TAX at Ernakulam is expected to be commissioned during 1988.

(c) The Electronic Telex at Palghat is under testing and is expected to be commissioned by 31.3.87.

Industrial Licences for Kerala

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

(a) the details of industrial licences issued to Kerala during the last six months; and

(b) the total Central investment involved in these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) During the period July-December, 1986, a total of 4 industrial licences were granted for setting up of industries in Kerala. Details of these are given below :—

Name of the Unit & Location	Item of Mfr. & capacity and type	Sector	Proposed investment in fixed assets as indicated in the IL application (in Rs. lakh)
1. OEN Micro Systems Ltd., Cochin (Distt. Ernakulam Tripunithura)	Video Terminals = 1000 Nos. (Substantial Expn.)	Public Sector	20
2. Keltron Telephone instruments Ltd., Trivandrum (Distt. Palghat)	Telephone instruments = 5 lakh Nos. (New Undertaking)	state Public Sector	324
3. Thomson Drugs & Chemicals Ltd., Malappuram, (Nilambur, Malappuram)	Chloroquine Di-phosphate = 50 tns. (New Undertaking)	State Public Sector	57
4. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Maharashtra (Near Cochin)	Propylene (Chemical grade = 7,000 tns.) (New Article)	Central Public Sector	325

Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Bihar

113. SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG dealerships and petrol pumps allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Bihar against the reserved quota; and

(b) whether Government will lay on

Table the particulars of SC/ST allottees ?

under :—

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

(a) The number of LPG distributorships
and Retail Outlet (Petrol/Diesel) dealer-
ships allotted to SCs and STs in Bihar
under the reservation for SC/ST is as

	SC	ST
L.P.G.	15	9
Retail Outlet	28	9

(b) The requisite information in res-
pect of LPG and RO is given in the
Statements I & II given below.

Statement I

LPG Distributorships Awarded to SC/ST Category in the State of Bihar

S. No.	Location	Category	Name
1.	Purnea	SC	Sh. Yugal Kishore Sah
2.	Jamshedpur	ST	Sh. Roshan Ding Ding
3.	Nawada	SC	Sh. Sukadeo Maltha
4.	Ranchi	SC	Sh. Rajendra Kumar
5.	Jamshedpur	ST	Sh. Surendra Deogam
6.	Jamshedpur	SC	Sh. Sudesh Chandra Prasad
7.	Hazaribagh	ST	Sh. M. Solanki Nag
8.	Dumka	ST	Sh. Rajendra Kumar Bhagat
9.	Ranchi	ST	Sh. Ignace Kachhap
10.	Cbakraḍharpur	ST	Sh. Adiel Minz
11.	Sahibganj	ST	Sh. Bishnudeo Singh
12.	Madhupur	ST	Sh. Anand Murau
13.	Lohardaga	ST	Sh. Sukhdeo Oraon
14.	Purnia	SC	Sh. Hari Prasad Baishyanti
15.	Patna	SC	Sh. Arun Kumar Choudhary
16.	Patna	SC	Sh. Sobrai Ram
17.	Gaya	SC	Sh. Shaligram Ram
18.	Bokaro	SC	Sh. Vikram Jay Kishore
19.	Chas	SC	Sh. Laxmi Das
20.	Dhanbad	SC	Sh. Vijaikumar Choudhary
21.	Hajipur	SC	Sh. Kapileswar Ram Kesari
22.	Deoghar	SC	Sh. Ram Pravesh Ram
23.	Khagaria	SC	Smt. Usha Kumari
24.	Bagaha	SC	Sh. Chandra Bhan Baitha

Statement II

Retail Outlet Dealerships Awarded to SC/ST Category in the State of Bihar

S. No.	Location	Category	Name
1.	Garkha	SC	Sh. Ranji Chowdhary
2.	Harmu Colony	ST	S/Sh. Vijaykumar Khakha, Bharati Khakha, Deonath Oraon & G.S. Oraon.
3.	Bihar Shariff	SC	Sh. Prem Chand Kumar
4.	Bhagwanpur	SC	Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhagat
5.	Jinkpani	ST	Sh. Devendra Nath Champia
6.	Naubatpur	SC	Sh. Ram Sahawan Singh
7.	Kankarbagh	SC	Sh. Arun Kumar
8.	Bhore	SC	Sh. Nadlal Ram
9.	Ghatwa Chowk	SC	Sh. Krishna Murari
10.	Nagri	ST	Sh. Bernat Minz
11.	Namkum	ST	Sh. Hemant Kecchap
12.	Mahendia	SC	Sh. Balkrishan Ram
13.	Dhaniwan	SC	Sh. Rajesh Kumar Choudhary
14.	Fatwah	SC	Sh. Arjun Prasad
15.	Khinzor	SC	Sh. Ram Baliram
16.	Musrigharari Chowk	SC	Sh. Jyotindra Kumar Rajak
17.	Hinoo Road	SC	Sh. Surya Mohan Tanti
18.	Lakhmania	SC	Sh. Vijoy Kumar
19.	Chausa	SC	Sh. Nandkishor Prasad
20.	Ganga Bridge Approach	ST	Sh. Rakesh Ekka
21.	Litipara	ST	Sh. Margrale Tudu
22.	Gopalganj	SC	S/Sh. Jawahar Ram, Chandrama Ram, Ramlal Ram & Jagat Ram
23.	Maharajganj	SC	Sh. Prakash S/S.
24.	Rasulpur	ST	Sh. Budhu Munda
25.	Manjhi	SC	Sh. Indrajeet Ram
26.	Itkimore	ST	Sh. Diwakar Minz
27.	Torpa	ST	Sh. Gladwni Kachhap
28.	Laxho	SC	Sh. Arun Kumar Paswan
29.	Kudra	SC	Sh. Ganga Bishnu Ram
30.	Dakha	SC	Sh. Brahm Deo Ram Shastri
31.	Khezesarai	SC	Sh. Lakhan Choudhry
32.	Jandaha	SC	Sh. Ram Das Ram
33.	Wajirganj	SC	Sh. Ram Brikash Rajbanshi
34.	Pakribarwan	SC	Sh. Rajendra Prasad Jyoti
35.	Mahua	SC	Sh. Baleshwar Paswan
36.	Hajipur	SC	Sh. Desai Baitha
37.	Pun Pun	SC	Sh. Bihari Prasad

Increase in price of cement

114. **SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM :**
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the price per tonne of levy cement obtaining during the last two years;

(b) whether the price was raised recently; and

(c) if so, to what extent and the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The F.O.R. (Sale) price of levy cement during the last two years has remained at Rs. 532 per tonne and Rs. 517 per tonne (excluding excise duty and packing charges) in respect of Ordinary Portland Cement/Slag Cement and Portland Pozzolana Cement respectively.

(b) and (c) There has been no increase in the F.O.R. (Sale) price of levy cement recently. However, the retention price (payable to cement manufacturers) of cement has been increased by Rs. 24.50 per tonne with effect from 15.12.86 to compensate the industry for the increase in the cost of production, without increasing the F.O.R. (Sale) price of cement.

Loss of coal in transit

115. **SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM :**
SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to reports that millions of tonnes of coal are lost in transit from coal mines to destinations;

(b) if so, whether the circumstances under which the coal is lost or pilfered have been investigated; and

(c) the steps being taken to check such losses ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Coal companies sell coal on F.O.R. colliery basis. After the coal is handed over to the Railways, it is not possible for the coal companies to have any control or assessment of loss of coal in transit. However, the Railways have taken a number of steps to prevent the loss of coal during rail transit. These steps are :

- (1) As far as possible, Railways Protection Force personnel are deployed to escort block-loads of coal wagons in crime prone areas/sections.
- (2) Vulnerable yards and affected places which are prone for thefts of coal are also patrolled by armed RPF men as well as by dog squads with a view to tracking down the criminals indulging in theft of coal.
- (3) Fixed pickets are posted/deployed in vulnerable sections/black spots to prevent theft of coal from running trains.
- (4) Crime Intelligence staff of the Railways and Central Crime Bureau of Railway Board are deployed to collect crime intelligence about the activities of coal thieves and receivers and conduct raids on them for the recovery of stolen coal and arrest of criminals/receivers.

Introduction of Recruitment Fee Stamps

116. **SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :**
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total demand of the Recruitment Fee Stamps in the country; and

(b) whether the Security Press at Nasik is able to cope up with the demand ?

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

(a) About 30,00,000 pieces of stamps will be required annually to meet the demand of the recruitment fees stamps in our country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Mekedatu Power Project

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

(a) whether any project report has been prepared for harnessing power at Mekedatu Project across Cauvery river;

(b) to what extent the power problems of Karnataka are likely to be solved with the taking up of Mekedatu Project;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has made any survey and submitted a report in this regard; and

(d) whether without linking the issue of sharing of waters with Tamil Nadu, Government propose to taken up the Mekedatu power project for the overall development of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE
MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI
SUSHILA ROHITAGI) : (a) to (d) The Karnataka authorities have intimated that the project report in respect of the proposed Mekedatu Hydro electric Project is under preparation. The proposed project envisages installation of a capacity of 350 MW and annual generation of 722 million Units. The proposal could be considered further only after its techno-economic feasibility is established and relevant clearances are available.

Licences for setting up Sugar Factories in Karnataka

118. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :
Will the Minister of FOOD AND
CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for industrial licences for the setting up of sugar factories in Karnataka pending for the last two years;

(b) the reasons for not granting industrial licences so far; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to clear all the pending cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL
SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI
AZAD) : (a) No application for grant of letter of intent/industrial licence is pending before the Department of Food for setting up of a sugar factory in the State of Karnataka at present.

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

Pricing Formula for Natural Gas

119. SHRI BANWARI LAL PURO-
HIT :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD :

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

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

(a) whether Government have taken a decision on the pricing formula for the natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and whether it is adversely affecting the oil producing companies ?

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) The prices fixed are as follows :

(i) Rs. 1400/1000 M³ for gas at landfall points and for onshore gas; and

(ii) Rs. 2250/1000 M³ for gas supplied along the HBJ pipeline.

2. These prices will be subject to the following concessions :

(i) For gas sold in North-Eastern Region States, the price would be Rs. 1000/1000 M³, subject to discounts upto Rs. 500/1000 M³ which would be given in individual cases to be decided by Government on merits.

ii) A rebate of 15% will be given to consumers to whom gas is sold on fall back basis.

iii) In the initial years of development of gas fields, some gas may be available in small quantities which may be sold at concessional prices to be decided by the Government.

3. The above prices would be exclusive of royalties, taxes, duties and other statutory levies. The above prices are effective from 30.1.1987 and will remain in force till 31.3.1989.

(c) Does not arise.

New Industrial Policy to avoid Environmental and Pollution Hazards

120. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to announce new industrial policy shortly for industrial units in the country to avoid environmental and pollution hazards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the new policy will be announced; and

(d) to what extent the new policy will speed up the growth of industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNA CHALAM) : (a) to (d) The existing industrial and environmental policies provide for safeguards against environmental and pollution hazards. These policies are under constant review and improvements/modifications are made from time to time.

Amendments to MRTP Act

121. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to bring changes in the M.R.T.P. Act;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments proposed to be made; and

(c) to what extent the changes will result in more effective control on industries ?

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

(b) & (c) Government has not taken any final decision in the matter.

Exhibitions on Non-Conventional Energy Sources

122. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the non-conventional energy sources are getting more popular throughout the country and Government

plan to attract more people towards the use of renewable sources of energy ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the number of exhibitions and demonstrations arranged by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in various parts of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The popularity of the renewable and non-conventional energy sources is growing in this country on account of various popularisation programmes like exhibitions undertaken by the Government. Also, the Government provides a number of fiscal and financial incentives to the users and manufacturers of systems and devices based on new and renewable sources of energy. These incentives include exemption from customs duty in certain cases exemption from central excise in certain cases, loans from banks at concessional rates and financial assistance to individual users and institutions in respect of biogas systems, solar thermal systems, improved chulha, etc. The State Govts. also have, in certain cases, exempted systems and devices based on renewable and non conventional sources of energy from State Sales Tax and Central Sales Tax. Some State Govts. are also providing financial assistance and other similar assistance to users of solar cookers, etc.

(c) The exhibitions held by the Department also give demonstrations of various systems. This is in addition to large scale demonstration programmes on waterpumping wind mills and solar photovoltaics devices. The number of exhibitions held by the Department in 1982-83 to 1986-87 within the country is given below :—

Year	No. of exhibitions
1982-83	8
1983-84	12
1984-85	17
1985-86	27
1986-87	28 (up to 15-2-87)

Technology Mission to Improve Telecommunication System

123. **SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a technology mission has been launched in the Department of Telecommunications to improve the system and services ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps this technology mission has taken so far to improve the performance of various projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The name of the mission is 'Mission—Better Communication'.

(b) & (c) Details are given in the Statement below.

Statement

'Mission-Better Communications'

Mission Telecom is one of the five national missions identified by the Prime Minister. The need for this arose due to :

- (1) Comparatively unsatisfactory quality of the service to the existing customers; and
- (2) Long delays in provision of telephone connections and inadequate extension of service to the rural and backward area.

2. The proposed mission is basically directed to :

- (1) A substantial improvement in the quality of existing service; and
- (2) Reduction in the waiting periods for Telecom services and extension of services to rural and backward areas.

3. Extension of telecom services to the rural and the backward areas was not possible due to inadequate allocation of funds for this purpose in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Discussions with the Planning Commission & Ministry of Finance will be held for substantial financial commitments for achieving the objection.

4. Main components of the Mission for the present have been identified as follows :

- (1) Improvement in the quality of service to the existing customers.
- (2) Improvement in the accessibility within existing network.
- (3) Concentrated attention to indigenous development of certain selected technologies and products.

5. The general dissatisfaction of the telecom service users has been identified due to the following reasons :

- (1) Inadequate Staff-response to the problems of the customers.
- (2) Delays in the delivery of telegrams.
- (3) High fault rates on telephone and telex connections.
- (4) Difficulties in obtaining calls, particularly on STD and trunk calls.
- (5) Difficulties in approaching the operator assisted services and the quality of service rendered by them.
- (6) Lack of credibility of telephone bills, particularly relating to STD calls.

6. To offset the problems stated above the following steps have been adopted :

- (1) Take immediate steps to focus the attention of the staff at all levels

on the customers, their needs and expectations from top to bottom.

- (2) To assess the situation as far as the quality of service from the point of view of customer and identify black spots relating to :

- (a) poor workmanship
- (b) poor equipment and materials
- (c) inadequate provision to handle the traffic

- (3) Action plan has been drawn to remove the black spots with specific targets to achieve these results.

- (4) Monitoring mechanism has been established at :

- (a) All India level
- (b) Circle level
- (c) Each city, town and village area level.

7. The progress of the action plan for the year 1986-87 is being reported each quarter to the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Secretariat.

8. The following mini missions have been drawn to improve quality of service :

- (1) To give customer orientation training to staff at each level and encourage them to look at all operations from the customer's point of view.
- (2) Reduce the delay in delivery of telegrams.
- (3) Reduce fault rates.
- (4) Improve call success rate.
- (5) Improve Directory Enquiry Service.

- (6) Improve manual trunk service.
- (7) Improve billing credibility.
- (8) Provide single point customer service calls for each major Telephone Exchange and equip them with computerized support.

New Automobile Policy

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

(a) whether Government are considering the new automobile policy for two wheeler passenger cars and light commercial vehicles ; and

(b) if so, when it is expected to be enforced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The matter is still under consideration of the Government.

'Urja Grams' in Madhya Pradesh

125. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages selected by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources to develop as 'Urja Gram' in Madhya Pradesh during current financial year;

(b) the names and the progress made upto now;

(c) whether some educational institutions have also approached the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for some assistance in these projects in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) In Madhya Pradesh urjagram projects have been taken up in the following villages during the current financial year :

- (1) Ukawla, Shivpuri district
- (2) Ramnagar, Mandla district
- (3) Adchi, Surguja district
- (4) Narayanpur Ashram, Bastar district

All the projects are under implementation and comprise a combination of various non-conventional energy systems and devices. Some more villages have also been identified and urjagram project proposals are under preparation.

(c) and (d) Even though urjagram proposals are received from various organisations, the projects are by and large taken up through State nodal agencies with the involvement of other organisations including educational institutions, wherever appropriate.

Expansion of Integrated Telecommunication Programme

126. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 2228 on 18th November, 1986 regarding integrated Telecommunication Network Programme and state :

(a) the progress made so far in the expansion and development of the integrated programme;

(b) the progress made so far in the construction works of stations relating to that programme, especially in Barmer district of Rajasthan; and

(c) the progress in getting exchange equipments for Barmer and the commissioning of electronic exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Action is being taken for the estab-

lishment of indigenous production of exchange equipment in the country. However development of Integrated Programme depends upon availability of economically viable medium.

(b) Construction for Building including electrical works at Samdhari, Siwana are expected to be completed by March 1987 and Baitu, Panchpadra, Sindhri, Balotra and other remaining locations by August 1987.

(c) The exchange equipments have recently been received. Installation work would be taken up during the second quarter of 1987-88.

[Translation]

**Fixation of Price of Gas supplied
to Ramgarh (Jaisalmer)
Power Plant**

127. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the progress made so far into the talks between the Rajasthan State Electricity Board and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in regard to fixation of price of gas to be supplied to Ramgarh (Jaisalmer) Power Plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : Government have fixed the prices of natural gas at Rs. 1400/1000M³ at landfall point and for onshore gas and at Rs. 22 00/1000M³ along HBJ pipeline. Under the price policy concessional prices can be fixed by Government for small quantities of gas available in the initial years of development.

[English]

Indian Judicial Service

128. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to form an Indian Judicial Service in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) The matter is under examination of the Government and it is not possible to indicate the details at this stage.

[Translation]

Conversion of Manual Telephone Exchange into Automatic Telephone Exchange at Begusarai

129. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been making efforts for the last many years to convert the manual telephone exchange, Begusarai into an automatic telephone exchange ; and

(b) if so, the causes impeding the conversion of this exchange into an automatic telephone exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Allotment for automatic switching equipment for Begusarai was made in 1983-84.

(b) The conversion of Begusarai exchange into an automatic has not been accomplished due to non-receipt of full compliments of Stores.

[English]

**Renewal of Wage Agreements in
Public Undertakings**

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

(a) whether Government have issued guidelines to public sector undertakings for renewal of wage agreements with trade unions ; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken in the matter so far by the public undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) :
(a) Yes, Sir. Certain broad parameters governing future Long Term Wage Settlements in public undertakings have been already communicated.

(b) The undertakings have started or resumed negotiations with the concerned unions or are in the process of doing so.

Oil Exploration in Andhra Pradesh

132. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether gas has been struck in the Godavari off shore area recently ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) which are the other places in Andhra Pradesh where drilling for oil exploration is going on or is proposed to be undertaken ?

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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Well GS-8-1, during initial testing, flowed gas at the rate of 98,000 cubic meters per day approximately through 1/4" choke.

(c) Exploratory drilling is in progress in the following places :—

1. Razole
2. Komogudem
3. Konukollu
4. Tatipaka
5. Surasanianam.

Drilling is proposed at the following places in Andhra Pradesh :—

1. Vetlapalam
2. Vadali
3. Palletikurru
4. Chintalapalli.

Electronic Telephone Exchange for Ramachandrapuram East Godavari District

133. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned an electronic exchange for Ramachandrapuram in East Godavari District ;

(b) whether the construction of building has already been completed and equipment installed ;

(c) the reasons for delay in the commissioning of the exchange ; and

(d) the likely date by which the exchange will start functioning ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. Building for the exchange is ready. The work of installation of exchange is in progress.

(c) The installation work is progressing as per schedule.

(d) 400 line electronic exchange is expected to be commissioned by July '87.

Proposal to Dispense with Home Delivery System of Postal Articles

134. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to dispense with the system of home delivery of letters and postal articles to the persons concerned and set up booths from where people would be required to collect their letters and other postal articles ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether its effect on reduction of facility to the people and possible retrenchment of postal staff have been taken into consideration ?

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

(a) No Sir, there is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Term of State Assemblies and rotation of reserved seats

135. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of State Assemblies whose term is to expire this year ;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision to implement the Election Commission's recommendations for rotation of continuously reserved seats ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) The names of State Assemblies whose term is to expire this year in the normal course with dates of expiry, are as follows :

Name	Date of expiry
(i) Haryana	23-6-1987
(ii) Kerala	23-6-1987
(iii) Nagaland	28-11-1987
(iv) West Bengal	13-6-1987

(b) and (c) The recommendation of the Election Commission regarding the rotation of reserved seats within a district or any other suitable administrative unit in a State so that a seat does not remain reserved for more than stipulated years at a time together with Commission's proposal regarding delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies, is under consideration. These proposals form part of the set of proposals on electoral reforms and consideration of these proposals is at an advance stage within Government and it is proposed to hold consultation with political parties before taking a final decision.

Telex Connections In Districts of Andhra Pradesh

136. SHRI T. BALA GAUD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Union Government for the installation of Telex connections in Adilabad, Nalgonda, Mahbubnagar, Warangal and Ongal districts ;

(b) whether Government have taken any action in this regard ; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, Telex connections at Adilabad and Ongal have already been provided. A Telex Exchange at Warangal is under installation and connection will be provided on its commissioning. For Telex connection to Nalgonda, necessary equipment is under installation and connection can be provided on completion of payment formalities. Regarding Mahbubnagar a formal application is yet to be received by Hyderabad Telecom. district.

**Closure of Coal mines of Eastern
Coalfields Ltd.**

137. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to close down some coal mines of the Eastern Coalfields Limited ;

(b) if so, the coal mines under Eastern Coalfields Limited proposed to be closed down ; and

(c) the reasons for this decision ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c) The Chari Committee, which was appointed by the Government to study the working of the Eastern Coalfields Limited identified 22 coal mines as uneconomical on account of high cost of production and extremely low output per manshift. After examination of the Report of the Committee, the Government have directed Coal India Limited/Eastern Coalfields Limited to finalise reconstruction and development schemes in respect of 10 mines. For the remaining 12 mines, Coal India Limited/Eastern Coalfields Limited have been directed to work out a scheme of redeployment/rationalisation of manpower with a view to close down the mines ultimately. These 12 mines are :

1. Kalipahari
2. Adjoy-II
3. Ranipur
4. Tara
5. Sel Fatka
6. Jamuria
7. Shampur 'A'
8. Barmondia
9. Simlong
10. Alkuse/Gopalpur

11. Benali

12. Kankartala

**Use of Gas Found in Krishna-
Godavari Basin**

139. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the results of the explorations so far made by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the Krishna-Godavari basin ;

(b) what are the proposals for commercially exploiting the gas found in the exploration ;

(c) whether potential for generating electricity power from gas has been studied ; and

(d) whether there are proposals to immediately make use of this gas for the fertilizers factory at Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) 21 wells have been drilled in on land part of the basin and oil/gas has been discovered in the following wells :—

Name of the well	Oil/Gas
Narsapur-3	Gas
Narsapur-5	Gas
Razole-1 and 2	Gas
Tatipaka-1	Gas
Bhimanapalli-1	Gas
Kaikalur-1	Gas
Pasarlapudi-1	Gas
Kaza-1	Gas
Kaikalur-3	Oil

Out of 32 wells drilled in offshore, oil/gas has been discovered in the following wells :—

Name of the well	Oil/Gas
G-1-1	Oil and Gas
G-1-6	-do-
G-1-7	-do-
G-2-2	-do-
G-2-4	-do-
G-1-5	Gas
GS-8-1	Gas

(b) to (d) 1.5 lac cubic meters of gas is available during the extended production testing period of Narsapur and Razole wells. Apart from this, more gas estimated at 1 MMCMD is expected to be available with a notice period of three years. Proposals for utilising this gas for power, fertilizers and other industries, are under consideration.

Telephone Connections given during 1986

140. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of telephone connections given during the year 1986; and

(b) the percentage of telephones given in the rural and city areas during that period, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :
(a) The total number of net telephone connections provided during the period from 1.4.86 to 31.1.87 are 1,83,047.

(b) The percentage of telephone connections provided in the rural areas and urban areas are around 15% and 85% respectively.

Strike by Workers of Public Sector Undertakings

141. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK :
SHRI B. B. RAMAIAH :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :
SHRI SUBASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers of public sector undertakings went on a one-day nation-wide strike on 21st January 1987;

(b) if so, the overall effect of the strike on production and other loss;

(c) what were their demands; and

(d) the Union Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) :
(a) Some workers went on strike on 21st January, 1987.

(b) The overall effect of the strike on production and other loss cannot be assessed.

(c) The list of their demands is given in the statement below.

(d) The apprehensions of the workers are unfounded and the demands lack substance.

Statement

List of demands—In answer to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 141—
Part (c)

1. For a halt to the Policy of privatisation of the Public Sector.

2. Against entry of multi-nationals and monopolies into the sphere of activities of the public sector.
3. For stopping of import of technology and goods detrimental to the indigenous development.
4. Against introduction of modernisation, computerisation etc. without prior approval of the trade unions;
5. No fanning out or off loading of jobs of regular worker to private contractors.
6. Equal remuneration for equal work for all jobs done by the public sector.
7. Immediate commencement of wage negotiations in public sector wherever they are due in terms of previous agreements.
8. No linking of wages with productivity.
9. Enhancement of the rate of DA to ensure full neutralisation in rise in the cost of living at all levels.
10. No curtailment of T. U. and democratic rights through amendments to standing orders and legislative ban on activities. Abrogation of Article 311 (2) of the Indian Constitution.
11. No closures, lay-offs, retrenchment of workers and denotification of public sector enterprises.
12. For inclusion of Right to Work as Fundamental Right in the Constitution, pending which payment of unemployment allowance.
13. End of BPE's arbitrary intervention and bureaucratisation of Public Enterprises.
14. Enforcement of genuine workers participation in management.

**Meeting of State Power Ministers in
New Delhi**

142. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI VIJOY KUMAR
YADAV :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the State Power Ministers were held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed therein and conclusions arrived at;

(c) whether a package of measures was announced by the Union Government for tackling the problems of State Electricity Boards; 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) : Yes, Sir.**

(b) to (d) : The agenda items of the Conference included a review of the power programme (1986-), rationalisation of power tariffs, conservation of energy, and reduction in transmission & distribution losses. The main conclusions arrived at the Conference related to measures to improve power generation and plant load factor of thermal stations by expeditious implementation of the renovation and modernisation programme, reduction in transmission & distribution losses by adoption of technical as well as administrative measures, single-window clearance for expediting the techno-economic approval of power projects, timely supply of equipments to power projects, improvement in the quality and quantity of coal supplied to thermal stations, and measures to strengthen the State Electricity Boards.

Edible Oil in small packs

143. SHRI PARASRAM BHAR-
DWAJ :

SHRI JAGANNATH PATT-
NAIK :

SHRI KAMAL NATH :

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

(a) whether Government have recently
decided to supply some quantities of
edible oils in small packs through the Fair
Price Shops;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the
quota allotted to the States, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government
have also issued guidelines to ensure
proper distribution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL
SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NALI
AZAD) : (a) The Hindustan Vegetable
Oils Corporation Limited, a public sector
undertaking, is already marketing import-
ed edible oils in small packs which are
handed over to agencies nominated by
State Governments concerned. The State
Governments are free to sell them through
fair price shops or through cooperative
outlets. Recently, Government have
decided to supply the maximum possible
quantity of imported edible oils in small
packs through the Public Distribution
System.

(b) A statement indicating the allo-
cation of imported edible oils State-wise
under scheme of small packs made during
February, 1987 is given below.

(c) and (d) The State Governments
have been asked to take the necessary
preparatory steps for the distribution of
oil in small packs of 250 gms, 500 gms,
1 Kg, 2 Kgs., and 5 Kgs. in the Public
Distribution System.

Statement

*Allocation of imported edible Oils made to various States/Union Territories under the
scheme of Small Packs for the month of February, 1987.*

Sl. No.	States/U.Ts/Cities	Palmolein	Palm Oil	Rapeseed Oil	Total
		(Qty. in M. tonnes)			
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	MAHARASHTRA Bombay, Nagpur, Poona and any other cities which State Govt. may like to cover.	4500	—	—	4500
2.	GUJARAT Ahmedabad, Surat, and any other towns which state Govt. may like to cover.	1000	—	—	1000
3.	MADHYA PRADESH Bhopal, Indore and any other towns which State Govt. may like to cover.	20	—	—	20
4.	WEST BENGAL Calcutta, Durgapur and any other towns which State Govt. may like to cover.	—	—	1500	1500

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	TAMIL NADU Coimbatore, Madras, Trichy and any other towns which State Govt. may like to cover.	2000	—	—	2000
6.	ANDHRA PRADESH Hyderabad, Vizag. Warrangal and any other towns which State Govt. may like to cover.	2000	—	—	2000
7.	KARNATAKA Bangalore, Mangalore and any other towns which State Govt. may like to cover.	1000	—	—	1000
8.	KERALA Calicut, Cochin, Trivandrum and any other towns which State Govt. may like to cover.	1000	—	—	1000
9.	UTTAR PRADESH KAVAL towns and for other towns State Govt. may like to cover.	700	—	—	700
10.	RAJASTHAN Jaipur and any other towns which State Govt. may like to cover.	100	—	—	100
11.	ORISSA Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and any other towns which State Govt. may like to cover.	50	—	—	50
12.	HARYANA (Faridabad)	200	—	—	200
13.	DELHI	450	—	300	750
14.	CHANDIGARH ADMN.	10	—	—	10
15.	PUNJAB	50	—	—	50
16.	SIKKIM	—	—	30	30
Total		13,080	—	1,830	14,910

[Translation]

Supply of Mini LPG Cylinders

144. SHRI PARASRAM BHARD-
WAJ : Will the Minister of PETRO-
LEUM AND NATURAL GAS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any
scheme to provide mini LPG cylinders in
the country, especially in the rural areas;
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) and (b) While at some locations test marketing of LPG in smaller cylinders is being done by the oil industry, no decision has been taken to generally supply LPG in such cylinders in the country including the rural areas.

[English]

Reduction in subsidies on Foodgrains

145. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering reduction of the existing subsidies of foodgrains sold through Public Distribution System; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import Bill of Crude and Petroleum Products

146. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :
SHRI MURLI DEORA :

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

(a) the quantity of crude to be imported by Government during 1987-88 and how is this related to indigenous production?

(b) Whether it is a fact that a whopping increase of over Rs. 1,300 crores is likely in the import bill of crude and petroleum products during the coming year; and

(c) if so, the reasons 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) to (c) The crude import Plan for 1987-88 has not yet been finalised and therefore it is not possible to indicate the size of the import bill during the year.

Postal Facilities in Rural Areas

147. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Savor Committee has given a very disappointing picture of postal facilities in rural areas; and

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No Sir. On the contrary the Committee has observed that the development of postal services in rural areas achieved since the launching of the First Five Year Plan is unmatched anywhere in the world and has commended the "Considerable thought and painstaking efforts invested in the process".

However, the Committee has felt that the expansion of the services has proceeded on a scale larger than what was contemplated by the planners and, to an extent, the rules and instructions on the subject also appear to have been overlooked. The Committee has therefore recommended certain measures of rationalisation/re-organisation in order to optimise the utilisation of resources committed to rural services. These include the following :

(1) Lesser number of individuals should be employed by combining functions of different descriptions in the same individual.

(2) Branch Offices which do not satisfy the condition

of minimum distance of 3 Kms except those specially authorised should not be retained.

- (3) Retention of extra-departmental branch Offices should be decided on the basis of annual reviews.

(b) The question of how best the various recommendations can be implemented with due regard to the interests of the rural population as well as those of the extra-departmental employees is engaging the attention of the Government.

Development of Telecommunication Facilities in Eastern and North Eastern States

149. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether high priority has been given by Government to the development of telecommunication facilities in the eastern and north-eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of the plans drawn out towards this end; and

(c) the progress so far made in their implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :
(a) Yes, Sir, only for North-Eastern States.

(b) Plan proposals among other items envisage addition of about 26000 lines of switching capacity.

—Conversion of about 17000 manual lines to automatic working.

—Replacement of about 7000 lines.

—Opening of new Digital Trunk Automatic Exchange (TAX) at Guwahati and Jorhat.

—Opening of about 8 new telex exchanges and replacement of Guwahati Telex exchange by electronic telex exchange.

—Opening of low cost satellite Earth stations in strategically important towns.

—Commissioning of about 2600 Route Km. of Microwave and Ultra High Frequency Systems.

(c) Satisfactory progress has been made so far.

Higher Cost of Power Equipment Supplied by BHEL

150. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of power equipments supplied by BHEL is higher than that of the imported equipments and there is delay in its delivery;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up by his Ministry with the concerned Ministry; and

(c) whether Government have decided to import such plants rather than to place orders with the BHEL ?

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.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges in District Headquarters

151. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether automatic telephone exchanges have not been set up in many district headquarters in the country so far; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reason for not setting up automatic exchanges in all the district headquarters in the country is inadequate availability of automatic Switching equipment.

[English]

Pollution by Chemical Factorles in Residential Areas of Delhi

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the running of chemical factories at H/13-A and G-24 Shakarpur residential areas, Delhi in violation of licensing conditions and pollution control orders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter including an enquiry into the circumstances under which licences were given to such factories with a view to fix responsibility for granting licences ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) According to Delhi Administration, there are two industrial units one located at H-13A, Shakarpur, Delhi and the other at G-24, Shakarpur, Delhi, engaged in manufacture of comphor tablets. The unit at H-13A, Shakarpur, Delhi has been licensed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and is functioning conforming to the licensing conditions. The other unit

at G-24, Shakarpur, Delhi, had been functioning without a licence from MCD and has already been prosecuted by them.

[Translation]

Allotment of LPG Agencies

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

(a) the number of cooking gas agencies allotted in the country from 1985 to date and the number of cooking gas agencies in respect of which no decision has been taken so far as to whom these agencies should be allotted;

(b) the reasons for delay in allotment of the agencies;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(d) 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) The number of LPG distributorships allotted by the oil companies from 1985 to 31.12.87 is 1028 and the number in respect of which decision is pending is 534.

(b) to (d) The Oil Selection Boards make selections for distributorships of LPG, apart from dealerships for SKO/LDO and MS/HSD Retail Outlets. These selections being a continuous process, a certain pendency of work is usual, while factors like the need to investigate complaints against empanelled candidates, stay orders from Courts, non-availability of suitable candidates sometimes lead to delay in finalisation. Some delay lately has occurred because reconstitution of these Boards is pending; this is expected to be done shortly.

**Availability of Good Quality Raw
Material at Concessional Rates**

154. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD
RAWAT :
CH. RAM PARKASH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be
pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a
decision to make available good quality
raw material at concessional rates to small
entrepreneurs;

(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. ARUNA-
CHALAM) : (a) to (c) The policy of
Government of India has been to make
available as far as possible certain scarce
raw materials of good quality to small
scale industries at reasonable rates.

[English]

Setting up of New Sugar Units

155. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
PROF. RAMKRISHNA
MORE :

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL :

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

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

(a) the policy of Government in
regard to setting up new sugar factories
in the country in public, private and
cooperative sector;

(b) the number of applications
received by Government during the last
three years for setting up new sugar
factories and expansion of existing units,
sector-wise; and

(c) the number of applications cleared
during the above period and their
number, State-wise and year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL
SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI
AZAD) : (a) Licensing Policy for the
Sugar Industry has been notified vide
Press Note dated the 2nd January, 1987
issued by the Department of Industrial
Development as per copy laid on the
Table of the House [Placed in Library.
See LT No. 3736/87].

(b) Statement-I giving the required
information is given below.

(c) Statement-II giving the required
information is given below.

Statement—I

*Statement giving the number of applications received during the last three years
(1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86) for setting up new sugar factories and
expansion of existing units : Sector-wise.*

Sector	No. of applications received	
	New	Expansion
Private	12	16
Public	3	4
Coop.	38	42

Statement—II

Statement giving the number of licences granted during the last three years (1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86) State-wise and Year-wise.

S.No.	State	New			Total	Expansion			Total
		1983-84	84-85	85-86		1983-84	84-85	85-86	
1.	Uttar Pradesh	1	—	—	1	3	2	—	5
2.	Madhya Pradesh	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
3.	Maharashtra	8	1	—	9	17	1	—	18
4.	Punjab	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	2
5.	Tamil Nadu	2	—	—	2	3	—	—	3
6.	Gujarat	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
7.	Karnataka	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
8.	Andhra Pradesh	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
9.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
10.	Orissa	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total :		18	2	—	20*	27	3	—	30**

*2 Letters of intent (1 from Maharashtra & 1 from M.P.) relate to applications received during the last three years.

**13 Letters of intent (11 from Maharashtra 1 from U.P. & 1 from Punjab) relate to applications received during the last three years.

**Supply of good quality of coal to
Power Plants**

156. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coal supplied to power plants is not of good quality and also is not sufficient to meet their demand ;

(b) whether any study has been made in this respect ;

(c) the steps being taken to solve the problem of power plants ; and

(d) whether any meeting of high officials has been held recently to solve the problem ; if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereat ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Coal Linkages to Thermal Power Stations are finalised by the Standing Linkage Committee (short-term) on quarterly basis. The Standing Linkage Committee consists of the representatives of the Deptt. of Coal and Power, Ministry of Railways, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Coal Companies etc. The Standing Linkage Committee takes into consideration the requirement of coal of individual power stations and linkages are established accordingly.

All power stations are linked for coal supplies from various coal sources according to the qualitative parameters fixed for them by the technical experts, including representatives of the CEA. As far as possible, coal supplies are made to the Thermal Power Stations as per programme

fixed for them by the Standing Linkage Committee add also from the sources as determined by this Committee. However, there have been some complaints from the consumers about the size of coal, low calorific value and presence of extraneous material in the coal as also, occasionally, of inadequate supplies.

(b) and (c) The Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohammed Fazal which was set up by the Government to look into the problems of coal supplies to Power houses made recommendations covering various aspects of coal supplies to Power houses, such as, linkages to be given to power stations from specific collieries, transportation of coal to power houses, signing of agreement between Coal India and State Electricity Boards etc. The recommendations of the Committee were examined and most of them accepted by the Govt. The Coal Companies, Railways and other agencies have been asked to take appropriate action on the recommendation of the Committee.

To ensure proper sizing and removal of extraneous material, Coal Handling Plants are being constructed at the collieries. Besides, several other steps have also been taken for improving the quality which include :

- (i) Setting up of an independent quality control organisation in each Coal Company.
- (ii) Breaking up of oversized coal and segregation of extraneous material by manual means where CHPs do not exist.
- (iii) The Coal Controller, as an independent authority, has been given powers to determine the grades of coal seams in the mines as also of the coal supplied to the consumers. He has powers to take samples and arrange their testing *suo moto* or on complaint from any consumer. The Coal Controller's decision in the matter is final.

(d) Yes, Sir. Besides meetings being held at the level of the officials, a meeting was held on 22-12-1986 at the highest level in the Ministry to discuss the outstanding issues relating to coal supplies to Thermal Power Stations. Important decisions were arrived at in the meeting which include signing of agreement between Coal India Ltd. and State Electricity Boards for coal supplies, joint sampling at the colliery end by an independent authority and clearing of payment of outstanding dues to Coal Companies etc.

Sugar Factories Running below Installed Capacity

157A PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE:
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL
SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage up to which the existing sugar factories in the country in public and private sector are running below their installed capacity due to non-availability of sugarcane, stating the extent of their average seasonal production losses as a consequence thereof; and

(b) the steps being contemplated by Government to ensure the availability of adequate quantity of sugarcane to the new sugar factories to make them economically viable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL
SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI
AZAD) : (a) The capacity utilization of a sugar factory depends on various factors such as adequate availability of sugarcane, condition of plant and machinery, quality of man-power, efficiency of management, timely payment of sugarcane price, etc. As such, it is difficult to quantify the under utilisation of capacity due to non availability of sugarcane.

(b) The steps taken are :-

- (i) to ensure supply of adequate quantity of sugarcane for the existing capacity as well as for future expansion, no licence

would normally be granted for the establishment of new sugar factories within a radius of 40 kms. of an existing unit.

- (ii) The State Governments are required to clearly demarcate reserved areas for each existing sugar factory as well as proposed new sugar factory.

New Molasses and Alcohol Policy

158. SHRI YASHWANTRAO
GADAKH PATIL :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI C.B. GAMIT :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have announced a new molasses and alcohol policy ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Crisis in Small Plastic Woven Sack units

159. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that small plastic woven sack units are facing crisis because of denial of concessions normally given to small scale industries, high raw material costs and increase in excise duty; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and 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) No Sir. Manufacture of Plastic Woven Sacks on Flat Looms is reserved for exclusive development in the small scale sector. Majority of the small scale units manufacture this item on Flat Looms which is exempted from payment of excise duty since 20th November, 1986.

Plastic Woven Sacks manufacturing units are entitled to all incentives and concessions available to other small scale industries. There is no discrimination in the prices of raw materials also.

Setting up of Telecom Quality Circles

160. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up telecom quality circles ; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the objectives in view ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Orders have been issued on 24-12-85 for setting up Quality Circles in Telecom.

(b) The objectives are to focus and achieve a higher quality of service to the customers through active involvement of workers and to promote greater job satisfaction among the staff. The details are enclosed in the statement attached.

Statement

Subject :- Constitution of Quality Circles

There shall be a Quality Circle formed in all offices or group of offices headed by an officer in gazetted Group B or higher level, for example, an Assistant Engineer, Sub-Divisional Officer, a Superintendent of Telegraph Traffic, an Accounts Officer, etc. This will cover offices in all branches,

namely, Telegraph Traffic, Telephone Exchanges, Trunk Exchanges, Telex Exchanges, Transmission Stations, Administrative Offices and other similar units in the Department of Telecommunications.

Quality circles may also be formed at a later date at smaller units headed by the supervisory grades in group 'C' for example, Junior Engineers, Assistant Superintendents of Telegraph Traffic, Junior Accounts Officers, etc.

2. Objective of Quality Circles

The main objectives of Quality Circles will be to focus and achieve a higher quality of service to the customers through active involvement of workers and to promote greater job satisfaction among the staff.

3. Functions of the Quality Circles

The main functions of the Quality Circles will be—

- (i) to review the quality of service rendered to the customers in all its aspects, e.g.

- Fault rates
- call success rates
- time to repair a fault
- delay in trunk calls
- trunk effective percentage on different routes
- time to answer an auto-manual services
- delays in billing
- billing complaints, etc.
- and to evolve suitable strategies for improving the quality.

- (ii) to review and analyse the public complaints and devise solution to remedy the same ;

- (iii) to review the financial working of the units and evolve plan of action

to improve the same through increase in revenue bearing traffic and reduction in cost.

- (iv) to review and promote higher productivity, reduce absenteeism, and optimise utilisation of manpower ;

- (v) to ensure adequate two-way communication between the management and the workers, particularly in regard to fixation of targets of output, performance and quality of work ;

- (vi) to indentify areas requiring up-gradation of individual competence through training ; and

- (vii) to discuss any other matters having a bearing on the improvement of performance and assuring better customer satisfaction.

- (viii) The Quality Circles will not be a forum for settlement of individual staff grievances not will they replace other periodical union/JCM meetings prescribed for setting staff/management problems.

4. Nomination of Representatives to the Quality Circles

Each Quality Circle shall consist of ten members, three from the management including the head of the unit and seven from the workers.

5. The representatives of the management will be nominated by the head of the unit. The workers' representatives will be drawn in suitable Numbers from different groups, namely, technical indoor, technical outdoor, operative/traffic, administrative, accounts, etc. depending on the nature of the unit and the staff employed in different categories. The representatives will be suitably distributed between the supervisory and operative grades in Group 'C' and 'D'.

6. The distribution of the representatives of the staff from different categories will

be finalized by the head of the secondary establishing areas in consultation with the head of the concerned unit.

7. The representative of the workers shall be drawn from the volunteers from the respective categories through a process of consensus between the head of the unit and the concerned groups. In absence of consensus, the workers' representatives shall be elected by secret ballot by the members of the concerned categories of staff.

8. The head of the unit will be the ex-officio Chairman.

9. There shall be a Vice Chairman from the representatives of the workers who will be elected by the representatives of the staff among themselves.

10. One of the representatives of the management, other than the head of the unit, shall be nominated as the Secretary who shall convene the meetings and maintain the necessary records.

11. Term of Membership :

A unit of Council once formed shall function for a period of two years. Any member nominated or elected to the Quality Circle in the mid-term to fill a casual vacancy shall be a member for the unexpired portion of the term of the Circle.

12. Meetings and decisions :

- i. The Quality Circle shall meet as frequently as necessary but at least once in a month.
- ii. All decisions shall be on the basis of consensus and not by a process of voting.
- iii. Every decision shall be implemented by the parties concerned within a month unless otherwise stated in the decision itself.
- iv. The management shall make suitable arrangements for the record-

ing and maintenance of minutes of the meeting and designation one of its representatives as Secretary, who shall also report the action on the decision at subsequent meetings of the Quality Circle.

- v. Reports on the proceedings in the meetings of the Quality Circles shall be forwarded also to the Head of the Telecom. District concerned (District Telecom. Engineer, District Manager or General Manager, as the case may be), wherever there is a disagreement or where useful suggestion is likely to have application in other units.
- vi. Heads of Circles will include a paragraph in their monthly reports to the Directorate summarising useful or important decisions taken the Quality Circles within their jurisdiction, if these are expected to have an All India Utility or impact.

Agreement by Oil India with World Bank

161. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been finalised by Oil India with World Bank for loan assistance ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the projects involved ?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Vacancies of judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

162. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

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

(a) the number of vacancies lying vacant in each High Court and the Supreme Court ;

(b) whether there has been considerable delay in the adpointment of Judges ;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(d) whether Government are considering any proposal to revise the present procedure for appointment of judges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) As on 1-2-1987, there were 56 vacancies of Judges in the High Courts ; High Court wise details are given in the statement given below. In the Supreme Court, as on 1-2-87, there were 12 posts of Judges to be filled up (inclusive of the 8 new posts).

(b) to (d) The process of consultation-with the Constitutional functionaries required to be consulted in the matter of appointment of Judges does take some time. The Government have recently reiterated the instructions prescribing the time schedule wherein the Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers and Governors of States have to send their recommendations for filling in posts of Judges in High Courts, and have requested them to adhere to it so that the vacancies are filled in expeditiously. There is no proposal to revise the present procedure for appointment of Judges.

Statement

Sl. No.	High Court	No. of vacancies as on 1-2-87
1.	Allahabad	11
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3
3.	Bombay	4
4.	Calcutta	—
5.	Delhi	2
6.	*Gauhati	2
7.	Gujarat	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—
10.	Karnataka	4
11.	Kerala	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1
13.	Madras	6
14.	Orissa	3
15.	Patna	5
16.	Punjab & Haryana	7
17.	Rajasthan	1
18.	Sikkim	1
Total :		56

Work on H.B.J. Pipeline

163. **SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :**

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

SHRI MANIK REDDY :

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

(a) whether the work on the H.B.J. pipeline is going on as per schedule ;

(b) if not, by what time it is likely to be completed ; and

(c) the money so far spent on it ?

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) and (b) Work on the HBJ project is in progress in all spreads and will be completed by the scheduled date, i.e., July 89.

(c) An amount of Rs. 737.74 crores has been spent till the end of January '87.

Duplicate L.P.G. Cylinders

164. **SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :**

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

SHRI MANIK REDDY :

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the "Hindustan" (Hindi) dated 8th January 1987 wherein it has been stated that duplicate LPG Cylinders are in circulation on a large scale in and around the capital ;

(b) if so, whether a number of persons have been killed due to bursting of duplicate LPG Cylinders in the Capital during the last two years ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in regard thereto ?

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) and (c) While the possibility of some spurious cylinders being in circulation cannot be ruled out, hardly any case of cylinder having burst has been reported. The accidents reported are due to ignition of escaped LPG, and are generally caused due to negligence or mishandling at the customers' premises of equipments like rubber hose, stove knob, LPG regulator etc.

(d) LPG cylinders are procured by the oil industry directly from a cylinder manufacturer only after he obtains the ISI certification. LPG is supplied to the customers in these cylinders owned by oil companies. All cylinders are visually inspected at the bottling plants before each filling. The cylinders in use by the oil industry are subjected to statutory testing every five years. All the defective/spurious cylinders detected at manufacturers' end or at bottling plants are compressed and reshaped into flat sheets before being sold as scrap to ensure that they are not reintroduced in the market.

Power Projects Awaiting Clearance from World Bank Agency

165. **SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any project relating to generation of power is awaiting clearance

from the World Bank Agency for financial assistance ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the projects are indicated below :

- (i) National Capital Thermal Power Project (840MW).
- (ii) Talchar Super Thermal Power Project (1000 MW).
- (iii) Karnataka Power Project (Kalinadi Hydro Electric Project Stage-II—270 MW).

Deficit of Power in Southern States

166. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the four Southern States will be deficient in power this summer ;

(b) if so, whether representatives of the Southern Regional Electricity Board met at Madras on 7 January, 1987 and discussed the ways and means to meet the deficit in power ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to help those Southern States to meet the deficiency in power during the ensuing summer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) According to tentative estimate by S.R.E.B., all the Southern States are expected to face power shortage of varying degrees during the coming summer months.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The steps taken to mitigate the shortage in the Southern Region include expeditious commissioning of additional generating capacity, early stabilisation of newly commissioned units, transfer of surplus power from neighbouring Regions/States, improving the performance of existing thermal power stations etc.

Monitoring of Bottlenecks in Mail Delivery

167. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI :

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps to ensure effective monitoring of bottlenecks in mail delivery have been taken ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether a conference of Post Master Generals was convened in December, 1986 to discuss of this issue ;

(d) if so, the outcome of the conference and the measures that have been undertaken in this regard ; and

(e) whether a National network linking all heads of circles with the Directorate at New Delhi has been set up ?

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

(b) Sample survey of mail received for delivery in Head Offices and sub offices is done according to prescribed periodicity to assess the percentage of mail delivered on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th day and thereafter from the date of posting and to bring down the percentage of mail delivered on 4th day and after.

(ii) Hold-up and detention of mail and mail bags in mail offices and airport sorting offices are

reviewed at Circle level and mail arrangement revised wherever warranted.

- (iii) Surprise and regular visits are paid by the officers of the Directorate, Circles and Divisions to POs to monitor delivery work.

- (iv) Service test letters and paid test letters are posted extensively to locate delay and to test efficiency of sorting and delivery work. Review is done at Divisional, Circle and Directorate level.

(c) Yes Sir, Monitoring of mail transmission was one of the many subjects discussed in the Annual Heads of Circles Conference.

(d) As the outcome of the Conference, it has been decided to intensify monitoring by (1) paying frequent surprise visits to mail offices to check quality of sorting work and (2) to ensure posting of test letters in large numbers, analyse the results and take appropriate remedial measures wherever necessary.

(e) No Sir.

Expert Committee on Cost of Power Generation

168. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up an expert committee to devise ways and means to cut high cost of power generation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Surplus Employees in Indian Telephone Industries

169: SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 13,000 employees of Indian Telephone Industries have been rendered surplus from its Bangalore and Rae Bareilly units owing to freezing of orders by the Department of Telecommunications for manufacture of equipment to replace obsolete crossbar equipment;

(b) if so, whether this has created great problem;

(c) if so, how many of such surplus employees have been retrenched so far and how many of them are going to be retrenched;

(d) whether any arrangements have been made to accommodate those retrenched employees in other industries; and

(e) if not the main reasons and how Government are likely to absorb the surplus employees in ITI ?

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

(b) to (e) The provisional programme of phasing out of electro-mechanical switching equipment production at Rae Bareilly and Bangalore Units of I.T.I. is as

under :

Production Line	Workforce employed	Likely date of phasing out	
		Commencement	Completion
A. Bangalore :			
1. Crossbar	2773	1987-88	1990
2. Strowger	4450	1989-90	1991*
B. Rae Barell :			
1. Strowger	4222	1989-90	1991
2. Crossbar (ICP)	2024	1994-95	1996*

*NOTE : Some production may continue for supply of spares etc.

No employee has so far been retrenched. It is proposed to absorb the employees likely to be rendered surplus in other production activities as far as possible which includes setting up of digital electronic switching factory at Bangalore.

Framing of Rules under Consumer Protection Act

170. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :
DR. G. VIJAY RAMA RAO :
SHRI MANIK REDDY :
DR. B.J. SHAILESH :

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

(a) the time by which the rules will be framed by Government under the Consumer Protection Act, 1987;

(b) the reasons for delay in enforcing the Act; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to give publicity to the rights available to the consumers under this Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The rules for carrying out

the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 have to be framed by the Central as well as State Governments. The Central Government has framed the rules which will be enforced after the enforcement of the Act. Guidelines have been issued to States for framing the rules by them.

(b) The Act will be enforced after consulting the State Governments/U.T. Administrations.

(c) The Government is making use of Doordarshan/AIR and news-media to create consumer awareness. National, Regional and State level seminars/workshops are organised to create consumer awareness.

Production of Natural Gas

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

(a) total production of natural gas at present in the country;

(b) what would be the estimated production of natural gas by the end of 1989-90;

(c) Whether it is a fact that in North-Eastern region a concession has been given in gas price; and

(d) 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) The production of natural gas in the country during 1985-86 was 22.50 MMCMD.

(b) By the end of 1989-90, it is at present estimated that the production would be about 40 MMCMD of natural gas.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) As per the decision of the Government w.e.f. 30.1.87, the price of onshore gas and gas at landfall points will be Rs. 1400/1000 M³; and for gas supplied along the HBJ pipeline the price will be Rs. 2250/1000 M³. However, for gas sold in North-Eastern Region States, the price would be Rs. 1000/1000 M³ subject to discounts upto Rs. 500/1000 M³ for individual cases on merit. The prices would be exclusive of royalties, taxes, duties and other statutory levies.

Security Deposit Towards LPG Cylinders

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

(a) whether it is a fact that every consumer has to deposit a few hundred rupees as deposit towards L.P. Gas cylinder with the local distributing agency;

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal to allow interest to the consumers on their security deposit; and

(c) if not, 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 BRAHMA DUTT) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Apart from investment made on new cylinders/regulators while enrolling new customers, the oil industry has to plan, procure and maintain adequate equipment inventories. This involves a large capital outlay, besides recurring expenditure on inspection, testing, repairs, rejections and replacements, design, research and development. Also, oil companies do not charge any rental for the LPG equipment used by a consumer.

Reduction in Number and Status of Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh

173. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of post offices relating to different categories, such as Main Post Office, Sub-Post Office, ED Sub-Office, Branch Office, etc., district-wise in the State of Andhra Pradesh as on 1.1.85 and as on 1.1.1987; and

(b) the reasons for reduction in the number as well as status of the post offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :
(a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections for Vijayawada City

175. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the plan to modernise the telecommunications system of Vijayawada City during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) the number of wait listed persons as on January 1, 1987 who have applied for telephone connections and the average time period taken for giving a connection to a subscriber; and

(c) the steps proposed to wipe out the waiting list for Vijayawada ?

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

(a) It is planned to undertake cable ducting for 7 KM's from Trunk Exchange building to Patamata and instal a 4000 lines digital electronic exchange during the seventh Plan pe-iod.

(b) The number of persons on the waiting list as on 1st January, 1987 in City (Main) and Industrial Estate telephone exchanges is 4665 and 929 respectively.

Average time taken for giving a connection to a subscriber under different categories is as given below :—

Category	Average Time Taken (Approximate)
(i) OYT	1-1/2 years
(ii) Special	2 years
(iii) General	6 years

(c) To wipe out the waiting list of Vijayawada city it is planned to expand the telephone system as follows :—

(i) Expansion of City (Main) exchange by 2100 lines during 1987-88.

(ii) Commissioning of a 4000 lines digital electronic telephone ex-

change at Doorvani Complex during 1988-89.

(iii) Expansion of Industrial Estate Exchange by 500 lines during 1988-89.

Price rise of Edible Oils

176. SHRIMATI GEETA MU-KHERJEE :

SHRI KAMAL NATH :

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of edible oils, both indigenous and imported have skyrocketed steeply during the recent month;

(b) if so, the details of the variation in the prices of edible oils between January, 1986 and January, 1987; and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken to control the prices and protect the consumers' interest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The prices of indigenous edible oils have risen during recent months. The imported edible oil is issued to States/U.Ts. for distribution under Public Distribution System at pre-determined issue price which has not been revised since 15.11.1985.

(b) The wholesale price indices of edible oils and percentage variation between January, 1986 and January, 1987 are as under :

Commodity	Wholesale Price Index		Percentage variation
	January, 86	January, 87	January, 1987 January, 1986
Edible Oils	299.6	408.2	+36.2
Vanaspati	322.4	369.8	+14.7
Groundnut oil	325.2	421.8	+29.7
Mustard oil	248.2	386.2	+55.5
Coconut oil	237.2	426.8	+79.9
Gingelly oil	285.9	428.4	+49.8
Kardi oil	309.9	560.6	+80.9
Cottonseed oil	278.0	416.1	+49.7
Rice Bran oil	226.8	298.9	+31.8

Some of the reasons for increase in the prices of edible oils are shortfall in the production of oilseeds and the impact of lean period.

(c) To Check the rising trend in the prices of edible oils in the open market, the allocation of imported edible oils under Public Distribution System is being made at the increased level. Recently allocation of imported oils to vanaspati industry has also been increased.

[Translation]

Oil Fields in the Country

177. SHRI MADAN PANDEY :
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that new oil deposits in various parts of the country have been found recently;

(b) if so, the names of these places;

(c) whether Government are going to make arrangements for exploration of these oil fields in the near future; and

(d) if so, by when and at which places ?

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) Since April 1986, Oil has been discovered in the following prospects :

Onshore

Kaikahur	}	Andhra Pradesh
Namti		Assam
Shalmari		

Offshore

CD	}	West Coast
CA		
B—42		
R—7A		
B—131		

(c) and (d) The commercial exploitation of these discoveries will depend upon further delineation drilling.

Enquiry into Flaring up of Gas and underground Gurgling Sound at Bokta Village of Gorakhpur

178. SHRI MADAN PANDEY :
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received reports of flaring up of gas and underground gurgling sound at Bokta village in Gorakhpur District (Uttar Pradesh);

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any effective steps so far to hold an enquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; if not, whether Government propose to take any steps in the near future in this connection; and

(d) if so, by what time and if not, 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 BRAHMA DUTT) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) ONGC had conducted investigations of the reported gas show at Bokta village. The gas coming out of the well was collected and analysed at the KDM Institute of Petroleum Exploration. On geochemical analysis, the gas samples were found to be of biogenic nature (marsh gas).

Self Employment Scheme

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the work relating to self employment scheme being run by Government is progressing at a

snail's pace;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any concrete steps to ensure that it gains momentum;

(c) the number of persons who submitted applications under this scheme in different districts of U.P. during the last one year and the number of persons out of them given loans; and

(d) The number of applicants who have neither been given loans nor has any action been taken on their applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir. During the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 achievements were 97%, 91% and 88% respectively.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) District-wise information is not maintained centrally. However, during the year 1985-86 against a target of 31,300 for the State, 97,706 applications were received by DICs in U. P. The banks sanctioned loans to 26,264 beneficiaries.

(d) Such information is not maintained by the Central Government.

[English]

Modernisation of cement and building Material Industry

180. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

DR. G.S. RAJHANS :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have recently emphasized the need to modernise the cement and building material industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to render any help to the industry for the modernisation; and

(d) 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 impressing upon the cement industry from time to time the need to take effective steps to modernise the old cement factories and also to take necessary steps for installation of energy conservation devices and pollution control equipments. A World Bank loan of \$ 200 million has also been arranged during 1986 for conversion of seven cement units from wet to dry process and for sub-sector level training/technical assistance, etc. for the cement industry.

(c) and (d) The following decisions have been taken to help the cement industry in undertaking their modernisation programmes :-

(i) Old cement plants which have been declared sick are charged less levy obligation compared to other units with a view to enable them to invest the extra realisation for modernisation purposes;

(ii) Factories which install new dry process kilns by scrapping the existing old wet process kilns or convert the existing old wet process kilns into dry process kilns such that the additional capacity installed is equal to or in excess of the capacity of the old kiln(s) will be treated as new units for purposes of fixing levy quota.

Import of Crude Petroleum

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

(a) the estimated quantity of crude petroleum and petroleum products to be imported during 1986-87;

(b) the estimated quantum of import for 1987-1988;

(c) the total cost of import estimated for the current financial year and the next;

(d) whether any long term contracts have been signed with foreign suppliers for 1987-88; and

(e) the percentage of imported crude which was bought in spot sales as compared to the quantity imported under contract ?

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 estimated quantity of crude oil and petroleum products likely to be imported during 1986-87 is given below :

	Qty. (Million tonnes)
Crude oil	15.6
Petroleum products	3.7

(b) The Import Plan for 1987-88 has not yet been finalised.

(c) 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.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Contract for IC Process Complex in Bombay High

182. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a final decision has been taken regarding award of contract for IC process complex in Bombay High; 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) The project has been awarded to M/s. Hyundai Heavy Industries, South Korea at a cost of US \$ 166,084,330 plus FF 24,880,710.

Machinery to Monitor New Drug Policy

184. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any machinery has been devised by Government to monitor the New Drug Policy and to bring about integration between health and industrial policies in the pharmaceuticals sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) In pursuance of the measures announced recently for rationalisation, quality control and growth of drugs and pharmaceutical industry, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals have constituted an inter-Ministerial Coordinat on Committee for monitoring implementation and for better integration between the health policies and industrial policies in the Pharmaceutical Sector.

Rationalisation of Levies and Duties on Industrial Alcohol

185. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have worked out any scheme to rationalise levies and duties imposed by the various State Governments on industrial alcohol;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to step up the availability of industrial alcohol for industrial units; and

(d) whether khandsari molasses is proposed to be utilised for increasing the supply of industrial alcohol?

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 State Governments have been advised from time to time to ensure that the total quantum of levies on alcohol used for production of alcohol based chemicals is kept at a level, which the alcohol based industry will be able to bear and which will make its products competitive with those produced from alternative petrochemical feedstocks.

(c) While as per present reckoning, there is likely to be sufficient indigenous availability of alcohol for industrial use in the current alcohol year, the possibility of imports is also not ruled out in the event of any shortfall.

(d) The State Governments have been advised to control khandsari molasses to improve the availability of molasses and alcohol.

"Double Cola" Soft Drinks

186. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :
DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a soft drink company "Double Cola" has been allowed to manufacture its product in India as reported in the Hindustan Times of February 1, 1987;

(b) if so, whether it involves any foreign exchange outgo for know-how or other imports;

(c) the Government's policy regarding allowing imports of items for soft drinks concentrates;

(d) whether soft drinks are causing various health problems even in children; and

(e) if so, the reasons for Government encouraging soft drinks manufacture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Manufacture of soft drink concentrates is a non scheduled industry and as such it does not require an Industrial Licence under the Industrial Development and Regulation Act. However the Double Cola Manufacturing Company (India) Private Limited has informed us in January, 1987 that it has set up a unit for the manufacture of soft drink concentrates at Nasik in Maharashtra.

(b) The entire equity capital of the project has been brought in by the promoters in foreign exchange on a non repatriation basis both as regards capital and dividends. There is also no foreign exchange outgo on account of imported know-how. However, the project involves import of capital equipment and raw-materials for the manufacture of soft drink concentrates that are not indigenously available.

(c) Import of raw-materials for the manufacture of soft drink concentrates which are not indigenously available is permitted in accordance with the import policy from time to time.

(d) The standards of carbonated water have been prescribed under item A. 01.0.1 in Appendix-B of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. Consumption of carbonated water conforming to the specification laid down under P. F. A. Rules, is not considered harmful.

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

Power Shortage in Karnataka

187. SHRI H. B. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Government have approached Union Government to allocate certain percentage of unallocated energy to the State to help it tide over the acute power shortage situation; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government alongwith the demand of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) Karnataka is unable to meet its power requirement from its own generation and assistance from Central generating stations to the extent possible is already being provided to the State over and above its share.

Vacancies of Chief Executives in Public Sector Undertakings

188. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE ;
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of public sector enterprises as on 31-12-86 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of public sector undertakings have remained headless for a considerable period ;

(c) if so, the names of those undertakings and reasons for delay in appointment of new incumbents ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to streamline the selection process ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF IN-

DUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) :

(a) and (b) There were 228 public sector enterprises as on 31-12-1986 of which 28 public sector enterprises were without their chief executives.

(c) The names of the such enterprises are given in the statement given below. The reasons for the delay are due to the time involved in processing the recommendations of the PESB by the administrative Ministries/Departments concerned and in obtaining the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The appointments could be made only after getting the vigilance clearance, verification of character and antecedents of individuals concerned prior to their appointments and completion of other formalities. Delays, some times, also occur where the appointees do not join or where special talent is to be spotted.

(d) It has always been the endeavour of the Government to streamline the selection process. Government, keeps a watch on the vacancy position and initiates advance action wherever possible to expedite selection. Among other steps taken in this regard, mention may be made of the systematic holding of interviews by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) which meet normally twice a week for this purpose.

Statement**Name of Headless Public Sector Undertakings**

1. Rural Electrification Corpn.
2. Indian Dairy Corpn.
3. Gas Authority of India.
4. Tannery and Footwear Corpn.
5. Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.,
6. Air India.
7. Cardamom Trading Corpn.
8. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.,
9. Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.,
10. Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd.,

11. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.,
12. Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Ltd.,
13. Cochin Shipyard Ltd.,
14. Helicopter Corpn. Ltd.,
15. Bharat Process and Mechanical Engg. Ltd.,
16. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.
17. NTC (Holding Co.) Ltd.,
18. Hindustan Paper Corpn.
19. Triveni Structural Ltd.,
20. Bharat Wagon and Engg. Co. Ltd.,
21. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.,
22. National Textile Corpn. (M.P.) Ltd.,
23. NTC (U.P.) Ltd.,
24. NTC (MN) Ltd.,
25. Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.,
26. Richardson & Cruddas Ltd.,
27. Scooter India Ltd.,
28. Bharat Leather Corpn.

Allotment of Rice to Maharashtra

189. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

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

(a) whether the monthly quota of rice to Maharashtra was reduced from 75,000 metric tonnes in 1982 to 40,000 metric tonnes in 1985 ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) the allotment of rice made to Maharashtra in 1986, month-wise ;

(d) whether Government have received any request from the Government of Maharashtra for enhancement of the quota of rice to that State ; and

(e) if so, the decision taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The monthly allocation of rice to Maharashtra, which was at 75,000 tonnes in April 1982 and 60,000 tonnes in May, 1982, was rationalized at 25,000 tonnes in June 1982. This was later on increased to 30,000 tonnes in June 1985 and has since ranged between 30,000 tonnes to 70,000 tonnes a month.

(b) Allocations are rationalized from time to time keeping in view the availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of various States, market availability and other related factors.

(c) A statement indicating the required information is given below.

(d) and (e) In response to requests received from the State Government, the allocations have been increased from time to time. Presently, this allocation is 50,000 tonnes a month.

Statement

Statement indicating monthly allocation of rice to Maharashtra during the 1986

(In '000 tonnes)

January, 1986	40.0
February, 1986	40.0
March, 1986	40.0
April, 1986	40.0
May, 1986	50.0
June, 1986	70.0
July, 1986	70.0
August, 1986	70.0
September, 1986	70.0
October, 1986	70.0
November, 1986	50.0
December, 1986	50.0

Research and Development in B.H.E.L.

190. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :
SHRI MANIK REDDY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to certain weaknesses and difficulties in the research and development of the Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited ;

(b) whether its evaluation has been undertaken at any time ;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the corrective steps taken ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) BHEL has set up an Engineering Committee and Technology Policy Committee, which regularly review the R&D and engineering capabilities of the organisation and lay down policy guidelines for continuous improvement. The Board of Directors also review periodically the R&D functions. Based on the review, BHEL has been able to develop and commercialise a number of products, systems and technologies, such as, fluidised bed boilers, direct ignition of pulverised coal etc.

(d) Does not arise.

Consumption of Petrol and Petroleum Products in the Country

191. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of petroleum and petroleum products required by the country annually ;

(b) how much of the above was produced indigenously during 1986 ;

(c) the foreign exchange utilised on imports of oil during 1986 to meet the country's requirements ; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce the oil import bills in future ?

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) and (b) The estimated requirement of crude oil and demand for petroleum products and their indigenous availability during 1986 were as under :

	Require- ment/demand	(Million tonnes) Indigenous availability
Crude oil	44.94	30.35
(Processing)		
Petroleum products	42.89	42.30

(c) The amount spent on import of crude oil and petroleum products during 1986 is estimated at Rs. 2519.97 crores.

(d) Apart from fiscal measures, the other measures taken to reduce the import of crude and petroleum products include :—

- (i) Intensification of exploration efforts and increasing production of crude oil.
- (ii) Increasing refining capacity and implementing conservation schemes to reduce fuel consumption within refineries.
- (iii) Promotion of conservation activities by PCRA in various sectors of the economy viz. Industrial, Agriculture, Transport and Domestic sectors.
- (iv) Encouraging the use of alternative fuels.

Expenditure on Postal Services

192. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the annual expenditure incurred on postal services year-wise, during the last two years;

(b) the earnings during those years from postage, Money Order Commission, etc. during those years;

(c) whether the earnings were in excess of the expenditure or there were losses during these years; and

(d) what will be the expected earnings during the current financial year taking into account the recent hike in postal rates ?

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

(a) 1984-'85 Rs. 636.07 crores.

1985-'86 Rs. 728.19 crores.

(b) 1984-'85 Rs. 444.41 crores.

1985-'86 Rs. 476.84 crores.

(c) There were losses.

1984-'85 Rs. 136.09 crores.

1985-'86 Rs. 163.55 crores

(d) Expected revenue during the current financial year 1986-'87 will be of

the order of Rs. 563.00 crores.

SC/ST Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

193. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of judges in each High Court and the Supreme Court belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) the steps taken to increased their number ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) In the Supreme Court, there is one Judge belonging to Scheduled Caste. The requisite information in respect of various High Courts is given in the statement given below.

(b) The Government have again addressed the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes and minorities, and women, who are suitable for appointment as Judges of High Courts so as to given them better representation on the High Courts than that exists at present.

Statement

S. No.	Name of High Court	No. of Judges in position as on 1.11.1986	Judges belonging to	
			Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	50	1	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	23	1	—
3.	Bombay	38	1	—
4.	Calcutta	36	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Delhi	23	—	—
6.	Gauhati	10	—	1
7.	Gujarat	16	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	—	—
10.	Karnataka	20	1	—
11.	Kerala	20	1	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	25	—	—
13.	Madras	19	1	—
14.	Orissa	9	—	—
15.	Patna	26	—	—
16.	Punjab & Haryana	14	—	—
17.	Rajasthan	21	—	—
18.	Sikkim	2	—	—
		364	6	1

**Expansions of Telecommunication
Facilities in Rural Areas**

194. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to utilise surplus revenue from urban areas to subsidize the expansion of telecommunication facilities in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal ?

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

(a) and (b) The plans for the expansion of telecommunication facilities are financed partly by the internal resources generated by the Department and partly through budgetary support. The internal resources are generated by the Department from its various units which include rural and urban units. There is no specific allocation made from the surplus drawn from a specific area to rural areas. The rural schemes often incur loss but

specific programmes are taken up to cover these schemes based on certain norms. Some of the schemes for rural areas included in the 7th Plan are provision of 9000 Long Distance Public Telephones (LDPTs) including 3000 LDPTs on Multi Access Radio Relay system, conversion of several secondary areas into integrated digital network etc.

Oil Production in Gaudhar Area

195. DR. V. VENKATESH :
SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :

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

(a) whether the oil production in the Gandhar area through an Early Production System (EPS) has been stepped up;

(b) if so, whether the plans are being finalised by Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) for laying out oil and

gas pipelines for an increased and regular production of both oil and gas from the Gandhar area ; and

(c) 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) Oil is being produced at the rate of 150 tonnes per day from Gandhar. ONGC is planning to increase production to 500 tonnes per day during 1987-88.

(b) and (c) ONGC have plans to lay 2 pipelines of 12" diameter each to carry oil and gas from Gandhar field.

Electronic Voting Machine

196. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commission have issued fresh notifications regarding use of electronic voting system for the future bye-elections to Parliament;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether the proposal to introduce electronic voting system has been abandoned due to non-availability of requisite equipment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Election Laws provide for voting at elections by ballot. The use of electronic voting machine can therefore be possible only after the laws are amended to provide for the use of those machines.

(c) No, Sir. A preliminary decision has been taken by Government to introduce electronic voting machines in elections Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Final decision in the matter will be taken after consultation with political parties.

New Techniques for Oil Exploration

197. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new techniques for oil exploration have been made use of in India; and

(b) if so, with what results ?

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) and (b) Yes, Sir. 30 seismic surveys have been introduced in Cambay basin of Gujarat. These surveys are continuing. The results will be known after the data is processed/interpreted.

Setting up of Super Thermal Power Station at Talcher, Orissa

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

(a) the steps taken to set up a Super Thermal Power Station at Talcher in Orissa;

(b) the amount earmarked for the execution of the above Thermal Power Station;

(c) the original and present cost of that Super Thermal Power Station according to the latest estimate; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (d) The Central Electricity Authority have techno-economically approved the proposal to set up the Talcher Super Thermal Power Project Stage-I (2 × 500 MW). The coal

and water requirements have been tied up.

The proposed project which was originally estimated to cost Rs. 1025.48 crores (excluding transmission system) is now expected to cost about Rs. 91.46 crores along with associated transmission system. An amount of Rs. 5.38 crores stands allocated in 1986-87 and a provision of Rs. 45 crores has been approved for 1987-88.

New Telephone Lines in Delhi Telephone Network

199. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-
NAIK : Will the Minister of COM-
MUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new telephone lines added to Delhi Telephone network during 1986-87;

- (d)
1. Kidwai Bhavan
 2. Karol Bagh
 3. Idgah
 4. Okhla (E)
 5. Shakti Nagar
 6. Delhi Gate RLU
 7. Laxmi Nagar—II
 8. Laxmi Nagar—I

(b) whether Government have a proposal for further expansion in tele-
phone connections during 1987-88;

(c) if so, the target fixed for the year 1987-88, if any; and

(d) the details thereof ?

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

(a) The number of new lines added to the capacity of Delhi Telephones from 1st April, 86 to 17th February, 1987 is 63,400.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The target fixed for the year 1987-88 is 62,000 lines (capacity) in the Delhi network.

Fatex	10,000
"	10,000
"	10,000
MKP	3,000
"	5,000
"	10,000
"	9,000
"	5,000
	62,000

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Delhi and other Metropolitan Cities

200. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-
NAIK : Will the Minister of COM-
MUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the present waiting list for tele-
phones in Delhi and other metropolitan
cities as on 31.12.86;

(b) the year by which the telephone
waiting list is expected to cleared;

(c) the steps taken to provide more

telephone connections in Delhi and other
metropolitan cities; and

(d) the details thereof ?

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

(a) The waiting list for telephone con-
nections in Delhi and other metropolitan
cities as on 31.12.86 is as under :

Bombay	2,04,780
Delhi	1,73,918
Calcutta	35,629
Madras	39,091

(b) The above list is expected to be cleared by middle of 8th Plan subject to the availability of adequate resources.

(c) and (d) Development Plans for the Seventh Plan period have been finalised for providing more telephone connections in Delhi and other metropolitan cities. This will however be subject to the availability of adequate resources. The 7th Plan with an outlay of Rs. 4010 Crore provides for provision of lines of switching capacity in Delhi 96000 lines, in Bombay 1,32,000 lines, in Calcutta 25,000 and 27,000 lines in Madras.

Agreement between India and U.S.A. to Improve Communication System

201. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of the plan to modernise the telecommunication system of H. de. abad metropolitan city as per the agreement reached between India and the U.S.A. to improve communications system in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : There is no such Agreement between India and USA.

Agreements with Foreign Countries to Improve Telecommunication Services

202. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some agreements have been entered into with some foreign countries to improve telecommunication services in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the estimated amount to be incurred on the schemes; and

(c) the number of districts in Andhra Pradesh to be covered under this facility and by what time ?

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

(a) No, Sir.

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

Progress of Ramam Hydel Project Darjeeling

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

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal have moved the Union Government to accord sanction and provide funds for importing the necessary parts and equipments for completing the Raman Hydel Project in the district of Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, the progress thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) The proposal of the West Bengal State Electricity Board for import of generating equipment for Raman Stage-II Hydro-electric Project (50 MW) was considered but not found acceptable in view of the availability of indigenous equipment. The letter of intent has since been placed on M/s. B.H.E.L.

Commissioning of Telephone Exchange At Marcela, Goa

204. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the proposed telephone exchange at Marcela, Goa would be commissioned; and

(b) the reasons for delay in the commissioning of the telephone exchange ?

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

(a) It is planned to instal a 50 line small automatic exchange at Marcela

during 1987-88 subject to availability of exchange building and financial viability of the proposal under the liberalised policy.

(b) The delay is due to non-availability of exchange building.

Bill on Uniform Civil Code

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

(a) the reasons for the delay in the introduction of Bill on uniform civil code;

(b) whether Government while drafting the Bill have sought the aid of other similar legislations in force in some of the countries of the world; and

(c) whether the Portuguese Civil Code still in force in the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu has been taken into consideration ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c) The draft Uniform Civil Code Bill is under the active consideration of the Government and while settling the draft, the Codes of some of the countries of the world and the provisions of various personal laws in force in the country including the Portuguese Civil Code had been taken into account. Considering the volume of work involved in the preparation of the Civil Code and its effect on the personal laws of almost all the communities in India, there has not been any delay in the finalisation of the Bill.

Losses on Account of Violent Incidents in Goa

206. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications suffered heavy losses on account of violent incidents in Goa in December last;

(b) the total loss in terms of rupees;

(c) the nature of the facts of violence committed with respect to the property of the Department and the communication system in general; and

(d) the particulars of areas in Goa where telecommunication has been affected and the time that would be required to restore the communication to each of these places ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Estimated loss is the tune of Rs. 11,92,000.

(c) Nature of acts of damages are as follows :

- (i) 829 telephones dead
- (ii) 554 Telephone posts damaged
- (iii) 14 D.Ps were damaged
- (iv) 3.8 KMs of cable stolen
- (v) 26 trunk lines were affected
- (vi) 63 KMs of telephone alignment and 18 KMs of Trunk lines were affected.

(d) Areas affected are :—

- (i) Margaon (vi) Vasco
- (ii) Panaji (vii) Vadria
- (iii) Varca (viii) Curchorem
- (iv) Canacona (viii) Calangute
- (v) Cuncolim (ix) Shirogla

Restoration work has been completed by 8.2.1987.

Construction of Godowns in Kerala

207. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the programme to construct godowns in Kerala by Food Corporation of India (FCI) ;

(b) whether there is any FCI godowns in Pathanamthitta district in Kerala ; and

(c) whether it is proposed to construct godowns in each district ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The Food Corporation of India is working out the Statewise dispersal of the additional storage capacity to be constructed. The programme for storage capacity in Kerala would be finalised after this exercise is completed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Consumer Cooperative Societies for Public Distribution System

208. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any programme to encourage the consumer co-operative societies in the country for the Public Distribution System ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Consumer Cooperative Societies are encouraged to sell essential consumer goods, including items under the Public Distribution System, to consumers at reasonable rates. 31% of the Fair Price Shops in the country are run by cooperatives. Government of India provides financial assistance through the State Governments to consumer co-

operatives for setting up of new retail outlets for distribution of consumer goods. In the rural areas, the primary agricultural credit societies are provided assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for undertaking distribution of essential consumer goods.

Modernisation of Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. Kalamassery

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

(a) whether technical defects have been noticed in the Hindustan Insecticides Limited in Kalamassery ;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to modernise the company ; and

(c) whether Government are considering any new scheme for marketing of D.D.T. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Some technical defects were noticed in the Technical B.H.C. and Technical Endosulfan Plants of Udyogmandal (Kerala) Unit of Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. These defects have since been rectified.

(c) The entire quantity of D.D.T. produced by M/s Hindustan Insecticides Ltd is expected to be utilized under National Malaria Eradication Programme.

Distribution of levy sugar and iodized salt in small packs in North Eastern regions

210. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : SHRI KAMAL NATH :

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

(a) whether Government have drawn up a scheme to assist the North Eastern States to supply levy sugar and iodised salt in small packs to consumers ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The Central Government is providing financial assistance to States/Union Territories of the North-Eastern Region for supply of iodised salt and levy sugar in small packs to consumers through the network of fair price shops. During the financial year 1986-87, a sum of Rs. 16.41 lakhs to Arunachal Pradesh and a sum of Rs. 2.23 lakhs to Mizoram was released under this scheme.

Expert committee to review functioning National Small Industries Corporations

211. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have constituted an Expert Committee to review the functioning of the National Small Industries Corporation with a view to start small scale industries in new areas ; 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 of India have constituted an Expert Committee to review the strategy adopted by National Small Industries Corporation for serving the small scale industries. The Expert Committee will review the present functions of the National Small Industries Corporation viz. Hire Purchase Scheme for supply of machinery to small scale sector, Marketing Programme, Prototype Development and Training Centres, Raw Material Assis-

tance Programme, Single Point Registration Scheme etc. and make recommendations outlining a clear and definite plan of action for the NSIC with a perspective for at least 10 years. The Expert Committee has been specifically asked to recommend the role NSIC can play in improving quality of products in the small scale sector.

Transfer of Heads of Central Telegraph Offices on Account of Complaints

212. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of heads of the Central Telegraph Office, transferred on account of complaints and inefficient working in telegraphs during the last three years; and

(b) whether it brought about the desired improvement ?

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

(a) Only one such case came up during the last 3 years.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Increasing Supply of L.P.G.

213. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what were the targets fixed for increasing supply of LPG during the last three years and to what extent these have been achieved;

(b) the increase in supply of LPG cylinders during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for failure to reduce the price of LPG for consumers when there is appreciable increase in production ?

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 availability of LPG vis-a-vis the targets set out under the Oil Economy Budget (OEB) during the last 3 years was as follows :

('000 tonnes)		
Year	Estimated LPG availability as per OEB	Actual LPG availability
1983-84	840	737
1984-85	920	873
1985-86	1250	1230

(b) The number of new LPG customers enrolled during the last 3 years was as follows :—

1983-84	—	16.10 lakhs
1984-85	—	15.04 lakhs
1985-86	—	17.26 lakhs

(c) The price of domestic cooking gas contains already an element of subsidy. Therefore, increased production of LPG does not warrant reduction of this price.

Cases disposed of by Lok Adalats in States

214. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA:
SHRI DILEEP SINGH
BHURIA :
SHRI JAGANNATH PRA-
SAD :

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

(a) the number of Lok Adalats organised during 1986 and the number of cases disposed of State-wise;

(b) whether any assessment has been made about the percentage of decisions taken in Lok Adalats which are disputed afterwards;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a decision has been taken to give legal status to Lok Adalats; and

(e) if so, when a Legislation is likely to be brought before Parliament ?

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

(a) The number of Lok Adalats organised during 1986 and the cases disposed of State-wise are as follows :—

S. No.	Name of State	Period upto	No. of Lok Adalats held	Cases settled
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20.9.86	17	7,860
2.	Bihar	25.5.86	5	6,634
3.	Gujarat	23.11.86	32	5,845
4.	Haryana	24.8.86	22	5,857
5.	Karnataka	31.12.86	23	1,703
6.	Madhya Pradesh	31.12.86	8	13,137
7.	Maharashtra	31.12.86	88	3,512
8.	Orissa	30.10.86	5	346
9.	Rajasthan	31.10.86	146	1,80,941
10.	Tamil Nadu	31.8.86	1	113
11.	Delhi	30.12.86	40	55,004
12.	Delhi	30.11.86	4	1,018
13.	Pondicherry	31.8.86	1	37

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes has made a proposal to the Government to enact legislation on the subject of legal aid, including conferment of legal status on Lok Adalats and enforcement of their decisions as if they are decrees passed by courts. This proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Fall in supply of coking coal to steel plants

215. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to Coal India Limited, coking coal supply to steel plants had fallen during September last year mainly because of heavy rains and Puja holiday; and

(b) if so, the present position thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) The production/despatch of the coking coal to steel plants, during September, 1986, was programmed at the rate of 32,000 tonnes per day. As against this, the actual materialisation was only 29,76 tonnes per day. The production/despatch of the coking coal during September, 1986 thus, suffered a slight set back. It was mainly due to power shortage and less off-take of direct feed prime coking coal by steel plants. Situation, however, has since improved considerably. In a meeting held on 22.11.87 on allocation and distribution of coking coal, under the Chairmanship of the Coal Controller, the representative of the SAIL "suggested that as the steel plants had built up heavy stock at the plants, coal producing unit should also build up stock of 10/15 days' production for the time being which would be utilised in future during the lean production months". The SAIL representative further stated that the steel plants

had a stock accumulation of more than 6 lakh m.t. of coking coal as in January, 1987 and they were not in a position to absorb further coal from coal companies as per programme chalked out by the Coal Controller for the month of January, 1987. Thus, there is, at present, no shortage of coking coal at steel plants. They have been rather requested to increase their off-take.

Supply of Defective Gas Cylinders to Consumers

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

(a) whether any inquiry has been made regarding supply of a leaking gas cylinder to a milk shop in Chandni Chowk, Delhi which resulted in a fire recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure safety of LPG consumers ?

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) HPC investigated the accident which occurred at Halwai Shop in Chandni Chowk, Delhi on January 5, 1987,

(b) The investigation revealed that the LPG connection being operated in the shop was unauthorised, the burners in use did not bear ISI certification and the regulators also were of non-standard type. The shop, being 4 feet below the street level and inadequately ventilated, did not qualify for installation of a commercial LPG connection. The accident occurred due to leakage of gas from the cylinder valve and its ignition either from one of the burners in the shop or the coal-fired angithi adjoining the shop.

The mishap resulted in eighteen casualties including three fatal ones, besides damage to property.

(c) Steps taken to promote safety include :

- (i) Educating the customers in safe handling of LPG equipment through Audio-Visual Media, Safety Advertisement in Dailies and Magazines.
- (ii) Distribution of safety literature and other instructions at the time of release of new connection.
- (iii) Organising customers' safety clinics with the help of organisations like Rotary Club, Lions Clubs, Mahila Sewa Samaj etc.
- (iv) Organising training for delivery-boys and mechanics of distributors.
- (v) Setting up of Emergency Service Cells at selected locations to attend to emergencies arising out of LPG leakage on holidays or beyond the working hours of distributorships.
- (vi) Standardisation of LPG equipment by importing technology.
- (vii) Incorporation of additional safety checks in the bottling plants.

**Price of Natural Gas Supplied
by ONGC**

217. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether natural gas is being supplied by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission at prices ranging from Rs. 90 to Rs. 3,500 per thousand cubic metres to different States; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such a wide gap ?

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) and (b) Government have fixed the price of natural gas w.e.f. 30.1.87. Accordingly, the basic price of onshore gas and gas at landfall points is Rs. 1400/1000 M³. However, gas sold in North Eastern Region States will be priced at Rs. 1000/1000 M³, subject to discounts upto Rs. 500/1000 M³ in individual cases on merits.

Savour Committee Report

218. PROP. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the Saviour Committee on E.D. Staff have been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations and action taken by Government for the implementation of such of them as have been accepted by Government ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee has made total 171 recommendations. The major recommendations are as under : —

- (i) The Committee has supported the theory of 'equal pay for equal work' and recommended hourly rate comparable to the wages of Department staff.
- (ii) Payment of DA to E.D. employees as and when it is sanctioned to regular employees.
- (iii) E.D. System to continue in the Postal set up for performance of

postal functions only. It has recommended abolition of all categories of E.D. employees excepting (i) E.D. Branch Postmaster (ii) E.D. Delivery Agents (iii) Mail Carrier (iv) E.D. Packer and (v) ED Mail man.

(iv) Abolition of the cadre of E.D. Stamp Vendors.

(v) All ED Branch Offices (12,662) working within 3 Kms. of each other in violation of the existing standards to be closed.

(vi) All ED Branch Offices (about 35374) which do not earn income equal to 20% of their cost to be closed and postal facilities to be provided through L.P.A. system at a monthly retainer fee of Rs. 50/-.

(vii) The permissible limit of loss per annum of retaining an E.D. Office after Five Years of its opening to be raised to Rs. 2400/- from the existing limit of 25% of the estimated cost. In the case of Hilly & Backward areas be raised to Rs. 4800/- per annum from 10% of the estimated cost.

(viii) An E.D. Office may be allowed to be retained after 5 years only if it earns at least 50% of its cost and is also within the annual loss limit referred to in item (vii) above.

(ix) Seventh plan target of opening of new EDBO to be reviewed.

(x) (a) Combination of functions of EDBPM, EDDA, BD Packer in one individual wherever feasible and compensating the individual on separate hourly rate basis as stated at (i) above.

(b) To revise the present norm of keeping a B.O. open

compulsorily for 3 hours irrespective of the work load.

(xi) Abolition of orderlies for Sub-Divisional IPOs and paying a lump sum amount in lieu thereof.

(xii) Abolition of the cadre of mail overseer.

(xiii) Introduction of a cadre of Assistant Sub-Divisional Inspector.

(xiv) Evolving time test for assessing work-hour in each B.O. on the same principle as it is done for Departmental Offices.

(xv) Minimum service of eligibility to receive gratuity to be reduced to 5 years, from 15 years.

(xvi) The amount of gratuity to be paid at the rate of half months emoluments for every completed year of service.

(xvii) Maximum age limit for recruitment of ED Agents to be 28 years and minimum educational qualifications to be 8th standard.

The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the government.

Installation of Public Call Offices Under Multi Access Rural Radio System

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

(a) whether the installation of Public Call Offices under the Multi Access Rural Radio system had been extremely slow till date;

(b) if so, the exact number of Public Call Offices planned for installation during the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans respectively, in each of the States/ Union Territories;

(c) the actual number installed in the Sixth Plan and in each of the two years of the Seventh Plan till date;

(d) whether the installation of the remaining such PCOs would be expedited during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken, in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Number of Long Distance Public Telephones planned during the Sixth and 7th Five Year Plan are indicated below :—

(i) 6th Five Year Plan—2500

(ii) 7th Five Year Plan—2973

Circle/State-Wise break up for the 7th Five Year Plan is given in the statement below.

Statement

State/Circle LDPTS planned	Total No. of During 7th Plan
1. Andhra Pradesh	100
2. Bihar	340
3. Gujarat	114
4. Jammu & Kashmir	40
5. Karnataka	59
6. Kerala	146
7. Madhya Pradesh	165
8. Maharashtra	150
9. North-East (Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura)	187
10. Rajasthan	635
11. Tamil Nadu	106
12. Orissa	250
13. North-West (Punjab, Haryana, Himachal)	166
14. Uttar Pradesh	457
15. West Bengal	57
Total	2973

(c) Actual number installed in 6th Five Year Plan-95 7th Five Year Plan 1985-86-101. 1986-87 (till date)-16.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As regards the MARR Systems already ordered, following steps have been taken :—

(i) Survey has been conducted.

(ii) Project Estimates have sanctioned.

(iii) Necessary action has since been initiated to procure towers and antennas etc.

(iv) Manufactures are been stored for the early supply of equipments.

(v) Test schedules for the testing of these equipments have been formulated.

(vi) Regular co-ordination meeting are held to expedite the work.

25-Line Small Automatic Exchanges

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

(a) whether the 25-line Small Automatic Exchanges are in short supply and the installation of these exchanges in the rural areas has been adversely affected on account of this shortage;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and actual number of units allotted to each one of the States/Union Territories during the year 1986-87;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to overcome the shortage;

(d) whether any targets for the

installation of such exchanges have also been fixed for the year 1987-88; and

(e) if so, the details thereof for each State/Union Territory ?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(a) The information regarding allotment of exchange units, statewise is given in the statement below.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The targets for 1987-88 will be fixed in the first quarter. Opening of these exchanges depends upon demand and financial viability. However about 35000 lines are proposed to be added during 1987-88.

(e) Not applicable in view of (d).

Statement

Name of Circle	25 Line Exchange Allotment During 86-87.
1. Andhra	102
2. Bihar	52
3. Gujrat	34
4. Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
5. Karnataka	100
6. Kerala	12
7. Madhya Pradesh	92
8. Maharashtra	68
9. North-East	09
10. North-West	62
11. Orissa	30
12. Rajasthan	28
13. Tamilnadu	80
14. Uttar Pradesh	60
15. West Bengal	06
Total	735

**Conversion of Calcutta Telephones
into A Corporation**

221. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUK-
HERJEE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-
TIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are consi-
dering a proposal for converting Calcutta
Telephones into a Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details and purpose
thereof ?

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

(b) The question does not arise in
view of reply to part (a) above.

**Complaints regarding failure of clutch
plates in Maruti cars**

222. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be plea-
sed to state :

(a) the number of Maruti cars of
various types produced so far, year-wise,
till December, 1986;

(b) the number of complaints received
so far regarding the failure of clutch
plates of these cars; and

(c) the action taken by Maruti Udyog
Ltd., to remove this defect from the car ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTER-
PRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDU-
STRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) : (a)
A statement is given below.

(b) and (c) While no complaint was
received by the Government, Maruti
Udyog Ltd. have so far replaced 72
clutch plates under warranty. Keeping
in view the driving habits in India, MUL
modified the clutch design in November,
1985 which has considerably increased
the clutch plate life.

Statement

Production of cars in Maruti Udyog Limited upto December, 1986

(Figs. in Nos.)

Year	Standard	Standard with Air Conditioner	Deluxe	Total
1983-84	840	—	—	840
1984-85	14,177	750	5,229	20,356
1985-86	23,362	30	9,870	33,262
1986-87 (Upto Dec '86)	28,613	1,639	5,920	36,172
Total.:	66,992	2,419	21,219	90,630

**Schemes for Creating Additional Power
Generating Capacity in
Madhya Pradesh**

223. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :
SHRI KRISHNA SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be
pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes for
creating additional power generating capa-
city in Madhya Pradesh and for supply
of power to that State under the grid
system during the Seventh Five Year
Plan; and

(b) the per capita availability of
power in Madhya Pradesh and in the

country as a whole and the corresponding targetted figures at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) An additional power generating capacity of the order of 947 MW in Madhya Pradesh is expected during the Seventh Five Year Plan as per details given below :

Scheme	Benefits (MW)
1. Hasdeo (Hydel)	120
2. Hargi (Hydel)	90
3. Bansagar (Hydel)	200
4. Pench (Hydel) (Joint project of MP and Maharashtra)	107 (MP's share)
5. Korba West—Unit 4 (Thermal)	210
6. Sanjay Gandhi TPS (Thermal)	210

In addition, Madhya Pradesh would have a share of 610 MW from the Korba Super Thermal Power Station (2100 MW) which is expected to be commissioned during the Seventh Plan. Madhya Pradesh will also have a share of power from the Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station and the Kawas combined cycle Gas-based Power Station being set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation.

(b) The energy availability in Madhya Pradesh and the country as a whole by the end of the Seventh Plan are targetted to be 17798 Mkw and 254966 Mkw respectively. The per capita availability of power in Madhya Pradesh during 1984-85 and 1985-86 is 155.57 Kwh (provisional) and 168.20 Kwh (provisional) respectively. The corresponding figures for the country as a whole are 167.30 Kwh (provisional) and 176.32 Kwh (provisional) respectively.

Setting up Civil Supplies Corporations in Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Andaman and Nicobar Islands

224. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to set up Civil Supplies Corporations in Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these Corporations will be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Proposal for setting up Civil Supplies Corporations in Jammu & Kashmir and Assam are under consideration of the respective State Governments. In case of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the proposal for setting up a Civil Supplies Corporation is under consideration of the Central Government.

Zone-wise cost of Levy Sugar

225. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the Zone-wise unit cost of levy sugar per quintal during 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : The matter is under consideration.

Quality-wise Production of Sugar

226. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the percentage of quality-wise production of sugar during 1984-85 and 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : The percentage of quality-wise

total sugar bagged during the sugar years 1984-85 and 1985-86 season was as under :—

Grade	1984-85	1985-86
L-30	4.0	1.2
M-30	32.5	34.6
S-30	60.8	61.8
L-29	0.1	Negligible
M-29	1.2	0.7
S-29	0.8	1.1

Review of Sugar Incentive Scheme

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

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar industry has been representing to Government for the last three years for review of incentive scheme announced by Government in November, 1980; and

(b) if so, when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter ?

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

(b) A decision in the matter is likely to be taken shortly.

Soviet Participation in Construction of Tehri Hydro-Electric Project

228. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Soviet team recently visited India to discuss in detail about the soviet participation in the construction of the Tehri Hydro-Electric Project and for the construction of the dam also;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken with regard to the prevailing apprehensions about the dam being in the seismic Zone;

(c) the nature of Soviet participation;

(d) the role of Indian industries in the supply of machinery for the project; and

(e) the time by which the Indo-Soviet team will commence their work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) A delegation led by the Minister of Power and Electrification of the USSR visited India in January, 1987 for discussions, inter alia, on the execution of the Tehri Hydro Power Complex, the safety aspects of which have been scrutinized in detail.

(c) to (e) Soviet participation would cover technical assistance in the construction of the rock-fill dam and turnkey execution of the power plants and associated transmission system. Indian and Soviet organizations would commence their work after conclusion of contract and finalization of the scope of supplies and procurement of equipment.

**Losses Incurred by Scooters
India Ltd.**

229. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the losses incurred by Scooters India Ltd. in each of the years 1984, 1985 and 1986;

(b) the reasons for such losses; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to sell this unit to private sector ?

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

Year	Loss (Rs. in lakhs)
1984-85	1380
1985-86	1642
1986-87 (April-January)	1939

(b) (i) Production constraints resulting in low capacity utilisation;

(ii) Consumer preference for other makes of scooters; and

(iii) Poor liquidity due to continuing losses.

(c) Various alternatives for making it a viable unit are being examined.

Low capacity Utilisation by BHEL

230. DR. DATTA SAMANT :
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Statement

BHEL is organised along two business sectors viz. Power and Industry. About 70% business comes from Power and the balance from Industry. The capacity utilisation for Power Sector during the last three years is as follows :

Product	Percentage capacity utilisation		
	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
Thermal	61	32	41
Hydro	45	40	12

2. The Industry Sector products are short cycle items and orders for these products are received on year to year basis. The capacity utilisation for these products during the period has been ranging from 50 to 100%.

DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) has been facing the problem of under-utilisation of capacity for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details regarding utilisation of capacity during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for such under-utilisation and efforts Government have made to operate this plant to the full capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF K.K. TEWARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

(c) Inadequate orders due to constraint of resources for the setting up of new power plants is the principle cause of underutilisation of capacity of BHEL.

In order to improve capacity utilisation, BHEL have taken the following steps :

(i) Diversification into new products; and

(ii) Strengthening the services and spares for the power sector. Power projects have been identified for placement of orders on BHEL, keeping in view the availability of resources for new projects.

12.00 hrs

• [English]

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : First priority should be given to Adjournment Motion. Sir, the Government has failed to review the Post Office (Amendment) Bill, despite the powerful public opinion against it. Even the President has not given his assent to it.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Please listen to our point of view.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of view.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : No assent to the Post Office Bill is obtained from the President. The entire Press is against the Bill. In spite of that, they are not prepared to review the Bill....
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It does not matter.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is the suppression of the right to privacy, suppression of Article 19 on Fundamental Rights.*
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No...Nothing doing.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Professor Saheb, if it is referred to me and if it comes back, I will put it before this House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Look here. There

is only one thing and that is in the Constitution. If the President feels so, it will be sent to us. I will put it before the House. So far I have not heard anything. The will of the people is represented by this House and this House has done it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The minute it comes to me, I will refer it to the House. I will not keep it with me even for a moment.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Is it a fact that even after the adoption of the Bill, the President has not given his assent ?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know anything.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will you allow us to move the Adjournment Motion ?

MR. SPEAKER : No. I am not convinced.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will you listen to our point of view ?

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of view. I have gone through it. I am fully satisfied. If the President sends it I will put it before the House. Before that, there is no question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The House has every right to review that thing....
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It will come to us. If it is not done it will come to us. Don't worry. I will not keep it with me. I will put it before the House the day it comes to me.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

12.04 hrs.

(At this stage, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Shri Basudeb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House)

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, ours is a reparate issue.

MR. SPEAKER : You first see where you are standing.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Where are you standing ? It is a judicial question. It is a *sub judice* case. I cannot do anything in this case.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : The Home Minister should reply to it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot. It is a *sub judice* case. I cannot do anything about it. I do not know. Nothing doing.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : He had promised to reply to it. We want the Home Minister to reply to it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I have got nothing to do with that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know. Why can't you listen ? There is no question. There is no point here.

[Translation]

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Why do you not listen to our point ?

MR. SPEAKER : You talk to him. You are a nice man. Why do you not understand that this case is *sub judice* and I cannot allow it. You talk to him.

[English]

I can't do it. I cannot allow.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : It is a *sub judice* case. I can't do it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : We have given a notice of question on Babri Masjid.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a *sub judice* case. I can't do it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is upto him, you ask him.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is a case. It is *sub judice*. I can't do it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I can't allow.

[Translation]

Why are you violating the rules. I do not have any such rule.

(Interruptions)

[English]

I have allowed nothing to go on record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot do anything. It is upto him. You are free to put questions.

[Translation]

You may speak to him, I do not have any objection.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Why not ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Sir, the situation in Punjab was discussed at length in the last Session. ...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You ask him.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No Sir. I can't allow.

(Interruptions)**

S. BUTA SINGH : On 30th November, 1986 Shri Gurcharan Singh Tohra...

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : You are not allowing even to put questions.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a *sub judice* question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I can't do it. It is a *sub judice* case. I can't allow it. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)**

S. BUTA SINGH : The Panthic Committee directed.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I can't do anything. It is upto him.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : But do admit the questions. It is our right.

MR. SPEAKER : I can't allow.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The Home Minister made a statement on the floor of the House that he will find a solution. We are entitled to ask what has he done about it ? You are not allowing us to raise it.

(Interruptions)

Then we will have to walk out from this House.

(Shri G.M. Banatwalla and some other hon. Members then left the House).

12.10 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Economic Survey 1986-87

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Economic Survey', 1986-87 (Hindi and English versions). [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3668/87].

Annual Reports and Reviews or the working of Paddy Processing Research Centre (Tamil Nadu) Society for 1984-85 and 1985-86 and Statement for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF

FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

1. (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paddy Processing Research Centre (Tamil Nadu) Society for the year 1984-85 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Paddy Processing Research Centre (Tamil Nadu) Society, for the year 1984-85.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT—3669/87].
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paddy Processing Research Centre (Tamil Nadu) Society, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Paddy Processing Research Centre (Tamil Nadu) Society, for the year 1985-86.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT—3670/87].
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—3670/87].

Notification under oil Industry (Development) Act 1974. Annual Report and Review on the working of Oil Industry Development Board New Delhi for 1985-86 and statement for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND

NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

1. A copy of the Oil Industry Development Board Employees (Medical Attendance) Amendment Rules, 1986 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1278 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th December, 1986 under sub-section (3) of section 31 of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3671/87].
2. (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Oil Industry Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (4) of section 20 of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Oil Industry Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86.
3. A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3672/87].

Sugar (Price Determination for 1986-87 Production) order, 1986

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 a copy of the Sugar (Price Determination for 1986-87 Production) Order, 1986 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1282

(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 1986 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—3673/87].

Notification under High Court Judges (Condition of Service) Act, 1954.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE : (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the High Court Judges Travelling Allowance (Amendment) Rules, 1986 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1295 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 1986 under sub-section (3) of Section 24 of the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3674/87]

Reviews on the working of and Annual Reports of Cycle Corporation of India for 1985-86; Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi for 1985-86; Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. New Delhi for 1985-86 etc. etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

1. A Copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

a. (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Cycle Corporation of India Limited for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the Cycle Corporation of India 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 3675/87]

b. (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation 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-3676/87]

c. (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Heavy Electricals 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-3677/87]

d. (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1985-86.

(ii) Annual Report of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, 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-3678/87]

e. (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Bridge and Roof Company (India) Limited

ed, Calcutta, for the year 1985-86.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bridge and Roof Company (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 No. LT-3679/87]

- f. (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1985-86.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Limited, Visakhapatnam, 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-3680/87]

- g. (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited, for the year 1985-86.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Pumps and Compressors 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-3681/87]

- h. (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Richardson and Cruddas Limited, for the year 1985-86.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Richardson and Cruddas 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-3682/87]

2. Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (e) and (f) of item-1, above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3682/87]

Notifications under Companies Act, 1956 and Annual Report of Controller General of Patents Design and Trade Marks for 1985-86.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : On behalf of Shri M. Arunachalam, I beg to lay on the Table :-

1. A copy each of the following. Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

i. The Cost Accounting Records (Milk Food) Rules, 1986 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 866 in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1986.

ii. The Cost Audit (Report) Amendment Rules, 1986 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 943 in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3683/87]

2. A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Controller-General of Patents Designs and Trade Marks for the year 1985-86 under section 155 of the Patents Act, 1970.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3684/87]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. for 1985-86 and Statement for delay in laying these papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : 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 619-A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

- (i) Review by the Government on the working of the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, for the year 1985-86,

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Thermal Power Corporation 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—3685/87]

12.11 hrs

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the following eight Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 9th December, 1986.

- (1) The Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Bill, 1986.
- (2) The Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 1986.
- (3) The Delhi Apartment Ownership Bill, 1986.
- (4) The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Bill, 1986.
- (5) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Bill, 1986.
- (6) The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1986.
- (7) The Central Excise Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1986.
- (8) The Indian Post Office (Second Amendment) Bill, 1986.

Sir, I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, of the following nineteen Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 9th December, 1986.

- (1) The Industrial Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1986.
- (2) The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 1986.
- (3) The Juvenile Justice Bill, 1986
- (4) The Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Bill, 1986.
- (5) The Coal Mines Nationalisation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1986.
- (6) The Atomic Energy (Amendment) Bill, 1986.
- (7) The Customs and Excise Revenues Appellate Tribunal Bill, 1986.
- (8) The Bureau of Indian Standards Bills, 1986.

- (9) The Constitution (Fifty-fifth Amendment) Bill, 1986.
- (10) The Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Bill, 1986.
- (11) The Consumer Protection Bill, 1986.
- (12) The State of Arunachal Pradesh Bill, 1986.
- (13) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (Amendment) Bill, 1986.
- (14) The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 1986.
- (15) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Amendment Bill, 1986.
- (16) The Essential Commodities (Second Amendment) Bill, 1986.
- (17) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (Amendment) Bill, 1986.
- (18) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Amendment) Bill, 1986.
- (19) The Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Amendment Bill, 1986.

12.12 hrs

RAILWAY CONVENTION
COMMITTEE

[English]

Seventh Report

SHRI RAM DHAN (Lalganj) : I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee on "Rate of Dividend for the year 1987-88 and other Ancillary Matters."

12.13 hrs

STATEMENT RE : SITUATION IN
PUNJAB

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Sir, The situation in Punjab was discussed at length in the last Session. There have been some disquieting development since then. I would like to recall here briefly the trend of events since the end of November, 1986. On 30th November, 1986 Shri Gurcharan Singh Tohra was elected President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee. Immediately thereafter the SGPC disbanded the Special Task Force earlier raised by them for keeping the terrorists out of the Golden Temple Complex. At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the SGPC held at Amritsar on 24th December, 1986 the high priests holding office on that day were forced to resign and new high priests were appointed, including Prof. Darshan Singh Ragi as Acting Jathedar of the Akal Takht. However, the high priests did not assume office because of certain threats held out by another body called Panthic Committee which is a self appointed body controlled by terrorists. The Panthic Committee directed that a Sarbat Khalsa should be called to ratify the appointment of the high priests thereby arrogating to themselves a position superior to the SGPC and the Akal Takht. In response to a call given by the Damdami Taksal, the Panthic Committee and a section of the AISSF, a so called "Sarbat Khalsa" was held in the Golden Temple at Amritsar on January 26, 1987. SA Dal (J) and SA Dal (B) participated in the "Sarbat Khalsa". Secessionist slogans were raised in the complex during the "Sarbat Khalsa". The "Sarbat Khalsa" endorsed the secessionist declaration made by the Panthic Committee on April 20, 1986. The next day, the Punjab Council of Ministers condemned the call given by the so called "Sarbat Khalsa" and described it as a conspiracy of foreign forces aimed at destabilising the country. Later the Shiromani Akali Dal (L) Working Committee expressed concern over the failure of the SGPC to

prevent anti-national and secessionist elements from holding the "Sarbat Khalsa". Government of India took note of these developments and made it clear that Government will not tolerate the machinations of communal, separatist and secessionist elements, no matter under what guise they may be operating.

2. On February 3, 1987 a Hukumnama was issued by the high priests directing the Presidents and Jathedars of the various Akali Dal factions to submit their resignations by the evening of 5th February, 1987. The Istri Akali Dal was not brought within the purview of this hukumnama.

3. On February 5, 1987, Prof. Darshan Singh Ragi announced the leaders of the new Akali Party of which Shri Simaranjit Singh Mann was named the President.

4. On February 9, 1987, the high priests declared Shri Surjeet Singh Barnala, Chief Minister, Punjab as Tankhaiya and required him to appear on February 11, 1987 before the Akal Takht to explain his conduct. On that day, Shri Barnala sent a written explanation through an emissary but despite this Prof. Darshan Singh Ragi read out a hukumnama signed by the high priests ex-communicating Shri Barnala from the Sikh panth.

5. There has been a great deal of consternation in the country at the decisions taken by the priests. Sikhs themselves from various walks of life have expressed their unhappiness at this blatant example of politically motivated action. Jathedars of the Takht Patna Sahib and Takht Hazoor Sahib, Nanded have expressed their disapproval of this action. Various Sikh Sampradas in Punjab and elsewhere in the country have felt that the decision should be re-considered. A mammoth gathering at Longowal Village on February 20, 1987 representing Sikh Sampradas from different parts of the country rejected the hukumnama. The gathering also pledged support to Shri Barnala and his Government.

6. The Constitutionally elected Government in the State of Punjab continues to be that of the SA Dal (L). Shri Barnala and his Government deserve the praise of all secular and patriotic people for the courage they have shown in facing the terrorist and secessionist forces. Punjab Government's efforts to separate religion from politics must be commended and supported. More important, no praise is too high for the people of Punjab, belonging to all faiths, who have continued to express their solidarity and their belief in secular ideals.

7. Religion is a search for peace, love and truth; it does not mean bigoted fanaticism which endorses the massacre of innocent people. It is most unfortunate that the priests have been acting under pressure from a group of secessionists and terrorists. It is unfortunate also that even leaders of the dissident Akali Dal have been playing into the hands of such forces. The mixing of religion with politics and the misuse of places of worship have threatened to overtake the forces of secularism and religious tolerance. Indeed certain undesirable forces are trying to use religion as a facade to challenge our Constitution, our political system and our democratic ethos.

8. The secular character of the Indian polity has to be reasserted. The whole country has to demonstrate that such an attack on secularism and on the unity and integrity of the country is intolerable. The Government of India pledges full support to the Government of Punjab and I am sure Hon'ble Members would be unanimous in extending the support of this entire House to Shri Surjeet Singh Barnala in his determined fight against religious fundamentalism and communal fanaticism and his efforts to uphold the Constitution and the unity of India.

9. The Government of India have been in close touch with the Government of Punjab. There has been an escalation in terrorist activities in the last two months. The terrorists have made leaders of political parties, Judges, senior police officers and their children as their

[S. Buta Singh]

targets. They have also tried to create disaffection among the people against the para military forces who are performing their duty under difficult conditions. There was also an incident of bank robbery at Ludhiana branch of the Punjab National Bank. The case has been entrusted to the CBI for investigation. Another disturbing trend has been the continued misuse of the Golden Temple Complex by the terrorist and secessionist elements. The Government of India has given full support to the State Government to meet the menace of terrorism and will continue to do so. Due to the efforts made by the State Government several notorious terrorists have been captured or killed. The situation would continue to require extraordinary vigilance and action on a sustained basis. We expect that the State Government will maintain pressure on the terrorists until terrorism is eliminated.

10. The Government is committed to implement the Punjab Accord. I wish to reassure Hon'ble Members that every effort will continue to be made to find a solution to the contentious issues of territorial claims and river waters.

11. The situation in Punjab is a matter of serious concern to the whole country. The Punjab problem can be solved only by showing patience and fortitude. The fight against terrorism, religious fundamentalism and communal fanaticism and misuse of places of worship for political purpose in Punjab calls for joint action cutting across party lines. It is necessary to remove the fear of terrorism from the minds of the people of Punjab.

12. I take the opportunity of thanking Hon'ble Leaders of Opposition for agreeing to launch a joint campaign in Punjab to meet the challenge posed by secessionist and obscurantist forces. We have prepared an action plan in consultation with the Leaders of the Opposition which will be implemented in the months following and which will involve the active participation of all sections of society including peasants, industrial labour,

ex-servicemen, freedom fighters, youth and students, women, intellectuals; poets, writers and artists. Sir, I am confident that this mass mobilisation will go a long way in awakening the people to the dangerous designs of the anti-national forces and to prepare them for the struggle ahead. This will also re-affirm our resolve to preserve the unity and integrity of the country.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : I want to make a submission in the light of this statement. You were kind enough to fix up a discussion on the statement at 30' clock today. Yesterday, the Home Minister was kind enough to lay on the Table of the House a Mishra Commission Report. It is equally important and some of the members of this House are referred to in this particular Commission's Report. Therefore, I earnestly request you that at the earliest possible opportunity, we should be given an opportunity to discuss the Mishra Commission Report.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no problem. We will see that discussion on any subject should take place in the House.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is all right. You are very accommodative, that is why I have made this suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER : No problem ! You have got enough time now. Let us take up one by one. You just bring up something for the sake of discussion that you want.

The House shall now take up matters under rule 377.

12.16 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Need to provide special facilities to Artists

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk) : From time imme-

monial we have been proud of our cultural heritage. It is a matter of immense satisfaction that our Government have been doing a lot to preserve, protect and popularise various cultural activities within as well as outside the country. Recent organisation of several cultural events is a step in the right direction. But one very important matter which should receive our immediate attention is that some special facilities should be given to our artists and men of culture. They should be given job reservation as is being

12.17 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

done for several other categories. Similarly, DDA flats and house sites should be allotted to these artists on priority basis. In this matter, if necessary we may bring an amendment to Article 16(4) so that these artists and men of culture receive adequate and exclusive attention.

(ii) Preventive measures needed to check recurrence of communal riots in the Country

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur) : Sir, the communal riots in India are taking a toll of large number of lives of innocent people in the country. While communal violence has been increasing for the last 3—4 months at a rapid rate, the foreign elements are mostly involved in all such communal tensions and riots. There are some States which have been continuously facing the communal riots for the last 3—4 months. Gujarat, Karnataka and M.P. and some other States have been victim of such continuous communal attacks. But these States have not been able to control communal trend that has been increasing in these States. The Centre should take immediate measures to check such riots and should direct and assist the State Governments to make provision to check such violence in future. If a strong action at this stage is not taken the situation will grow more complicated and will create disorder in the country. The Gujarat and Karnataka communal riots should be an eye-opener to all of us. Therefore, it is time Centre

should consider such measures in this regard irrespective of the fact whether this is a question for State concerned. I appeal to the hon. Minister to take immediate measures in this regard.

[*Translation*]

(iii) Demand to protect the dilapidated temples and Dharamshala situated on the banks of River Narmada.

SHRI K. N. PRADHAN (Bhopal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

The Narmada is one of the sacred rivers of this country. It is the life line of many States. It is the only river which is being revered by the people of the country for ages. It is due to this reason that a number of temples and *dharamshalas* are located on the banks of this river at different places. The pilgrims stay in these *dharamshalas* and offer their prayers in the temples.

For the past some years, a number of temples and *dharamshalas* have been damaged due to the erosion caused by the river at many places. Even today, a number of temples and *dharamshalas* are there along the bank of the Narmada river but most of them are in a dilapidated condition and their existence has been endangered due to the floods and soil erosion.

A number of States are clamouring for their share of maximum water and power from the Narmada river but there is no scheme to give recognition to its religious importance. The Central Government should formulate a scheme without delay for protecting these temples and *dharamshala* with the cooperation of all those States through which the Narmada river flows.

(iv) Demand for material components assistance to Rajasthan to meet the drought conditions in the State.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

the assistance provided by the Central Government to the Rajasthan Government for facing the severe drought is not adequate. Most of the assistance has been provided under advance plan which will affect plan outlay adversely later on. The areas which are in the grip of severe drought will be benefited by it but those areas where there is no famine or where the severity of famine is less, will be deprived of the benefit of the plan.

The Central Government have provided assistance in the form of labour component for employment only. They have not provided any assistance in the form of material component. As a result thereof work on the construction of permanent assets cannot be taken up in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts where contribution from the people in the form of material cannot be collected due to the severe drought conditions prevailing in those districts. The Rajasthan Government have decided to provide 30 per cent assistance in the form of material component. In the desert areas of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts, as much as 60 per cent material is needed for the work relating to construction of these useful permanent assets. Now they will not be able to start work on those permanent assets because the rural people cannot make 30 per cent contribution in the form of material.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to provide 50 per cent contribution in the form of material to the Rajasthan Government as is given under the National Rural Employment Programme so that famine relief works could become permanent assets.

[English]

(v) Need to improve the overall condition of Suburban trains running between Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH (Nellore) : The suburban train service in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad is hopelessly poor. Suburban train is the only mode of transportation between these two cities.

Hundreds of commuters travel daily by the local train, it is the main mode of transportation to reach Osmania University, Agricultural University, Gandhi Hospital, etc., These commuters consist mainly of students and teachers, employees and industrial workers. A good number of persons from old city visiting Osmania General Hospital and Gandhi Hospital also travel by this train.

These commuters face innumerable problems as the local trains do not run regularly. These trains are abruptly cancelled without any rhyme or reason. The trains are usually stopped on the bridges resulting in many accidents. The signals are not given in time as a result of which trains stop in between the two stations for hours together. As a result, not even a single local train reaches its destination in time. It is affecting the punctuality of office goers and students. As there is no other transportation, the commuters are at the mercy of the staff who run these trains.

These local trains are being hauled by steam engines which often go out of order. This results in inordinate delay and usually leads to cancellation of trains for several days.

Bogies are hopeless without any fans, bulbs leave alone the toilet facilities even in the ladies compartments.

Keeping in view these hopeless conditions, I request the Minister of Railways to take steps immediately, treating it most urgent and see that the Suburban trains are run properly.

(vi) Need to appoint a high power committee to look into the regional disparities in the Government appointments and budgetary allocations in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : The State of Andhra Pradesh, has seen two agitations in 1969 and 1971. The agitations after some time died out and from their ashes arose the "Six Point formula" by a "Presidential

Order". This formula prescribed some rules for recruitment into State Government offices for local people. These rules are expected to remove the disparities present in the numbers of Government employees from the three regions of the State, i.e. Andhra, Telangana and Rayalaseema. The loopholes present in the recruitment procedures are contemplated to be plugged. But the implementation part of the scheme has always been a failure.

The private sector has reached a point of no increase in the State. If any new employment is to be created, that can be only in public sector. The recruitments in the public sector undertakings do not come under the purview of the "Six Point formula". The implementation of the formula is not uniform throughout the State. In Andhra region, it is exceedingly high and in the other regions it is pathetically low. The hue and cry in Rayalaseema clearly shows the people's pulse.

In this context report of the "One man commission" has to be studied thoroughly. Before it is too late and the pent up feelings of the aggrieved people find a vent, some concrete action with determined will has to be taken.

At this stage to prevent another agitations in the State, the Central Government has to effectively intervene and appoint a high-power committee to look into the matter and should extend the six-point formula to the public sector undertakings also. A Central Government's body is needed for the enforcement of the six-point formula and to probe thoroughly into the regional disparities in the Government appointments.

- (vii) Need for intensive research to explore the cultural heritage of different regions of the country.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): The exploration of cultural heritage of the country will greatly help us in providing sound footing for building a new India. The new education policy of our

dynamic Prime Minister is poised to take India into 21st century. The total culture of India cannot be hoisted unless and until literature and glorious past of the regions of Indian federal set up are explored by intense research. It is heartening that the new education policy envisages upon this aspect which is much vital for the literary and cultural resurgence of the country. As in the case of Orissa, during the time of Akbar the sprawling areas of Orissa extended from Burdhan to Rajamundry. Orissa was known as Kalinga from where thousands people had voyaged to South East Asian Islands like Java, Sumatra, Bali and had preached the cultural heritage of Orissa besides doing business. They had importance in those places until 14th century. The naval force of Kalinga the today's was very powerful. The naval force of Kalinga could successfully resist the Chinese invasion in the Eastern Coast of India in mid fourteenth century. Otherwise the Chinese would have occupied India. Those days the Puspagiri University of Orissa was internationally renowned. It is necessary that the researchers should visit those places of South East Asia to bring to public attention the great cultural past of ours. The University Grants Commission should advise the Universities of the country to carry on intense research on the glorious past of different regions to have a total assessment of the cultural heritage of our country.

- (viii) Demand for early completion of Railway Projects in Orissa.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): It is distressing that some of the Central projects under implementation in State of Orissa are not progressing well according to the Schedule. Raigarha Koraput Rail line is not progressing according to the schedule although foreign financial assistance is available. This needs immediate attention of the Government.

Sambalpur Talcher Rail line is not progressing well on account of shortage of funds. This is the life line of communication in between Western Orissa

[Shri Brajamohan Mohanti]

and coastal region. The Government should provide necessary financial allocation and take all other steps to implement the project according to the schedule.

The Railway Division at Sambalpur is not being implemented according to the schedule for want of financial allocation. This project was inaugurated by the hon. Prime Minister and there was expectation that it will be right earnestly taken up and completed at the earliest. This local discontent is growing.

The Kanas Road Railway Station in District of Puri in Orissa although is attracting heavy passenger traffic, it remains undeveloped. The station is without platform shed, without adequate rest shed. The existing rest shed is at such low level that during flood, it is submerged with flood water. The station remains unclean as no sweeper is working. The phone connection in between Motary and Kanas is not there. All the developmental sanctions for the last two years have not yet been implemented. A rest shed for women already sanctioned needs to be constructed at a high level so that it can be used during rainy season.

The Delang and Motary Railway Stations in Puri District, Orissa also need platform sheds on both sides. This is for the attention of the Railway Minister.

- (ix) Need to telecast the network programmes in regional language and increase the duration of Kannada Programmes on Bangalore Doordarshan.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : The Government of India has taken various steps towards expansion in coverage of T.V. and it would be very useful and serve the purpose if the number of hours of transmission in regional languages are increased. In the case of Bangalore Doordarshan, except on Saturdays, the total number of hours of Kannada programmes is less than two

hours everyday. This is insufficient. If people have to benefit from television, then the duration of the use of regional languages will have to be increased. At present, even messages relating to the importance of heavy children vaccinated or immunisation programmes are not being telecast in Kannada. I request the Government to telecast network programmes in regional languages and increase the duration of Kannada programmes on Bangalore Doordarshan.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we will take up item No. 13. Shri G.S. Dhillon.

12 31 hrs.

COTTON, COPRA AND VEGETABLE OILS CESS (ABOLITION) BILL, 1986

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That the Bill further to amend the produce Cess Act, 1986 and the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 and to repeal the Copra Cess Act, 1979 and the Vegetable Oils Cess Act, 1983, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, the Finance Minister, in his Budget speech in February, 1986, had indicated that as an endeavour to reduce the number of cesses, it had been decided to dispense with the cess on Cotton, Copra and Vegetable Oils. The Cotton, Copra and Vegetable Oils Cess (Abolition) Bill, 1986 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 8.12.1986 with a view to abolishing these cesses.

At present, cess on cotton is being levied under the Produce Cess Act, 1966. Cess on copra is being levied under the Copra Cess Act, 1979 and cess on vegetable oils is being levied under the Vegetable Oils Cess Act, 1983.

The proceeds of cess on cotton are to be utilised to meet the expenditure incurred in connection with the development of "produce" under the Produce Cess Act, 1966 which includes cotton. Cess on copra is the main source of finance for the Coconut Development Board and the cess on vegetable oils for the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board.

The requirements of funds for the development of cotton and the Coconut Development Board and the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board will be met through budgetary allocations and all steps will be taken to ensure that the plans and programmes of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Coconut Development Board and for Cotton Development get adequate support.

For the abolition of cess on cotton, the Bill seeks to amend the produce Cess Act, 1966. For the abolition of cess on copra and vegetable oils, the Copra Cess Act, 1979 and the Vegetable Oils Cess Act, 1983 respectively are being repealed. The amendment proposed to be made to the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 is of a purely consequential nature.

I may like to stress that the objective of the Bill is to do away with the multiplicity of the cesses and development of cotton, coconut and oilseeds and vegetable oils will continue to be provided all assistance and encouragement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Produce Cess Act, 1966 and the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 and to repeal the Copra Cess Act, 1979 and the Vegetable Oil Cess Act, 1983, be taken into consideration."

Now, for this Bill, one hour is allotted, including the Minister's reply. So, I request the Members who are participating, to be very brief.

Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao to initiate the discussion.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : We have no objection to Cotton, Copra and Vegetable Oils Cess (Abolition) Bill, 1986, which is introduced to further amend the Produce Cess Act, 1966 and the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 and to repeal the Copra Cess Act, 1979 and the Vegetable Oils Cess Act, 1983. We welcome this step.

In the Statement of Objects it is mentioned—"As an endeavour to reduce the number of cesses and multiplicity of taxes". With this object, this proposal has been pushed into the House. We welcome it.

It will also eliminate a lot of paper work and administrative procedures which sometimes lead to redtapism also. After all the amounts that are involved are not very much—only Rs. 64 lakhs in respect of cotton, Rs. 70 lakhs in respect of Copra and Rs. 7 crores in respect of Vegetable Oils. In fact, much of the money may have to be spent on the collecting machinery also. However, in this connection I would like to make a few suggestions to the Government.

These cesses were levied earlier with an object to spend these amounts for taking measures to promote the improvement, development and marketing of produce. Now, with abolition of these cesses on these items the Government should continue to help those measures which are aimed at improvements development and marketing to these produce. This amount hitherto being collected by way of cess in the States was not much. So, I suggest that the Government should provide more and more funds in order to achieve all those objectives.

I do not say the Government has not at all taken any steps, but I do say that it has not taken adequate steps. I would like to quote an instance of the prevailing danger of white fly on cotton in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka which has caused immense danger to the cotton crop.

[Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

Several thousand cotton farmers are thereby economically ruined. Many people committed suicide and as a result of it to-day the total cotton production in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka has gone down. It might have come to the notice of the Government. I would suggest that the Government should send more money, encourage the research to evolve white fly resistance variety cotton without which our comfortable position in respect of cotton will not last long.

You are aware that the farmers are not quite happy with the minimum support prices that have been announced and in several parts of the country the farmers have expressed their resentment, especially in Maharashtra and other States. I request the Government for development and improvement of cotton as this is the basic thing that is necessary, Government should come forward with quite remunerative prices actually after taking into consideration the cost of cultivation. I also suggest, the Government as has since decided to export 4 lakh bales of cotton for export purposes, can export more. There are enough stocks in the country. With the export of more cotton, there will be higher domestic market demand for the indigenous cotton. It will increase the market price and the farmer will get higher, better and satisfactory price. On the marketing front, the farmers are exploited by the middlemen as well as sometime by the CCI Purchasing Agents also. The buyers, the agents fix the quality of the cotton according to which the farmer will get the price for his produce. Invariably he gets much below the support price. Now for the fair average quality cotton, he is fixing much lower price. For the sake of criticism, I am not mentioning this point. But there are rumours that many a time, for reasons known to only themselves they are fixing lower prices for fair average quality of cotton. Sometimes they also fix more prices for little inferior quality cotton. I would therefore suggest to the Government kindly to evolve a scientific procedure, with a rational for fixing reasonable price to be given to the farmers which will go a long way in safeguarding their interests.

Sir, there are many electronic machine devices which have been in use in many fields. There are electronic machines to find out moisture content and microner aspects of cotton. After all, they may cost a few thousands of rupees. You are taking so many steps for giving incentives in several fields. I would request the Government to come forward with a proposal to help the regulated marketing yards to acquire these electronic machines so that they may use these machines at these places. Some element of subsidy should be involved from the Government of India side in the acquisition of these machines so that the process at the marketing centres will be speeded up and it will also eliminate the middlemen and other unscrupulous persons. This will also safeguard the interests of the farmers.

Sir, in respect of vegetable oils, I would like to mention a word of caution. The import of vegetable oils should not lead to certain malpractices being adopted against the interests of the farmers. I suggest to the Government that instead of spending several hundreds of crores of rupees for import of oils from abroad, the Government should give remunerative prices to the farmers who are quite competent enough to produce vegetable oil-seeds to meet our demands. In this context, I may submit that here also the middlemen are exploiting the farmers. I will give one instance from the latest magazine dealing with agricultural position, in which it is clearly stated that between October 31, 1986 and November 28, 1986—say in a period of one month—the price of groundnut with shell has reduced from Rs. 516 to Rs. 435 per quintal. But during the same period, the price of groundnut oil per quintal has increased from Rs. 176 to Rs. 1820, that is, Rs. 45 is an increase. The farmers, the producers, were very much agitated that they were denied their due price for their produce. I would request the Government to take such steps that are necessary to curb exploitation by the middlemen.

Sir, in regard to copra, it is learnt that the Government has allowed certain people to import coconut. I am sorry to state that this has got serious impact on the

domestic market and the coconut oil prices are falling continuously. The farmers are experiencing agony and they are not able to get remunerative prices. This has put further strain on the farmers. I would therefore request the Government to take such steps as to safeguard the interests of the coconut producing farmers by withdrawing the licence for import of coconut oil and copra. In our country the production of coconut has increased manifold and still there is ample scope for further increase in the production with more helpful attitude by the Government. There is a lot of scope in the coastal areas in the Southern States for increasing the production of coconut and I hope the Government will do its best for development and increase the yield of coconut.

Lastly, I am happy that the Prime Minister has accepted the proposal for abolishing the minimum export price on cotton and also a proposal to grant subsidy on cotton export is being considered. I believe it is a step in the right direction and the Government should take more steps to safeguard the interests of the cotton farmers in this country.

With these words, I think you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when this Bill was introduced, it struck my mind that a deficit Budget to the tune of Rs 2000 crores to Rs. 4000 crores is presented every year. Now the Government is doing a new thing. They are going to dispense with cess amounting to at least eight crore rupees. I do not know why this is being withdrawn and why it was levied. I think originally Shri Surjit Singh Barnala was to bring forward this proposal. But Shri Dhillon has got an opportunity to bring forward this Bill and he is withdrawing the cess. Shri C. Subrahmaniyam, who belonged to Tamil Nadu, had also brought forward such a proposal. The reason is that cultivation of coconut is practised in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. This cess had been levied to boost the cultivation of coconut and to promote the technical knowledge concerning thereto. I

would like to know from Shri Dhillon as to who will bear the expenses of that Board? You are getting Rs. 70 lakhs from the Copra Cess Act, Rs. 64 lakhs from the Produce Cess Act and Rs. 7 crores from the Vegetable Oil Cess. The agricultural policy which is being formulated will adversely affect the cultivators because their lands are being ruined and they are not being given any assistance to compensate the loss. The Government have explained :

[English]

"It is proposed to abolish the cess on cotton, copra and vegetable oil and provide necessary funds through budgetary allocations for the plants and programmes for the development of the produce."

[Translation]

My friend Shri Mahajan is sitting here. He is a renowned economist. He is working for the welfare of the country. They are presenting deficit Budgets for the last three years. Now the Government is taking a new step to earn praise for themselves. I want to know why did the Government remain silent all these years? When it was in their knowledge that cess did not serve any purpose and instead caused harm, then why did they remain silent all these years? Will the hon. Minister tell how much amount will be spent on its development and how much money has been provided in the Budget for this purpose?

This Act was in force in 1966, 1979 and 1983 and onwards and your Board was also in existence all these years. You earned revenue through the cess. I would like to know how this revenue was utilised? Earlier when the Bill was passed, it was written therein.

[English]

"This is meant for technical development".

[Translation]

We know that in Kerala the land under coconut cultivation is very small.

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

Most of the people in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu make their livelihood through the cultivation of cocount. You want to give them some financial assistance and now the Government is saying that they are abolishing cess. Then how do they propose to give them assistance? You are saying that provision for it will be made in the Budget. Kindly tell us how much amount will be provided in the Budget for the development of cocount, vegetable oil, cotton, and how much is your expenditure on this score at present? Do they have so much amount for the development of these three commodities? May I know why the Government have proposed to abolish this cess?

There is no mention anywhere in the Statement of Objects and Reasons to the effect that so much amount will be provided by the Government. It says:

[English]

For the purpose of abolition of cess, it is proposed to amend this Act and the cess will be abolished.

[Translation]

But you have not mentioned in it how much amount will be earmarked for this purpose and how much amount is needed for it. You should have mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that so much amount is being spent for its development and so much financial aid is being given. Then one could have formed some idea about it.

We are not exporting these commodities, we are not in a position to produce vegetable oil but we want to propagate cocount to the maximum. We are importing vegetable oil worth at least Rs. 15 crores. Now the hon. Minister proposes to abolish cess and to make monetary provision for it in the Budget. The Budget will be passed by April. What anticipation you have made in this respect? How much amount will be spent for the development of these three com-

modities? The cocount crop is highly susceptible to diseases (*Interruptions*) I do not find any mention to any of these things in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. You are well aware of the pitiable condition of the farmers. How will we provide them technical knowledge and how will we popularise science among them? The opposition members have welcomed this step but I want to know wherefrom the money will be provided for this purpose?

*SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the revenues of the Govt. are falling as a result of this amendment Bill which we are discussing. The Govt. will be earning Rs. 8 crores and 34 lakhs but I know that the administrative expenses of the Govt. in collecting this amount of tax will be much more than that. This income will be realised by the Govt from the mill owners. The mill owners will surely be happy due to this legislation. Because before the introduction of this Bill, the mill owners had lot of arrears to pay. This has been stated in the 'objects and reasons' of this Bill. I hope the Govt will recover those arrears at the earliest.

In this context I will like to say that the cotton that is produced in our country can meet the demand of our country to the full, if the farmers get adequate and remunerative price for their produce, and the Govt. takes responsibility for the various diseases from which cotton crops suffer and also for the marketing of cotton crop of the farmers. If the Govt. declared the price of cotton before the sowing season, that would have benefitted the farmers greatly, and they would have been encouraged to produce more cotton. But Sir, what is our common experiences. We see that the Cotton growing States are unable to sell their cotton crop at the right time and at the right price. As a result of that the farmers are forced to indulge in agitation and to raise their demands before the Govt. The poor farmers are having unsold stocks with them which they are compelled to sell to the middle-

*The speech was originally delivered in Bengali.

men at a very low price. The farmers are suffering on this account and are incurring losses. As a result of that their enthusiasm is declining and they are feeling discouraged. In the same way the growers of coconut were able to get Rs. 2 or Rs. 2.50 per piece, during the last coconut season and a little earlier also. But in the current season they are forced to sell their coconut even at Rs. 1 a piece. So the growers of coconut got a low price for their produce, but the price of coconut oil has not gone down at all. Rather the consumers have to pay a higher and higher price for coconut oil and surprisingly coconut oil is even being imported from other countries at a great cost. This import could have been avoided by the Govt. All the demand of coconut in our country could be met with our own internal production if the growers were given a remunerative price for their produce. Similarly we are capable of meeting our entire demand of vegetable oil from our own available resources and capacity of production. But it is a matter of regret that the Govt. has no plans or schemes to achieve that. They are not making an efforts to increase production. Sir, oilseeds can be grown with the minimum requirement of water. It can be grown even with the help of rain water. No big irrigation schemes are required for increasing oil seeds production. They need very little water. Therefore we can grow oilseeds even on that land where no other crops can be grown. The basic question is, that the growers of oilseeds must be paid a remunerative price to encourage them to go in for oilseeds production. Is the Govt. able to give this guarantee to the growers? They are not going to give it. For the production of oilseeds and for taking effective steps to increase its production the Govt. has set up some machinery. There is a Board at the national level. But we do not see any work being done by this Board. In the statement of objects and reasons of this Bill it has been stated that the administrative expenses of this Board will be met from the amount collected by Govt. by way on cess. Now, this Board cannot function effectively on this small amount of funds. I hope the Govt. will pay adequate attention to these points in the

coming days. They should pay attention to increasing the production of oilseeds. They should have a representative of the oilseed farmers on the Board and a representative of the workers of the oil-mills should also be kept on this Board. Only then you can have first hand knowledge and guidance as to how the production of oilseeds and edible oils can be increased in the interest of the nation. Similarly a workers' representative of the cotton mills and a representative of the cotton growers should be kept on this Board so that they may get an opportunity to help the Govt. in their task.

13.00 hrs.

I believe that with a little effort and proper planning the Govt. will be able to achieve increase in production. They will also be able to ensure better and remunerative prices to the cultivators and at the same time meet all the requirements of our country from our own production. I hope the Govt. will do that in the coming days. With that hope, Sir, I conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will adjourn for lunch now to re-assemble at 2 p.m.

13.01 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch
till Fourteen of the clock*

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch
at Seven minutes past Fourteen of
the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

COTTON, COPRA AND VEGETABLE
OILS CESS (ABOLITION)
BILL 1986—contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER Shri
Girdhari Lal Vyas.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Bill which has been introduced because the cess which had been levied, has proved to be infuctuous. All the Boards of the Government, whether it is the Tea Board, Coffee Board, Cotton Board or Cotton Component Board, are white elephants. They simply incur expenditure and do nothing to increase their revenue or to develop the commodity. The Government have abolished the cess but simultaneously they should also abolish these Boards which have proved to be of no use.

SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA (Shajapur): The elephant is nothing but elephant whether it is white or black.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: I think you get irritated by the sight of white elephant. White elephants are found in lesser number whereas black elephants are found in abundance.

I was saying that all the Development Boards had no utility. The aim of the cess which was levied is given in the Aims and Objects of the Bill. It says:

[English]

".....the proceeds of this cess are utilised to meet the expenditure incurred in connection with measures to promote the improvement, development and marketing of produce under the Act, which includes cotton.....".

[Translation]

With this aim in view, the cess was levied, but nothing was done in this respect. This is a welcome step but it will benefit the capitalists and the businessmen only who purchase these commodities and then sell it. It will not benefit the agriculturist in any way. How will you proceed with the works taken up by your Department to benefit the poor farmer for whose sake the cess was levied and how will you work it out so as to increase the production of cotton, coconut and vegetable oil for the benefit of farmer

and the country? I hope you will do something in this direction so that you may be able to fulfil the objective of the Bill and contribute the maximum for the development of the country. This is one point.

The another point which I want to raise is that as a number of hon. Members have said, the production of cotton has increased considerably due to the efforts of your Department or as a result of the policies of the Central Government. Have you ever seen whether cultivator is getting benefits commensurate to his hard work or not? The price of cotton has increased to Rs. 700 or 800 per quintal during the last two years whereas the cultivators are getting Rs. 500 per quintal at the maximum. Have you ever estimated as to how much expenditure a cultivator has to incur in growing one quintal of cotton and whether the price given to him is reasonable or not? I would like to know as to what steps are being taken to give benefits to the cultivators?

I would also like to say a few words about the Cotton Corporation of India. It is a Government Organisation but it is not under your charge. The Corporation does not purchase cotton when it starts arriving in the market. It starts purchasing when the cost of cotton goes up in the market. The middlemen purchase cotton at cheap rates and sell it to the Cotton Corporation of India at higher rates. You might have seen as to how much loss it causes to the Corporation. On the one hand, cultivators are in loss and on the other hand the Cotton Corporation of India is also incurring losses, because it enters the market late and purchases cotton at higher rates. I want that the Commerce Department should pay attention towards it and ensure that the Corporation purchases cotton at cheap rates as soon as it comes in the market so that cultivators may also get remunerative price for their produce from the Corporation. Such an arrangement is very necessary. Our Hon. Prime Minister has taken a welcome step in this regard. He has announced subsidy to be given to the cotton exporters. Since the entire stock of cotton bales which are

produced here are not exported, its price remains quite low. If the export of cotton is increased, its price will also go up and the cultivators will be benefited. Similarly, Rs. 7 crores are collected as cess on vegetable oils. As compared to last year, this year the prices have increased from Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 per 15 kg tin. It shows that there is no control over the prices. They are increasing the prices arbitrarily which causes heavy loss to the consumer. These things have not been taken into consideration and that is why no concrete steps have been taken to check the price rise and to provide relief to the consumer. If such an arrangement is made, it will not only stabilise the prices, but will also benefit the consumer. Our Consumer Price Index goes up and so does the Wholesale Price Index. Therefore, you should pay attention towards it. Your developmental activities should go on increasing constantly. Agriculture is the mainstay of the people of our country and 80 per cent of the people depend on it. For this purpose, it is necessary to set up 'Krishi Gyan Kendras'. Bhilwara district is a well developed agricultural area but no *Krishi Gyan Kendra* has yet been set up there. Some '*Kendras*' have been set up at such places where they are not needed, but no '*Kendra*' has been set up in Bhilwara district. As a result of it, the necessary arrangements for providing information relating to agricultural development to the farmers are not available to them and it is causing loss to our farmers. I request you to kindly extend your cooperation in setting up a '*Krishi Gyan Kendra*' in Bhilwara district.

14.16 hrs

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): Sir, the immediate beneficiaries of this amendment Bill seem to be the mill owners and intermediaries. I understand from the note that the Government is bringing this Bill perhaps because of the difficulties that they were facing in collecting the money. Now this abolition Bill is brought forward on account of the failure of the machinery to collect the cess. I am afraid, if the Government

does not take proper steps to see that the existing developmental activities to encourage the farmers are not maintained, it will affect the cultivators and farmers very seriously.

At present we are depending on the foreign market for our internal consumption. We are importing palm oil, sunflower oil and other edible oils for the purpose of the consumption of the public at large. In this context, if there is no proper machinery to encourage the farmers to see that they cultivate more and more coconut trees, oilseeds and so on, it will affect the internal market.

Of course, I welcome this Bill to the extent that it abolishes the cess. But at the same time, I would request the Government to bring forth very pragmatic and concrete measures to help the farmers who are growing cotton, coconut and oilseed crops. For this purpose, I would like to highlight some of the experiences which my State has gone through in this matter. As you know, Kerala is one of the States where coconut is grown in large quantities. A large part of the economy of our State depends on coconut growing. The farmers were very much affected last year when there was a decrease in the prices of coconut. Of course, there was some relief because certain steps were taken to see that palm oil etc. were not imported and distributed to the consumers and instead, coconut oil was distributed.

But here I have got a complaint. The Central Government is not making any efforts to see that coconut oil is used by other States in other parts of the country also. No encouragement is given in this regard. It is purely confined to Kerala alone. If an internal market is found for coconut oil, naturally the coconut farmers and other who depend on activities related to coconut cultivation will be encouraged and they will be benefited. But instead of distributing coconut oil through the public distribution system, the Government is importing edible oils from foreign countries and distributing the same through the public distribution system.

[Shri Thampan Thomas]

While taking part in this discussion, I would like to suggest that cocount should be declared as an 'oils-ed' and encouragement should be given for its cultivation. Steps should also be taken to see that it is used in other parts of the country besides Kerala, as an edible oil. If this is done, the market can be regulated and the farmers will benefit.

Of course it is true that the cess is lifted only when it could not be collected by the Government properly and more money was being spent on administrative expenditure for collecting the cess and the only way out is to abolish the cess. I welcome the proposal to have budgetary provisions to encourage the Board and encourage other promotional activities. It is good that you are institutionalising promotional activities. But it should not affect the present promotional activities. We require more and more avenues for cultivation of more and more cocount trees and people should be encouraged to come forward to cultivate oilseeds, cocounts and cotton. In that respect the farmers are not getting any sort of help, in any manner, from any agency. Whatever the things are being done, it is only to help the intermediaries. Directly, the farmers are not getting the benefits, unless and until, Government takes steps to encourage farmers directly, the situation will remain the same. This Cess Abolition Bill will not be of any help to them. So, ultimately there should be an objective to help the farmers and to see that the cultivation is encouraged.

In the matter of cotton also, the same is the case. The cotton growers are facing the same difficulties. The people who are involved in marketing of cotton always gain because they are the mill owners and also the intermediaries. The entrepreneurs of the textile industry, the middlemen and the brokers are one and the same. They are exploiting the situation there.

My submission is that the Government should pay sufficient attention to see that agriculture is promoted and more land is brought under the purview of the

cultivation and also the consumption of cocount oils and other oils is popularised in other areas also.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Cotton, Copra and Vegetable oils Cess (Abolition) Bill. The policy of the Government to gradually abolish the cess completely is a welcome step. It will reduce the problem of multiplicity of taxes. Whatever the Government collected through these taxes, was being spent on their collection and on the establishment cost. The Government have been making all efforts since quite sometime, which is a welcome step.

Several Members have expressed their views on cotton. I would also like to submit, through you, that it has come to our notice that traditional growers of cotton are shifting to other crops. The Government should try to go into root of the problem to find out its solution. In Rajasthan, the area covered by the first phase of Indira Gandhi Canal was cotton producing area but now the position is quite reverse. The Agriculture Department looks towards Irrigation Department and Irrigation Department looks towards the other Departments. There is no coordination among these Departments. In addition to it, see page or water-logging problem is also there. Due to these reasons, the cotton cultivation in these areas is almost finished. The Government should find out its root cause and solve the problem.

The Government have taken a good step in abolishing cess but it will benefit the mill owners only and not the farmers. If we want to make our country strong, we should improve the lot of our farmers. As of now, the position is that even cotton seeds are not available to the growers in time. If sometimes it is made available in time, it is of sub-standard quality and helplessly, the farmers have to sow the substandard seeds. Several times it has been seen that even the seeds supplied by the National Seed Corporation are of very poor quality and no action is taken if any complaint is lodged with them. I have such an instance in which the cotton

seeds did not sprout at all. The people lodged a complaint and kept on taking rounds of the complaint offices but to no avail. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister, through you, that the Agriculture Department should do something directly to benefit the cotton growers so that they may get improved quality of seeds in time and they may not have to wait for it for a long time. If seeds are made available to the farmers at the time of sowing, only then they will have a sigh of relief. Besides, they are facing a lot of problems in marketing also. Government fixes the procurement price of cotton at a time which it is about to reach the market. The Government should fix the price of cotton at the time of sowing, so that the farmers could become hopeful of their produce and its good return. At present, the economic condition of the cotton growers is weaker than the other farmers. Middlemen swindle them. The Government should themselves come forward to purchase their entire produce so as to improve their condition and should spend more and more funds on the development of cotton. Today, so many farmers are shifting from cotton cultivation. So, we shall have to check this trend.

Similarly, Rs. 5 per quintal cess was levied on coconut and Rs. 70 lakhs were being collected every year from it. The Government has done well by abolishing it. I would like to say that it should be ensured that the working of the Coconut Development Board, on which this cess was being spent, is not affected. The Coconut Development Board has done a remarkable job. It has created much awareness among the farmers for cultivating coconut crop in 4 or 5 Southern States. It has been imparting technical know-how and providing improved quality seeds to the farmers from time to time. It has also provided sufficient marketing facilities to the farmers. I would like to say, through you, that the hon. Minister should assure the House that the abolition of cess would not affect the coconut development work in any way. It has to be seen that development work goes on smoothly and an adequate provision is made in the Budget for the Board.

Similarly, cess on vegetable oils has also been abolished, which is also a welcome step. This cess used to yield Rs. 7 crores every year which were being spent on National Oil Seeds and Vegetable Oil Development Board. The development works which the Board used to undertake for the benefit of oil seed producers should continue uninterrupted. Now-a-days, it is generally seen that there is constant gap between demand and supply of indigenous edible oils, and as a result of that large quantity of oils have to be imported. The prices of oils should be stabilised. The Government should try its level best to encourage the oilseeds production and all sorts of assistance should be given to the oilseeds producers. They should be encouraged by giving them loans, fertilisers and subsidy; only then we can march towards self-reliance.

We have seen in the case of edible oils that in January, 1986, the price index of oilseeds was 299.6 whereas in January 1987 it rose to 408.2. Similarly, the percentage of variation between the period January, 1986 and January, 1987 has increased to 36.2. It is a deplorable condition indeed. If we cannot become self-sufficient in oilseeds, what other self-sufficiency we can achieve? Therefore, special attention should be paid towards these things and top priority should be given to rendering all possible help to the farmers who totally depend on cultivation of oilseed crops. The Board should see whether the farmers are helped or not, whether awareness is being created among them or not, whether improved quality of seeds are provided to them or not and whether other facilities are provided to them or not. If such facilities are not provided, these Boards should better be abolished and we should look for some other alternative arrangement to strengthen the economic condition of the farmers and to encourage the oilseeds production.

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I welcome this Bill. Whether the abolition brings benefit to the farmers or not,

[Shri Kadambur Janarthanan]

it will benefit people in trade and industry, and help in the movement of goods also.

Regarding cotton, we have to admit that because of cotton seed oil being widely used in Tamil Nadu and other places, inspite of groundnut production being less, we are able to cope with the situation.

Therefore, if the government's intention really is to improve the lot of the cotton growers, then they must think only on those lines. Previously, the cotton lint was the only speculative product, but, today, cotton lint as well as cotton seeds have become the speculative product in the market. Last year, the *kapas* price was Rs. 400 to Rs. 415/-. At that time, the seeds price was Rs. 300; but this year, owing to less crop, the *kapas* price has gone upto Rs. 600 to Rs. 700, but the cotton seeds price remains the same as Rs. 300 to Rs. 330/-. This occurs mainly due to our Policy of fixing the basic price, the support price of the cotton during the months of September-October.

Cotton crop inspection is more important. The estimation of crop should be done only after the cotton crop inspection is over. But I want to bring to your notice that crop estimation is being done in our country only on the acreage shown during the sowing season. This is a wrong procedure which always gives rise to the speculative business in the months of December-January. Naturally, the basic price this year is Rs. 530 whereas the market price, the lowest price is Rs. 650/-. Therefore, the traders and the industrialists are able to procure more cotton whereas the CCI and the federation people are restricted to do it. Therefore, the fixing of the basic price of cotton particularly if it is not for coconut and other things, should be done only after the crop inspection is over. That was the procedure followed till 1960. But I do not know why it has not been followed now. For that, as far as the

Cotton Board is concerned, it must be represented by Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Karnataka. They are the real cotton growing farmers and those farmers should only be represented on that Board; only that Board should tour and inspect the crop and then they must estimate the crop. If all this is done, then only it will be a useful Board. Otherwise, it will be for the sake of name-helping others and helping none.

Regarding the quality of seeds, as one hon. member had mentioned, in Egypt and Sudan, growers are given seeds entirely for sowing from the government departments. But in our country alone seeds are purchased by anybody and everybody. It should be abolished and the cotton growers should be supplied seeds which are foolproof seeds through the government departments. That is a very essential point for the welfare of the cotton growers.

Oil production seeds help our country by 80 per cent today and mostly in Madras when we see things prepared by the hotels we find that they are not using groundnut oil; they are not using any oil except cotton seeds oil; this has become a common use in the country. Therefore, I request the hon. to pay more attention to it and see that at least by 1990 all the private people selling sowing seeds to the farmers should be stopped and sowing seeds should be supplied to the farmers entirely through the government departments alone. Then not only improvement of the crop can be effected but also insurance of the crop can be estimated.

In my village Kadambur, the purchasing centres of the Cotton Corporation of India have been abolished. This area has been 100 years old. This is the study of the Cotton Corporation working there, as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned. So, I request the hon. Minister through you to see that they purchase cotton from the real cotton selling centres.

[Translation]

*SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise

*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

to support the Cotton, Copra and Vegetable Oils Cess (Abolition) Bill. I welcome this Bill and give some suggestions for the kind consideration of our hon. Minister for Agriculture.

Growers of cotton, coconut and vegetable oil are affected on account of low price for their produce. Import of edible oils has also discouraged the farmers. Added to these problems there is the burden of heavy cess. At this juncture our hon. Minister has come forward with this cess abolition Bill which is a great relief to the consumers and producers of cotton, copra and vegetable oils.

One of our elderly colleagues Shri Vyas called the coconut Board and other Boards as white elephants. I do not agree with his statement because it is these Boards which are working very hard for the welfare of the consumers and producers.

The production of spices, cotton and other commodities is on the increase but unfortunately the producers are not getting good prices. Our elderly leader Prof. N G. Ranga takes keen interest in the welfare of our farmers. He knows very well that the prices which the farmers are getting are not satisfactory. The growers are not getting remunerative prices. Unfortunately edible oils worth crores of rupees are being imported. If facilities are provided to our farmers we can attain self-sufficiency in edible oils also.

Karnataka Government has requested the Centre for help to complete the pending projects like Ghataprabha, Malaprabha Upper Krishna and others. Completion of these projects will help the farmers to bring lakhs of acres of land under oil seed cultivation. By this we can save foreign exchange worth 1000 to 1100 crores.

Sir, I am the Vice Chairman of the Coconut Board and I am fully aware of the difficulties faced by the Board. They do not get sufficient financial assistance. In the 5th Plan period only six crores of rupees have been allotted. Sometimes

the Board finds it difficult to pay salary to its employees. We have several plans of oilseed cultivation in vast areas in the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Orissa. But the coconut Board does not have sufficient funds. It should be provided with more and more financial assistance as it is in the case of Spice Board and Cardamom Board. The president and members of the Coconut Board do not have any powers. Even for spending a small amount of two thousand rupees the Board has to get permission from the department of Agriculture at the Centre. I therefore urge upon the hon. Minister for Agriculture to suitably amend the Coconut Board act at the earliest.

In Kerala State more than 25% of coconut trees are affected by root wilt disease. Such diseases have to be checked by using modern technology. There is a research Centre in Kasargod for checking such diseases but this is not sufficient. We have to take some more concrete steps to control these diseases completely.

An amount of about 80 lakh of rupees is inadequate for the proper functioning of the Coconut Board. If you want to increase the production of coconut you have to allocate 25 to 35 crores of rupees for a plan period as it is being allocated to Coffee Board and Cardamom Board.

I request the hon. Minister to immediately stop the import of industrial oil. Unless the import of coconut oil is stopped there cannot be any relief for coconut growers. If you import coconut oil, it will benefit only the merchants and not the growers.

I hope the hon. Minister of Agriculture will consult the hon. Minister of Commerce and convince him the need to stop import of oils forthwith.

I thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit, through you, that the Bill brought forward by the hon. Minister has no propriety. It is so because the Budget is going to be presented on 28th and this Bill has been brought on 24th. What an irony ! When the summons are issued for the Session, you also promulgate an ordinance, which is against the rules.

You have introduced the Vegetable Oils Cess Bill, three to four times. Through this Bill, you are exempting cess worth Rs. 8.34 crores and thereby losing that much of revenue. But I have every doubt that the consumers of this commodity will be getting its benefits. I think the benefit of this exemption will ultimately be enjoyed by the affluent and the mill-owners. When you do not fix the price, the price of the cotton is bound to rise. You are also abolishing cess on Vegetable Oils amounting to Rs. 7 crores; who is going to be benefited by this ? The price of vegetable oil is increasing day by day and unless you control it, the general public is not going to get its benefit. Therefore, you should give it a thought to it.

Secondly, you are heading such a Department on which 75 per cent of our rural population depends. There are some States in our country where different types of crops are grown. Suppose, a State has only one major crop—coconut—and most of the people earn their livelihood through it. You have set up a Development Board for the development of coconut. I am a Member of the Committee on the Papers Laid on the Table of the House. I had an opportunity to go to Cochin and Trivandrum. There, I found that vast area was under coconut cultivation but all the plants there were disease-infested. Your Development Board has high ranking officials and doctors in its ranks. I asked them whether those plants could be saved and whether they had developed any insecticides for this purpose. I was told that there was no insecticide available for this purpose. They also informed me about developing an improved variety of

seedlings. I told them that it was of no use to develop an improved seedling if the disease persisted. The more important think was to protect the plants which they were unable to do. Thus, the condition of the farmers there is very bad. It is true that you spend Rs. 15 to 16 crores on oil imports. You can stop this import by producing oilseeds here, but you do not give any incentives to the oilseeds producers. There are certain areas where specially the oilseeds can be cultivated. I am saying all this because you import oil. Therefore, you should pay attention in this regard. By producing oilseeds here, you can save crores of rupees which are being spent on import and can utilize that money on other developmental works in the country. Why do you not think about it ? Ours is an agricultural country and you know pretty well that be it the farmers of Bihar, Haryana, Punjab or any other State, they have made our country self-sufficient in the field of foodgrains. They can do so in the field of oilseeds as well.

We talk of giving remunerative prices to the farmers for their agricultural produce. The remunerative price of the produce of the farmers is that by which they can buy the items of his necessity. If the farmer gets Rs. 150 for 40 kilograms of rice, he will have to pay more to purchase other items of his use. Today, he can buy only two bags of cement with this much amount, whereas 20 year's ago when the price of rice was Rs. 35 for 40 kilograms, he could buy 4 bags of cement. Therefore, I want to say that the prices of agricultural produce should be fixed on the basis of the prices of the commodities needed by the farmers. The prices should be fixed by taking into consideration the items of his necessity and his produce together. That price only can be called the remunerative price. Our present policy has rendered the farmers paupers.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill that has been introduced is not going to benefit the farmers except those who

produce cotton. What are you thinking about the cotton produced by the farmers? While fixing the cotton price, you speak of giving minimum support price, but we do not want minimum support price. We want that the farmers should get remunerative price. Why do you not announce a remunerative price to benefit them? You fix the price keeping in view the consumer. The farmer needs maximum remunerative price and not the minimum support price. Today, the farmers have to virtually beg before you. But they are not going to beg any more. Remunerative price is different from the minimum support price. This year, the cotton prices are higher by Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per quintal than those in the last year but he wants remunerative price which should be at least Rs. 1000 per quintal. Today, we find that the prices of cloth either remain stable or increase whereas the price of cotton decreases. You tell me what is the reason behind it?

Likewise, when the groundnut was priced at Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per quintal, the oil was selling at Rs. 25 per kilogram. Now when the price of groundnut has come down to Rs. 300 or 400 per quintal, the price of oil continues to be Rs. 25 per kilogram. Why there was an abrupt hike of Rs. 10 per kilogram in the price of oil? The farmers do a lot of hard work in producing their crops, but you put restrictions on them. Why groundnut from Andhra Pradesh, cannot be taken to Bangalore? Why groundnut from one State is not allowed to go to another State? The oilseed procured from groundnut cannot be sold in other States. What are the reasons? What are you doing in this regard?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : If he sells it in Bangalore, he will get a good price for it.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : He will a good price, that is why he is not allowed to do so. I want to ask, through you, why the farmer is being crushed between the Central Government and the State Government? The Central Government as well as the State Government

both have enforced their respective laws. Although food is a State subject, yet the situation of paddy continues to be the same due to the interference of both the Centre as well as the States. Therefore, you should make amendments in the Constitution in this regard. The F.C.I. people say that they require 14 lakh quintals of rice but the Government claims that they procure 26 lakh quintals as levy. It causes a loss to the farmers. Why do you not allow the farmers to sell their paddy in other States? Today, there is restriction on the movement of paddy from one district to another. If there is higher price of paddy in an other district, he cannot sell it there. On the one hand, there are restrictions by the F.C.I., and on the other, the farmer has to sell it to the State Government on a compromised price. That is why today the farmer is being crushed between these two.

The farmer cannot sell oilseeds outside his State. If groundnut sells at a higher price in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Orissa, one cannot sell it there because there are several restrictions. Why these restrictions are there? One can bring cloth from Bombay to Hyderabad but why the oilseeds from Hyderabad cannot be brought to Bombay? You will have to remove these restrictions. How is it that there are no restrictions on the movement of industrial goods? The farmer who toils day and night, depends on rains and sun, cultivates his fields with hard labour does not get remunerative price for his produce?

My friend has said that oil is extracted from cottonseed. But cotton continues to be sold at the same price. Edible oil is being extracted at many places and is also being refined. But you just compare the returns a farmer gets from cotton as against an industrialist who has a cotton-based industry. The latter manages to construct a bungalow of his own but the farmer who produces the cotton, loses even his field and house in the process.

The cotton crop is susceptible to the attack of insects after a cycle of 2 to 3

[Shri C. Janga Reddy]

years and this causes reduction in yield per acre. Previously, we used to get an yield of 12 to 15 quintals per acre but now it has slumped to less than 5 quintals per acre. You will have to conduct a research in this regard. You will have to develop an effective insecticide and release the same for sale in the market immediately.

At the same time, I would also like to know why the godowns of Cotton Corporation of India catch fire frequently? I have asked a number of times in this regard, but it is told that an enquiry has been conducted. I would ask them to make an enquiry in my presence. They purchase less quantity but on paper it is shown much more. Then, one day they would tell us that a loss has been incurred due to a fire in the godown. Why these godowns catch fire so frequently? You should order an enquiry into it.

I also want to say that all the Commodity Boards that have been set up for the benefit of the farmers should remain under your control.

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): Various cesses are paid by the textile mill owners, vegetable oil mill owners and copra mill owners. But the small amount of cess paid by the middle and top people is cancelled because of this amendment. The purpose of this cess which has been collected so far is the promotion of the cotton growers and their sales. Now, in the aims and objects of this Bill, it is not clear whether because of the multiplicity of cess you are putting something in the Budget to be presented to the Parliament soon. But it is not known how much amount will be allocated for this purpose and how it will be used. I hope the hon. Minister will clarify this point, while giving his reply. Sir, the textile owners are paying only one rupee as tax. It is a very important issue. It is a question of 74 lakhs of rupees involved at the various levels. I would

like to mention in this House that because of the textile policy for imposing a small cess, the cotton growers are suffering all over the country at present. The mill owners are paying one rupee only. But do you know how much they earn? It is high time that the Government should have given thought to this burning question. About Rs. 1300 crores worth of cotton cloth and cotton garments have been exported last year and the mill owners have earned sufficiently and over and above this, you give subsidy of Rs. 10 per garment to those exporters. That is too much for one garment which costs hardly Rs. 30 and out of this the cotton cloth content is worth about Rs. 20. Then, what is the share of the cotton growers? He is not even getting Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 out of this amount. The man who is exporting is getting a major share and over and above that the Government is giving him subsidy. So, Sir, the cotton growers are not getting anything at all except the paltry amount of Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 and the tailor who is stitching the garment is also not getting much. He is getting Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 for stitching the garment.

14.56 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Now, Sir, about one hundred lakh bales of cotton are produced this year. Out of this 90 lakh bales are the country's requirement. Why not the Government allow 15 lakh bales for export purposes? Maharashtra is very much affected in this. Now, while reducing the cess, etc. the policy of giving good price to the cotton growers is not at all helpful to them. But the concession given to the textile mill owners is beneficial to them.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Is not more artificial fibre being used? Say something about it also.

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Yes, Sir. I am telling the hon. Minister. According

to the textile policy, concession amounting to Rs. 31 crores by way of reduction in the import duty has been given and because of these concessions, there is a little demand for the cotton within the country. The demand has come down. The Birla Textiles and the Century Mills in Bombay have got the maximum profit by purchasing cotton at the lower rate and exporting the same to countries like Russia and America where there is terrific demand for the cotton cloth and cotton garments. They are earning a lot and over and above you are giving them concession in export duty. But the cotton growers and the workers are suffering. The principle is all right, in that the multiplicity of cess is removed. You are including this in the coming Budget which will be brought forward in this House after 4 days. You are making this suggestion and you say it is good for the cotton growers.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You should take some initiative in this direction.

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : The hon. Minister has not mentioned about the function of this Board and the procurement systems and all that. Those people are all corrupt. The farmers never get anything. In Maharashtra the farmers are suffering a lot. They have been agitating. The growers and the workers are the worst sufferers and such a type of piecemeal and small suggestions given here and there are not acceptable to me. Let the Government come out with some positive measures so that the workers and the farmers may be benefited. But in the present policy, you are giving all these concessions to the textile owners.

15.00 hrs.

For the modernisation scheme Rs. 750 crores are given. What for? The same owners who have ruined literally the economy of the country by making the mill sick are getting this benefit. Rs. 1500 crores spent in the sick mills, that is because of the textile mill owners. That is

the figure given. To seeve these mill owners, again you are giving Rs. 750 crores for the coming 5 years for modernisation and the benefits of modernisation are going to the top people in the cities. Therefore, while expressing my views on this Bill, I strongly protest and object such type of policies of the Government and therefore, instead of having such a piecemeal discussion, I appeal to the Government saying that it is high time you have to re-think and re-model the textile policy. I think it has literally ruined the workers and farmers of this country. Why are you furthering the interests of such textile owners by giving them cheap cotton? They are all manipulating the accounts, which is not going to help. Therefore, I oppose such a type of piecemeal legislation of this House.

15.02 hrs.

DISCUSSION ON THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS RE : SITUATION IN PUNJAB

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now we take up discussion under Rule 193—To raise a discussion on the statement made by the Minister of Home Affairs in the House on 24th February 1987, regarding situation in Punjab.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, where is the Home Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sorry, I am not visible.

MR. SPEAKER : He was too white!

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I do not want to raise the issue. The Home

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

Minister who made the Statement should have been here.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : He is replying in the Rajya Sabha. He will be here in 10-15 minutes. The other House is also debating this issue. He is now on his legs.

PROF. MRDHU DANDAVATE : I am happy, Sir, he will come back with elders.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Sir, on the elderly advice.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I wanted to say something, but now I won't because the Professor is going to say something. You carry on, Mr. Mohanty.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri) : Sir, I pay my glowing tribute to the...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You have revealed the official secret.'

MR. SPEAKER : No, Sir, I have not revealed the secret. Only the contents of the envelope have been said.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Sir, I am paying my glowing tribute to the political leaders and social workers who have sacrificed their life in Punjab to uphold the cause of Indian secularism. I also pay my glowing tribute to the policemen who have sacrificed their life in their struggle against religious fundamentalism. Mr. Barnala, the Chief Minister of Punjab, has emerged as a hero in our struggle against religious fundamentalism, and another person is the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, for his effort, if you remember it, is now yielding the result, and you find now there is a different atmosphere. Otherwise Punjab would have been in a civil war...(Interruptions). When the Constituent Assembly was constituted, would you call it a beginning or when the *dharma yudh* slogan was raised, was it the beginning ? So, let us not go for the

beginning, but I appreciate and I congratulate the Prime Minister of India for his bold step and initiative to give succor. I know there are some forces in the country. At times they criticise Rajiv Gandhi for his effort.

Sir, another thing...(Interruptions). Do you want a reply ?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : Don't get derailed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : The issue that we are fighting is not a regional issue. It is not an issue which is confined to Punjab alone. All over the country we have to fight against the religious fundamentalism. It is not the religious fundamentalism of Sikhs, but it is the religious fundamentalism of Hindus, Muslims and Christians that we have to fight. Perhaps the struggle which took place in Europe 200 or 300 years ago, we are now fighting that. Not only in India, but all over South-East Asia and even in Egypt and other parts of the world various countries are confronting these religious fundamentalist forces. It is a story of saga.

Sir, religious fundamentalism is inter-linked with conservatism. Those forces which are opposed to changes are out to give a twine, a religious twine to the body polity and we must be very careful about it. Another thing is, it requires a national upsurge. It should not be a partisan consideration which should influence the issue. It depends upon the political leadership of this country. I don't think that a military solution is possible. Some political parties are suggesting that there should be Army rule in Punjab. My answer would be, it is not the real answer to the problem. It requires a popular movement mobilisation all over the country against religious fundamentalism and that trend is visible in the action of the Chief Minister of Punjab and that should be kept up. I am happy that the Home Minister is taking the initiative to have a national upsurge all over the country.

I would like to tell you that so far as Sikhism is concerned, it is not a regional phenomenon. When Maharaja Ranjit Singh desired to offer Kohinoor diamond to Lord Jagannath, it was not a regional approach. When Guru Gobind Singh had the five *Piaras*, one of them came from Orissa and others from various parts of the country. Sikhism itself is not a regional phenomenon. It is a national phenomenon and that is why, my submission would be, all over the country, that should be the upsurge among the Sikhs, non-Sikhs and everybody against the Sikh fundamentalism, Hindu fundamentalism and Muslim fundamentalism, wherever it may be and whatever character it may take.

Now, so far as the Akali is concerned, it has helped us in three ways. One thing is that they are nationalist forces, democratic forces and moderates. Why are they called moderates? It is because the extremists characterise them as moderates. They are moderates because they are nationalists and they are opposed to religious fundamentalism. They are called moderates, and they have been consolidated. And a propaganda is going on all over the world by the terrorist elements that the minorities have been suppressed in Punjab. That has been nullified by the elections. It is not only that. But it has established the vitality of our system, when the Central Government is under the rule of Congress Party, Punjab should go to Opposition. There is no problem. That is the vitality of the democratic system of India.

I would place before you another thing. Now, Badal, Tohra, Amarendra Singh group say—I do not know where they say, they say inside the chamber—they are also nationalists and they do not want division of Punjab from India; they believe in unity and integrity of this country. My submission is, who can prevent them from converting themselves into nationalists? I do not want to dig the past. Let them come forward openly, declare and work for the national unity and integrity and work against the forces which are out to disrupt the democracy, the democratic

set up in Punjab. We are going to welcome if they do so and the nation will be happy to be with them. Otherwise, they have no place in body polity.

Now, I am coming to another aspect. So far as Punjab day-to-day events are concerned, so many innocent people have been killed, are being killed every day and because of that, there has been some restlessness all over the country. My submission would be, so far as terrorism is concerned, it always involves a long-drawn fight. It cannot be eliminated overnight. As Ribero said categorically, it will take time and it has taken time. Everywhere, wherever the fight against terrorism or religious fundamentalism has been engaged, it is a time-taking process. But on this my submission would be, the entire nation must stand behind Ribero, stand behind the Chief Minister of Punjab and stand behind the Prime Minister to suppress and eliminate the disease from body polity.

Another thing which I would point out is, so far as this Punjab episode is concerned, it is not a national phenomenon only but it has international implications. I submit that there is too much international interference inside Punjab. I was going through the yesterday's paper. One of the American Senators has charged that so far as our military exercises in the Pakistan Border is concerned, it was done only to suppress the Sikhs. They have made a very interesting analogy. Unfortunately, nobody from the Indian Embassy was present in the hearing. It needs to be contradicted.

There is another aspect. The former Ambassador of America in India Mr. Barnes had observed that so far as the Khalistan movement is concerned, it is a national liberation movement like Puerto Rico. Is it a national liberation movement? You know about the Sarbat Khalsa resolution. It should not be lost sight of. Some of the American Senators are supporting the terrorists in Punjab. If anybody wishes, I will give

[Shri Brajamohan Mohanty]

the names of those who have been praised in the Sarbat Khalsa resolution.

Another part of the story is that the CIA is funding and supplying weaponry to the terrorists in Punjab in various ways—clandestinely directly and indirectly. This matter has to be checked up by the Home Minister.

So far as Pakistan is concerned, the Home Minister's statement does not categorically say anything because we want our relationship to be improved with Pakistan. I would like to ask a question in this regard. Are they really extending their helping hand to suppress terrorism in Punjab? Excuse me. My personal view is that they never do that. Only in this month in the *Dhaka* Conference Lt. Gen. Akhram Khan, representing the Pakistan Government, has declared that they have a special relationship with India. What is that special relationship? That means to see and thwart out Indian hegemony and to compete with India. That is the special relationship which he has made recently—I think it may be before 15 days. Naturally, what does it indicate? Does it indicate that Pakistan will extend its helping hand to us?

There is one more aspect. Pakistan is imparting training to the Sikh extremists. That had been established. Now, General Zia-ul-Haq, the military Head of Pakistan, has visited India. He was kind enough to give us the package deal. But my submission would be that whatever may be the deal, whatever may be inside the deal it will never work out. Pakistan's only purpose is to weaken India, to defeat India and to see that India is divided. They forget that Pakistan is itself suffering more confrontationist and divisive forces inside their country. Take the instance of Karachi riots. If you take the number of people killed in Punjab during the last two years, it will be almost equal to the number of people who were killed in Karachi in one single incident recently. They should take note of this. I would like to say that Pakistan

should come to terms with India and should cooperate and eliminate terrorism not only in India but also in Pakistan. Terrorism is emerging as an international phenomena. All must cooperate and work together to eliminate terrorism.

I would like to come to another aspect. As far as the statement of the Home Minister is concerned, I would invite his attention to one thing. There has been seizure of documents from the terrorists. What is the motive behind the terrorists? How do they want to manipulate it? Some documents seized from the leading terrorists indicate that there was a detailed plan and strategy of the militant group. The document revealed plans to kill two Sikhs and later own responsibility on behalf of Shiv Sena and Balidani Jatha. The document also revealed plans to kill Nihangs and hold Shiv Sena responsible for that.

Their only purpose is to create a condition in which Punjab is divided between Hindus and Sikhs and some of them are manipulating this situation. They are conspiring to see that Punjab is divided. They want communal division not only in Punjab, but all over the country. That is why, my submission is that the Home Minister should be very careful about this and the nation should be alerted that such propaganda should not be taken seriously and we must stand united to fight against the terrorism.

Some strong steps are necessary. Many things have been debated in this respect. I would urge upon the Home Minister to see whether the people who are openly canvassing for the disintegration of the country are entitled to be the citizens of this country. I would say that their citizenship rights should be withdrawn forthwith. They should not be allowed to work against the unity and integrity of this country and at the same time take all the advantages as citizens of this country.

Communal parties have done a lot of mischief. The country has been partitioned by them. Now fresh attempts

have been made to further disintegrate this country. Should we allow them to flourish in this country? We should consider banning all the communal parties so that our system can grow with health and vigour.

The time has come when the Government should positively act to see that the religious places are not used for political conspiracy and for political purposes. We have the experience of Blue Star. We have seen how the Barnala Government have thrown out territories. Now again, I am told that almost all the Gurudwaras in Punjab are under the control of terrorists, wherefrom all mischiefs have been initiated. We must be very very careful about this. If possible, the matter should be examined in consultation with other political parties and definite steps should be taken to see that religious places are not used as places of political conspiracy and political activities.

Another aspect that I would suggest is that the diplomatic move must be expedited to see that Pakistan or USA or any other foreign country do not indulge in the activity of helping the terrorists either directly or indirectly if they mean friendship and cordial relationship with us.

As the Home Minister has rightly initiated, the process of mobilising the public opinion should be expedited all over the country. The public opinion should be mobilised with the involvement of all the political parties, irrespective of their ideological differences. We must unite on this issue and work together to create public opinion against the religious fundamentalism and communalism.

Please do not look at me Sir, I am concluding. About the weaponry that is being seized, absolutely we have no information as to from which country they have been coming, from which country the terrorists are getting those weaponry. It must be checked up whether it is coming with the connivance of that particular Government or it is coming clandestinely. The nation should be enlightened about

this aspect so that we know who is our friend and who is our foe.

Sir, since you are not prepared to bear with me, the last word of mine would be let there be a spirit of unity and integrity all over the country generated through the efforts of everyone.

MR. SPEAKER : I was just looking at you because I was listening to you intently.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : So you were catching his eye as a Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER : Sometimes it has got to be done like that.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Sir, this is for the first time that I take part in this debate on Punjab with some positive development at sight. This development consists of two vital elements. One is the growing effort to mobilise the masses and the second is the courageous stand taken by the Chief Minister, Shri Barnala and a large section of his party members.

About the first thing I must say that the question of mobilising the masses actively against the terrorist forces was long over-due and it is not that what we want to achieve in this respect has been achieved to the extent that is required. Yet a beginning has been made and all the political parties have come to an agreement to take up the campaign for the unity and integrity of the country and fight against the divisive forces understanding the gravity of the situation that the whole country is facing today.

In this, I must say, that all who have come to this agreement will have to participate fully and will have to see that each and everyone of their party member should take active part in this campaign. Merely speeches would not suffice in the present situation. The masses would be required to be mobilised to resist the terrorists' attacks and some kind of thrust may be required to be given to them and

[Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary]

we should not be lacking in that respect also. From the side of our party we declare that we will be with everybody who will take up this task and try to isolate and defeat the terrorist forces in Punjab.

Secondly what I must say is that too much dependence on the administrative side of this situation has really not proved effective at all. The problem is a political problem and it requires a political solution. We all agree to that but again some two days ago I saw a headline in the newspapers that Constitution will be amended.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bamkura) : Why ?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : May be it is required to combat terrorism? I do not know whether absence of any Constitution amendment is hindering the fight against terrorism. So I felt like laughing on such a statement... (*Interruptions*) What I am trying to say is that insistence on these aspects of the problem has not helped us and will not help us in the future. I must support Mr. Ribeiro who is fighting there. He said that police would be more active if people are active. He named some political party—I do not want to name—what they should have done that they have not done. But we take the responsibility on our shoulders that we and all the political parties have not lived up to the expectations.

Now, Sir, about the second thing, the stand taken by the Chief Minister and majority of the party members has proved that what we have been demanding that politics has to be separated from religion is the most important and immediate requirement of the day. Everybody is saying so. How are we going to do it ? The facts have proved that even a religious man like Barnala had to take a certain position which we are commending. It is proved that if we fail to practice secularism fully, then surely religion will be used by the enemies of our country

and imperialists' agents. So, those who have real religion in their hearts, they should understand that they should not try to meddle in politics and political leaders also should not try to meddle with religion. That is what I am saying. Now one honourable Member has said about our secular fight against fundamentalism.

Now, Sir, may I quote what Mr. Zia, President of Pakistan has said ? I read it perhaps in the *Telegraph*. Zia said that we are a little backward. But we are forward. In what context he said, I do not know.

AN HON. MEMBER : Shah Bano...

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : There is some liberal provision in the Bill. May be about the BNL we enacted.

MR. SPEAKER : Has he read about Turkey ? (...*Interruptions*...)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Now, Sir, the real thing is whether we are really going to practise true secularism in our country. I am not taking much time. I want to understand the point to its true gravity. We all are saying that we have to consolidate the secular forces in Punjab. We all stand by their side. In that, I must say, the Central Government can play a positive role by implementing the Punjab accord. You may say that so many provisions of the Punjab accord have been implemented but there is obvious non-implementation. They may claim but nobody believes that. I do not know how you are going to convince people but there are the obvious points of non-implementation and you have to take care of those particular points and see that the accord is implemented fully. That will go a long way to consolidate the forces of secularism and to mobilise the masses in fighting against the terrorist forces and anti-national forces. That will create a genuine perfidy in the minds of the people. So, that is another very important point that I wanted to make.

The other point I wanted to make is that at this particular juncture where you

can see some ray of hope, I think, there should not be any national political party who would demand something that would really jeopardise the particular development that is taking place. Everybody is entitled to hold a rally and all that is very good. But now at this particular juncture, if you demand army rule, or you demand President's rule, that is really going to worsen the situation. That should not be done. In this I must say that when we can see some positive development, and we have seen reports earlier also that the outside elements, the imperialists, would try to disturb this particular development. There may be an attempt to desperately strike at different areas. At that time also, we should not lose our patience and should not just see certain things in a stray manner. We must see things in their proper perspective and see clearly what the terrorist forces or the anti-national forces want, we should not fall into any trap and see that this type of situation does not occur. We must take note of these three or four points and move in the right direction and stand by the masses. They have shown that they are for the country, for the unity of the country; they are against fundamentalism, and they are peace loving. People have shown that during the elections and during Longowal convention. It is a heroic deed that they are doing and we should not lose sight of it. We have been provided with an opportunity and we must make the best-use of it. With these words, I conclude my speech.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the trend of this debate and I am very glad that my hon. friend, who just now spoke for the Communists (Marxist), has taken a very constructive line in his speech. I would like to remind him, however, that only this morning in the statement made by Sardar Buta Singh, the position of the Government has been made very clear indeed that they wish to extend whole-hearted and complete support to Barnala Government and they appreciate the courageous stand, fortunately successful stand, that he has taken at this juncture.

Therefore, he need not entertain any such fears at all in regard to the atmosphere sought to be created by certain political elements also that there might be President's rule in the offing. But at the same time, we must also be very careful to expect the Punjab Chief Minister to play his role on the other side of this constructive approach, and that is, just as we should not think in terms of President's rule things, he should also, as also his supporters, should not try to out-herod Herod himself and then begin to mouth the demands that are being raised by certain people, the wrong demands, the unpatriotic and impossible demands that are being raised by his opponents, the so-called Akalis, not the Akali Party, and making it more and more difficult for the Central Government to implement this accord and strengthen the atmosphere of mutual friendship, national integration and harmony.

At the same time, let me confess having made a mistake in supporting at that time Master Tara Singh and others in their fight for separation and creation of this dangerous geographical area into a political entity. We made a very great mistake and I hope we would not repeat such mistakes hereafter, and then think of linguistic unity and the rest of it. Years ago I was in favour of it. Even now I have no objection provided the people living in one particular linguistic area and having their own State do not try to create trouble for the neighbouring States, just because they have got some minority speaking their language. It has happened recently on the West Coast where my friends have burnt their fingers very badly. We have also burnt our fingers. Everybody has done that. Let us be forewarned in regard to that.

MR. SPEAKER : The only problem is that we do not learn from history.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Seventy-five or one hundred thousand acres of land to be given to Harayana—what is all that I do not understand? What does it matter if a few thousands of Hindus remain there claiming to speak not *Gurmukhi*, but Hindi only. We have got to get over this

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kind of madness. I have been trying to argue with my friends from Haryana but I could not carry conviction with them. All this trouble in Punjab is a warning to us all over India not to play with this kind of disruptive elements and disruptive forces.

It is not high time for us to come to realise what we failed to realise when we agreed to have that wretched Partition, i.e. we should have had a separate and different political system of ruling ourselves in regard to our border States? We failed then and we paid a bitter price so far as the North Eastern Frontier is concerned. In our enthusiasm, we did not realise that from Kashmir right down to Rajasthan we would have a border trouble. Now we have had the border trouble. Therefore, these areas have got to be given a separate statement. In these places we should not try to enjoy this very costly luxury of having the British pattern of parliamentary system where one party goes on saying 'yes' and another party thinks it proper for itself to say 'no' all the time. This is a disruptive force.

Therefore, we should begin to think in terms of what is known as the "Panchayat System". We did think of it and we called it 'Gandhian'. Later Jayaprakash Narain flirted with it. Now so many of us also have been talking about all party government and coalition government. Now the situation in Punjab brings it to the fore. You handed it over and it is true that the Akali Party got a majority. Is that any reason that the Akali Party should have formed a Cabinet only of its own party members? Is it not open to them and would it not have been statesman like on their part to have invited the other people also to come into partnership on a pro rata basis? Why should we not make an experiment with this kind of a system? Not only here, but it can be done there in Mizoram also and the day after tomorrow in Arunachal and Assam and in various other places too. Cachar people are having a bad time in Assam; and in so many places it is going on.

(Interruptions)

15.37 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Even if you must enjoy the luxury of one party ruling and all other parties being kept in the opposition all the time, blocking each other's progress, would it not be wise on our part to begin to make an experiment if not in the heartland of India, at least on the border areas so that we can have an all-party government? In Haryana and in Punjab, you can certainly have an experiment in this direction. In this way we may be able to strengthen ourselves to fight those elements and forces moving in the direction of disruption.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI
(Guwahati) : You should influence the Prime Minister to accept this view.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : I do not want to take much time of the House. But at the same time I want that our friends give some thought to these things. How else can we go about it? There is Mr. Badal. He was here as a Minister to start with and Mr. Barnala was his *chela*. When he went over as Chief Minister, Barnala was his very favourite nominee here as a colleague of my friend Prof. Dandavate, as the Agriculture Minister. We all liked them and they too loved each other. Now power came in the way.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Their love was not blind.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Power separated them. It has poisoned their relationship.

But are we going to keep Mr. Badal all the time in jail? The British thought that they were going to keep us in jail for ever and ever, but they had to release us. Similarly, Mr. Badal would have to be released either the day after tomorrow or the day after that. Then, is he to be kept in political exile? Is he not to be given an opportunity to make his constructive contribution? We must

think on these lines. Bring them all together. Today, they are chemics; tomorrow, they can be friends. Enemies today for the sake of power; tomorrow, they may be friends in their co-operative effort to strengthen India's unity and patriotic feelings. On these lines, I want Mr. Barnala also to begin to move.

Then there is the question of those Jodhpur prisoners. Everybody goes on saying in Punjab, from all sides, release them and release them. We have no objection to release them, I for one have no objection in releasing them. But at the same time, there is the question of discipline. Defence forces have their own *esprit de corps*. They are not like us.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They are not the defence people.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : They are much better behaved. They have a sense of unity among themselves. They would not like their discipline to be played with. And it seems in the manner in which those misguided young fellows had done at that most unfortunate juncture of our national life. I would like to make an appeal to the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Defence forces behind them to think about it and try to release them as soon as possible and remove these wretched thorns out of our body politic, please Sir, without at the sametime upsetting the defence forces' sense of unity; sense of discipline; sense of *esprit de corps* and with their consent we should be able to do this. The sooner, the better. Then better relation would come to prevail in Punjab.

Then there are these terrorists. Who are they? Are they all Indians? I do not know. Are they all Indian minded? I do not know. Are there no outside forces behind them? One of those great men were here with us. We were hob-nobbing and we have no objection. We have got to learn to embrace each other and at the sametime negotiate, I do not know at what stage; in what manner any kind of negotiations have been carried

on or initiated yesterday or day before? But certainly, efforts have got to be made to improve our relations with Pakistan and yet let us not forget the fundamental forces that have kept India and Pakistan apart and that are likely to keep them apart also. There are fundamental elements—social as well as political—on this side as well as on that side, warring against each other, creating troubles between us. We must be able to overcome all these things. It is not a one day's solution, one day's problem, but nevertheless, it is the problem that is facing our country all the time and we cannot forget that serious problem.

It is only Pakistan? Behind Pakistan, how many other countries, from the West, from the East and from other sides are there? Therefore, it is high time that we all get together. My hon. friend—the communist friend—has said, these efforts should have been made much earlier. I agree with him. But some efforts were made. The freedom fighters' peace march had taken place there in Punjab. Our own Sunil Dutt has also developed that mood. There is another Saint Thapa Apte also from Maharashtra, who marched from Kanyakumari right upto I think Himachal Pradesh trying to bind all together. All these efforts have been made. Let us improve upon all those efforts by assuring them that different political parties in this House are united, and willing to work together in this direction—in the direction of helping our people to remain together in the consolidation of India's unity.

Sir, I wish to congratulate. I reiterate the congratulation. My hon. friend had already offered to the people, to the masses among the sikhs, to the people of Punjab and more specially to the Chief Minister of Punjab. Yet, there is one effort, i.e. a Sardar who has scored over him, and led the way for all of us, indeed in our country. When the high priests in the Golden Temple, Amritsar, passed their act of ex-communication and demanded the Home Minister of India to go and prostrate before them, he gave first place, priority to his loyalty to

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India and his submission to the country before every other duty and I had that Home Minister and he is our Home Minister.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : I think the hon. Speaker for allowing the discussion on the Punjab situation, over which the entire population in our country is very much agitated and worried.

The happenings in Punjab are causing a lot of anxiety to the people all over the country. In particular, during the last few months, very important political leaders, judges and very high officials are being killed, creating a feeling among the public that the situation has worsened, and there is no security even to such high dignitaries. Earlier, we were witnessing the dastardly incidents where innocent people going in buses were butchered. Now things have taken a different turn. Unfortunately in the SGPC elections, the group which is opposing Shri Barnala has won the elections. Subsequent developments have been explained in the note given by our Home Minister. I will not go into the details of those things.

In these circumstances, I really congratulate Shri Barnala on behalf of my party for the brave and courageous stand he has taken, i.e. in not submitting to the *hukmnama* of the high priests who, in the name of religion, wanted to negate the people's verdict given through the democratic election process. These elements had earlier tried, by giving a call to boycott the elections. But the Sikh masses as well as the people in Punjab had flatly refused it, and they have elected a democratic Government led by Shri Barnala.

I also congratulate the several MLAs in the Akali Dal (Longowal) who stood stubbornly with Shri Barnala in his endeavours to preserve secular democracy.

As Prof. Ranga has said, large Sikh masses gathered at Longowal village on

20th February, clearly to express their solidarity with the Barnala Government, and also to give a clear indication to the high priests not to mix religion with politics, but to confine themselves to religious matters.

It is really befitting that for the first time in independent India, a reference to a Chief Minister has found a place in the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament. Only the other day the President of India has congratulated Shri Barnala for his exemplary courage in upholding the values of secular democracy.

The Union Government has many a time said that it is standing firmly by Shri Barnala. But I am very sorry to say that the Union Government is not giving that much help which it has to give to Shri Barnala, to win over future the large number of Sikh masses who are under a different impression, and to take more effective steps.

Prof. Ranga has spoken about the release of detenus in Jodhpur.

Has not Shri Barnala asked many a time to release at least those innocent detenus, some young people or women who were taken into custody because at that time they were in the Golden Temple, because they were the employees of the Golden Temple, whatever government has taken over, at least, they should release a few of them. Otherwise, why was that point mentioned in the Punjab Accord when they were not serious about implementing it? Mr. Barnala has not asked for release of those persons whom the government feel guilty; he has asked to release only innocent people. Has the government examined the matter and made a critical study of those persons who were detained there? Have they not found at least 5 per cent or 10 per cent people who are innocent people out of them? If the government had released at least a few people, it would have given an advantage to Shri Barnala in withdrawing propaganda of those extremist people who are continuing it

with malicious intention. But he said, you are friends of Shri Barnala. I ask the government to think over it seriously and take necessary steps immediately to release innocent people who are detained in Jodhpur.

Secondly, Mr. Barnala has been pleading for implementation of the other provisions of the Punjab Accord, leaving other things. As far as the transfer of Chandigarh is concerned, it is an expected thing and the Union Government had announced some date earlier very clearly by which time Chandigarh will be transferred to them. Now it is the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party who has stated in unequivocal terms that Chandigarh has to be transferred to Punjab, but the only question is how much area is to be transferred from Punjab to Haryana, which issue can be decided. But here this is not an issue of any Party or government. But I would like to make it clear that unfortunately the party interests are time higher priority than the national interest because if some steps are then, then the ruling party's chances may become dim in Haryana. It means only after Haryana elections are over, they want to do something. I am sorry, this is not proper, Mr. Chairman. The national interests are more important rather than the party interests.

I am happy that the Prime Minister has entered into Accords in respect of Punjab and Assam. There the people, as per their democratic rights, have elected their representatives—Akali Dal in Punjab and Guna Parishad in Assam. The other day in Mizoram People have elected their representatives.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : wherever they have signed an accord, they have lost their State.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : But that is a different matter. Now the unity and integrity of the country is more important than winning elections in Haryana. So, in all earnestness, I appeal to the Union Government to

deviate from this narrow policy of preserving the party interests rather than the national interests.

I am happy that all political parties have come to an understanding that they have to put their efforts to mobilize Sikh masses as well as people in Punjab to eliminate, to isolate extremists. In these efforts, certainly a sense of security among the Hindus should be created. Otherwise, a large number of people are migrating; it should be checked because we have to live as brothers not only now but in future also, as Prof. Ranga had said.

I am happy that a positive development has taken place very recently in respect of government accepting the Mishra Commission's Report. I need not repeat the unfortunate incidents that have taken place in those days which may hurt the feelings of a large number of Sikh women and youths in particular. Not only the government has accepted this report.

I suggest and I request the Government to take the necessary, immediate steps to take to task those culprits who were responsible for those dastardly incidents which will certainly have a bearing on the large number of Sikh youth who are now being misguided by the terrorists and such elements which are anti-national and which want a division of our country, which are working against the integrity and unity of the country. This will go a long way. I request the Government to take the steps as early as possible.

With these words, I thank you very much.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA (Amritsar) : Sir, Punjab is passing through a very serious crisis. The crisis is so grave that never before had we such a problem, of such an acute nature in Punjab. In the beginning, unfortunately, many of us, especially members on the other side did not understand the nature of the problem which Punjab was passing through, what was the crisis

[Shri R. L. Bhatia]

and what could be the possible solution for the problem. Many friends went to Amritsar, I remember before the Blue Star, and everybody who came to Delhi had a different version to say. So, there was some kind of a confusion as to what was the real situation. But I will not refer to them because today the atmosphere here I find in the House is entirely different, and it is a situation where there is more understanding, and therefore, I will only refer to the current situation.

Sir, in order to understand the Punjab situation it is very important to understand the role of Akali party in the Punjab politics. Unfortunately, they stand divided. And their division has accentuated the problem of Punjab politics at this stage.

Secondly, the role of religion in the Punjab politics, that is another very important factor which is playing a part.

And, thirdly, the role of all the political parties in looking at the problem and finding a common solution.

But lastly there is a very important factor which has been ignored in the past and I am sure it is not being ignored now, and that is the role of the foreign forces in destabilising this country, in fragmenting this country, taking advantage of our difficulties in Punjab accentuating the problem.

So, these are the four factors which I have explained and which need to be understood before a solution to the Punjab problem could be found. We have to deal with this problem accordingly.

Sir, I belong to Amritsar and I have been too close to the scene. And I have my own experience and observations. And my observations are that in Punjab in the Sikh politics anybody who controls the Gurdwaras controls the Sikh politics. This is a very important factor which many of us do not try to understand, which most of us do not try to go into in depth in

this matter. Because, anybody who controls the Gurdwaras in Punjab controls the Sikh politics. And you have seen that at different times different people have been in control of the Gurdwaras. There were people like Darshan Singh Pherwman and Jathedar Jallai-Usman was also there and he was also very much connected with the Gurdwaras. Then, our Sardar Gurdayal Singh Dhillon, is there who is sitting here. Then from the Gurdwaras here was a flow of secularism, there was a flow of love, of amity, goodwill. But at different times different people have been coming into power. But unfortunately now at this stage, the Gurdwaras have gone to certain people whom we call hawks. They are utilising that power in the Sikh politics. Not only that I after controlling the Gurdwaras they want to control the political wing of the Akalis of the State, and that is the Akal Takht.

16.00 hrs.

They were asked by giving a directive that all the units of the Akali Dal should be dissolved. And they were warned that anybody who would not accept that directive would be ex-communicated. Mr. Barnala has been ex-communicated for that purpose, because he has not listened to their directive.

Apart from that, a declaration has been made that they will not believe in any judicial commissions or decisions of the commissions; they will not subject themselves to any judicial commission or any authority appointed by the Centre to go into the matter to solve the problem or the dispute. They will not be subjected to their decisions. And lastly they have said in another declaration that in the law and order situation no interference of the Centre will be tolerated, meaning thereby that the role of the BSF and CRPF in maintaining law and order shall not be accepted. So this is a new dimension. It is in this situation you have to solve the problem. It is in this context that you see Punjab. Therefore, I would say that if you piece together all these points which I have raised, you will find a very different picture, a very

serious situation. Now, we are dealing with a serious situation. How to solve it? For that it is very necessary that we must learn from history. We must see what has been done in the past. We must see how we can bring about normalcy in Punjab. We must see the factors that are coming in its way. And we must remove those factors so that there can be a better understanding among the people. I can offer two solutions.

The Sikh psyche which has been hurt either by Blue Star Operation or by riots in Delhi shall have to be taken into consideration. Unless we remove that misunderstanding, unless we remove that scar, the silent majority which is not with those forces which are trying to destabilise this country, is sitting silent. You have to take into consideration all of them if you want to alienate those forces which want to weaken and de-stabilise this country. It is very vital, very important that we take the Sikh community as a whole with us. And for that we must see how their psyche which is hurt, injured, can be healed. For that we can sit together and find out a solution.

One thing I would like to emphasise is this. It is not Mr. Barnala alone, it is not the act of a single individual, it is not the act of a single political party, to solve the problem of Punjab. It has a very broad dimension. With the delay and with certain happenings, unfortunately, it has come to a stage where it has become very broad-based. It is very important that all of us must be involved into it, because, as I said, no single individual, not Mr. Barnala alone or Akali Party and for that matter not even the Congress Party will be able to solve the problem. It has to be done cumulatively by the cooperation of all the political parties involved there and by fighting the political forces which are trying to destabilise this country. Therefore, in this connection, I appreciate the role of our Prime Minister in initiating the dialogue with the opposition parties and coming to a certain conclusion. It is a good augury. But much remains to be

done. We have to implement that and very sincerely. All the parties must sit together and go to Punjab. It will have two effects. It will have two results. Firstly, it will help the minorities and secondly, it will strengthen those forces in Punjab who want to fight out the destabilising forces. Therefore, it is a very important step. I will only appeal to my friends that the atmosphere as I find today—because there have been so many debates over Punjab in this House generally I would have found accusations on each other saying that he is responsible, that is responsible—is that now a new stage has come and, therefore let us take advantage of this. We should together play our role in Punjab so that the solution then becomes easy.

One thing I want to make clear before I sit down. Mr. Dandavate said that they knew that yesterday in the party meeting some kind of a discussion was taking place for a new Act on terrorism. It is wrong. We were only discussing there about anti-communalism—how this anti-communalism is becoming a force in this country and how we have to deal with it. So, it was only the anti-communal forces that we were talking about and not about any Act on terrorism. Thank you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, the news has appeared that there is likely to be an anti-terrorism Constitutional amendment. That is what the Press has reported. Of course, he is a member of that Party. So, he is a better authority than myself.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : That is why I have told you that it was about anti-communal forces that we have discussed.

SHKIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Punjab the situation now is actually in one way more dangerous than the situation obtaining before Blue Star Operation. But, at the same time, there is a silver lining that it has also offered new opportunity to make a break through. We must be able to use the new opportunity to defeat the dangerous situation. The Sarbat Khalsa

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

that was held on January 26 by these Khalistani extremists at Golden Temple reiterated the declaration of Khalistan and hoisted the Khalistani flag. The National Flag was burnt.

Not a word of condemnation of the cold-blooded murders of innocent people, including women and children, both Hindus and Sikhs, was uttered there. Incidentally, the fact remains that out of the 520 people who were killed by the terrorists in 1986, as many as 196 were Sikhs. In this Saibhat Khalsa, the extremists showered all praise for the murderers.

The recent events which we are witnessing now are really further unfolding of an extremists separatists plan for capturing the Golden Temple and using it to bring into existence a so-called unified Akali Dal and its Government which would aid and abet in every possible way the Khalistani terrorists, backed by imperialism and the rulers of Pakistan. The plan must have been conceived as soon as the new leadership came under Mr. Tehra of SGPC.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Conceived as well as delivered.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
Yes, as well as delivered now. Using their religious authority and acting under duress—I presume that it is under duress—the five Head Priests are seeking to dictate terms on how the government elected by the people of Punjab—Sikhs and Hindus and others—should be run. This is atrocious. Religious leaders have no business to give their *fatwas* or *hukmnamas* on political issues of the country and force ministers, political leaders and officials to act according to them. It must be remembered that India has chosen the path of secular democracy. If such political interference by religious leaders is attempted, then it will be the end of secular democratic set up which can never be permitted.

The so-called unified Akali Dal Constitution framed by Head Priests, is actually a fig leaf to cover Khalistani designs. The use of the words 'Khalsa Panth' as an independent and separate nation whose political goal is pre-eminence of Khalsa is a proof of that. Why independent? That word has a significance. That should be remembered. Now, in this situation it goes without saying that the new silver lining that has appeared has also to be taken with both hands i.e. Shri Surjeet Singh Barnalaji's stand in courageously fighting and not surrendering to these so called religious leaders meddling with politics, actually acting as a screen of the terrorists. So, we must give all possible support to Shri Barnalaji and I believe if followed up properly Barnalaji also probably will have to go a long way. I believe he will go and we hope he will go. If it is followed up properly then there can be a new opening for a crucial battle for separating religion from politics which to-day is one of the most essential component in the fight for national integration.

We are very happy that all parties met recently and have agreed to come to an Action Plan. I do not want to rake up all the past though much can be said on many counts. But only I would like to point out here that the heroic role of our party in Panjab should be commended that at the cost of precious lives of our comrades they worked for Hindu Sikh Unity, if I may claim a pride. It is not our sectarian pride. We have tried to take other parties along with us.

I am sorry, the role of the Hindu communalism should not be brushed aside. It should be remembered. I may not name any party at the moment. Everybody knows who are those who wanted resignation of Barnalaji till the other day. The point now is how to help Shri Surjeet Singh Barnala. Then there is the question of Panjab Accord. Now the question has arisen that we have set up Commissions, etc. To our mind the Central Government must take a meaningful initiative and find a political solution

to the territorial and river disputes in the spirit of Punjab accord. This is not the business of Commission. This has been clear that the Commissions are not solving the problem. This has to be solved politically, on political basis. Shri Buta Singh in his statement has said that the Central Government will do every thing for it. We would like to know what steps are being taken. I hope those steps will really be taken.

But for that I must say that the major parties will have to rise above the narrow electoral interests ; otherwise, there cannot be any political solution.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The hon. Minister concerned is not in the House.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Punjab is a serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has taken my permission and he is just coming.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : This is one of the most crucial part of the debate—how the Panjab Accord has to be implemented.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Then let us stop and start when he comes back to the House.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON) : He is not absent. He is coming back in two minutes.

SARIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I hope the Minister present at the moment in the House has taken charge of the situation.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There might have been re-shuffling of the portfolio.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I hope not.

Anyway, as I said the major parties will have to rise above electoral interests. If I may say so Congress (I) will have to

speak in one language both in Panjab and Haryana. That is absolutely essential. I hope that will be done.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They believe in bi-lingual State.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Now, the religious places must not be allowed for political purposes. For that, proper educational campaign and administrative measures have to be taken. Sir, in the case Jodhpur detenus, I believe that everybody would agree with me—I agree with Bhatiaji who just before me spoke about this—that this detenue will have to be screened and those found innocent will have to be set free without any further delay. Then, the culprits of Delhi riots and riots in other places like Kanpur and Bokaro have to be punished. Without that any amount of confidence cannot be built up. On the Punjab Government side, strong and stringent measures should be taken against the extremists. I hope that will be taken by the State Government.

Now, about the campaign, as I said, the working class of Punjab have been campaigning and among the peasantry also some campaign is attempted, some initial efforts, however small they may be, are made and a break-through has to be made by all parties. Now, what would the aim of that campaign ? The aim of the campaign is to mobilise people first to support Mr. Barnala's correct positions and to help him to be more firm in his action. Secondly, it is important to call for a separation of religion from politics as well as the State—both at the level of States and at the Centre. Thirdly, we must expose the real face of terrorists and separatists as not only anti-Indian but also anti-Sikh. Fourthly, we must expose Hindu communalists who preach the theory of "revenge" and "retaliation" in any form and who want India to be a "Hindu nation". Fifthly, we must call for deterrent punishment for those who organise killings of innocent persons, including those who organised the anti-Sikh riots in November 1984. Sixthly, we must demand screening of the Jodhpur

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

detenus and release of those who are found innocent.

Sir, now is our final moment. I think we really have to make a very sincere and concerted effort for winning this battle. Otherwise the history will not stop at that situation. The whole nation should unite and forge together and go forward and once for all see that the integrity and unity of the nation are fully safeguarded through proclamation by deeds, not by words alone.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on more than three occasions I initiated the debate on Punjab in this House and I assure you that I do not wish to repeat some of the arguments and the points which were covered in the course of the discussion on earlier occasions.

Sir, I would like to concentrate mainly on the statement that the Home Minister has made this morning in the House and I will try to draw the attention of the House and through you also of the Home Minister who is absent so that more effective actions can be taken and the situation can be saved.

Sir, in his statement, the Home Minister said :

"On 30th November, 1986, Shri Gurcharan Singh Tohra was elected President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee. Immediately thereafter, the SPGC disbanded the Special Task Force earlier raised by them for keeping the terrorists out of the Golden Temple Complex. At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the SPGC held at Amritsar on 24th December 1986 the high priests were appointed..."

Sir, you know that they issued the 'Hukumnama'. Sir, I would like the Government to go in depth of this issue. They had definitely indicated here that certain developments have taken place

Shri G.S. Tohra was elected as the President of the SPGC Executive Committee.

But, Sir, I would request, through you, the Home Minister to make a thorough inquiry whether there are Members sitting in the Ruling Party or whether there are Members sitting in the Opposition parties who helped particularly the representatives of the Gurdwaras outside Amritsar to support Mr. Tohra, and for petty factional politics and personal rivalries they saw to it that Mr. Tohra was elected and many things that followed. I would like this particular point to be investigated thoroughly. The newly elected officials disbanded the task force, new high priests were elected. Prof. Darshan Singh Ragi was elected the Acting Jathedar, and then he issued, as I said earlier, the Hukumnama.

Sir, I would like to raise the very fundamental point, and I am sure that the entire House will agree, and particularly Prof. Ranga who happened to be the Member of the Constituent Assembly, will recall the debates of the Constituent Assembly and I am sure he will agree with me, there is a question of secular politics that is involved in the entire episode. I raise the fundametal issue that was discussed in the Constituent Assembly whether religion and politics should be separated or not, whether the religious institutions should be allowed to interfere with the polilics of the country or not. Sir, that problem was discussed in depth at the Constitutional Assembly, but unfortunately to Bill was enacted, no administrative steps were taken which would have given effect to the sentiment of the overwhelming Members of the Constituent Assembly and that is the malady of the situation. Let us come to grips with the problem.

I would like to pose a question to all the Members of the Akali Dal — why only to Mr. Badal ? I will pose that question to Mr. Barnala also. Sir, I have great respect for him, he happened to be my colleague in the Cabinet of the Janata Government. I had seen him working in the Cabinet, I have no malice towards

him. But at the same time I would like to pose that question to all concerned and in that I would not spare Mr. Barnala also. And my question is : Are you prepared to take a secular stand that 'we will not allow the religious dictates to interfere with the politics of the country ? And here I would like to quote the Constitution. Sir, why talk about only one particular faction of the Akali Dal, why talk about Prof. Darshan Singh ? I would like to put a question to my colleague and friend, Mr. Barnala that will once again have a second look at the constitution of the Akali Dal. Sir, do you know that the primary membership of the Akali Dal is open only to one who belongs to Sikh community ? Do you know that in our democratic party there is a rule that any adult who subscribes to the philosophy and principles of the party can become a primary member ? But only an active member can become an office bearer of the Party. That is what our Janta Party's Constitution says. But in Akali Dal, Sir, there is one more clause and let Mr. Barnala express his opinion. It is not a fact that according to the constitution of the Akali Dal only one who is an *amritdhari* Sikh can be an office bearer of the Akali Dal ?

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN
(Barmer) : Who is *Amritdhari* ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : About *amritdhari* please go and consult the experts. But I want to ask Mr. Barnala that even as far as the party that he leads is concerned, is it not a fact that only one who happens to be an *amritdhari* Sikh can be an office bearer of the Akali Party ? Is it not a fact that when all these disturbances took place and when the newly appointed high priests gave a new fiat and tried to interfere with the internal politics of Akali Dal and told all of them, 'you give your resignations tomorrow by 5 o'clock', the Chief Minister of Punjab had also come out with a statement, we are not against the Akal Takht as such ; we are not against their authority. But they ought to have taken into account our point of view ; they ought to have been guided by certain

principles and certain policies and then, they ought to have taken a decision. Sir, there is only a small difference between "tweedlelum" and "tweedledee". If my friend, Mr. Barnala wants to come to grip with the problem, he should not be running with hare and hunting with hoand. It is not going to solve the problems.

And, therefore, will he show the courage to say—will he be prepared to tell—Mr. Darshan Singh and others that we are prepared to redraft the constitution of the Akali Dal and this Party will not be open only to the members of the Sikh community but to all. Why leave it to Mr. Darshan Singh only ? Mr. Barnala will have to take a lead in this matter and he will have to tell the secularists in this country that just as you are secular in this country, we are prepared to take that stand. Unless it is done, these troubles will continue to happen. Can we imagine today Sankaracharya giving a mandate to Mr. Hegde, resign from the membership of your Party ? Tomorrow can you imagine, Imam telling Sheikh Abdulah in Kashmir, you step down from your position or resign from the membership of the Party ?

AN HON. MEMBER : In Kashmir, there is Farooq Abdullah now.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am sorry. It was the slip of the tongue. I am glad to say that they take cognizance of only the slip of the tongue. Therefore, I retrace my slip of tongue and I would say, if some Imam says, Farooq Saheb, you must also resign from the membership of the Party and tomorrow by 4 O'Clock, can you tolerate it ? These things go on happening in this country whether they concern Hindus, Muslims or Sikhs. The politics of this country will continue to remain polluted and nobody is prepared to take a firm stand on this particular issue. Everybody wants to see the sensibility and sensitivity. So long as Barnala or any other section of the Sikh community of the Akali Dal is not prepared to take the secular stand, today you can have hotch potch agreement and solve the crisis and solve the problem. But the problem will rise over and over

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again. I may give an illustration. The chairman of my Janata Party in Punjab also is a member of the Sikh community, Mr. Kripal Singh. But tomorrow if the Akal Takht gives him the mandate, that you resign from the membership of the party, my chairman who happens to be a Sikh in Punjab will have the courage and confidence to tell them. To Hell with your directive, I am not going to resign from the membership of my party. That is the stand that the Sikhs belonging to the secular party are prepared to take, whether they belong to the Janata Party or the Communist Party or the Congress Party. That stand, they are prepared to take. Are the Akalis prepared to change the constitution and have a new stance? That is the question that it to be asked.

In this context, I would like to make a constructive proposal to the ruling Party and also to my colleagues in the Opposition. With a common agreement and a consensus, let us introduce a Bill in this Parliament to give effect to the real spirit of secularism that we will not allow any section in politics to be socially boycotted. I am not referring to any particular community. Sir, it happened in different communities. In the olden days, social reformers were 'boyocotted' for years together, in the Hindu fold. They were boycotted in other communities. In the Sikh community, a number of persons were excommunicated. The former chairman of my Party in Punjab, Mr. Harbhajans Singh was boycotted. He said, hell with your boycott. I shall go ahead with my socialist politics in Punjab. He did not bow down. The time has come when we must try to evolve consensus in this House and let us introduce a Bill by which social boycott of any section will be made an illegal act. I will tell you how that will harm. In my own State of Maharashtra, tragically enough, some of the landlords who belong to the caste Hindu community took a decision at the rural level, that those agricultural labourers who are belonging to the Scheduled Caste community, will be socially boycotted, they will

not be allowed to take drinking-water from the wells and no landlord will keep them as agricultural labourers on their fields. Such acts have been taking place in different communities. This does not should confine only to sikh community. Therefore, a time has come when we must evolve a consensus in this House that social boycott will be made an illegal act just as dubbing anyone as a scheduled caste person and subjecting him to untold hardships has been made a crime in this country. Social boycott in this country has to be made a crime and it must be actually made on the basis of a law to be enacted in this House. I would make a concrete proposal that this should be done.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :
Social boycott comes under social prohibition.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Already, social boycott has taken place.

16.31 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I was making two concrete proposals. I would like to use your good offices.

MR. SPEAKER : Sure, Sir.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Firstly, let all the parties including the Akali Dal make it explicitly clear that we will change our constitution to see that membership party will not be restricted only to one community. Secondly, social boycott in this country will be made illegal by an enactment in this House—whether the Harijans are boycotted; whether social reformers of Hindu community are boycotted; whether social reformers among the Muslim communities are boycotted; whether social reformers in the Sikh communities are boycotted or dissidents among them are boycotted, such social boycott will be treated as illegal. That is what this House must enact. I plead for this. I anticipate your consent.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Sir.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I
would like to refer to one more aspect in

the context of the law and order situation. Recently, a big bank robbery took place in Jalandhar. You must have read the report. The extremist and terrorists remained on the premises of the bank for one hour and forty-five minutes. Here again, I do not want to bring in the technical issue whether law and order is the responsibility of the State or whether someone-else is involved. I want to tell this House that as early as in 1983, from the Centre, recommendations had gone to all the Bank authorities in different parts of the country that they must make certain security arrangements in the bank; they must have an automatic alarm system and they must ensure that safety and security of the bank is actually ensured and for that whatever assistance is necessary from the Centre, that will be made available. These recommendations were made as early as 1983. Here, the extremists entered the Jalandhar Bank. They remained for one hour and forty-five minutes. Probably, the police were parading in the streets to find out whether the culprits can be found out in the other direction. While, they were running away in some other direction. This is what is happening there. What is the Centre doing as far as the responsibility of the banks is concerned? This is not the first time. Rs. 5.7 crores have been looted from the Panjab National Bank's Branch in Jalandhar.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : It is Ludhiana.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am sorry, it is Ludhiana. Probably, because I have mentioned Jalandhar somebody may try at Jalandhar also. Rs. 5.7 crores were looted by gangsters and extremists who remained there for one hour and forty-five minutes. What were the local police doing? And the Centre, which is also supposed to be in charge of banks, the nationalised banks, what were they also doing? That aspect also has to be taken into consideration.

The Barnala Ministry condemned the call for Sarbat Khalsa of April 29, 1986. That is what is stated in the statement

and described it as a conspiracy of the foreign forces to destabilise the Indian society. This is the statement that the Ministry has made from Punjab. The Barnala Ministry has made the authentic statement. On the basis of this, I would demand that the Centre in cooperation with the State Government should produce a white-paper to tell this House in what form there had been a collaboration between the foreign forces and some elements in this country. It is a very dangerous thing, if it is happening. We cannot just go by the statement of Barnala Government that they are trying to destabilise the Government and we have an evidence. If you have an evidence, take the entire country into confidence. Let the Centre take the Parliament into confidence and we can mobilise public opinion because whatever be the differences amongst the political parties, as far as the stability of the country is concerned, the entire country will stand like one man if it is proved that a foreign power is involved. Therefore, merely making a statement on behalf of the Ministry is not sufficient, let the White Paper be produced.

We talk so much about the implementation of the Accord. We had talks with the Chief Minister, Mr. Barnala. His agonies are that he is facing troubles. Extremists' hands are strengthened because no political support is coming in the form of implementation of the Accord. As far as this Accord is concerned, I have a copy with me, if you ask me a plain question—please do not feel that I am rubbing you the wrong way—as to what has happened about this Punjab Accord, how much has been implemented, all that I will say is only the signature on this Accord has been implemented and nothing else. That is all that has happened in substance.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is wrong.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You might say that it is wrong; but I am telling you the fact. You will find that most of the issues have not at all been tackled. Concretely I will say one thing. Look at these three commissions,

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

Mathew Commission comes. They say that they cannot do the job because the entire terms of reference has been drafted in such a rigid manner that even when they identify the Hindi speaking villages that are to be transferred to Haryana, if one small village comes in the way, then the contiguity is technically broken. So, they think in terms of geography and not in terms of reality. Therefore, those villages are not transferred and as a result of that, Chandigarh does not come to Punjab.

Another Commission comes. Strangely enough, Venkataramiah Commission says 70,000 acres must be transferred. Out of that how much did they identify? 45,000 acres have been identified and because the rest have not been identified, Punjab has been told that Chandigarh will remain where it is, you will remain where you are and the Commission will remain where it is. Mr. Barnala has suggested that if 45,000 acres have been identified, let then be transferred to Haryana and in the meantime let Chandigarh be transferred to Punjab. Let it be accepted as its capital. But they are not doing it because they understand the Accord; but they don't understand the psychology.

I am glad that Mr. Bhatia in your absence talked about Sikh psyche which is needed. It is not merely the demand that is important; but it is the psyche that is important. Therefore, these things also have to be implemented effectively.

There is a reference to November riots. I am glad that in the terms of reference that have been accepted, they said that the jurisdiction of Justice Mr. Ranganatha Mishra Commission inquiring into the November riots at Delhi would be extended to cover the disturbances in Bokaro and Kanpur also. This is also an important point. Let us not drive the issue below the carpet.

We have met a number of Sikh families who suffered in those days. Sir, I am not saying it for the sake of saying it in the

House. When you read that report, in the Commission's report on Page-20 my affidavit has been published. The type of atrocities against the Sikh that I saw on the Rajdhani Express by which I was travelling is that they were pulled out and killed in the presence of police. They were burnt to ashes and one porter in blue uniform was also burnt to ashes. Police were standing and I went to them and asked what were they doing. I scolded them and brought them into the train. Hindus were saying that on Ashram Marg Sikhs had assembled and they will kill them, so the train must not go ahead. I assured them that as the Ex-Railway Minister I take charge of the train. I told them to lock the doors. We brought the police and in every alternate compartment police were kept and we safely took it to Delhi Station. The rest of the Sikhs were saved.

This has been published on page-20 in the Commission's report in which it has been said that many people who tried to cross-examine Mr. Dandavate could not contradict him and since he is a responsible Member of Parliament and the former Railway Minister there is no reason why we should dis-believe him and we completely accept his version. That is what the Mishra Commission has said. Such things are happening, Sir. Things will be settled. Therefore, I have demanded from you discussion on Mishra Commission's reports. I do not know what you have decided in the Business Advisory Committee. I have already given a notice that let there be discussion on the Mishra Commission's report because I have found out that those of us who have given affidavits some others were persuaded by the police to give counter-affidavits to falsify our affidavits. Cyclostyled forms of counter-affidavits were circulated. I have got those in my possession. Mishra Commission has got in its possession. Hundreds and hundreds of such cyclostyled counter-affidavit forms were circulated. I would very much like that this should be discussed because the emotions that they rouse have to be subsided and they are to be told that

some things have happened. They have already said that police are found guilty.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the whole nation should be sorry for the dirty things which have happened.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : But that "sorrow" should be expressed through an official motion, Sir. Therefore, I insist that a debate should be allowed on that.

Now a word about Jodhpur detainees. Many members both from the ruling party and the Opposition have referred to that. Prof. Ranga took a constructive attitude. He said we must take a tolerant attitude. I want to tell Prof. Ranga that none of them belongs to Defence Services. You know who were arrested and who have been detained in Jodhpur camp ! It is all those who were found inside the temple. Sir, you will be surprised to know that one of our members Mr. Ramoowalia was there. He had gone to the temple and he was also arrested. The total number that was arrested and kept detained is 369 and you will be shocked to know out of 369 no allegation has been established against a single man. They do not belong to Defence services. They are not deserters from the Army. They are supposed to be guilty of sedition and conspiracy against the State and when Government could not establish any allegation against anyone of them do you know what they were told. The onus of proving that you are innocent is on you. Supposing you arrest and detain me for murdering 'X' or 'Y' and when you are not able to prove that I have committed the act of murder and if the judge tells that the onus is on you to prove that you are innocent this is a strange jurisprudence. In this country this is what is happening. Therefore, do not give an additional handle to the extremists to provoke the Sikh community and, therefore, that problem also must be solved.

Sir, in defending secularism and in fighting communalism I can assure you on behalf of my party that we do not get

on the band wagon of anyone. Whomever we praise we do not praise him 100%. We never give blank cheques to anyone—either to the Prime Minister or to the Chief Minister of Punjab—but whatever efforts are there which will help the nation we will always cooperate. Therefore, I have made certain concrete suggestions, namely, some about the legislative action to be taken and some regarding completely separating the institution of religion from the institution of politics. I feel that the spirit of Constituent Assembly should continue to haunt this House and one day we should be able to give legislative effect to the spirit of the Constituent Assembly about separating religious institutions from politics and if that happens then only we will be able to solve the problem otherwise today it is Punjab, tomorrow it might be some other State and the problem will continue. I hope and trust that Government will take this constructive approach and on that basis try to solve the problem.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with Prof. Dandavate that communalism must be eradicated if this nation has to survive its health. This is the worst cancer that man has seen or any society has ever experienced.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Unfortunately we recite it like a Gita but do nothing about it.

MR. SPEAKER : I have exhorted and requested the whole House so many times that we should all come together on this aspect at least because we have suffered already. Can't we remember the holocaust which we faced in 1947 ? Millions were uprooted and hundreds and thousands maimed. If we cannot learn from history, what sort of people we will be looked after in the historical future ? So, we must rise up to the occasion as one and then do something and take a positive stand. Both Houses should come, make a committee, understand it, make some law, legislate it, do something positive. That is what the

[Mr. Speaker]

time is ; otherwise there is no fun in talking and talking. The gap between talking and doing should be eliminated. We should do something positive and I am for it. I exhort you and request all to rise to the occasion because this is the cancer. Communalism and democracy cannot coexist. We have to do away with this non-sense.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Opposition and ruling party can co-exist.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, they can always co-exist. Without that there will no democracy.

I think you had some discussions with the Prime Minister also and they were talking about some legal sort of action. Why don't you all come together ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
I am afraid they are going to bring some constitutional amendment. If they don't bring it, I will be very happy.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the Prime Minister meant about the communalism, not about terrorism.

SHRI R.S. SPARROW (Jullundur) :
Punjab, Sir, is in a jumble and this august House in a specific manner should consider based on priority by which first and phase-wise—how to do it to smoothen out the situation that obtains. It has been an unprecedented nightmare of arson, loot, murder and the fear of the unknown which Punjab people of all shades and officials, high and low, have been suffering through over a period of some years. It is something unprecedented and it is at the hands of foes, at the hands of terrorists—cum extremists—cum common-day type or all types of criminals and this is happening mostly in the districts of this sensitively-positioned border State of India. Certain ramifications—geo-strategical, geo-political—can well be understood by us all. That is where Punjab stands and incidentally, Sir, it is the people who suffer *in situ*. They

understand to what type of ordeal they are going through.

*Jis tan jane jis tan lage
Sai jane na jane peer paraee*

16.47 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE in the Chair]

It is not a question of 'ILAMUL yakeen'. It is not a question of 'haq ul yakeen'. It is a question of 'AINUL yakeen'. You see the fire burning somewhere in your knowledge. You also see with your naked eye that there is the fire. But, Sir, if you are inside the fire sizzling, then you know what the fire means. This is what has happened to my beloved Punjab where everybody lives—Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Bodhis, Muslims etc., and traditionally they are one of the finest type of stock, historically well known. It is not a question of being a Hindu or a Sikh but the stock as a whole. And, in today's discussion, whom would you, Sir blame ? Whom shall we start blaming ? Shall we start blaming the Punjab Government, the Central Government, the opposition parties, or this very House which has been discussing the Punjab situation so many times ? It would not help. It is no good if I start blaming one or the other in some kind of a rotation. There should be no political slant, in so far as the Punjab situation is concerned ; that is my request. It is a national question. Apropos to that, we have to put our heads together. I am very glad to hear the suggestion that even if it comes to bringing certain constitutional amendments, that should be done. But who has to do that ? This House is supreme. You discuss it and work out a workable solution, a solution which is cogent and correct for the benefit of secular India, for everybody, for all men women and children from Kanyakumari to Himalayas. Our sovereignty and unity is very dear to us. We were able to gain that after so much struggle and nobody was left behind in that struggle. Akalis, Sikhs, Hindus and everybody went in a way in that. Everybody was there in that fight right upto Bengal, Madras,

Kanyakumari and so on. India is our common property and we have to look after it. That is the most important question.

The first question that I want to bring in is how we are going to settle it as a national consensus. Much has been said and spoken on that, but now we have to come to the brass tacks. When we have to come to the brass tacks, we have to bring round even those who do not agree. Akali leadership represents the same type of kith and kin that I do.

In their mind, I know, they want to remain secular, they want to serve Mother India, but with the flow of events, with pressures, counter pressures, urge for chair to sit on, and all types of indoctrination that has gone round, wrong type of propaganda, certain people have lost their way and lost their balance. Our duty is to correct their balance. I am very glad that Prof. Ranga and some other hon. Members have suggested that we have to work out a consensus. In so far as the law and order is concerned, other realities are concerned, some agreed type of a solution has to be worked out. I must say that I admire the manner in which the hon. Prime Minister and the Central Government has been working in regard to the Punjab situation. You could not have rushed it; take it from me. You may have spoiled the whole issue and the confrontation on the border would have taken some other shape. That would have been the situation, if any hasty action had been taken.

Our Chief Minister in Punjab is putting up a Herculean type of fight. He has stood his ground. In so far as the backing of all and sundry is concerned, even the other Akali groups; I can assure you that they want to work together and sort out the issue. My request to them is to come in the open, put their heads together and work together. Let them fix certain priorities and declare that they want to remain secular, they have nothing to do with Khalistan. I would urge and recommend to the not headed youngsters who want Khalistan, and who are our kith and

kin, to see the writing on the wall, throw away that idea and work for the unity and integrity of the country. Their idea is not viable. But I know that we are. According to my Gurus, we are the owners of India. How could we live in a shell of seclusion? Our religion is one of the finest religions. *Sarbat da bhala*. We wish everyone the best. What did our Gurus do for us? They never gave this type of *hukumnamas* to anybody. I am giving you one example. Guru Gobind Singh Maharaj—'Sabu Kalan Sampuran'. He was in a fix. At Anandapur Sahib, the enemy was fighting against him. At that time he was ghereoed by his followers who differed with him on some political, geo-military or military-political issues. Some of the Sikhs belonging to my own district Amritsar disagreed with him and told him that his policies were wrong. He tried to prevail upon them with his one point of view but they differed. Ultimately what had happened? They said that they were not going to be with him and a 'bidawa' was written out and signed. They told him that they were not going to be with him any more as Sikhs and they went away. Would you believe it? Guru Gobind Singh Maharaj did not make even one of them a *Tankhaiya*. Ultimately, they came back to the fold as friends with goodwill and they were again Sikhs and they were all working together again.

So, political motives should not sway anybody to dub any person as a man who has to be excommunicated and so on and so forth. This is my humble submission and they can think over it with this historical perspective. Sir, I can speak about it for a long time but I know that I should not take much time and I honour your policy. At some other time I will suggest certain things to you.

Today, I wish to say that the House is supreme and that it belongs to all of us. This particular problem which is facing us in Punjab should be solved and we should all work together for it without any political slant. Then only we can find out correct solutions and it will help not only the Punjab but it will hav

[Shri R. S. Sprrow]

its desired effect on other parts of India too. With these words, I thank you.

SHRI BHOLANATH SEN (Calcutta South) : Sir, wherever there is trouble in the Punjab, we in Bengal become very emotional. When we were children we read a poem written by Gurudev Tagore about the suffering of the Sikhs at the hands of the rulers who professed a different faith. When we were very young and when we were in school, we heard about the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and Gurudev Tagore's giving up his knight-hood in protest.

The other day when I went to Port Blair I saw the Cellular Jail where I found that the largest number of people incarcerated were from Bengal and Punjab. When we think of our Independence, we cannot but think of those train loads of dead bodies which came from Lahore to Delhi and we cannot but think of those men and their sufferings. And all that suffering was because of religion. We have had the same fate in Bengal. Bengal was partitioned and Punjab was partitioned. Because of religion and because of communalism millions were killed in these two States and India emerged as a truncated free India. Our relatives were in both the States and so also theirs. They must have suffered a lot and there is no doubt about it. It is all because of religion. But still, how can religion again come into the body politic of India ? It really beats me. I have seen the first statue of Netaji Subhash Bose in Amritsar before a statue was built in Calcutta. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was not a believer in communalism. He was a secular man. People who gave life with him, people who fought with him for Independence of India, they were all under the leader, who was a secular man and that is Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Today, suddenly, the whole thing has changed. How is it that religion has become a point around which the politics must go like a satellite ? I am tremendously intrigued by hearing this Panthic

Committee who said, they will decide who will be the Chief Minister ; who will be the Minister, who will rule under the Constitution of India. It is a very-very peculiar thing. It is contrary to the constitution in every aspect. It is a Democratic Republic. It is a Secular Democratic Republic. How can a religious body say that in the matter of politics, I will rule, that is to say, have a dyarchy in Punjab ? There is no place for Dyarchy under the Indian Constitution. We gave the Constitution to ourselves, not merely we, but our forefathers, who believed in Secularism ; who believed in Hinduism ; who believed in Islam. We had incorporated during our former Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's time, Article 51 (a). It was said, amongst other things that :

"It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities to renounce practices, derogatory to dignity."

This was there in the constitution. Immediately, after the constitution, when the Representation of the people ; Act came, wherein if a person is elected, his election could have been set aside by the Court, if during the Election, he had taken recourse to communal ideas. The elections have been set aside from the time of Mr. Chagla's elections and others.

In spite of that, today, how could it come up, that is, somebody with extra constitutional source of power will decide how the constitution should be worked out ? The voters who voted Mr. Barnala and his Party, were they all only Sikhs ? They were not. There were others also. The people who have voted and who have been voting to the opposition, they were also Sikhs. The voters included Sikhs as well as non-sikhs, say for example Muslims and all types of people who live in India. Everyone has one vote. Every adult person has one vote, who have completed 21 years of age, irrespective of his religion in a Republic like

ours a man has a right to vote, if he has reached the minimum age of 21 years. How can he be dictated? How can it be a Republic, if an extra constitutional religious source of power go and decide who will rule and who will be the Chief Minister? How is it a Republic? How is it democratic? If those who are not amenable to elections sit in the source of power, then how can you call it as democratic and secular? If they decide that a person must be *Amritdhari* in order to be an executive member or office bearer and they will decide which one of the *Amritdharis* or members will rule the State, how is it democratic? The whole concept of communalism, irrespective of whether it is Sikh or Hindu or Muslim and all that, is contrary to the constitution. We do not need a law for that. We do not need to amend the Constitution. But we need to make a law and a time has come when unanimously a law should be passed whereby these religious bodies should not be allowed to interfere in the constitutional affairs, which is a Republic, consisting of people of different religions, different classes and different languages. In a country like ours, it is necessary, necessary in the interest of all people, necessary in the interest of people living in peace, whereby these religious bodies should not be allowed to interfere in the constitutional affairs. Otherwise, what will happen? Even the other day there were riots. The riots did crop up. Why? It will crop up and eat up the body politic of India, peace of India. Why should these enemies of the Republic be allowed to function legally? Well; the law can be made. If it cannot be made, the Constitution may be amended. To my mind, it is not necessary to amend the Constitution. A law is good enough; an ordinary legislation is enough.

The Minister has talked about a code of conduct. Why not have a code of conduct cutting across all religions, all languages? Here, we sit at the headquarters of India: we should make a law whereby it will not hurt anybody's religious feelings, but it will make it possible for everyone to have faith in the other irrespective of religious differences.

We are thinking of national integration, but these sources of religion, these organizations of religion, these organizations where religion is important, they are trying to have disintegration as their objective. They are trying to achieve disintegration; we are trying for national integration. That is why secessionist movements have started. These are all faken together. Secessionism and communalism go hand in hand. They do not go hand in hand with democratic, republican thoughts and secularism.

17.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

My other point is about the 70,000 acres. I think the time has come when one should say that even if administratively it goes to the State of Haryana, people remain Indians; and they have a right to live anywhere they like.

Are not hundreds and thousands of Sikhs living in West Bengal? Mr. Ramoovalia is here. He knows more than anybody else. We are fighting for Sikh unity. Are Sikhs not living in the city of Calcutta? One of the largest groups of persons coming from outside to Calcutta are the Sikhs. They talk Bengali. They are almost Bengalis in every respect. The food habit is more or less the same, except that they take a more rich food. Apart from that, where is the difference? They have a turban which we too have during winter, to save our heads. Otherwise what is the difference? If they can live there, why can't Sikhs live with the Punjabis or with other people, in their own State? I do not understand this. They do not need to become *Amritdharis* in order to live there. They only have to have their voice heard.

We had with us, when we were in power in West Bengal, one Mr. Gyan Singh Sohanpal. We did not feel any difficulty. We were brothers. We felt it that way. He is still an MLA there. Gyan Singh Sohanpal was a Minister at one point of time. We do not find any difficulty. They did not find any difficulty. How is it that Sikhs find difficulty in Punjab?

[Shri Bholanath Sen]

Lastly, it has become necessary today that the Sikhs be told that there are Congressmen, and there are Akalis, and there are three different Akali groups there. I agree with Prof. Dandavate : why then should such a clause be made compulsory in the Akali Dal's constitution, that they must be *Amritdharis* ? Why ?

In the olden days, only Britishers could become members of the law clubs. There was a fight. Everybody was compelled, i.e. the organizations were compelled to take Indians also as members. There were Indian members, although they were started only for the Britishers initially. Why can't you do that ? Why can't you say that anything which smacks of communalism should be banned ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat, Mr. Sen. Now Mr. Kolandaivelu.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : First of all, I have to appreciate the feelings of the people who gathered at Longowal village on 20th February in response to a call given by Mr. Barnala. Lakhs and lakhs of people gathered there, in order to pledge their support to the Barnala Government. This is a clear indication showing that Sikhs are not extremists or terrorists.

There is a wrong impression even among the southern people that Sikhs are terrorists or extremists. Because of the gathering in lakhs on 20th February, that wrong impression has been cleared once and for all.

Next, I have had to congratulate our Home Minister Shri Buta Singh on an earlier occasion.

And he drew the attention of Mr. Barnala himself to the urgency of ensuring that the democratic institution and the government established by law should not be permitted to be undermined by religious interference ; and the Centre also

wants that terrorism should be eliminated from the country. The Centre made known the firm resolve that it will not tolerate the machination of communal, separatist and secessionist elements, no matter under what guise they may be operating. So, these are the clear indications. The Central Government should come forward in order to eliminate religion from politics, in order to eliminate terrorism and extremism from the country.

Here it is a shocking news that the religious institutions that is the Golden Temple in Amritsar, being the highest seat of the Sikhs' religion, passed under the control of the extremists. On a rare occasion, when the Head Priest asked Mr. Barnala, to obey the Hukam Nama issued to him, certainly Mr. Barnala appeared before the Akal Takht and accepted the punishment awarded by the Head Priest : even he had gone to the extent of dusting the shoes for about a week ; and no Chief Minister has done such a thing so far in the history of the country, but he came forward and obliged and obeyed the orders of Hukam Nama of the Head Priest. It is not that they made Hukam Nama under religious sanctity. But, actually, now, in Amritsar Temple itself religion and politics mingled ; and the Amritsar Temple become not as a religious institution but a political party office. That is why this time we have to rise to the occasion in order to eliminate religion from politics and in order to eliminate terrorism from this country.

[Translation]

CH. SUNDER SINGH (Phillaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Punjab are fed up with what is happening in that State. The militants have taken over the control of 'Akal Takht'. The people of Punjab now want peace. Mahatma Gandhi had said about temples and gurdwaras that they harboured thieves. The temples, mosques and gurdwaras in the country cannot give peace to the people in the country. I am of the view that it is not a wrong thing if one follows religion in a proper way. What is religion ? Religion enjoins upon us to help the poor.

A true religion does not go against any religion. I think the majority of the people in India hanker after money. They want to acquire money by any means whether it is by theft or otherwise. The extremists, who are engaged in these activities, also want to earn a few lakhs in the process. I would give you an example. When Shri Pratap Singh Kairon was the Chief Minister, Master Tara Singh resorted to fast into death. The people became apprehensive as to what would happen in the event of his death. Shri Kairon said that it did not make any differences to him and in the event of his death, his men would remove his dead body. That is why every one was fearful of him. They should be dealt with an iron head. The Government should not adopt lenient policy towards them. I would like to quote a Hindi couplet :

*Seek taanko deejaye jako seekh suhal,
Seekh na deejaye bandra jo baya ka ghar jaye.*

It is very difficult to bring them round. Now, what the Central Government should do ? I subscribe to the view that the country can be governed only by the stick and not by meekness. Today, all the people are tired of the situation that is prevailing there. I happened to meet a rich man. He said that if someone killed him then where the matter would be reported. There is no Government in Punjab. God does not live in a gurudwara, temple or mosque. He lives in the heart of those who help the poor. Mahatma Gandhi had done good for the people, and the people the world over became his followers. The persons involved in these activities have no inner strength. What is religion ? A true religion does not preach hatred against any other religion.

[English]

When you know that very mentioning the names of God brings tears to your eyes and make your hair stand on end you must know that you have freed yourself from the attachment of lust and gold and obtained God.

'M.K. Gandhi'

[Translation]

The thing is that man wants to perpetuate his supremacy.

[English]

Any work you do is done for your own benefit, for your own salvation. God has not fallen into ditch for you and me to make him out by building a hospital or something of the sort. He has ordered you to work not in order to help him but help yourself. You think that even an ant will die without your help. Most arrant blasphemy you cannot help. Your worship when you give a morsel of food to dog, you worship the dog as God, because he is all and is in all.

'S. Vivekanand'

[Translation]

Religion teaches that one should not hate anyone but the people exploit in the name of religion. When all the people will become educated, no one will be able to exploit them in the name of religion. At present, the people are being misled in the name of religion.

[English]

All expansion is life, all contraction is death. All love is expansion, all selfishness is contraction. He who loves lives, he who is selfish is dying. Therefore, love for loves sake, because it is the only law of life.

'S. Vivekanand'

[Translation]

The priests in gurudwaras and mosques do nothing except eating. They get food without making any effort but God rests in those persons who toil to earn their livelihood. God does not live in those persons who do nothing but give sermons in the morning and evening. Actually they have no religion.

[Ch. Sunder Singh]

Therefore, in my opinion, religion is very important and one should adhere to it, but what is going on in the world is not religion. The uneducated persons lower the importance of religion by their acts though religion is a good thing in itself.

One day I met the followers of Radha-swami sect. They say that one should always recite the name of God. It made me laugh at them. I asked whether God was so greedy that he wanted every one not to do anything but to recite his name. I told them that God wants much more than this form from his devotees.

[English]

"When you know that very mentioning of the name of God brings tears to your eyes and makes your hair stand on end, you must know that you have free yourself from the attachment of lust and gold and obtained God."

[Translation]

This is precisely where God can be found. One can find God in doing work and not in a temple. We should know our true religion, but instead of paying attention towards it, we indulge in other activities.

With these words, I convey my thanks to you.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): Punjab bleeds today and with Punjab nation bloods. Punjab has thrown a challenge not only to the foundation of democracy in this country, not only to our secular character, not only to the unity and integrity of this country, but, I believe, above all, to the individuality of the nation. India has an individuality and individuality is that in India we abhor violence. But what has happened in Punjab has shown as if a gradual dehumanisation has started in this country.

Not only people are being killed in Punjab, but when people read the newspapers in the morning and see that four, five or six people are killed in Punjab not a ripple is caused in the conscience of persons. I have heard persons saying that only five people have been killed in Punjab as if nothing has happened. This is an extremely dangerous trend which we must all arrest.

There have been some positive features about which my previous speakers have already mentioned. One has been the very strong and determined stand that Mr. Barnala has taken. I myself along with some leaders of the opposition had a meeting with Mr. Barnala only a few days back and he told us categorically that the Akali Party had taken the position that religion and politics could not go together; there must be a dividing line between the religion and politics. I have gone through the resolution passed at the Convention of Sikhs held at the Village Longowal on February 20, 1987. But I find that there has been no reference to this aspect of the matter which Mr. Barnala has very categorically stated before us. May be Mr. Barnala has his own compulsions and we must appreciate it. He cannot take the stand diverse from the stand which he has taken so long. We cannot expect him to cross the ocean by one jump. Secondly, his compulsion also is to take the Sikh masses along with him. If he does something by which he is isolated from the Sikh masses even though his stand may be a glorious stand, I do not think he will achieve the political objective. That is why, in spite of the fact that Mr. Barnala has taken a very strong stand against the Akal Takht, he has shown his respect to the Akal Takht, because, we know of the respect of Akal Takht has been generated in the minds of the Sikh people over centuries and you cannot expect that respect to be challenged just in a moment even though the situation might demand it. I believe, hope and expect that Mr. Ramoowalia and his party will take this stand to the logical conclusion and will be able to state at some point of time that religion should not have any part in politics neither politicians

should try to influence religion because that has happened in both the ways. The religious persons have tried to influence politicians and politics and for the sake of political interests, we have also tried to influence religion. Let us all keep apart from it. The fact remains that let us not blame only Akali party for mixing religion with politics. If we look into the forty years of our existence, probably all the political parties of this country at one point of time or the other, have compromised on the question of religion and politics because of the compulsions of votes. We have passed Bills here which we should not have passed. There are alliances of different political parties which we know are communal parties, which in one State we call communal but in another State we do not call communal, and we call them secular. Therefore, when we talk in terms of separating politics from religion, we must all stand together and have a concerted and conscious stand and must say; come what may, in the democratic polity even if we lose, let us take this stand for the sake of this country.

I also take a point which Mr. Kolandaivelu has stated that let us at no point of time try to interpret the happenings in Punjab as conflict between the Sikhs and the Hindus. It is not a conflict between the Sikhs and the Hindus, it is a conflict between the nationalist forces and those forces which do not believe in the integrity of the nation, it is a conflict between those forces which believe in democratic polity and those forces which do not believe in democratic polity. I believe that the only solution lies in a political solution. A military solution or a solution of law and order will not be a proper answer. I am not saying for a moment that law and order machinery should not be geared up to fight the extremists but merely by law and order machinery we cannot fight the extremists, nor by legal measures we can. You can go on amending the constitution and all laws but that will not give any answer to the happenings in Punjab. That answer is not so simple. The Government, in spite

of total opposition by the Opposition parties, did pass a Resolution under Article 249 saying that they will have a security belt and thereby they will fight extremism. But no action has been taken thereby. Only the power has been taken away from the States. The Government passed the law taking all the powers but the rules were not framed for eighteen months. Even till today, rules have not been framed regarding some of the very salient features of this Act. Law or law and order solutions go only to some extent.

I believe that on the political front, two things must be done. One is that the terrorists must be isolated. The extremists must be isolated. When I read in the newspapers that the terrorist, after killing persons, escaped by going in a tractor, the obvious conclusion is that somebody in the nearby village has given them shelter, otherwise how can they escape? That means the villagers, for one reason or the other, have some support for them. I am not one who will be prepared to believe that the people of Punjab are anti-national or that they do not have peace in their heart. The people of Punjab by the facts of history, have proved their commitment to the nation and, therefore, we must be able to educate the villagers that the cause for which the extremists are fighting, the methods that they have undertaken are not such which will either help the Punjab or will help the country.

I also believe, and I entirely agree with Prof. Ranga, that there must be a spirit of conciliation for different groups. I am not prepared to accept, to example, that Mr. Badal is an anti-national or Mr. Amrendra Singh is an anti-national. Mr. Amrendra Singh has been a member of the ruling party. They have fallen apart. I am not prepared to accept that Mr. Shaminder Singh is an anti-national. I believe that Mr. Shaminder Singh is as national as Mr. Ramoowalia, and if they remain separate, Punjab will suffer, India will suffer. Therefore, all efforts must be made by them and also by us and all others to bring them together because

[Shri Dinesh Goswami]

when we will be able to bring everybody together, only then we will be able to isolated the extremists.

A very good offer was made by the Prime Minister. Mr. Shaminder Singh, while the Opposition leaders met the Prime Minister, told us that the interpretation of the *hukamnama* that has come in the Press and the public, is not the correct interpretation, that the *hukamnama* never asked either Mr. Surjeet Singh Barnala or his MLAs to resign. They were asked only to resign from the Party posts. The Prime Minister offered in his grace that if the *Hukamnama* has not been properly interpreted in the Press or in public, he was prepared to give the T.V. to both the Akali factions to explain their own position, provided, of course, both the factions are prepared to express their loyalty to the unity and integrity of this country. Therefore, the ball is in the court of Shri Suminder Singh. I hope he will accept it and will go to the media and tell us actually what is the real interpretation of the *Hukamnama*. If it is not properly interpreted, let us know the real interpretation. There are mis-givings in our mind also. Let us remove it.

I am not going to speak about the Accord. I have quarrelled with Shri Buta Singh about Assam Accord and also Punjab Accord. Both the accords have not been implemented. I have got a point to make about the Jodhpur detenus.

I come to Jodhpur detenus. I am against violence. But as I am opposed to individual violence, I am opposed to State violence. The state violence is the worst kind of violence. You in the case of Jodhpur Jail amended the statute to the extent that the detenus shall have to prove their innocence. The law in our country is that the prosecution has to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the person is guilty. The law was amended to the extent that the detenu was asked to prove his innocence. Even after the law has been amended, you have not been able to find out a case. Even after the

law is amended, if a case cannot be made against these persons, what right have you got to detain them for the last 2½ years. I believe that the detention of the detenus is a blot on the democratic structure of our country. If happening and killings in Punjab is a challenge to democracy, the detention for years together without trial is equally a challenge to the democratic foundation of our country. We have been told by Shri Barnala that most of the detenus were workers of Shri Longowal. They were security persons of Shri Longowal. At this moment of history if we cannot trust Barnalaji, I do not know whom we can trust so far as Punjab is concerned.

We all applauded yesterday when the President made a reference to Barnalaji. What does this applaud mean? It means that we have confidence in him. Is it in these matters which suit the Central Government but not in those matters which do not suit the Central Government? We have got confidence in him. Shri Barnala has stated very clearly "I want political strength by implementation of the Punjab accord and by release of these detenus". This will give him strength to fight terrorists and the extremists. Kindly give this political strength to Shri Barnala.

Our Party Assam Ganaparishad is not involved in Punjab Politics. We cannot do much in Punjab. Even then we are prepared to go to Punjab to make our presence felt—that in the case of fight against unity and integrity of this country all the political parties of this country whether national or regional, all stand together to meet the challenge and we have accepted that challenge. Therefore, I would submit that let us strengthen the hand of Shri Barnala, more politically also if he requires any help in the law and order situation. But if we do not do that, I do not think we are doing justice to his case.

I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the law and order situation in Punjab. In fact, Punjab is a challenge to the country's unity and integrity. The extremists and the terrorists have killed a large number of innocent persons in Punjab but even then the communal harmony among the Hindus, the Sikhs and the Christians did not get vitiated. Such a thinking among the people shows that the people are not prepared to yield before terrorism. We all, including our Prime Minister, praise Shri Barnala for the bold step he has taken in the face of 'Hukumnama' issued by the Head Priest to topple his Government. Shri Barnala had mentioned about the detenus in Jodhpur jail during his talks with the Prime Minister. A number of Opposition Members have also spoken about this issue. Their cases should be screened and the innocent persons should be released while the culprits should be prosecuted. The law stands on this principle and action should be taken in accordance with this principle.

Another issue is that the Punjab Accord is not being implemented. Our Prime Minister has also categorically stated earlier that it is not being implemented. Who is responsible for this ? It is the Barnala Government which is not implementing it. When the issue pertaining to 70 thousand acres of land has been settled then what is the hitch before the Barnala Government in settling the question of Chandigarh ? But they are silent on this matter. They are not willing to settle this issue. The report of the Eradi Commission will be out very soon. Haryana, Punjab as well as the Centre have agreed to abide by it. Now the point is that all the political parties and the leaders should abide by the report of the Eradi Commission in toto. This should not happen that they implement one condition of the report and flout the other. This way the Accord cannot be implemented fully. The step taken in regard to the action plan is very praise worthy. There is need to implement the action

plan. The leaders of all the parties, their supporters and other volunteer organisations should launch a campaign to create an atmosphere which may be conducive to socialism and also against the communal forces, so that Punjab could be saved from the dreadful violence prevailing there.

Our Hon. Prime Minister has said clearly that this problem cannot be solved by using military force. In a democracy, such problems cannot be solved through military ; they can only be solved through mutual talks. As proposed by our Hon. Prime Minister, the United Akali Dal and the Badal Group should clarify their actual stand by going on the television.

SHRI SHAMINDER SINGH (Faridkot) : Send TV to jail.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : If other leaders agree to it, they can be released from jail also. What I mean to say is that they should make their stand clear. If they are against violence, if they do not want to disintegrate the country and are not in favour of Khalistan, they should come forward to solve this problem through mutual talks. Our Hon. Prime Minister has solved the Mizoram problem and peace has been restored in Assam also. These accords have even caused loss to our party but we have not allowed any damage to be done to the country. Same thing has happened in Punjab also where our party lost its rule. Our Prime Minister is a large-hearted person and he wants to preserve the unity and integrity of the country even at the cost of his party's interests. I hope the Hon. Prime Minister and the Home Minister will take concrete steps to control the situation in Punjab and will solve this problem. That is all I want to say.

***SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH WALIA** (Patiala) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Punjab problem has been discussed in this House a number of times and hon. members have expressed their views on it. But still it is begging solution because this problem in fact is the creation of the Central Govt. or Delhi Govt. Had it not been their

*The speech was originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Shri Charanjit Singh Walia]

creation perhaps its solution would have been found by now. Punjab is being subjected to discrimination ever since the country became independent. When States were carved out on linguistic basis, Punjab got the Punjabi Subha on the basis of language after a grim struggle. In India, Punjab State is the first example when the capital city was not given to the State. On the other hand a condition was imposed that if the capital was given to Punjab, then some area will have to be given to Haryana in return. This by itself is a glaring discrimination. Similarly even in the case of water, all the national and international laws were totally ignored. All the laws were put on the shelf. On the contrary in Punjab the Sikhs are held in suspicion. If the Sikhs had wanted to be separated from India, then before independence, the British had given lot of instigation and also made an offer for a separate Sikh home land. But the Sikhs have always thought that India is their country and I can say with a sense of pride that they have made the greatest sacrifices for the freedom of the country, they have made these sacrifices not only for attaining independence but also for preserving it. They have made sacrifices for keeping intact the unity and integrity of the country whether it was the war of 1962, 1965 or 1970. During emergency, Akali Dal struggled the maximum to safeguard the democracy. I have mentioned all these facts because it is said that the sikhs or Akalis or those who are known as dissidents should explain to the people of India whether they believe in the unity or integrity of the country or not. Many a time it has been clarified abundantly by the responsible leaders of Akali Dal, our President and Prof. Darshan Singh, new Jathedar, Akal Takhat that we will not do anything that is against the unity and integrity of India. We respect the unity of India. When our leaders and our President accept this position, I do not know whether you want us to write it down on Stamp paper. On the country the Govt. is trying to discredit the sikhs by painting them as extremists and terrorists. The entire

Govt. media whether it is TV Radio or Press, is playing an ugly role in giving a bad name to the sikhs in India.

Secondly I come to the question of Khalistan. I want to ask the Home Minister, who is present here and also that august House whether Mr. Badal of Akali Dal now or Simranjit Singh Mann, who is the President of our Akali Dal have ever asked for Khalistan or whether any other leader of Akali Dal has demanded it, or whether the Akali Dal has even passed any resolution to this effect. If nobody has been made any such demand, then I do not know why you ask this question again and again and in what way you want us to clarify it. Shri Simranjit Singh Mann, had recently contested the election to Rajya Sabha. All of us who are the members of the House have come through election. We have contested these elections because we have faith in the constitution. The Home Minister, the Prime Minister, Simranjit Singh Mann and all of us have taken the same oath. We have contested the elections because we have confidence in the unity and integrity of India and faith in the country's Constitution. It is therefore great injustice to the sikhs as well as the Akali Dal when it is said that they should prove their credentials and bonafides. On the contrary, we have always had complete faith in the unity and the Constitution of the country. I want to say that we are being cornered, we are being pushed to the wall. Such things are being attributed to us which have never been desired by sikh Qaum, or Akali Dal. The Government must check this dangerous trend.

For the last 5 or 6 years Akali Dal has been carrying on a very peaceful struggle on Anandpur Sahib resolution. A big controversy has been raised on our Anandpur Sahib resolution. It has been propagated amongst the people that it is a secessionist document where as this resolution only seeks to give a practical shape to the federal structure in India. The States should be given more powers. CPM, CPI, Telugu Desam, AIYMAK, DMK also ask for these powers, when, they ask for these powers, they are not

called separatists. Why are only we dubbed as separatists. Is it only because we are a minority and you are trying to corner us. In fact you should try to win the confidence of the minorities.

When it comes to the question of terrorism, I would like to say that we also oppose violence in Punjab. Our opinion is and the people in Punjab also think and observe that it is the State which is indulging in violence. State terrorism has given birth to extremism and it all started with Operation Blue Star. As Mr. Bhatia stated you should try to understand the sikh psyche. We are opposed to terrorism and extremism. The Government should stop State terrorism as suggested by Shri Goswami because such terrorism gives rise to extremism. There should be no fake encounters. It is the duty of the Government to ensure that the laws are implemented and respected by the citizens. If persons are arrested and killed without prosecution or court cases, it will lead to a sense of revolt and resentment in the people. The Government should stop this policy and persuade the people affectionately and win their confidence. By putting the people in jails no problems can be solved and peace cannot be restored in Punjab. All the leaders, whether he is Badal or Simranjit Singh Mann or the youth should be given general amnesty. They should be released. Instead of using force or violence a national debate and dialogue should start so that this problem can be solved.

As regards illegal detentions, Jodhpur detenus have been in jail for more than 2½ years without any legal action. Simranjit Singh Mann is in jail. Democracy has been strangled. As Home Minister stated on 30th November events took a turn; democratic elections were held for SGPC in which Badal faction came out victorious. Instead of taking them into confidence and talking to them to find a solution to Punjab problem they were arrested just after half a day and put in the jail. The Central Government has started confrontation and interference in the religious affairs of Punjab and sikh

community. This should be stopped. Shri Barnala himself admits that Akal Takhat is supreme and he is prepared to obey it. So far as the traditions and conventions of the sikhs are concerned over since Akali Dal came into being in 1920, I would like to inform the House that the congregation which was convened in 1920 was convened by the Akal Takhat jathedar. All the religious morchas which were organised before independence, whether it was the Jaito Morcha or Guru Ka morcha, they were all supported by the Indian National Congress, even though they were religious morchas. It has been the tradition of the Akali Dal and sikhs that religion and politics go hand in hand. Ever since the inception of Khalsa, ever since the origin of Miri Piri (in Harmander Sahib we have Nishan Sahibs of Miri Piri of Shri Guru Har Gobind Sahib) ever since the origin of sikh religion and Akali Dal, religion and politics have existed side by side. All the morchas before independence were organised on this very basis and the leaders of the Indian National Congress took part in them and supported them. Jawaharlal Nehru was arrested during the Jaito morcha and was lodged in Nabha jail.

Now if it is expected that those traditions should be flouted, and authority of the Akal Takhat is challenged and Shri Barnala is made to challenge it, this would not be a healthy trend. I will appeal that the Central Government should not stand on prestige or look to it with narrow political interest. It should instead arrange a round table conference and invite the youth, the detenus, political leaders of all political shades for discussions. We do not say who should be included or who should be excluded. Every body should be invited for talks. We should try to know what the problem is. Only then it can be solved. I think this problem has been created by the Central Government. I appeal to the Central Government, the Home Minister and the Prime Minister to solve this problem so that it does not reach a dangerous stage and cause serious harm to the nation. With this appeal I assure that

[Shri Charanjit Singh Walia]

my party will give full support and cooperation to find a any solution to the problem.

17.54 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank all the hon. Members of the House for extending their full support to the Shiromani Akali Dal which under the leadership of Sardar Surjeet Singh Barnala, is whole-heartedly working for mutual goodwill among the people in spite of diversity of religious and thoughts.

In the beginning of his statement, the hon. Home Minister has said :

[*English*]

"No praise is too high for the people of Punjab belonging to all the faiths who have continued to express their solidarity and their belief in secular ideals."

[*Translation*]

I think it a great tribute to the people of Punjab. This big problem and big challenge is being tackled with the help of the entire country. Now we have reached the point where we have to think about our next step.

I shall not take much time. But I would definitely say that we have to take certain things very seriously and with firm determination in order to forge ahead. Terrorism has been condemned and it is being fought back strongly. There are only a few people among Sikhs who are involved in terrorist activities. Perhaps, the House will be surprised to know that the Hindu Shiv Sena Activists are also not lagging behind in the matter. They take out many processions and deliver inflammatory speeches. A number of activists of Hindu Shiv Sena have been caught bearing artificial beards. When their artificial beard was pulled, it

came off. Today, they are also looting the Banks and are indulging in other illegal activities. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would say that I all should oppose it.

I would like to clarify three or four points to which we have to pay more attention. The Sikh brothers who have been living outside Punjab for the last 50 to 100 years have become a respected section of that society. They have contributed a lot to the nation, to the society and to the State concerned. Now at some places, such feelings are being fanned as are causing trouble to the sikhs living there. I agree that all are not in trouble, but some people are facing difficulties. I regret that some Hindu brothers, who came from Punjab, told such stories as excited the people. Similarly, some Sikh brothers who have since gone to Punjab from here are the victims of injustice done by some collector or some other low ranked official or they did not get justice in a quarrel between two neighbours. The hon. Home Minister should pay attention towards it and if such a thing happens anywhere, it should be dealt with firmly.

As has been said by Shri Dinesh Goswami, we should trust Shri Barnala and trust every word uttered by him in regard to the sacred Akal Takht. As a Member of the House, I would request my fellow Members that we should not utter a single word of disrespect about the supremacy and highness of the sacred Akal Takht. So far as the misuse of the Akal Takht is concerned, we are ahead of others in opposing it, but the supremacy of the Akal Takht has to be maintained.

Another thing that I would like to say is that the Punjab problem has become a national problem, because foreign forces are also at work there. You combine both the things together. I am not a poet but Sardar Buta Singh is a very good poet because he was a teacher and professor of Punjabi. There are two things in it—religion and atmosphere. You reverse both these things. You will say how ?

Today, an atmosphere of faith among the people of Punjab has been created. Some sikh employees of the Central Secretariat met me and Shri Madhu Dandavate and told that...

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE : Do not reveal their names lest they should lose their jobs.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : You have said a good thing. They told me that the stand taken by Shri Barnala on the unity and integrity of the country had completely changed the atmosphere and their fellow employees who used to make fun of them, had stopped doing so. They have realised now that except a handful of people, crores of people think about the nation and national unity. Such an atmosphere of trust has been created.
 18.00 hrs.

So, we have to further strengthen it and the wrong notion among the Sikhs have to be dispelled. Some propoganda, some incidents and some realities have created this notion among the Sikhs that they do not get full justice and if they get it, it is only after a great deal of sacrifices. For example, four commissions were constituted, i.e., Mathew Commission, Venkatramaiah Commission, Desai Panel and Ranganath Misra Commission. The people of the country might be satisfied with these technicalities but the 'Sikh-Psyche', as has been said by Shri R. L. Bhalia, or the people of Punjab are not satisfied. As has been said by Shri Madhu Dandavate, the Commissions' reports have presented the facts in such a manner that they have been disheartened because the reality is totally different. They feel that justice has not been done to them. Therefore, you should not strengthen this notion that the points contained in the written Punjab Accord are being referred to the Commission after changing their terms of references. Nothing should be done at the cost of the nation and at the cost of national unity. You should not go even a single word beyond the terms of references mentioned in the Accord. If you do it and take any

decision, it will not only be illegal but will also have dire consequences.

In this regard, one more important point that I would like to mention is that you should take up this matter at diplomatic level with Pakistan, Canada, U.S.A. and Britain from where terrorists are getting support. We have to stop such foreign aid to them. It is the duty of the Government of India to check it. If the matter comes up again and again, it is only the responsibility of the Central Government to curb it has been said by Shri Madhu Dandavate.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : At present talks are going on at the cricket level.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : I would also like to say that a propoganda campaign has been started against Shri Barnala. So, you can ask Shri Barnala as to what he needs. Yesterday, there was a meeting at the residence of Shri I.K. Gujral, a well known figure of the country, which was attended by some 20 to 25 big personalities, like retired Generals, Air Marshals, Cabinet-Secretary, etc., who all had a concern for the country. They suggested that the sequence should be changed. At present political support is the first requirement in Punjab and thereafter conferences, conventions, rallies and mass-mobilisation could follow. I feel you can ask Shri Barnala as to what he requires at this juncture.

As regards Jodhpur detenus, the hon. Home Minister can not find even a single person who opposes their release. The Congress party agrees to it and so does the entire nation. So, what is the difficulty in releasing them? There are 266 Army deserters. They have suffered three years of imprisonment. After taking into account remission of one year, only six months imprisonment is left. They should also be released. It will create a favourable atmosphere in the country.

In order to strengthen the hand of Shri

[Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]

Barnala, you should extend your full support to him in letter and spirit on Chandigarh and other issues. I would like to assure the nation once again that Shiromani Akali Dal under the leadership of Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala will continue to march forward on the path shown by late Sant Longowal to work for strengthening the age-old traditions, mutual goodwill and fraternity, Atmosphere of love, secularism, unity and integrity of the country and we shall continue to dedicate ourselves to the path shown by Guru Nanak Dev and the Sikh tenets to make India a strong nation.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I am thankful to the hon. Members who have given serious thought to the situation prevailing in Punjab on the very first day of the sessions in the Houses. I would say first day because formally the business of the House has started only to day; yesterday we had only a ceremony.

All the hon. Members who participated in this debate have expressed their views seriously and full responsibility. I too have tried sincerely to present the actual situation prevailing in Punjab, through my statement, before the House. So that in the interest of Punjab as well as the country, the House can discuss this issue with much needed attention. Most of the speeches of the hon. Members in the House today were directed at restoration of peace, unity and love in Punjab. Some points were also raised. Before I reply to the points raised by the hon. Members, I would like to express my gratitude to you for your guidance to the House as well as to the nation that communal thinking and religious fundamentalism pose a great danger and a challenge to the democracy, unity and sovereignty of the country. This challenge may come from any of the religions, but to has posed a danger to our unity and to the very existence of our country. Some hon. leaders from the Opposition have also expressed their views in this regard. I would like to mention in this

august House that some days ago, the Hon. Prime Minister held talks with the Opposition Leaders, during which a comprehensive programme was chalked out to improve the situation in Punjab. He himself mentioned this point, on which we received your guidance today. He also wants that an open seminar at the national level should be organised to evaluate the situation so that we could collectively say that in the name of religion and community, our communal thinking is causing damage to unity of our country. Many opposition leaders agreed to the proposal of the Hon. Prime Minister as to how religion could be separated from politics and today you have also guided us in that direction. I hope the dialogue with the Opposition leaders would continue in future under the leadership of the Prime Minister. This is a very sensitive matter as it relates to the religious sentiments of the people. After considering it judiciously, the Government is prepared to implement the guidelines which you have given in the interest of the nation. I have every hope that the nation, as a whole, will rally round the Prime Minister and whatever decision is taken on the proposal and the guidelines given by the Prime Minister, will be acceptable to all. Nobody wants that the followers of any religion or a sect in our country should feel that their religion is being attacked. Actually speaking, this feeling itself is against the religion. If someone says that he belongs to the minority community and the others say that they are in the majority, then it simply amounts to violence. When we consider ourselves as a minority, then automatically a feeling of inferiority develops and we feel that we are not bonafide citizens of this country whereas, on the other hand, when we talk of majority, a feeling of vanity comes right through us; we develop a superiority complex and our thinking gets biased. So, we do not want that this type of feeling should develop in the nation, among the brothers and the citizens of this country. On this issue, we from the Government side are ready to give our consent and extend full support and co-operation to you, whenever and in

whatever way you suggest it to be.

I have mentioned in my statement that irrespective of the killings of the innocents people and continued disturbances in Punjab for the last four to five years, the people of Punjab are maintaining the feeling of brotherhood and affection among themselves. Some people get disturbed with the news published in the newspapers but even then, today the people in Punjab have unshakable faith in one another and are living unitedly. It is also a symbol of the unity and integrity of the country and I hope that the people of Punjab would continue to demonstrate their patriotism through all these dangers and mounting challenges.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some hon. Members have raised some points in their speeches. First of all, I want to mention some of the points raised by Shri Walia. I am grateful to him that today he has tried to clear some points courageously, but it is a matter of sorrow that there are certain feelings which continue to persist and which cause a feeling of distrust among the citizens. One should not take it otherwise if I ask a few questions from the Akali leaders to remove those feelings. The most recent happening which still needs to be clarified is the congregation held in the Harmandir Sahib on 26th January, termed, as Sarbat Khalsa, which was attended by all the hon. *Grant this* and leaders of the erstwhile Akali Dal of which Shri Walia was a Member. I call it erstwhile because there is a split in it and they have formed a new Akali Dal.

AN HON. MEMBER : United.

S. BUTA SINGH : One should call it erstwhile Dal because they caused a split and left it.

AN HON. MEMBER : Unified.

S. BUTA SINGH : Previously, it was united and now it is unified. only God knows what it is. I want to come to my point. What transpired at the 'Sarbat Khalsa', which I mentioned earlier, has

not been clarified so far. Were not the killers of General Vaidya, Shrimati Gandhi and that Great man, in whose name Shri Walia and his colleagues begged for votes and managed to be here, felicitated publically? The killers of Shri Longowal were felicitated there. So far, Shri Walia's party has not come out with any clarification in this regard. Besides, I want to go a step further to make a small mention of the resolution of the same 'Sarbat Khalsa.'

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the resolution adopted in that 'Sarbat Khalsa' reads like this :—

[English]

"The Sikh Samagam endorses the declaration of Khalistan made by the Panthic Committee on April 29, 1986 in the context of conditions created by Government of India and it praises the sacrifices of Sikh men, women and children for the fulfilment of this objective."

[Translation]

I want to tell Shri Walia that he did not say even a single word about this resolution. Besides, one more thing is there about which also he did not utter a word. A new organisation has come into existence. Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee is a body constituted under the law which looks after the management of Sikh Gurudwaras and governs them. The appointment of the office bearers, appointed by the Committee whom we consider as supreme and so the leaders of the Akali Dal, was nullified by the Panthic Committee and they were not allowed to function saying that it required their permission. That is why this 'Sarbat Khalsa' was organised so that the Panthic Committee could regularise the appointment of Granthi Sahibs and then only they could start their work. The ones who were appointed, regularised and recognised by the S.G.P.C., were made temporary by them. These functionaries could start performing their duties only after getting regular appointment from

[S. Buta Singh]

them. If a committee, duly constituted under the Act, appoints any office-bearer then there is an extra constitutional force also which overrules it and declares them as officiating. And these five high priests have accepted the Hukmnama issued by them.

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH ATHWAL (Ropar) : The executive of the Shiromani Committee did not offer them permanent appointment.

[English]

S. BUTA SINGH : I wish my learned colleague knows the back-ground. I am quoting only from the S.G.P.C. records. They never appointed him as officiating. Then, may I ask as to who is the real one ?

[Translation]

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH ATHWAL : I have said that the committee had appointed them on temporary basis not on permanent basis.

S. BUTA SINGH : But I ask who made it as officiating ; who was there before that ? After all, it is only they who have appointed him as officiating. They have appointed Jathedar who is in jail. Did S.G.P.C. appointed this man ? The Panthic Committee says in this regard that so long as that fellow is in jail, Darshan Singh Ragi will continue to function as Jathedar of the Akal Takht. Has this extra constitutional authority not been given to the Panthic Committee ? The matter does not end here. That Panthic Committee has assumed the powers of S.G.P.C. and also has not mentioned about those five high priests.

[English]

And this is a very Serious thing Walinji. Everybody must think over it. I quote :—

“In case all the five high priests deviate from the Sikh tenets, the

Panthic Committee in consultation with the Sikh Organisations will be competent to call a ‘Sarbat Khalsa’”

[Translation]

Now this power has also been delegated. Today, their Hukmnama is enforced because Hukumnamas are being issued at their instance. If Darshan Singh Ragi endorses whatever clarification you have given and issues a directive to the Panthic Committee, then only your clarification will stand.

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH WALIA : In regard to the point raised by the hon. Home Minister, I would like to submit to the Government of India and the hon. Home Minister that Shri Simranjit Singh Mann is the President of Shiromani Akali Dal. Only he is authorised to make policy declaration. The hon. Home Minister is aware that Shri Jethmalani had brought the hand-written reply of Shri Simranjit Singh Mann. (Interruptions)

[English]

S. BUTA SINGH : I am sorry, my learned colleagues has missed the point. I never questioned what you say.

[Translation]

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH WALIA : Shri Simranjit Singh Mann has sent hand-written replies in regard to the unity and integrity of India, Constitution of the country and Hindu-Sikh brotherhood. If you want, I can give that hand-written reply to you so that you may place it on the Table of the House.

The second point which you have raised is in regard to the appointment duly made by S.G.P.C. The S.G.P.C. has duly appointed Prof. Darshan Singh Ragi as Jathedar of Akal Takht in accordance with the Act. The Akali Dal accepts this appointment. They also agree that Shri Surjit Singh Barnala is the Chief Minister and they have full faith in Sardar Balwant Singh and the Council of Minis-

ters. In this regard there is a unanimous resolution which has been accepted and appreciated by them.

S. BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a simple question to ask. May I know whether the writ of the present S.G.P.C., which has got power under the Act, still runs? (*Interruptions*) You kindly leave it to me. The new body has come into existence and it has got control over what is happening inside the Temple. However, the clarification given by Shri Walia seems to be correct. Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of happenings have taken place in the country during the last five years. I would give you a small example. Prof. Sahib, listen to me. I am saying about Article 25 of the Constitution. I do not know much about law. It is Justice Narula, retired Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court, the most eminent jurist Punjab has ever produced, who has said that when this Article, which distinctly gives recognition to you is torn off from the Constitution, your existence will automatically cease as per the Constitution. But, unfortunately, the Akali Dal failed to dispell this misconception from the minds of the people in spite of the fact that this article of his was published in the newspapers saying that he was sad to know that such a thing had happened.

Thus, the Akali Dal remained unconcerned about all these incidents, I do not know why. There have always been some forces at work with some motive. The time is short at my disposal. If you give me an opportunity, I shall give you some examples which are true, such as withdrawal of *Hukamnama* signed by the Jathedar of Akal Takht. He was asked to announce that he did not sign the *Hukamnama* whereas this fact was recorded on the life of S.G.P.C. and was published in the newspapers also. There are some of the facts about which the Akali Dal always adopted a meek approach. As a result thereof, the interests of the Sikhs were affected throughout the country. It would have been good had the Akali Dal given clarification in regard to this. The people of the country have not forgotten the sacrifices made by the Sikhs. The

history of the country is replete with instances of what the people of Punjab have done for the freedom of the country. This kind of vacillation on the part of the Akali Dal is not good. I shall call it vacillation because they could not place this fact in its proper perspective. So far as 'Sarbat Khalsa' is concerned, the Akali Dal did not say anything whether they own it or not. Nobody objected to it and they took over the control. What to talk of the S.G.P.C., if the five Head Priests deviate from their view point, they will not abide by their decision and will do whatever they like. The Akali Dal did not utter a word in this regard. Therefore, they are themselves in a fix.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : There has been a split in the Akali Dal. You have referred to the Akali Dal. Please make it clear..... (*Interruptions*)

S. BUTA SINGH : This kind of vaccination should be removed. Today is not the opportune time to discuss such matter in detail. I would like to say to the people of the country and to the House that the Holy Akal Takht is a supreme seat and it is an affront to this Holy Seat if one talks of politics from there. They do not know what the politics is :

SHRI SHAMINDER SINGH (Faridkot) : It is *miri-piri*.

[*English*]

S. BUTA SINGH : I had the privilege of knowing what is meant by *miri-piri* ; *miri-piri* is not the one being demonstated.

[*Translation*]

They just pull out a passenger from the bus and irrespective of his being a Sikh or not, shoot him dead. This is not *miri-piri*. A child of a Sikh is killed because he has no beard and long hair. The Holy Akal Takht is a sacred place. Guru Har Gobind Sahib had ordained that after his death, nobody would sit on the seat of the Akal Takht. He further

[S. Buta Singh]

said that only arms would be worshipped there and no *hukumnama* would be issued from this seat. We only regard the ten Guru Sahebans as Guru. If any hon. Member could tell me any instance when *hukumnama* was issued from the Akal Takht during the time of ten Guru Sahebans, I shall change my stand. It is a hypocrisy to serve one's interest by misusing the sacred place like the Akal Takht which is the highest seat like Harmandir Sahib. I do not want to dwell on how it has been misused and who are the persons behind this misuse. I have a great regard for the Holy Akal Takht and we all should have regard for this sacred place. We should not drag the Holy Akal Takht into this dirty politics. The S.G.P.C. has itself delineated on which counts *hukumnama* can be issued and on which it cannot; Which person can be declared *Tankhaiya* and which cannot. The S.G.P.C. has itself issued it. All these things pertain to the post-Guru Saheban period. Such circumstances were not prevalent during the time of Guru Saheban. *Hukumnama* used to be a personal order of Guru Saheb. It was meant for the welfare of the *sangat* and to strengthen it. At the end of every *hukumnama* it used to be written that Gur Maharaj would help God would help, God bless your family. But what is written in the present day *hukumnama*? Now when the *hukumnama* is issued, it is ordained to the people to sever all kind of relations with the person against whom *hukumnama* has been issued; otherwise, they will invite the wrath of God. In the *hukumnamas* issued by Guru maharaj, it used to be written "Ram Ram, Ishwar" and "Wahe Guru ji ki." And on the present day *hukumnamas*, it is written that any Sikh who maintains relation with such a person will be excommunicated. Such a vast difference between the two *hukumnamas*. It is a matter of great shame for us. That *hukumnama* was used to be issued for one's well being and to attain God and the present *hukumnama* is aimed at taking one away from God. I would ask the hon. Members to maintain the sanctity of these sacred places just as a lotus remains in water without

being affected by it. If drops of water are put on it, the water will drip down like a pearl. In the same way, our places of worship are meant for worshipping God and achieving Him or not for excommunicating virtuous Sikhs. I am pleased to say that all the political parties in the country have joined hands with the Prime Minister and have made an effort in this direction so as to ease the situation in Punjab. I agree that it is very difficult to deal with those handful of mischievous persons in Punjab who are destroying the peaceful atmosphere in that State. Particularly, when such people are harboured in sacred places, when rich people give them money, ration and training; it becomes very difficult to solve such a gigantic problem. Such persons have become heads of Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee and other bodies and are misguiding the youth. Such a situation has been created in Punjab that a policeman in uniform makes an attempt on the life of the Director General of Police even though he belongs to the same service and gets his salary by virtue of being under him. Therefore, the conditions prevailing there are very serious. The enemies of the country are giving them assistance in the form of arms and ammunition and money. They are helping them to create such disturbances. The people who are behind this Khalistan movement are conspiring to weaken the country with the help of foreign powers and agents. Punjab alone cannot deal with it; the whole country has to deal with it. The Government of Punjab has done good job during the last few days with the full support of the Central Government. Now, with the initiatives taken by the Hon. Prime Minister, the leaders of all political parties and groups have decided upon three issues and a general awareness about these will be created in Punjab as well as in other parts of the country. These are :

[English]

- (a) effectively meet terrorism, religious fundamentalism and communal fanaticism in Punjab ;

(b) to combat the on-going propaganda in Punjab on communal and religious lines ;

(c) to put an end to the misuse of places of worship for political purpose.

[Translation]

A comprehensive programme has been formulated upon these issues in which all the parties will take part and I have every hope that all sections of the people in Punjab which includes Kisan sabha—

[English]

—Industrial labour, ex-servicemen and their organisations, freedom fighters, youth and students, women, intellectuals, poets, writers and artists, will also participate in mobilizing and involving people for creating a sense of mutual confidence and strengthening the unity of the country.

[Translation]

This comprehensive programme has been chalked out. Shri Ramoowalia has mentioned many points about the Accord. We are not discussing here the non-implementation of the Accord. Shri Madhu Dandavate has mentioned about the Commission. What we can do when a mention of the Commission has been made in every line of the Accord. This Accord was reached with the hope that it would be acceptable to all sides and would be implemented properly. This problem relates to both the parties ; had it been one-sided, then we would have implemented it long back. Out of 11 clauses contained in it, 9 needed one-sided action, which has already been done ; 2 clauses are there which need to be dealt with by both the parties but, unfortunately. And the result is :

[English]

We are stuck with these two things ; and I am sure with the co-operation of

all concerned nothing is impossible and we can achieve through co-operation, through mutual consultation ; and I am sure the decisions which have been given by various Commissions will be implemented by the concerned parties in all earnestness.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to touch one more point before I conclude. Prof. Madhu Dandavate mentioned about the report of Rangnath Misra Commission. Although, you had stated in the morning that the report would be studied and I fully remember that a number of hon. leaders from the Opposition had made a request to the Prime Minister in this regard. While doing so, they had only one feeling that why did communal feeling flare up suddenly in our country and people were killed for petty things. We want that every issue in this regard should be discussed judiciously. The Action Taken Reports are also appended to the recommendations of the Commission.

[English]

Most of the recommendations of the Commissions have been implemented or are being implemented. Therefore, on the part of the Government there is no hesitation, whatsoever, and we want that whatever the Commission has said, we must see that it is implemented so that in future such a tragedy does not happen. It is with this spirit that we have come to the House and I am sure the hon. Members will keep this thing in mind at the time when you kindly allow the discussion.

With these words I express my thanks to all the hon. Members who have given their deep thoughts and their considerations we will take note of and I will definitely see that the whole House stands today at this hour—the whole House stands—united, in supporting Shri Surjeet Singh Barnala who has come clearly for the unity and integrity of the country.

AN HON. MEMBER : Can we get a copy of the report ?

MR. SPEAKER : Some copies are kept
in the Library. You can get from there.

AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA
DIKSHIT) : I beg to present the Thirty-
third Report of the Business Advisory
Committee.

18.36 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

16.37 hrs

Thirty-third Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the Clock on Wednesday. February 25,
1987/Phalguna 6, 1:08 (Saka).*