

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Fifth Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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CORRECTION TO LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thursday, July 31, 1997/Shravana 9, 1919(Saka).

....

<u>Col./Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
54/7	3950.53	3950.54
109/15	Shri Kunwar Sarvaraj Singh	Kunwar Sarvaraj Singh
131/1	Add the following before (e)	

(b) The number of locomotives manufactured in the Country as well as imported during the last three years, are as under:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Locomotives indigenously manufactured</u>			<u>No. of locomotives imported</u>
	<u>Diesel Locomotives</u>	<u>Electric Locomotives</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(Electric)</u>
1994-95	150	160	310	-
1995-96	138	155	293	6
1996-97	157	175	332	24

(c) The number of coaches and wagons as on 31-3-1996 with the Railways are as under:-

	<u>EC</u>	<u>MC</u>	<u>W</u>
Coaches	27,203	7,039	1,141 (Vehicle Units)
Wagons	4,57,999	54,615	3,545 (Four Wheeler Units)

The annual production of coaches and wagons indigenously during the last three years is as under:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coaches</u>	<u>Wagons</u>
	<u>(Vehicle Unit)</u>	<u>(Four Wheeler Unit)</u>
1994-95	1579	10575
1995-96	1752	17950
1996-97	2168	22187.5

An order for supply of 24 modern light weight high speed coaches alongwith Transfer of Technology has been placed on 16-10-95 on M/s Linke Hoffman-Busch, Germany. No wagons have been imported.

(d) The country is self-sufficient in the matter of production of Rail Engines and wagons.

CONTENTS

[Eleventh Series, Vol. XV, Fifth Session, 1997/1919 (Saka)]

No. 7, Thursday, July 31, 1997/Shravana 9, 1919 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
OBITUARY REFERENCE	1
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
*Starred Questions Nos. 121 — 123	3—21
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
Starred Questions Nos. 124 — 140	22—56
Unstarred Questions Nos. 1316 — 1545	56—242
STATEMENT CORRECTING THE ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 903 DATED 27.2.97 REGARDING TELEPHONE CONNECTION ON PRIORITY.	242—243
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	243
JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT	
Second Report — <i>Presented</i>	243
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE	
Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports — <i>Presented</i>	244
STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE	
Sixth Report — <i>Presented</i>	244
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	
Tenth Report — <i>Presented</i>	244
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
Fifteenth Report— <i>Presented</i>	244—245
BILL — <i>Introduced</i>	
Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Bill.	245
RE : INSTALLATION OF A STATUE OF MAHATMA GANDHI NEAR INDIA GATE.	246—249
RE : ARREST OF FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OF BIHAR.	249—259
RE : ALLEGED SURVEILLANCE OF MPs.	259—262
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377.	285—289
(i) Need to develop Bateshwar near Agra as a tourist resort Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria.	285
(ii) Need to provide more railway facilities at Jalesar road railway station, U.P. Prof. Ompal Singh 'Nidar'.	285—286
(iii) Need to set up a Groundnut Research Centre at Churu in Rajasthan Shri Narendra Budania.	286
(iv) Need to introduce a new train/DMU between Rourkela and Sambalpur in Orissa Shri Sriballav Panigrahi.	286—287

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(v) Need to lay railway line between Tellicherry and Mysore via Coorg Shri Mullappally Ramachandran.	287
(vi) Need to ensure that the people living below poverty line in Sitamarhi district, Bihar are issued 'red card' to draw ration at subsidised rates under Public Distribution System Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.	287—288
(vii) Need to sanction adequate funds for development of Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in Kerala Shri A. Sampath.	288
(viii) Need to set up an F.M. Radio Station at Manjari in Kerala Shri E. Ahamed.	288—289
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS	
Thirteenth Report — <i>Presented</i>	315
MOTION RE : ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON DALITS IN MUMBAI, NAGPUR AND OTHER PLACES IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.	
Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan.	289—304
Shri V.V. Raghavan.	304—314
Shri Ram Naik.	315—329
Shri G. Venkat Swamy.	329—341
Shri Tarit Baran Topdar.	341—343
Shri Anand Mohan.	343—355
Shri P.R. Dasmunsi.	355—372
Dr. Satyanarayan Jatia.	372—378

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Thursday, July 31, 1997/Shravana 9,
1919 (Saka)*

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

[SH. BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Honourable Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Bijoy Singh Nahar.

Shri Bijoy Singh Nagar was a Member of Sixth Lok Sabha representing Calcutta North-West Parliamentary constituency of West Bengal during 1977-79.

Earlier, he was a Member of Bengal Legislative Council during 1946-47, West Bengal Legislative Council during 1952-57 and West Bengal Legislative Assembly during 1957-77.

An active social and political worker, Shri Nagar served his State as Deputy Chief Minister during 1971. He was also a Minister in the Government of West Bengal during 1962-67 and 1968.

A widely travelled person Shri Nahar was the Leader of the Indian Delegation to the International Labour Organisation Conference at Geneva during 1966.

A man of letters, he was the Editor of "Tarun Jain", a Hindi monthly magazine and "Deshapriya", a Bengali weekly.

Shri Bijoy Singh Nahar passed away on 15 June, 1997 at Calcutta at the age of 90 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.02 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence
for a short while.*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise an important issue that Members should be given Rs. one crore for their constituency from MPLADS.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Goel, you please raise it after Question Hour.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an important issue, Hon. Minister is here, you can ask him to reply to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please raise this matter after Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter is not so important to raise during Question Hour. Do not waste the time of the House. Shri Goel, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of IRDP is very important, please allow it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, this is not the time to raise the matter. You can raise it after Question Hour is over.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Minister will give the reply in one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You raise it after Question Hour.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may ask the Minister to reply to it after Question Hour.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is Question Hour. The Minister will not reply to it now.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is not the concerned Minister to whom he is pointing out...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister is giving the reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please raise it after Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you wasting time of the House? Please take your seat.

11.05 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Beneficiaries under IRDP

121. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a sharp drop in the number of beneficiaries in the Integrated Rural Development Programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to check such drop?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The thrust in IRDP in the recent years has been to increase the Per Family Investment to ensure quality of projects and better income to the beneficiary. This correspondingly involves higher per capita subsidy, leading to some decline in the number of beneficiaries, given the marginal higher annual releases under IRDP towards subsidy.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : The objective of IRDP is to enable the identified rural poor families to augment their income and to cross the poverty line. Assistance is given in the form of subsidy by the Government and term credit is advanced by the financial institution. Credit linkage is obligatory. But some financial institutions are not giving the loan portion to the beneficiaries. Only the subsidy portion is being disbursed by the financial institutions. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government is taking against such financial institutions.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : The Integrated Rural Development Programme is a Centrally-sponsored major anti-poverty programme aimed at providing income generating assets and self-employment opportunities to the rural poor. The hon. Member says that these financial institutions are not cooperating. To some extent, it is correct. The hon. Member has pointed out that subsidy portion is given to the beneficiaries, but there is no credit from the financial institutions. I would like to clarify that R.B.I. had appointed one Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Mehta, Deputy Chairman the Governor of Reserve Bank and he has given an interim report. Based on that report, we initiated steps to introduce bank and subsidy scheme. After the grounding up of the scheme, after the asset

provided to the beneficiary and after the repayment, the subsidy will be given to the bank by the Government. Recently, we introduced the system. Since the last two years, there is no scope to give the subsidy in advance to the beneficiary.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : The Concurrent Evaluation Survey conducted by the Ministry shows that the linkage of IRDP and its sub-schemes namely, TRYSEM and DWCRA are extremely weak. May I know from the hon. Minister what remedial measures are proposed to be taken to develop linkage between IRDP and its sub-schemes.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : The Fourth Round of Concurrent Evaluation Report of the IRDP and the linkage of TRYSEM with IRDP was also analysed. It is encouraging to note that in 56.01 per cent cases the beneficiaries received assistance for the same trade activity for which they were trained. Now from this year onwards also we are giving lot of thrust to the linkage of IRDP with TRYSEM and DWCRA and other programmes.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : This has been the story which we have been hearing for the last several years through Ministers one after the other. In fact, sometimes it appears that the whole scheme is going to be useless on account of the financial institutions taking a very adamant attitude. Just now, we heard the hon. Minister saying that a new scheme is evolved wherein the subsidy component will be directly credited to the financial institutions after the beneficiary gets the finances from the financial institutions. But what we find is, the financial Institutions never come forward to give assistance to the identified beneficiary. Time and again, we have been telling that the financial institution is a party to the team which identifies the beneficiary.

Once the identification is made, there shall not be absolutely any scope for the financial institutions to refuse finances. But the same system is being continued. So, my question is: What is the Government doing to see that the financial institutions, without any fail, give the financial assistance to the identified beneficiaries? Secondly, in many cases, the scheme is not being properly implemented for the reason that the guidelines issued by the Government or the Department concerned are not suitable in a given local area
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put the question.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I am coming to that only. The guidelines make it incumbent upon the Government that they must stick on to the guidelines issued. My question is: Would the Government give some liberty to the executing agencies to make a small deviation so that the scheme could be effectively implemented in the given areas?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government had already given instructions to

all the State Governments how to select the beneficiaries. The selection of the beneficiaries in Gram Sabha is to be done in an open manner and is to be attended by the local people, non-officials, block officials and the bank officers for which advance publicity is to be given. After selecting the beneficiaries, that list is displayed before the Gram Panchayat Bhavan. If there is any objection, then they will rectify it. This system is adopted by the State Governments. We have already given instructions in this regard. Even recently in the month of December...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : That is not at all working. That is our objection. The money is not reaching the beneficiaries...(Interruptions) The benefit is not reaching the identified beneficiary...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him reply

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, these instructions are not being followed anywhere in the country...(Interruptions)

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Mr. Chairman, Sir these instructions are not being followed. The funds are being plundered...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him give reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir whatever hon. Minister is saying that is not being followed anywhere...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : First, I will complete my reply...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : He is beating the same trumpet. We have been telling the same thing. All these things are there. But, in spite of that, the identified beneficiary is not getting the benefit. What are you going to do in this regard? That is the question...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, loot is being committed continuously...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Let him give reply.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think that is the recommendation of your Committee.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : I will tell you. I am ready to give answer to each and every Member's question. Just be patient enough.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Please give answer to my question first.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Last year, in the month of December - to be precise, 30th December 1996 - I convened a national level bankers' meeting also. Whatever questions raised by the hon. Member now, I had already given instructions, in advance, to all the nationalised banks. My Ministry had sent written letters to the Finance Ministry also. In that meeting the bankers agreed to sanction the loan within a month of sponsoring it by the DRDA and to disburse the loan within two months of sponsoring it...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I will just take only one minute. After that meeting, have you made any evaluation to see whether your guidelines are adhered to by the bankers?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : I have not yet completed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, as you have told, you have sent your instructions to the bankers. I would like to know whether this is being followed or not; whether any review has taken place or not.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Yes...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister is not giving reply properly. Recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee are not being implemented...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : That is not being followed...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : When Dr. Debi Prosad Pal was the Minister of State for Finance, he came to West Bengal. He instructed the banks to dispose of all applications pending under the IRDP. That was truned down...(Interruptions) The Minister does not belong to Finance Ministry. The point is that only when it is made mandatory, it will bear fruit. The banking representative is there when the project is processed. Can you make it mandatory that the representative from the banking sector is to be there in clearing the project? It has to be done and it has to be sorted out with the Finance Ministry.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : In each District, there is a District Rural Development Agency. Our hon. Members and the Members of the Legislative Assemblies are the members of that committee in each District Rural Development Agency. They are meeting frequently on a quarterly basis. All these queries and questions can be raised there. There is an opportunity for the hon. Members to raise these questions...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : If the representative of the Government is at the processing stage, then it can be made mandatory...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he can make it mandatory. All sections are unanimous on this...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Anil Basu, take your seat. Let the Minister first complete it. You can ask a supplementary question late on.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : It would not be possible for him to implement the scheme without making it mandatory.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : I agree with the hon. Members from West Bengal that due to poor performance of the West Bengal Government is poor respect of IRDP scheme and bankers are said to be not cooperating. That is true. I will communicate the views of the hon. Members to the Cabinet. I agree that everything will be good if it is made mandatory. I am going to circulate the views of the hon. Members to the Cabinet. I know, without this, it will be difficult to implement the scheme...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Can the Minister give an assurance that it will be made mandatory?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : I have already answered that point.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Is it an assurance?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Kurien, please take your seat. What I have understood from what he said is that he will take these views to the Cabinet and the approval of the Cabinet is required for making this mandatory. Shri Kurien, you also know it as you also know it as you were also in the Cabinet.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Giving an assurance to take it to the Cabinet is one thing and giving an assurance to make it mandatory is another thing. We want to know whether he is giving an assurance that it will be made mandatory. That is the question.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : I will circulate the views of the hon. Members in the Cabinet saying that poor performance and non-cooperation of the banking institutions are the instances in the States for grounding of the IRDP scheme. I will put it before the Cabinet. If the Cabinet agrees to it, I have no objection.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : What is your opinion after hearing the hon. Members?

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is only one reason of resentment among the Members. Banks do not provide loan to the beneficiaries of IRDP, hence there is decline in the number of beneficiaries. I would like to know that nationalised banks are under the Union Government hence would you set up a

Committee of Members of Parliament to monitor the disbursement of loan under IRDP? Would you set up a Committee of Members of Parliament to establish coordination with these banks so as to put a check on nationalised banks in order to provide loan to the beneficiaries of IRDP in time? I think that all Members are making the same demand.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : I have already mentioned that there is a decline in the number of beneficiaries under IRDP due to higher family investment. In the Eighth Plan, a target of 126 lakh families had been kept. We achieved the target of 108 lakh families. It was declined because of the higher family investment. In the year 1992-93, the investment was Rs. 7,889 per family which grew up in the year 1996-97 to over Rs. 15,000 per family.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Chairman, that is not the question which the hon. Member has asked. He has asked about the formation of a Committee...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, perhaps you have not understood his question. He has asked whether a Committee has to be formed where the Members of this House can be involved.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, it is not necessary. The Consultative Committee is there. The Standing Committees are also there. As and when required, they are sending their recommendations also. I am also reviewing it. So, there is no need to form such a Committee...(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : There is a downfall in the number of beneficiaries...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : As this question is very important, I am allowing a Half-an-hour Discussion on it. We will have a Half-an-hour Discussion on this question.

Now, we go to Question No. 122.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Discussion for one hour should be held on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Half-an-hour discussion would be held on this question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Half-An-Hour discussion has not been held so far during this Session. Even a single time half-an-hour discussion has not been held.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Discussion would be held during this Session.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : An hour? All right.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, a separate Committee is not required for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, you have already told this.

[Translation]

Export of Products by NMDC

*122. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is exporting its products itself;

(b) if so, the details of products exported during each of the last three years alongwith their value thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to boost the export of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) The National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) exports iron ore through the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation Limited (MMTC Ltd.), which has been designated as canalising agency for export of iron ore with iron content of and above 64% as per existing Export-Import Policy.

(b) Quantity and value of exports of NMDC during the last 3 years, as per latest available information, are as below :

Year	Quantity (In lakh tonnes)	Foreign Exchange Earning (Rs. in crores)
1994-95	66.72	408.47
1995-96	64.11	402.79
1996-97 (Prov.)	64.45	448.55

(c) Identification and development of new markets, revival of old markets, and efforts for better sales realisation are some of the steps being taken by MMTC Ltd. to increase export of iron ore.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir it is clear from the reply given by the hon. Minister in regard to the question pertaining to the National Mineral Development Corporation that export has declined in 1995-96 as compared to 1994-95 and it has also declined in 1996-97. Will the Minister be pleased to state as to why the export has declined? In part (b) of the question I have asked, as to which countries this export is being made and what are the steps being taken in this regard? Japan is importing iron ore from Australia instead of India. Specific reply has not been given to this question as to whether export has been increased to China or not? Will the hon. Minister be pleased to give specific reply to this question? He should also assign the reason as to why this mineral was sold at lower price as compared to the International market price?

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, with regard to this question which the hon. Member has asked, it is very clear from my reply that during 1994-95, the total export made by the NMDC was 66.72 lakh tonnes and the foreign exchange earned was Rs. 408.47 crore. In the year 1996-97, NMDC's export was 64.45 lakh tonnes and the foreign exchange which we earned in the form of the Indian currency, was Rs. 448.55 crore.

I do agree with the hon. Member that the export made by the NMDC last year has declined. But I would submit that it was done in the interest of the country.

Sir, India has a rich quantity of iron ore reserves but the total reserves of high grade ores is less. India is producing 12,475 tonnes of iron ore has reserves of 12,745 million but the percentage of high grade iron ore is only ten per cent. So, in the year 1995, the Cabinet took a decision that NMDC will export only after fulfilling the domestic requirements. But the Cabinet imposed a ceiling on export of high grade iron ore. So, the export is declining. Although the export declining, profits are not declining. If you look at the picture, you will find that in the year 1994-95 NMDC earned Rs. 208 crore, in 1995-96, it earned Rs. 402 crore and in 1996-97 it earned Rs. 448.55 crore.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Madhya Pradesh N.M.D.C. also undertakes the mining of Diamond besides Iron-ore. These days an advertisement is shown on T.V. saying 'k'iwab se jyada khoobsoort-khayal se kam dam'. In this advertisement, a handsome man puts a diamond ring into the finger of a beautiful women. Debeers company is propogating it. How to use diamond in India for this purpose it is giving publicity among the consumers of our country Besides that company is making efforts for taking over 'Debia' mines in Madhya Pradesh. This is going on

since 1993-94, but sometimes it reaches understanding and sometimes not. Sometimes our Chief Minister says that deal has been finalized, sometimes says that deal has been cancelled. Sometimes new conditions are fixed.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : The Chief Minister has never said that deal has been finalized.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Then new tenders are invited. The way things are going on in Madhya Pradesh, will the Union Government interfering or by formulating such policy through N.M.D.C. or M.M.T.C. try to take over those mines itself or such type of foreign companies will continue to take away the natural resource of our country? Whether any effort is being made to give preference to domestic companies over foreign companies and whether N.M.D.C. or M.M.T.C. will also make efforts to take over this? Whether any effort is being made in this regard? Besides, the second part of my question is that Iron-ore is available in ample quantity in Beladella, efforts were being made to give that also to Nippon Denro Company, that has also not materialised till date, nor conditions are being finalized. This matter is lingering since 1993-94. Please tell whether the Union Government has its own opinion or propose to do something through N.M.D.C. on this issue.

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, the hon. Member has put two very significant questions. Although his first question is not related to the main question, in the interest of the question and in the interest of the hon. Member, I would like to clarify the position.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : It will come in Part 'C'.

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Actually, as per the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, lease is given by the Statement Government for Schedule-I minerals but they have to take the approval of the Central Government. Diamond is a Schedule-I mineral; so, before handing over any lease to any company, they have to take the permission of the Central Government. The Government of Madhya Pradesh recommended three cases of diamond lease for the approval of the Central Government in the year 1994-95. After the United Front Government assumed power, Ministry of Mines adopted new guidelines for the prospecting licence and licence for aerial survey of and we have given wider areas. With reference to the new guidelines we have informed the Ministry of Mines...(Interruptions) Just a minute. Let me explain.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You are explaining the policy regarding prospecting licence and all those things. But whatever decision that you have taken is unpatriotic.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, in our country the economic reforms started during 1991. This was adopted by the Cabinet and Parliament. This was approved by Parliament. When a decision by Parliament, nobody can say that it is unpatriotic. This is not fair.

I would like to clarify the question put by the hon. Member. As far as diamond mine leasing is concerned, the Madhya Pradesh Government had recommended three cases. With reference to the new guidelines we have written to the State Governments and asked them to modify those proposals in response to the new guidelines given by the Central Government. Recently, the Madhya Pradesh Government had intimated the Central Government that they have cancelled all the three proposals that they have given to an Australian company and that they have decided to hand over it to Madhya Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation instead of giving it to an outsider. This is the information we got from the Madhya Pradesh Government.

The next point is regarding Bailadila. This is a very important case which is known to all of us here. I do agree with you that a joint venture company Nippon-Denro Ispat Ltd. is functioning in India. This is a very important matter and the Government would like to examine various aspects of it. Already two cases are pending in the Calcutta High Court. Another case is going on in the...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The reply should also be brief.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Both the question and the reply should be brief.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : The hon. Member put a separate question on Bailadila and diamond mine. I have given a proper reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The supplementary question is not related to the main question. Why should you reply?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : We would like to go by the judicial verdict.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I congratulate the the hon. Minister as he has replied all the question. While the profit is coming down when the quantity has been less. There was a proposal at one time that the nodal agency, the MMTC should be given up. MMTC is competitive enough to export. They are taking some commission in between. Well, the Government pursues it and does it because your profit is coming down. MMTC is making a margin out of you.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : I do agree with the hon. Member that MMTC is a canalising agency for export of product of NMDC. NMDC belongs to the Ministry of Steel while MMTC belongs to the Ministry of Commerce. The Ministry of Steel repeatedly urged the Ministry of Commerce to de-canalise this thing in favour of NMDC. But they have not taken a decision. NMDC is making profit.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : While Shri P. Chidambaram was the Minister of Commerce, he agreed that they are making this good organisation a sick one.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are so many agreements.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : I do not know that. I do not know what Shri Chidambaram's has assured the hon. Member. But I may assure the hon. Member that the Ministry of Steel would try its best to get it.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are two proposals pro and anti to future of Madhya Pradesh - one is diamond mine of Devbhog and the other is 11-B Iron ore mine of Beladella. Both are being treated lightly. The matter of giving Iron-ore mine 11-B to Nippon Denro is being considered and about which you have mentioned that it is going on in the court. Procedure is this: first the State Government prepares a proposal and submit for the approval of Union Government. The proposal of Union Government in regard to 11-B sellout to Nippon-Denro is ready. The proposal of central steel and mines Deptt. and the direction in this regard given to State Government for clearing it has been sent, it means clearance has already been given, only formalities are being completed. 11-B is the best quality Iron ore in the world and it is a valuable asset of the coming generations of Madhya Pradesh. Whether the hon'ble Minister be pleased to assure the House that this 11-B mines will be utilized fully in the country by preparing the finished products and ownership of this mines will not be given to anybody and nor it will be sold?

Sir, my second question is the old proposals of Devheera mines have been cancelled.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Patwa, you can put only one supplementary question please.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Otherwise, there is not much difference between Iron and diamond.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I have only one supplementary and that is related to Madhya Pradesh. Diamond mines and Iron ore mines are two parts. Although about Diamond...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This question is not related to Diamond, it is related to Iron-ore.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : It is related to this Ministry. Madhya Pradesh Government is taking lightly the issue of Diamond mines. You were mentioning about DBS, who has more than 80 percent monopoly over the diamond mining in the world. The mines of Madhya Pradesh should not go into hands of this company and the N.M.D.C. or M.M.T.C. or some domestic industry of

the country, public or private sector should be given the ownership of this mine and it should not be sold to anybody else. Will you please assure the House in this regard?

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Regarding Biladila 11-B mine, I have already responded to the questions of the hon. Members which are right now before the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Whether you know about the procedure being followed?

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, I am giving a proper reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him reply please.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, in the year 1995, a joint venture company was formed. NMDC formed a joint venture company with Nippon Denro Ispat Ltd.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Mr. Minister, who is the major shareholder?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him answer.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Please allow me to finish.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him reply.

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, I have very categorically said that. I am giving a proper reply. Please listen to me.

This decision was taken in the year 1995. I categorically said that this is a very very important matter. Biladila 11-b mine is the richest iron mine in the world. So, the Government would like to examine it. Before taking a final decision, the Government would like to examine various aspects. Already two cases are going on — one is before the Calcutta High Court and the other is before the Delhi High Court. Before taking a final decision, we would like to wait for the judicial verdict. This is about Bailadila, Sir.

The hon. Member, who is the former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, has rightly put a very important question about diamond mines. I would like to repeat it again that the list of mines is given by the State Government and not by the Central Government. For the scheduled minerals, it is necessary to get the approval of the Central Government. Recently, Government of Madhya Pradesh has intimated us about

all the previous proposals. They have sent all the previous proposals to the Ministry of Mines for approval of the lease of diamond mines in favour of some companies including a foreign company but they have cancelled it now. They are going to take the initiative and they would like to give it in favour of the Madhya Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation. But we have not got a formal proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh as yet...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have spent twenty minutes on this Question.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have one request that will you permit to have discussion on such an important matter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ok. Half-an-hour discussion will be allowed.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, let us break the record of the last Session. In the last Session, only fourteen half-an-hour discussions were sanctioned and none of them could be taken up. This time, let us have 20 half-an-hour discussions!...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, please allow a Half-an-Hour discussion on this subject ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Why do you think only of exports? Sir, please allow me also to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No.

A.D.B. Loan for Financing the SEBs

123. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation have sought loan from Asian Development Bank to finance the State Electricity Boards (SEBs);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the SEBs likely to be financed;

(c) whether his Ministry has urged the Finance Ministry to refer the proposal to the ADB at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the response of the Finance Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) had made a loan proposal for US\$ 500 Million to ADB. The proposal has been considered by ADB on the recommendations of the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Finance. ADB has tentatively proposed a Technical Assistance Grant of US\$ 1 Million in 1998 to enable PFC and the client States to conduct studies for reforms and restructuring and US\$ 250 Million loan in 1999 to support the reforms in State Utilities not selected for direct funding by ADB and the World Bank. PFC has been having discussions with the States of Assam, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, H.P., Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Sir, Electricity Boards in the entire country are running into losses. Now the Government is taking loan from the Asian Bank. Does the Government have any scheme under which the money being received as loan could be repaid? How would it be repaid?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The objective of getting these loans is to improve the technology and the production capacity of the State Electricity Boards. The loans should be provided for transmission system and metering purposes...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Does the Government have any scheme under which electricity boards which are running into losses, would function smoothly after granting loan to them and these would be able to repay the loan? How the loan would be repaid?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can the loan be refunded?

[Translation]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would request the hon. Member to listen to me. The Electricity Boards can improve their financial condition only when they bring about improvement in generation, install transmission system, go for metering and chalk out schemes for the present and future. In this way, they can earn profit. It has been revealed in a study report that if the plant load factor of each Electricity Board is increased by three percent, they would become profitable since they would be able to generate more power. Their cost of production per unit would become less and their overheads would be distributed more on production. Thus they would be able to refund their loan with their increased capacity.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of generating electricity by

petroleum products is also being talked about. People want that either the bank or the Government should give the guarantee. Will the banks and the Government give guarantee in this regard?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Government have sanctioned the 12,000 Megawatt naphtha or liquid fuel project. The Planning Commission has conducted a survey last year in which this fact was revealed. Although the power generated from naphtha fuel costs dearly, yet we did not have other means. We should be able to generate this sort of power during the next two years. The specific proposals for it would be examined by the banks and financial institutions. These projects would be viable at such places where the cost of transport is less and the demand is high.

[English]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister which are the State Electricity Boards not covered under the ADB or the World Bank. After the proposed loan of the ADB is given to the States what would be the power generation capacity of the State Electricity Boards?

The Minister has replied that the ADB has proposed \$ 1 million for 1998 for the Power Finance Corporation for reform and restructuring of the State Electricity Boards. Is any plan being chalked out? What sort of reform and restructuring of the Power Finance Corporation is going to be made?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, this loan with the PFC is meant for those States which are not negotiating a restructuring package directly with the ADB or the World Bank. The States listed in my reply are already considering preparation of a proposal for this loan.

The amount of \$ 1 million is meant for technical studies like preparing the project proposal. The ADB has agreed that a sum of \$ 250 million will be available after that for the actual projects involved. At this stage, the State Governments have not prepared the details of the project proposals. It is at a preliminary stage of discussion.

Now, the kinds of things that are being discussed are assistance for reform, setting a kind of precondition, setting up a regulatory body and studies for reform.

As I said earlier, the actual loan will be meant for transmission and distribution systems, systems for improving generation and things of that kind.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Since Orissa is the most backward State from the point of view of supply of electricity, is any discussion going on between the Power Finance Corporation and the Orissa State Electricity Board?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Orissa is having separate negotiations with the World Bank for a similar

kind of loan. It is between the State and the World Bank. As far as the Power Finance Corporation is concerned, we will consider projects in Orissa for renovation and modernisation and for other things for which we have received assistance from the Ministry of Finance this time.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, the States that have been named by the Minister in his reply include West Bengal. I would like to know how far has the Government of West Bengal proceeded with preparing their scheme. Have you got going to deal with it?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, at this stage I would like to inform the hon. Member that the discussion is at a preliminary stage. It is not that the State Governments have given us details of project proposals. In fact, at present we would like to have some preliminary understanding so that they can prepare a detailed project proposal.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, four questions were asked. I do not know why the replies of the three questions have not been given. My question, is that what is the report of the study for which one million dollar was sanctioned? The states which are being selected for financing have not been mentioned by him. He has said that the discussion is going on. Which states would be financed by the Government? The hon. Minister should clarify the basis of it. Besides, we should also be provided a copy of the study report for which one million dollars have been sanctioned. What are its findings?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would request the hon. Member to listen to me first. As I have told twice or thrice, this project has been prepared with the help of the Union Government and the A.D.B. for those states which are not negotiating for the structural reforms with the World Bank or the A.D.B....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : What is the basis for selection of such states, or all the states are being selected?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : It has been mentioned in my reply. I do not want to waste my time by repeating it. If any other state submits the proposal(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important question. The hon. Minister should give a reply to it....(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH : Sir, it has been mentioned in the reply.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Many proposals from Rajasthan including, that of Naptha are under consideration of the Government. But those have not

yet been cleared. Will the Government please clear these proposals in a time-bound manner?
....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH : Please listen to the reply of the first question....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I want to know this much only whether only those states have sent proposals which have given names or there are more such states proposals of which are under consideration.

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH : If any other states particularly small states send proposals I will myself look into them....(Interruptions) you just listen to me
....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Please read out the names of those states which have sent proposals.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please let him speak.

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH : The names of states which have sent proposals are mentioned in the reply. There are no other states besides them.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Is any proposals pending with the Government?

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH : This is being discussed as to what would be the nature of the study and funds would be provided for that out of this one million dollars. When the study is over, it will be duly informed. If the hon. Member wants to have conclusions of this report, I will definitely tell him about that.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : The proposals of Rajasthan for the Naptha based power plant are pending with the Government. Why the Government are not giving clearance to them?....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Joshi ji, please take your seat.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : This is not the way. Does the hon. Minister not get time? He should try to change his habits....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not give its reply.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The hon. Member is telling the truth. The people of Rajasthan are facing power crisis. We seek your protection. The hon. Minister should be urged to give an assurance to this effect that he would pay prompt attention towards this problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should talk with him personally in this regard.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : This is a very serious issue. The state electricity board has to pay bribe to get its schemes cleared. The hon. Minister should give an explanation on this issue...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there should be a Half an Hour discussion on this
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanor) : There should be some decorum.
...(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Let me ask the question...(Interruptions) I am rather surprised to see the reply as it mentions only Tamil Nadu, Assam, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal. The Power Corporation gives the impression as if it is going to cover all the States and the Ministry gives the impression that only a few States are being approached or only a few States are undergoing restructuring. I would like to submit that important States like Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala - or for that matter many States - find no mention in your reply. Why these States do not figure in your reply? We feel that the State Electricity Boards in the country are financially poor. What steps have you taken to give full financial strength to all the State Electricity Boards of the country? Under your dynamic leadership the Power Ministry must become more powerful. What steps are you going to take in this regard? We would like to have an assurance from you that you would be getting more money for the Power Corporation from Shri Chidambaram as also from the World Bank or ADB and that the State Electricity Boards would be given more money. We would like to know when are you going to strengthen these Boards
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down; there would be no time left for the reply.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would like to clarify once again that the Power Finance Corporation has proposals to give loan assistance to every State. We have received an additional...(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : You must ask the States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar...(Interruptions) Why do you not guide them? Only having proposals would not do.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : You must be very clear about it. I am writing letters to every Chief Minister...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Kerala needs the most. It should be given priority...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : There should be a separate discussion on Power...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Let him complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We want a Short Duration Discussion on Power. There was only 45 per cent achievement las year...(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : We can have a Half-an-hour Discussion on it...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : As this is a very important subject - almost all the States are facing Power crisis - I feel there should be a full-fledged discussion on this.

12.00 hrs.

Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, kindly respond with a fulfilled discussion on the power crisis in the country. It is because almost all the States are now facing this problem.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, this question relates to a specific project...(Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Does not matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Please listen to me now...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We want a short duration discussion on it....(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Poverty and Starvation amongst Tribals

124. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware the poverty and starvation still prevail amongst tribals and other backward people in the country specially in Maharashtra, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to ameliorate the living conditions of these people?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment does not monitor starvation prevailing amongst tribal and other backward people in the country. It, however, implements a number of employment and poverty alleviation schemes in the rural areas for all people below the poverty line including trival and other backward people. In all these programmes, reservation has been provided for SC/ST beneficiaries ranging from 22.5% to 67%. Central allocations to the States under major programmes of rural employment and poverty alleviation which are made on the basis of proportion of rural poor in each State to the total poor in the country (except in EAS) are given below in respect of Maharashtra, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Scheme	Reservation for SC/ST	Central Allocations for 1997-98		
		Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Orissa
Jawahar Rozgar Yojana	22.5%	19678	16927	12597
Employment Assurance Scheme	—	3575*	1920*	2090
Indira Awas Yojana	60%	10207	8780	6534
Integrated Rural Development Programme	50%	5457	4694	3494
Million Wells Scheme	67%	4402	3787	2818
National Social Assistance Programme	—	6751	3970	3920

EAS being a demand driven scheme, no prior allocations are made. On receipt of demands, funds are released.

STD Facilities in Rural Areas

125. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of demands for providing STD facilities in the rural areas are pending with the Government;

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

(c) the steps taken to clear the pending demands?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir, a large number of demands for provision of STD facilities in the rural areas are pending. The statewide details of the stations where STD facilities are required to be provided are furnished in the Statement enclosed.

Action has already been initiated to plan the STD links to clear the demands progressively in the next three years subject to availability of resources.

Statement

S.No.	State	Stations to be provided with STD Facility (as on 30-06-97)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	826
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	29
3.	Assam	1
4.	Bihar	24
5.	Gujarat	488
6.	Haryana	368
7.	Himachal Pradesh	109
8.	Goa	13
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	155
10.	Karnataka	484
11.	Kerala	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	989
13.	Maharashtra	1190
14.	Manipur	10
15.	Meghalaya	12
16.	Mizoram	9
17.	Nagaland	14
18.	Orissa	47
19.	Punjab	204
20.	Rajasthan	943
21.	Sikkim	10
22.	Tamil Nadu	318

1	2	3
23.	Tripura	8
24.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	584
25.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	314
26.	West Bengal	173

Renewable Energy Projects

*126. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of renewable energy projects under implementation in different States particularly in Kerala as on date;

(b) whether any such proposals are pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(c) the time by which those are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) A wide range of programmes/projects to generate and utilise non-conventional energy, are being implemented. These include the Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP), the setting up of Bio-gas plants, Improved Chulhas, Bio-mass Gasification and Briquetting plants, Solar Thermal Water Heating systems, both domestic and industrial, Solar Photovoltaic energy based rural home lighting systems, lanterns, water pumps for irrigation and village level power plants, grid-connected power from wind energy, small hydro, biomass combustion, bagasse based co-generation and Solar Photovoltaic and Solar Thermal energy. Alternate fueled vehicles, and recovery of energy from Urban and Industrial wastes. The details of projects under implementation in Kerala, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) No such proposal from Kerala is pending with the Union Government.

Statement

Details of renewable energy projects under implementation in Kerala

S.No.	Programme/Projects	Nos./Capacity	Status/Remarks
1	2	3	4
I.	Biogas		
	(a) National project on Biogas Development (Nos.)	1500	These are targets fixed for 1997-98 and are under implementation.
	(b) IBP/CBP/NBP (Nos.)	5	These are targets fixed for 1997-98 and are under implementation.
II.	National Programme of Improved Chulha (Nos.)	1,00,000	These are targets fixed for 1997-98 and are under implementation.

1	2	3	4
III.	Small Hydro Power	6/11.5 MW	SHP projects under State Plan are at various stages of construction.
IV.	Water Pumping Wind Mill (Nos.)	11	A total 44 Nos. Water Pumping Wind Mills have been installed against the sanction of 55 Nos.
V.	Renewable Energy Parks (Nos.)	11	11 Nos. Renewable Energy Parks sanctioned during 1995-96 are under implementation.
VI.	Urjagram (Nos.)	3	3 Urjagram projects sanctioned earlier are under implementation.
VII.	Integrated Rural Energy Programme	16 Blocks	28 IREP Blocks are under operation against sanctioned Nos. of 44 Blocks.
VIII.	Solar Photovoltaics		
	(a) Home Lighting Systems	470	These systems are likely to be commissioned during 1997-98.
	(b) Street Lighting Systems	22	
	(c) SPV Powered Colour TV	2	
IX.	(a) Battery Operated Vehicle (Nos.)	3	A project for 3 Battery Operated Vehicles was sanctioned and is under implementation through ANERT.
	(b) Dual Fuel Buses (Nos.)	50	Under Demonstration Programme of Alternate Fuels, 50 buses of Kerala State Road Transport Corporation, Thiruvananthapuram would be taken up for running dual fuel mode with diesel and methanol and are under various stages of implementation.
X.	Wind Energy Programme An R & D project on digital controlled system for WEG's	—	Project was sanctioned in March, 1997 for a period of 20 months and is under implementation.
XI.	Waste of Engery A feasibility study for setting up waste to energy project in Thiruvananthapuram.	—	Final report to be submitted shortly.

To be operationalised.

Programmes on Golden Jubilee

127. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to make special programme based on the freedom movement on the occasion of golden jubilee of India's independence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the languages in which such programmes are being made.

(d) whether it is a fact that no such programmes are proposed to be telecast in Urdu;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken to telecast some programmes in Urdu also alongwith the details of such programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) A number of programmes relating to freedom movement in national and regional network have been planned in various formats like serials, documentaries, telefilms, features, songs and short films etc.

(c) The languages are Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu besides English and Hindi.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Menace of Touts

128. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :
SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAJ :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the menace of touts and unauthorised travel agents dealing with the reservation of railway tickets throughout the country which has become a problem to the public;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the railway officials also join hands with the touts for extraneous benefits as has been revealed by senior railway officials in the newspaper;

(d) if so, the number of raids conducted in each zone during the last one year and the current year till date and action taken against the guilty officials;

(e) whether the Government are aware that present provisions are not adequate to deter the touts;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to constitute a committee and amend the Railway Act to make the trial of touts and selling of railway tickets more effectively;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether a notice was issued by the Delhi High Court to his Ministry in this regard; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Some cases of cornering of train accommodation by anti-social elements and later selling it on premium to needy passengers have been reported.

In order to check this menace, regular checks are conducted to nab the touts and unauthorised Travel Agents by RPF, Vigilance and Commercial Departments in the Railways.

Checks are also conducted on the premises of authorised rail travel agents to see if any irregularities are committed by them. These raids and checks are intensified during summer rush.

In 1996, 3245 raids were conducted against touts and this year upto June, 1567 checks have already been conducted. As a result of the above checks, 3006 touts and anti-social elements have been detected and various actions against them like fining, prosecution, forfeiting of tickets, etc. have been taken. In some instances, licences of various RTSAs have also been suspended/cancelled. Apart from this, the passengers who have purchased tickets from unauthorised agents are also checked on trains and 6889 cases of transferred tickets have been caught during the year 1996 and June, 1997. During 1994-95, and 1995-96, 2407 and 2252 railway staff respectively have also been taken up for various irregularities including complaints in booking/reservation.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) to (i) Ministry of Railways has appointed a Committee, to go into all aspects of Passenger Reservation System, which is expected to submit its report shortly. There is a Public Interest Litigation in Delhi High Court against the Railways in regard to various issues relating to Passenger Reservation System, menace of touts etc.

[English]

Supply of Rails by SAIL

129. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 32,000 tonnes of rails supplied to Railways by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) were found cracked;

(b) if so, the details of the annual supply of rails by SAIL to Railways;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted to ascertain the reason for the defects in the rails supplied to Railways;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) About 47,000 pieces of rails were supplied to the Railways at 14 destination points from 1st to 28th January, 1997, 1997. Out of these, only 26 pieces of rail were reported to have cracked and that too mostly in one consignment at Kalyan Flash Butt Welding Plant. Pending further enquiry/investigation into the cause of this isolated instance of rail breakage, Railways took a decision not to use the entire consignment of rails sent to them from 1st to 28th January, 1997.

(b) SAIL supplied 4.07 lakh tonnes of rails to Railways at different destinations in 1996-97.

(c) to (e) A detailed investigation was conducted along with the Railways. This investigation revealed that the bulk of the rails supplied during the month of January were processed through the existing straightening machine. Out of the small portion that was processed through the new bi-planner straightening machine, it appears that a few rails were perhaps inadvertently over stressed during trial run of the machine on 18th and 19th January, 1997. This over stressing coupled with multiple handling during loading, unloading and transportation caused the crack to develop and be visible only after the rails reached the destination point and were being processed for use. Operation of the new machine was temporarily suspended and a thorough technological evaluation was conducted along with the Railways to determine safe operating regime for this machine. After obtaining clearance from the Railways, operation of the machine has been resumed. Also action has been initiated jointly with the Railways to release the held-up rails and deploy them for service. This issue was examined in the Ministry in consultation with SAIL and the Railways. A time bound, point-wise, action plan was decided upon for remedying this situation.

[Translation]

Losses by SEBs

130. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of losses suffered by the State Electricity Boards during 1995-96 and 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for these losses;

(c) whether the Government have suggested privatisation of various works of power generation and distribution to the State Electricity Boards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) In terms of the provisions of sub-Section of Section 69 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the accounts of State Electricity Boards are required to be forwarded to the Central Electricity Authority within six months of the close of the year to which the accounts relate. Accounts for all the SEBs for the year 1996-97 are not readily available with the CEA. However, a *Statement* showing the surplus/deficit of the SEBs, after taking into account the rural electrification subsidy as also without RE subsidy as provided in the account for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 is enclosed.

(b) The reasons for the losses of the SEBs inter-alia include unremunerative tariffs, including agricultural tariffs, high T and D losses, low levels of Plant Load Factor (PLF) and consequently High fuel consumption in some Thermal Power Stations (TPSs), etc.

(c) and (d) Private Sector Companies have been permitted to set up power generating stations since 1991. The Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power finalised in December, 1996 mentions that the State Governments agree to a gradual programme of private sector participation in distribution of electricity. The process of private participation shall be initially in one or two viable geographical areas covering both urban and rural areas in a State and the State may extend this to other parts of the state gradually.

Statement

Statement showing the surplus/deficit of the SEBs (taking into account RE Subsidy as provided in the accounts as also without RE subsidy) during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96.

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the SEB	1994-95		1995-96	
		With RE Subsidy	Without RE Subsidy	With RE Subsidy	Without RE Subsidy
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
1.	APSEB	87.24	-857.04	130.59	-1128.58 (A)
2.	ASEB	-241.26	-296.90	-261.36	-261.46 (P)
3.	BSEB	-80.32	-300.11	-27.52	-27.52 (U)
4.	GEB	105.94	-550.28	108.00	-1003.39 (A)
5.	HSEB	16.16	-98.92	78.21	-536.59 (A)
6.	HPSEB	18.56	17.67	35.58	35.53 (A)

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
7. KEB		43.06	164.18	51.20	-499.41 (U)
8. KSEB		21.88	13.32	22.76	-30.48 (U)
9. MPEB		132.40	382.40	133.79	-458.46 (A)
10. MSEB		320.78	320.75	349.80	-280.24 (U)
11. MeSEB		-20.18	-27.18	-12.76	-21.66 (U)
12. OSEB		24.90	-136.08	26.94	-230.68 (U)
13. PSEB		-5.53	-427.48	142.85	-325.64 (A)
14. RSEB		77.07	-412.75	80.84	-343.87 (U)
15. TNEB		347.75	-2.31	339.19	-76.74 (A)
16. UPSEB		258.44	-978.25	22.20	-1495.00 (A)
17. WBSEB		18.47	-78.66	17.22	-64.49 (U)
Total		1125.36	-4360.80	1237.53	-6748.68

P - Provisional

A - Audited

U - Unaudited

[English]

Extension of Railways Network

131. DR. ASIM BALA :

KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have formulated any new schemes to extend railway network in backward, hilly, tribal, remote and desert areas;

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

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be implemented; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The details of new line ongoing projects in backward, hilly, tribal, remote and desert areas are as under :

Project and State	State	Zone	Cost Rs. in crs.	Target date of completion
1	2	3	4	5
1. Talcher-Sambalpur	Orissa	SE	338.68	March' 98
2. Jogighopa-Guwahati	Assam	NF	635	Brahmaputra Bridge and Jogighopa to Goalpara Dec'97 and Goalpara to Guwahati by Dec'98.
3. Daitari-Banspani	Orissa	SE	243	Dec'99
4. Mandarhill-Rampurhat	Bihar	ER	170	Not yet fixed.
5. Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad	(AP)	SC	193	-do-
6. Amravati-Narkhed	Maharashtra	CR	183	-do-
7. Lanjigarh-Junagarh	Orissa	SE	100	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
8. Godhra-Indore via Dahod-Maksi	(Gujarat and MP)	WR	297	Work being done only on Dewas-Maksi (Total cost Rs. 48 crs.) TD Dec'99. Rest is under review.
9. Khurda Road-Bolangir	Orissa	SE	353	Not yet fixed.
10. Nandyal-Yerraguntala	Andhra Pradesh	SC	156	-do-
11. Kadur-Chickmagalur-Sakleshpur	Karnataka	SR	157	-do-
12. Kurnarghat-Agartala	Tripura	NF	575	-do-
13. Sakri-Hassanpur	Bihar	NE	96.03	-do-
14. Haridaspur-Paradeep	Orissa	SE	121	-do-
15. Udampur-Srinagar-Baramula	J and K	NR	1900	-do-
16. Jammu Tawi-Udhampur	J and K	NR	335	Dec-99

New Line Works Included in the Supplementary Budget 96-97

17. Khagaria-Kusheshwarnath	Bihar	NE	78	Not yet fixed.
18. Harmuti-Itanagar/	Arunachal Pradesh	NF	156	-do-

New Line Works Taken up in Budget 97-98

19. Muzaffarpur to Sitamari	Bihar	NE	100	-do-
20. Ganga Bridge at Patna	-do-	ER	600	-do-
21. Ara to Sasaram	-do-	ER	120	-do-
22. Giridih to Koderma as the first phase of Giridih-Barkakhana-Ranchi line	-do-	ER	145	-do-
23. Lalitpur-Satna and Rewa to Singrauli	Madhya Pradesh	CR	925	-do-
24. Diphu to Karong as the first phase of the line to Imphal	Assam/Manipur	NF	800	-do-
25. Bogibheel Bridge	Assam	NF	1000	-do-

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of Electricity

*132. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :
SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of demand and supply of power in the country at present, State/U.T.-wise;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment in regard to the demand of power by 2000 A.D.;

(c) if so, the details thereof State/U.T.-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The requirement and availability of

energy in the country during the period April, 1997 to June, 1997 was 105.5 billion units and 92.8 billion units respectively. The peak demand and peak met during the same period was 62.927 MW and 51.649 MW respectively. The State-wise/Union Territory-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement I and II.

(b) and (c) The estimated energy requirement and peak demand based on the 15th Electric Power Survey Report during the year 2000-01 is 535.9 billion units and 90.093 MW respectively. The Ninth Plan will finalise demand estimates. The details are given in the enclosed Statement I and II.

(d) To meet the projected demand, Government have initiated various steps which, inter-alia, include addition of capacity, encouraging private sector participation in power generation, better demand side management, energy conservation measures, renovation and modernisation of existing plants, reduction of

transmission and distribution losses, effective utilisation of existing generation by transfer of power from surplus

regions to deficit regions through inter-regional links etc.

Statement-I

Statewise Actual Power Supply Position in the Country During the Period April'97 to June, 1997 and Assessment of Energy Requirement during 2000-01

Region/ State/ System	Energy (MU Net) April-June 1997			%	Energy Requirement in 2000-01 (BU)
	Require- ment	Avail- ability	Shortage		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Northern Region :					
Chandigarh	235	235	0	0.0	.850
Delhi	3765	3726	39	1.0	19.352
Haryana	3145	3044	101	3.2	22.644
Himachal Pradesh	777	777	0	0.0	3.517
Jammu and Kashmir	1225	1174	51	4.2	6.463
Punjab	5595	5568	27	0.5	30.233
Rajasthan	4780	4704	76	1.6	29.655
Uttar Pradesh	10350	8938	1412	13.6	56.440
N.R.	29872	28166	1706	5.7	169.154
Western Region :					
Gujarat	9975	8829	1146	11.5	46.049
Madhya Pradesh	8125	6896	1229	15.1	39.931
Maharashtra	16000	14854	1146	7.2	78.586
Goa	332	332	0	0.0	1.373
W.R.	34432	30911	3521	10.2	167.375
Southern Region :					
Andhra Pradesh	9740	8047	1693	17.4	42.710
Karnataka	6680	4597	2083	31.2	29.543
Kerala	2775	2116	659	23.7	14.632
Tamil Nadu	9795	8294	1501	15.3	38.447
S.R.	28990	23054	5936	20.5	127.240
Eastern Region :					
Bihar	2300	1843	457	19.9	19.894
D.V.C.	2010	1978	32	1.6	-
Orissa	2635	2572	63	2.4	17.859
West Bengal	4030	3943	87	2.2	26.481
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	0.124
E.R.	10975	10336	639	5.8	64.358
North-Eastern Region :					
Arunachal Pradesh	39.5	20.4	19.1	48.4	0.307

1	2	3	4	5	6
Assam	716.9	665.2	51.7	7.2	4.710
Manipur	132.3	91.6	40.7	30.8	0.629
Meghalaya	94.4	94.3	0.0	0.0	0.600
Mizoram	54.1	34.2	19.9	36.8	0.449
Nagaland	57.2	38.9	18.3	32.0	0.251
Tripura	134.7	96.4	38.3	28.4	0.642
N.E.R.	1129.0	1041.0	188.0	15.3	7.588
Andaman and Nicobar	-	-	-	-	0.163
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	0.025
All India	1.05.498	92.770	12.728	12.1	535.903

Statement-II

Statewise Actual Power Supply Position in the Country During the Period April'97 to June, 1997 and Assessment of Peak during 2000-01

Region/ State/ System	Peak (MW) April-June, 1997				Peak Demand in 2001
	Demand	Met	Shortage	%	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Northern Region :					
Chandigarh	169	169	0	0.0	170
Delhi	2240	2150	90	4.0	3253
Haryana	1970	1926	44	2.2	4259
Himachal Pradesh	661	661	0	0.0	750
Jammu and Kashmir	900	805	95	10.6	1476
Punjab	3951	3951	0	0.0	5515
Rajasthan	2700	2640	60	2.2	5218
Uttar Pradesh	6500	4903	1597	24.6	10442
N.R.	17900	16064	1836	10.3	29603
Western Region :					
Gujarat	6200	5148	1052	17.0	7618
Madhya Pradesh	5600	3952	1648	29.4	6606
Maharashtra	9350	8117	1233	13.2	12460
Goa	180	180	0	0.0	278
W.R.	20500	16515	3985	19.4	26924
Southern Region :					
Andhra Pradesh	5570	4576	994	17.8	7064
Karnataka	4385	3180	1205	27.5	5141
Kerala	1920	1442	478	24.9	2983
Tamil Nadu	5754	4622	1132	19.7	6270
S.R.	16580	13354	3226	19.5	20746

1	2	3	4	5	6
Eastern Region :					
Bihar	1710	1047	663	38.8	3739
D.V.C.	1490	1179	311	20.9	-
Orissa	1900	1636	264	13.9	2912
West Bengal	2775	2535	240	8.6	5030
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	43
E.R.	7742	6294	1448	18.7	11166
North-Eastern Region :					
Arunachal Pradesh	47	40	7	14.9	84
Assam	541	513	28	5.2	937
Manipur	90	70	20	22.2	174
Meghalaya	91	91	0	0.0	132
Mizoram	52	43	9	17.3	130
Nagaland	39	37	2	5.1	64
Tripura	96	68	28	29.2	169
N.E.R.	935	848	87	9.3	1610
Andaman and Nicobar	-	-	-	-	37
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	7
All India	62,927	51,649	11,278	17.9	90,093

[English]

Implementation of NFBS and NMBS in States

*133. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Family Benefit Scheme and National Maternity Benefit Scheme are being properly implemented in States;

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

(c) the action proposed to be taken to ensure strict implementation of these schemes by the States?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :
(a) to (c) The National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) were launched as Centrally Sponsored Schemes with effect from 15th August, 1995.

Releases, reported expenditure and number of beneficiaries under NFBS and NMBS are given in enclosed Statement I to VI.

These were new schemes and hence a lot of ground work and publicity was required throughout the country. The State Governments took considerable time in

grounding the programme and complete procedures and formalities. Releases of funds during 1995-96 under NFBS and NMBS amounted to 105 crores and 58.7 crores respectively, which was 68% and 67% respectively of the Budget Allocation. Releases under NFBS and NMBS during 1996-97 were Rs. 106.9 crores and Rs. 67.6 crores respectively, which was more or less the entire provision available for the year. However, as may be seen from the Annexures, expenditure reported by the States was at a lower level. This indicates that the implementation of the these two schemes has to significantly improve.

The Ministry has taken several steps such as meetings with State Ministers in charge of NSAP, individual review meetings with the State Secretaries, discussions on perceived impediments to successful implementation of the schemes in the Central Advisory Committee on NSAP and special publicity campaigns. Letters have also been addressed to Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of the States which have been found to lag behind. State Governments have also been requested to give wide publicity to these schemes and improve the implementation. Such efforts will be continued. Stepping up the publicity campaign through media and other means, continuous monitoring of the process of implementation and frequent discussions with State Governments at various levels and simplification of procedures are some of the steps proposed.

Statement-I*Progress of NFBS for 1995-96*

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	State/UTs	Release	Exp. Reported	No. of Benf. Reported
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1334.93	262.03	3916
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.71	0.00	0
3.	Assam	188.21	51.13	1652
4.	Bihar	1090.36	257.48	3191
5.	Goa	3.37	1.10	17
6.	Gujarat	222.33	6.81	NR
7.	Haryana	45.72	1.70	NR
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11.95	3.55	57
9.	J and K	27.3	22.17	292
10.	Karnataka	383.69	209.67	NR
11.	Kerala	90.57	10.29	31
12.	Madhya Pradesh	823.85	233.08	4038
13.	Maharashtra	606.69	0.75	155
14.	Manipur	3.42	3.38	55
15.	Meghalaya	3.27	2.31	10
16.	Mizoram	1.7	1.66	24
17.	Nagaland	3.53	2.03	12
18.	Orissa	510.69	1.85	18
19.	Punjab	37.38	28.91	437
20.	Rajasthan	266.89	0.00	0
21.	Sikkim	1.67	NR	NR
22.	Tamilnadu	1130	540.94	14153
23.	Tripura	10.4	2.12	58
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3147.28	2062.93	48221
25.	West Bengal	531.09	72.96	2246
26.	A and N Islands	1.69	NR	NR
27.	Chandigarh	1.72	1.72	NR
28.	D & N Haveli	1.65	NR	NR
29.	Daman and Diu	1.48	1.27	24
30.	NCT Delhi	18.85	18.85	NR
31.	Lakshadweep	1.62	0.00	0
32.	Pondicherry	1.68	0.00	0
Total		10506.68	3800.68	78607

NR : Not Reported.

Statement-II*Progress of NMBS for 1995-96*

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	State/UTs	Release	Exp. Reported	No. of Benf. Reported
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	746.75	588.78	203902
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.95	0.00	0
3.	Assam	87.79	35.41	8888
4.	Bihar	572.00	211.34	79701
5.	Goa	2.60	0.00	0
6.	Gujarat	118.25	0.00	0
7.	Haryana	35.72	24.25	5566
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13.42	1.87	295
9.	J and K	30.80	20.46	5022
10.	Karnataka	237.96	196.04	NR
11.	Kerala	64.88	13.42	167
12.	Madhya Pradesh	457.60	17.79	0
13.	Maharashtra	361.76	0.07	831
14.	Manipur	4.07	3.87	1277
15.	Meghalaya	3.74	2.50	122
16.	Mizoram	1.58	1.58	500
17.	Nagaland	5.59	3.15	126
18.	Orissa	240.08	4.91	1524
19.	Punjab	25.48	9.36	2569
20.	Rajasthan	202.67	0.00	0
21.	Sikkim	0.94	NR	NR
22.	Tamilnadu	563.60	155.80	50487
23.	Tripura	12.34	3.77	1671
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1777.92	1264.47	291690
25.	West Bengal	274.49	35.23	22285
26.	A and N Islands	0.69	NR	NR
27.	Chandigarh	1.57	1.57	NR
28.	D and N Haveli	0.29	NR	NR
29.	Daman and Diu	0.18	0.09	24
30.	NCT Delhi	21.85	21.85	NR
31.	Lakshadweep	0.22	0.00	0
32.	Pondicherry	1.78	0.00	0
Total		5870.55	2617.57	676647

NR : Not Reported.

Statement-III

(Provisional)

NFBS
1996-97

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	State/UTs	Release	Exp. Reported	No. of Benef.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2238.12	1609.37	28461
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.03	0.61	8
3.	Assam	212.30	160.68	3212
4.	Bihar	583.17	344.15	5871
5.	Goa	10.19	12.78	169
6.	Gujarat	7.26	11.50	108
7.	Haryana	36.52	43.62	617
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11.57	11.11	176
9.	J and K	62.48	30.66	505
10.	Karnataka	12.49	12.08	174
11.	Kerala	205.51	148.14	1998
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2246.62	1520.56	26125
13.	Maharashtra	36.74	122.83	716
14.	Manipur	14.41	2.70	11
15.	Meghalaya	2.61	1.05	21
16.	Mizoram	5.78	2.81	42
17.	Nagaland	8.64	4.48	61
18.	Orissa	224.11	458.85	5110
19.	Punjab	124.62	78.85	1456
20.	Rajasthan	24.97	27.15	1243
21.	Sikkim	2.26	NR	NR
22.	Tamilnadu	1357.93	1193.74	23170
23.	Tripura	25.90	15.72	274
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2221.30	1164.14	21476
25.	West Bengal	966.50	235.83	4123
26.	A and N Islands	0.06	0.35	4
27.	Chandigarh	1.36	NR	NR
28.	D and N Haveli	5.78	2.76	45
29.	Daman and Diu	2.92	2.20	40
30.	NCT Delhi	32.06	9.75	168
31.	Lakshadweep	2.81	1.05	19
32.	Pondicherry	0.06	0.10	1
Total		10689.08	7229.62	125404

NR : Not Reported.

Statement-IV

(Provisional)

NMBS
1996-97

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	State/UTs	Release	Exp. Reported	No. of Benef.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1205.32	771.37	199399
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.06	0.21	64
3.	Assam	145.47	57.28	17240
4.	Bihar	679.55	346.01	114331
5.	Goa	0.08	0.14	43
6.	Gujarat	3.74	4.8	1413
7.	Haryana	64.14	38.55	12713
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8.00	9.69	2463
9.	J and K	36.05	16.04	5527
10.	Karnataka	7.54	13.13	8819
11.	Kerala	86.35	43.35	8200
12.	Madhya Pradesh	400.74	283.02	82007
13.	Maharashtra	11.44	57.38	3918
14.	Manipur	20.41	3.29	216
15.	Meghalaya	3.17	1.06	355
16.	Mizoram	8.01	2.57	733
17.	Nagaland	19.99	7.63	2029
18.	Orissa	435.53	296.15	92328
19.	Punjab	28.11	16.62	4704
20.	Rajasthan	6.51	4.61	117
21.	Sikkim	1.53	NR	NR
22.	Tamilnadu	571.21	535.25	177019
23.	Tripura	30.62	18.09	6150
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2416.16	1462.97	453381
25.	West Bengal	529.17	187.09	57721
26.	A and N Islands	0.02	0.02	6
27.	Chandigarh	0.05	NR	NR
28.	D and N Haveli	0.95	0.44	134
29.	Daman and Diu	0.24	0.17	44
30.	NCT Delhi	37.68	4.89	629
31.	Lakshadweep	0.01	0.03	14
32.	Pondicherry	0.06	1.68	559
Total		6757.91	4183.53	1252276

NR : Not Reported.

Statement-V

(Provisional)

NFBS
1997-98

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	State/UTs	Release	Exp. Reported	No. of Benf. Reported	Committed liability 96-97	Total Release
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1123.98	NR	NR		1123.98
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	NR	NR		0.00
3.	Assam	89.86	1.35	NR	37.18	127.04
4.	Bihar	92.44	NR	NR	204.46	296.90
5.	Goa	5.72	1.20	19.00		5.72
6.	Gujarat	0.00	NR	NR		0.00
7.	Haryana	2.66	NR	NR	18.99	21.65
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	NR	NR	9.48	9.48
9.	J and K	14.63	NR	NR		14.63
10.	Karnataka	0.00	1.05	13.00		0.00
11.	Kerala	36.42	2.80	45.00	13.81	50.23
12.	Madhya Pradesh	509.97	3.45	173.00		509.97
13.	Maharashtra	0.00	NR	NR	61.57	61.57
14.	Manipur	0.00	NR	NR		0.00
15.	Meghalaya	2.50	NR	NR		2.50
16.	Mizoram	1.72	NR	NR		1.72
17.	Nagaland	0.00	NR	NR		0.00
18.	Orissa	64.20	39.18	1574.00	169.21	233.41
19.	Punjab	62.92	NR	NR		62.92
20.	Rajasthan	0.00	NR	NR		0.00
21.	Sikkim	0.00	NR	NR		0.00
22.	Tamilnadu	806.31	NR	NR		806.31
23.	Tripura	4.90	NR	NR		4.90
24.	Uttar Pradesh	222.47	NR	NR		222.47
25.	West Bengal	22.68	NR	NR		22.68
26.	A and N Islands	0.00	NR	NR		0.00
27.	Chandigarh	0.00	NR	NR		0.00
28.	D and N Haveli	1.43	NR	NR		1.43
29.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.15	2.00		0.00
30.	NCT Delhi	0.00	NR	NR		0.00
31.	Lakshadweep	0.00	NR	NR		0.00
32.	Pondicherry	0.00	NR	NR		0.00
Total		3064.81	49.18	1826.00	514.70	3579.51

NR : Not Reported.

Statement-VI

(Provisional)

NMBS
1997-98

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	State/UTs	Release	Exp. Reported	No. of Benf. Reported	Committed liability 96-97	Total Release
1.	Andhra Pradesh	588.08	NR	NR		588.08
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.83	NR	NR		0.83
3.	Assam	49.07	0.65	183		49.07
4.	Bihar	114.74	NR	NR	109.37	224.11
5.	Goa		0.09	32		
6.	Gujarat		0.78	NR		
7.	Haryana	12.50	0.34	63	20.69	33.19
8.	Himachal Pradesh		NR	NR	12.11	12.11
9.	J and K	3.35	NR	NR		3.35
10.	Karnataka	5.16	1.59	531		5.16
11.	Kerala		1.25	470	29.43	29.43
12.	Madhya Pradesh	35.66	NR	NR		35.66
13.	Maharashtra		NR	NR	39.89	39.89
14.	Manipur		NR	NR		
15.	Meghalaya	3.04	NR	NR		3.04
16.	Mizoram		NR	NR		
17.	Nagaland	6.02	NR	NR		6.02
18.	Orissa	45.32	11.29	25151	60.88	106.20
19.	Punjab		NR	NR		
20.	Rajasthan		NR	NR		
21.	Sikkim		NR	NR		
22.	Tamilnadu	89.85	NR	NR	30.95	120.80
23.	Tripura	5.53	NR	NR		5.53
24.	Uttar Pradesh	470.57	NR	NR	106.16	576.73
25.	West Bengal	34.53	NR	NR		34.53
26.	A and N Islands		NR	NR		
27.	Chandigarh		NR	NR		
28.	D and N Haveli	0.24	NR	NR		0.24
29.	Daman and Diu		NR	NR		
30.	NCT Delhi		NR	NR		
31.	Lakshadweep		NR	NR		
32.	Pondicherry		NR	NR		
Total		1464.49	15.99	26430	409.48	1873.97

NR : Not Reported.

Public Telephones

*134. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made a plan to provide public telephones to each and every village in the country;

(b) if so, the number of villages provided with public telephones so far;

(c) the reasons for not providing telephones in the remaining villages;

(d) whether any target have been fixed by the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Out of a total 6,04,374 villages, 2,70,607 villages have been provided Public Telephones as on 18-07-97.

(c) Remaining villages are being covered progressively.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) By the end of IXth Five Year Plan.

Import and Distribution of LNG

135. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether NTPC has drawn a long term plan for creation of 6000 MW power station based on liquified natural gas;

(b) whether NTPC has requested the Government for creation of a separate corporation to handle the import and distribution of LNG in power sector;

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government; and

(d) the states in which such power projects based on LNG are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is presently exploring the possibility of setting up LNG based large power stations on coastal locations. No final decision about setting up any such project has, however, been taken so far.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of above.

[Translation]

Development of Backward Districts

*136. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had given assurance for development of 100 backward districts of the country under its Common Minimum Programme;

(b) if so, whether no action has since been taken in regard thereto;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are now contemplating on any time-bound scheme to implement such points of Common Minimum Programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (e) A Committee has been constituted to recommend criteria for identification of 100 most backward and poorest districts to facilitate preparation of Special Action Plan for infrastructure development in Rural Areas under Common Minimum Programme. The last meeting of this Committee was held on 22nd July, 1997.

[English]

Working Expenses of Railways

*137. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of wages, pensions etc. out of the total expenses of the Railways in 1995-96, 1996-97 and estimated in 1997-98;

(b) whether the operating cost has been estimated to be 90% or more of the gross receipts during 1997-98;

(c) if so, the magnitude of market borrowing and the annual interest liability on the same; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the Railways from the debt trap?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The percentage of wages, pension etc. of the Total Working Expenses for 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 (BE) for Indian Railways are shown below :

	95-96	96-97 (RE)	97-98 (BE)
	1	2	3
(i) Staff wages and other allowances	36.9	36.5	43.8
(ii) Pension	11.3	12.9	8.8

	1	2	3
(iii) Fuel	17.5	18.0	17.6
(iv) DRF	11.1	10.1	7.9
(v) Others	23.2	22.5	21.9

(b) Yes, Sir. The operating cost has been estimated to be 91.4% in 1997-98.

(c) Rs. 2150 crore is targetted to be raised as market borrowing through the Indian Railway Finance Corporation during 1997-98. The annual interest liability on Rs. 2150 crore is estimated at Rs. 235 crore approximately.

(d) There is no immediate threat of the Railways getting into a Debt Trap. However, Railways are taking necessary steps to augment their revenue and contain operating expenses in order to increase the internal generation of resources and keep market borrowings to the minimum. Indian Railways is also seeking greater budgetary support.

Beneficiaries of M.W.S.

*138. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small and marginal farmers benefited from Million Wells Scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and spent under this scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether any criteria has been fixed for giving priority to States while allocating funds under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :
(a) to (d) The number of small and marginal farmers benefited under Million Wells Scheme (MWS) is not monitored at the Central level. However, the details of State-wise number of wells constructed for small and marginal farmers below poverty line under the scheme during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

The State-wise details of the total funds allocated and funds utilised under MWS during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Funds under MWS are allocated to States/UTs on the basis of proportion of rural poor in the States/UTs to total rural poor in the country as per the estimates of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)

survey. The States having higher proportion of rural poor get more allocation than those having lower proportion of rural poor.

Statement-I

Wells Constructed Under Million Wells Scheme

S.No.	States/UTs	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17498	10899	13169
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	77	130	12
3.	Assam	1651	1865	2332
4.	Bihar	30045	25476	22911
5.	Goa	31	37	33
6.	Gujarat	6407	4107	3148
7.	Haryana	1613	572	363
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17	138	670
9.	J and K	3409	1673	1544
10.	Karnataka	4295	5236	3004
11.	Kerala	3218	3468	2268
12.	Madhya Pradesh	38989	35654	19950
13.	Maharashtra	6322	8770	8002
14.	Manipur	507	520	429
15.	Meghalaya	483	732	885
16.	Mizoram	1033	425	483
17.	Nagaland	924	0	80
18.	Orissa	26113	24263	18349
19.	Punjab	0	0	0
20.	Rajasthan	3071	2457	2389
21.	Sikkim	87	364	91
22.	Tamil Nadu	6902	10899	5962
23.	Tripura	1439	2049	1221
24.	Uttar Pradesh	780	518	43
25.	West Bengal	3845	2402	1401
26.	A and N Islands	6	6	13
27.	Dadra and NH	16	24	8
28.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
29.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
30.	Pondicherry	2	1	0
Total		158780	142685	108760

Statement-II*Total funds allocated and utilised under Million Wells Scheme*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	States/UTs	Total funds allocated (C+S)			Total funds utilised		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8129.99	4342.13	4342.14	5099.95	2608.25	3950.53
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	96.75	44.58	44.58	35.94	71.46	18.36
3.	Assam	2676.36	1429.41	1429.41	1426.60	666.70	852.99
4.	Bihar	15946.67	8516.94	8516.94	6853.58	5719.22	6351.13
5.	Goa	104.54	48.16	48.16	3.60	12.23	9.12
6.	Gujarat	2984.36	1593.91	1593.91	2755.38	1494.06	1182.96
7.	Haryana	716.88	382.88	382.88	446.46	168.40	151.64
8.	Himachal Pradesh	332.18	153.04	153.04	270.86	184.29	200.15
9.	J and K	675.00	310.99	310.99	645.46	216.89	258.81
10.	Karnataka	5458.93	2915.55	2915.55	5395.07	3241.76	2750.86
11.	Kerala	1986.03	1060.71	1060.71	1971.38	1542.52	1075.77
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10301.88	5502.11	5502.11	8483.10	4766.37	3864.57
13.	Maharashtra	8862.80	4733.53	4733.53	4565.82	3416.04	4604.17
14.	Manipur	124.01	57.14	57.14	93.34	99.18	46.70
15.	Meghalaya	145.10	66.85	66.85	88.80	42.12	54.96
16.	Mizoram	61.13	28.16	28.16	106.20	40.27	42.82
17.	Nagaland	155.54	71.66	71.66	138.60	0.00	19.90
18.	Orissa	6595.33	3522.49	3522.49	4285.12	4322.29	4176.51
19.	Punjab	509.79	272.28	272.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Rajasthan	4280.06	2285.93	2285.93	1765.93	825.77	891.96
21.	Sikkim	56.63	26.09	26.09	55.83	104.46	44.94
22.	Tamil Nadu	7349.38	3925.20	3925.23	7339.18	4814.56	4341.06
23.	Tripura	161.07	74.21	74.21	172.78	123.77	88.88
24.	Uttar Pradesh	19812.53	10581.64	10581.64	18883.78	11988.78	11672.94
25.	West Bengal	7285.66	3891.19	3891.19	6721.15	7341.71	3507.65
26.	A and N Islands	45.81	21.11	21.11	9.35	9.35	5.17
27.	Dadra and NH	24.87	11.46	11.46	4.02	8.24	4.20
28.	Daman and Diu	14.65	6.76	6.76	0.41	0.00	0.00
29.	Lakshadweep	22.97	10.58	10.58	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Pondicherry	44.84	20.66	20.66	0.72	0.16	0.00
Total		104961.74	55907.36	55907.36	77618.41	53828.35	50168.77

Financing to Power Project by IDBI

*139. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has got a large number of power projects for financing during the fiscal year, 1997-98;

(b) whether proposals of about 32 power projects seeking assistance are pending with them;

(c) if so, the time by which the final decision to finance these power projects by IDBI will be taken; and

(d) the total amount required and the projects to be cleared during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) 16 applications of power projects are pending with IDBI, at present.

(c) According to the IDBI these projects will be taken up for financing based on an appraisal by the financial institutions, which would inter alia take into account factors like techno-economic clearance from CEA, environmental clearance, fuel linkage and signing of a bankable Power Purchase Agreements with SEBs.

(d) During 1997-98, IDBI has approved 4 power projects with assistance sanctioned at Rs. 1550 crores.

Finance for Indo-Bangla Power Project

*140. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Asian Development Bank has agreed to finance Indo-Bangla Power exchange projects;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the share of each country in these projects, project-wise; and

(d) the states likely to be benefited from such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The ADB, under its Regional Technical Assistance Programme, has agreed to finance a feasibility study for electricity exchange between India and Bangladesh.

(b) and (c) The feasibility study would, inter alia, identify the inter-tie points, quantum of power supply at each point, nature of power supply (i.e. base load, peak load or off-peak power), commercial arrangements based on international commercial practices for sale/

purchase of power between countries and other related technical issues.

(d) The project envisages export of surplus power from Eastern region of India to Western Bangladesh. The project also envisages export of surplus power from Eastern Bangladesh to the North Eastern region of India. Initially, this would be of benefit to States belonging to the Eastern and North Eastern regions of India and once all the links of the National Grid are complete, the benefit could extend to the country as a whole.

Import of Cables by Enron

1316. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed the Enron to import cables for its projects; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor in the light of present recession in the domestic cable industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Detailed Projected Report for the Dabhol power project (Ph-1) of M/s. Enron envisaged import of plant and equipment including power cables, which was techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in July, 1994 and the Concessional Customs Duty Certificate was issued by the CEA for the import against "Power Project Import" under Heading 98.01 of Indian Custom Tariff Act. The imports would be as per the Government policy relating to imports.

Rail Travel Concessions

1317. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of rail travel concessions granted during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of concessions granted to political leaders, social workers, able-bodied persons, handicapped and ill persons during the said period;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue any fresh guidelines for providing rail travel concessions to ill and handicapped persons and reducing the quota of able-bodied persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) As per rules contained in the Coaching Tariffs, concession in rail fares is admissible to 38 categories of persons like students, sportsmen,

disabled persons, certain categories of patients, Senior Citizens, etc.

In addition to the above, concession on ad-hoc basis were also granted to delegates for attending Annual Conferences of certain organisations of Social, Educational and Cultural importance, students of some educational institutions and persons for attending National Integration Camps of certain organisations. The total number of these concessions were as under :

	1994	1995	1996
Conference :	62	55	54
Students :	22	24	8
National Integration Camps :	40	35	42

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Role of Junior Telecom Staff

1318. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC);

(b) if so, the objectives thereof; and

(c) the time by which the CERC is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is in the process of finalising the proposal and it is expected that a Bill will be introduced in the Monsoon Session of the Parliament.

Role of Junior Telecom Staff

1319. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Not Cricket: Dirty tricks on the dirt track. The telecom tangle" appeared in the Business Standard, New Delhi on July 8, 1997; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Sir, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Railway Vending Stall at South Concourse and New Coaching Complex

1320. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the passengers are facing hardships in absence of any Railway Vending Stall at the South Concourse and New Coaching Complex of Howrah Railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether demands of the passenger are fulfilled by the unauthorised hawkers;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to allow the situation to continue at the cost of Railway; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to set up some stalls at New Coaching Complex and others at the wall of the South Concourse of the Station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Sale of different eatable items including cold drinks, mineral water, tea, coffee, etc. are made available to the passengers through mobile platform vending. Besides, the snack bar and stalls on the first floor of the building are also well patronised. These facilities are adequate to meet the passengers' requirements.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Regular checks are undertaken for evicting the unauthorised hawkers from station premises. Provision of catering stalls at South Concourse and New Coaching Complex has not been considered necessary.

Power Generation in 8th Plan

1321. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total power generated both hydel and thermal in the country by the close of the Eighth Plan as against the installed capacity;

(b) the comparative rise in power generation cost and resultant rise in power tariff in the country;

(c) the power generation projection both thermal and hydel during the Ninth Plan period; and

(d) the strategy formulated by the Government to achieve the projected power generation to bridge the gap between demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The details of the total power generated

during 1996-97 and the installed capacity as on 31.3.1997 (the last year of the 8th Plan) are given below :

Category	Installed Capacity as on 31.3.1997 (MW)	Power generation 1996-97 (MU)
Thermal	61.149.51	316869
Hydro	21.658.08	68609

(b) The average cost of supply of power and average tariff changed from various categories of consumers (for typical load), in respect of 17 State Electricity Boards on 31st March, 1994 and 31st March, 1996 is given below :

	(Paise/kwh)	
	As on 31st March, 1994	As on 31st March, 1996
Average cost of supply	154.78	179.74
Average Tariff :		
1. Domestic (2 kw) 110 kwh/month	94.35	110.18
2. Commercial (5 kw) 200 kwh/month	237.35	295.89
3. Agriculture 10 HP, 20% L.F.	38.82	45.88
4. Industrial (50 kw) 14600 kwh/month 40% L.F.	176.23	215.06

(c) The Working Group on Power constituted by the Planning Commission has recommended a capacity addition programme of 57.735 MW for 9th Five Year Plan comprising 17411 MW from Hydro and 39.444 MW from Thermal (including Gas, Diesel etc.) and 880 MW from Nuclear to meet the demand as projected in 15th Electric Power Survey Report. The targets for 9th Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised.

(d) To meet the projected demand, Government have initiated various steps which, inter-alia, include addition of capacity, encouraging private sector participation in power generation, better demand side management, energy conservation measures, renovation and modernisation of existing plants, reduction of transmission and distribution losses and affective utilisation of generation capacity by transfer of power from surplus regions to deficit regions through inter-regional links.

New Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal

1322. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in West Bengal;

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

(c) whether some exchanges in the State are also proposed to be expanded modernised;

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(e) the investment proposed to be made therefore during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Clearance of Proposals for Foreign Investment

1323. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of the proposals for foreign direct investment in the field of Power generation so far approved by Government;

(b) the proposals still pending for clearance along with the details;

(c) the terms and conditions which have been agreed to by the Government;

(d) the names of the Indian collaborators;

(e) the time schedule for the commencement of the generation; and

(f) the total quantity of power is likely to be generated by these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) The details of the project specific proposals approved for foreign direct investment in the field of power generation from August, 1991 to May, 1997 are given in enclosed Statement-I. These approvals are subject, inter-alia, to the proposals obtaining all the required statutory clearances. The details of power project proposals for foreign direct investment presently pending for clearance are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) The commencement of the generation is conditional to tying up of the required inputs/linkages and obtaining necessary clearances and achieving financial closure by the projects.

(f) The total quantity of power that can be generated by the projects approved for foreign direct investment in generation from a capacity of 20.047 MW.

Statement-I

Details of Project Specific Proposals Approved for Foreign Direct Investment in the Field of Power Generation from August, 1991 to May, 1997.

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity	Name of Indian Company
1	2	3	4
1.	Godavari GBPP	208	Spectrum Power Generation Ltd.
2.	Jegurupadu GBPP	216	GVK Industries Ltd.
3.	Visakhapatnam TPS	1000	Hinduja National Power Corp. Ltd.
4.	Dabhol TPS	2015	Dabhol Power Company
5.	Ib Valley TPS	420	AES Ib Valley Power Corp.
6.	Zero Unit of NLC	250	ST-CMS Electric Company
7.	Mangalore TPS	1000	Mangalore Power Company
8.	Bhadravati TPS	1072	Central India Power Company Ltd.
9.	Paguthan CCGT	655	Gujarat Torrent Energy Company
10.	Pillaiperumalnallur	320	Dyna-Makowski Power Ltd.
11.	Bellary Hospet (Torangallu) TPS	240	Jindal Tractbel Power Company Ltd.
12.	Sagardighi TPS	1000	Sagardighi Power Generating Company Ltd.
13.	Bakreshwar TPS	420	Bakreswar Power Generating Company Ltd.
14.	Gouripore TPS	150	Gouripore Power Company Ltd.
15.	Rosa TPS Ph-I	500	Rosa Power Supply Company
16.	Balagarh TPS	500	Balagarh Power Company Ltd.
17.	Basin Bridge TPS	200	GMR Vasavi Power Corporation Ltd.
18.	North Madras TPP St. II	1050	Videocon Power Ltd.
19.	Bhilai TPS	500	Bhilai Power Supply Co.
20.	Finolex TPS	500	Finolex Energy Corporation
21.	Korba East TPS	1070	Daewoo Power (India) Ltd.
22.	Pench TPS	420	Pench Power Ltd.
23.	TPS at Sanghipuram	60	IBIL Energy Limited.
24.	TPS at Sangipuram	60	IBIL Energy Limited
25.	Bina TPS	578	Bina Power Supply Ltd.
26.	Maheswar HEP	400	Shri Maheswar Hydel Power Company Ltd.
27.	Lapanga TPS	500	Samalai Power (Lapanga) Company Ltd.
28.	Narsingpur TPS	166	GBL Power Ltd.
29.	Peenya TPS	100	Peenya Power Company Ltd.
30.	Yamuna Nagar TPS	700	Yamunnagar Power Company.
31.	Patalganga TPS	410	Reliance (Patalganga) Power Ltd.
32.	Captive TPS	240	Mesco Indeck Power Corporation.
33.	TPS by M/s Greenview Power Projects Ltd.	12	Greenview Power Projects Ltd.
34.	TPS Kosi Kalan	355	M/s Wasan Exports.
35.	Nanjungud TPS	100	IPS Power Company
36.	Two 40 MW Captive Power Plants in Jodhpur/Pali Districts	80	M/s ST Power Systems Ltd.
37.	Two 40 MW Captive Power Plants in Jodhpur/Jalore District	80	M/s TF & Management Services Corpn.

1	2	3	4
38.	Naphtha based plant	100	Indocal Power Ventures Ltd.
39.	Barge mounted plant at Tanir Bavi	170	SEA Corporation.
40.	Multifuel based power plant	130	Eurokapital AG
41.	Power plant at Bangalore	500	Pulakeshi Power Co.
42.	Kumta Barge mounted	110	Candia Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd.
43.	North Madras TPP (St. III)	500	Tri-Sakhthi Energy Pvt. Ltd.
44.	Raigarh TPP	550	Jindal Power Limited.
45.	Duburi TPS	500	Kalinga Power Corpn.

Statement-II

Details of Power Project proposals for Foreign Direct investment presently pending for clearance

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Name of applicant Company.
1.	Jhabua	360	M/s General Mediterranean Holding Co.
2.	Kondapalli CAPP	355	M/s Kondapali Power Corpn.
3.	Naphtha based project at Hanumangarh	150	M/s Peeraj Power Generation Ltd.
4.	Liquid fuel based project at Ratlam	118.6	M/s GVK Power (Ratlam) Ltd.
5.	Two barge mounted power plants of 100 MW each in coastal Andhra Pradesh	200	M/s Oakwell Engineering Ltd.
6.	Vembar Power Project	2000	M/s Mauria Holdings Ltd.

Movement of Trolleys

1324. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of hawking or movement of trolleys under Departmental Catering, is restricted in the South Concourse of the Old Complex of Howrah Station and also in New Coaching Complex excepting private book stalls and trolleys are allowed which does not have any restriction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to reverse the order; and

(d) if not, the reasons for allowing private stalls and trolleys at the cost of Departmental Catering in those areas of Howrah station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) The restrictions on the movement of trolleys is an arrangement to reduce the congestion level in these areas. Some vending stalls have been removed from the South Concourse to make room for free movement of passengers. Book Stalls, Chemist stall and Misc. stall have been allowed to continue.

Railway Commission Vendors

1325. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Railway Commission Vendors grouped inside the Mini-market at Howrah Station lost their earnings after shifting of their stalls from South Concourse to the said market;

(b) if so, the number of such commission vendors who lost their earnings;

(c) the previous earning and present earning of those commission vendors vendor-wise (before shifting and after shifting) and month-wise during the last three years (upto June, 1997); and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase their earning by shifting the stalls from the market to the walls of the South Concourse?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four.

(c) The vendors stalls have been shifted only in March, 1997. The earnings from March to June, 1997

as compared to the previous year are given in the Statement attached.

(d) With the increasing trend of daily commuters in North Concourse, the earnings will improve.

Statement

Period	Earnings from			
	Cigarette Stall No.3 Rs.	Cold Drinks Stall No.7 Rs.	Cold Drinks Stall No.9 Rs.	Tea Stall No.17 Rs.
After Shifting of stalls in March, 1997				
March, 1997	3,906.00	3,811.00	5,995.00	2,526.00
April, 1997	2,273.00	4,233.00	5798.00	2,504.00
May, 1997	3,031.00	8,138.00	7,772.00	2,893.00
June, 1997	1,119.00	6,816.00	6,441.00	2,720.00
Earnings during corresponding months of 1996 (before shifting)				
March, 1996	8,738.00	6,093.00	9,423.00	6,687.00
April, 1996	8,632.00	5,603.00	10,272.00	5,829.00
May, 1996	11,734.00	8,086.00	12,768.00	9,556.00
June, 1996	9,619.00	6,604.00	10,407.00	7,875.00

Misuse of Ladies Compartments by Men

1326. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaints have been received from lady passengers regarding misuse of ladies compartments by men;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Womens' Commission has made any representation in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

New Railway Projects

1327. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new railway projects on which construction work is likely to be started in Madhya Pradesh during the current financial year and Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the total amount likely to be incurred on these projects alongwith the estimated cost of each project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The following new projects in Madhya Pradesh are likely to be started during the current financial year :-

New Lines

1. Lalitpur-Satna and Rewa-Singrauli

2. Bishrampur-Ambikapur

The projects likely to be taken up in the remaining years of the Ninth Five Year Plan are not known.

(b) and (c) The details are as under :

(Rs. in Crores)			
Name of Project	Total amount likely to be incurred during 1997-98	Anticipated Cost	Target for Completion
1	2	3	4

New Line

1. Lalitpur-Satna & Rewa-Singrauli	0.01	925	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances are obtained and the land is made available by the State Government.
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1	2	3	4
2.	Bishrampur- 0.10 Ambikapur	40	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances are obtained and the land is made available by the State Government.

Telephone Facility in Bihar

1328. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided or propose to provide telephone facility in all the Panchayats and Police Stations of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which such facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Policy of the Government is to provide telephone facility to all the villages including Panchayat villages. There is no policy to provide telephones in police stations and panchayat offices but the same is provided on demand basis. However, in some cases VPTs are opened in Panchayat Office also, as panchayat offices are one of the places where VPTs are installed.

[English]

Survey for Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli-Vajnath Rail Line

1329. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the final location survey for about 90 kms. of Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli-Vajnath line in Maharashtra has been completed;

(b) whether further survey work is pending for want of clearance of the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government for early completion of the final location survey of the whole project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The survey has been taken up.

(c) Adequate funds have been provided to expedite the survey. However, Final Location Survey for a 275

kms. long new line takes time as it involves considerable amount of field investigations and collection of engineering and traffic data.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Doordarshan Cameraman

1330. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had made a request to Union Public Service Commission in 1995 for making recruitment to the post of Doordarshan Cameraman;

(b) whether the Commission had issued an advertisement in this regard; and

(c) if so, the progress made in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Commission advertised the post in leading newspapers and the Employment News on 28.10.1995. The Commission have indicated that the case is likely to be finalised by September, 1997.

Construction of Link Roads in U.P. with World Bank assistance

1331. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has formulated any scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities in the State with World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, whether link roads are proposed to be constructed in all the villages of Uttar Pradesh within three years under the proposed plan; and

(c) if so, the present status of the above mentioned proposal?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Amendment to Patent Laws

1332. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Government is pressuring India

for amending patent laws before negotiating formal science and technology agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this amounts to encroaching upon the sovereign right of the country; and

(d) whether the Government propose to take up the issue with the World Trade Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER : (MOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Train from Howrah to Tikiapara

1333 SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of staff/employees working at Tikiapara Yard of Eastern Railway;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to provide shuttle trains from Howrah to Tikiapara for those employees, and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c) No Sir, due to operational and technical constraints.

Licences to Hawkers

1334 SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Hawkers given licence for hawking at the Howrah Railway station;

(b) whether the Government are aware that instead of hawking these hawkers are sitting on the platforms and other space of the station thereby obstructing the movement of the passengers as well as the departmental trolleys; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) 67 vendors engaged by the private licencees function at Howrah Railway Station.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Steps have been taken to ensure that these vendors do not affect the movement of passengers. These include shifting some of the vendors

to North Concourse, but some vendors have filed a Court case and the matter is subjudice.

Running of Trains from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus

1335 SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the public demand that all Konkan Railway trains should run from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, (C.S.T.);

(b) the inconveniences being faced by the commuters from Kurla Terminus as explained by the commuters; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) There have been a number of demands to start all Konkan Railway trains from either Dadar or Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai. KR-3, KR-4 Passenger is already starting from Dadar and KR-0111/KR-0112 Express from Kurla (T). In view of the burgeoning demand in Mumbai area, the Railways had to develop new terminals like Kurla, Bandra etc. as the facilities at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai and Mumbai Central are full saturated. The possibility of extension of all Konkan Railway trains upto Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai have been examined but not found feasible due to operational including terminal constraints at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai. Kurla is a new terminal which is still under development and hence there are some short-comings which the Railways are trying to make good.

Increase in Frequency of EMU Service

1336 SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to increase the frequency of EMU service between Howrah and Bargachia section of South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to introduce shuttle service between Santragachhi and Bargachia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

DD Relay Kendra in Bihar

1337. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of Doordarshan Relay Kendras being set up in Gumla and Lohardaga district headquarters of Bihar has since been completed;

(b) whether required equipments have been supplied and the technicians/employees have been posted there;

(c) if so, the time by which it would start functioning; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While equipments have already been supplied to the two Low Power TV transmitters (LPTs), staff has also been deployed against most of the sanctioned posts at both the LPTs.

(c) The LPTs at Lohardaga and Gumla are already operational since October'94 and December'94 respectively.

(d) Does not arise.

Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations of Gujarat

1338. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether assistance is being given to voluntary organisations through CAPART;

(b) if so, the names of such voluntary organisations in Gujarat;

(c) the details of those organisations against which the complaints about their functioning has been received; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against such Organisations?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of voluntary organisations of Gujarat State assisted by CAPART during the year 1996-97 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) CAPART has received a complaint against Adhar Seva Kendra, Dedipara, Bharuch District regarding non-implementation of the project sanctioned

to it by CAPART. CAPART has ordered an inquiry into the matter.

Statement

Details of voluntary organisations of Gujarat State assisted by CAPART during the year 1996-97.

1. Khandania Gram Paraspar Sahyogi Mandal, Women Department, Anand Niketan Ashram Vill. Rangpur, Via Bodeli, Distt. Vadodara (Gujarat)
2. Shrujan Hast Shilp Kendra Behind G.E.B. Substation, Bhujodi, Distt. Kutch
3. Saurashtra Economic Development Centre 104, Suvidha Complex, Talav Gate, Junagarh, Distt. Junagarh
4. Gramya Vikas Trust C-1/20, Indradeep Society, Opp. New Vikas Grih, Distt. Jamnagar
5. Shri Vivekananda Research And Training Institute At/PO Mandvi, Distt. Kutch
6. International Rural Education and Cultural INRECA Complex Rajpipla Road, Dediapada Distt. Bharuch
7. Pandu Mewas Development Agency AT/PO Valava, Teh Savli, Distt. Baroda
8. Aga Khan Rural Support Programme Choice Premises, Swastik Cross Road, Navrangpura, Distt. Ahmedabad
9. Acil Navsarjan Rural Development Foundation Valukad, Taluk Palitana, Distt. Bhavnagar
10. Adivasi Ekta Vikas Mandal At Modhari, PO Bhaukhra, Taluk Vijay Nagar Distt. Sabarkantha
11. Shri Arbuda Khadi Gramodyog Vikas Mandal AT/PO Malasa, Distt. Sabarkantha
12. Nav Gram Paraspar Sahyogi Mandal AT/PO Navagam, Tq. Navsari, Distt. Vadodara
13. Prafull Khadi Gramodyog Sangha Sonar Kui, Shankar Bhavan, Dholka, Distt. Ahmedabad
14. Sahyog Khadi Gramodyog Trust 2/F/C, Mangal Tirth Tower-A, Near Dharnidhar Derasar, Distt. Ahmedabad
15. Bhal Nalkantha Vikas Parishad, Gandhivas No. 1, ONGC Sabarmati, Distt. Ahmedabad (Gujarat)

16. Poojya Bapu Khadi Gramodyog Sangha
B-10, Gurjarratna Apptt. Maganpura
Radhaswamy Road, Ranip,
Distt. Ahmedabad
17. Dr. Ambedkar Khadi Gramodyog Sangha
New Manjushri Mill Chal, Baliya Limdi Char Rasta,
Civil Road, Distt. Ahmedabad
18. Vinay Kelvani Trust
AT/PO Bhiloda,
Distt. Sabarkantha
19. Bharat Yatra Kendra
Old Mauzda Road, Vill/PO Dedia Pada
Distt. Bharuch
20. Manav Kalyan Trust
Distt. Valsad
21. Zab Gram Paraspar Sanyogi Mandal
At Zab, PO Sankeda,
Distt. Vadodara
22. Anand Taluk Yuvak Mandal Association
At/PO/Tq. Anand, Distt. Kheda
23. Sarvodaya Arogya Kendra and Prasuti Grih
AT/PO Palanpur, Distt. Banaskantha
Gujarat
24. Shri Gayatri Khadi Mahila Gramodyog Sangha
AT/PO Malasa, Tq. Bhiloda
Distt. Sabarkantha (Gujarat)
25. Shri Badhada Kelvani Mandal
AT/PO Badhada, Mahuva, Savarkundla Road
Tq. Savarkundla, Distt. Bhavnagar
26. Saurashtra Rachnatmak Samiti,
Darbar Gopaldas Smarak Bhawan,
Rashtriya School Compound
Distt. Rajkot
27. Nav Chetan Yuva Mandal
AT/PO Dhamaniya, Tq. Bayad,
Distt. Sabarkantha
28. Sant Vinoba Gram Swaraj Ashram
At Kavitha, Teh. Dholka
Distt. Ahmedabad
29. Lok Vigyan Seva Sangh
Khedut Sahakari Jin Ltd. Station Road, Vyara,
Distt. Surat
30. Shroffs Foundation Trust
AT/PO Kalali, Tq./Distt. Vadodara
Gujarat
31. Bhavesh Gram Vikas Mandal
At Dalpur, Tal. Prantij,
Distt. Sabarkantha
Gujarat
32. Maldhari Seva Sangh
Mota Ranbariwada, Khara Kua, PO Dholka
Distt. Ahmedabad
33. Chamunda Khadi Gramodyog Mandal
Vill. Birpur, PO Gundi, Tq. Dholka
34. Shri Balveer Kahadi Seva Samaj Mandal
Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Vejalpur, Makarwa Road,
Makarba, Distt. Ahmedabad
35. Shramik Vikas Sansthan
Shram Sadhana Building, 1st Floor,
Opp. Police Ground, Raopura,
Distt. Baroda
36. Gujarat Shramik Gramodyog Mandal
AT/PO Moti Hirwani, Tq. Kheralu,
Distt. Mehsana
37. Lawaria Vibhag Gram Vikas Mandal
Vill Lawaria, PO Kantu, Tq. Devgarh Baria
Distt. Panchmahal
38. Gram Shakti Shramjivi Sangathan
F-6, Punya Shri, Near Kashiram Hall, Atira Road,
Distt. Ahmedabad
39. Seva Rural
AT/PO Jhagadia,
Distt. Bharuch
40. Utthan Development Planning Team,
36, Chitrakut Twins, Near Management Enclave.
Vastrapur, Distt. Ahmedabad
41. Blind Men Association
Dr. Vikram Sarabhai Road, Vastrapur
Distt. Ahmedabad
42. Kutch Vikas Trust
St. Xavier's School, Bhuj,
Distt. Kutch (Gujarat)
43. Centre for Environment Education
Nehru Foundation
Thaltal Tekra, Distt. Ahmedabad
44. Development Support Centre
2, Prakruti Apartment, Opp. Red Rose Restaurant
Navrangpura, Distt. Ahmedabad
45. Shri Kundla Taluka Gram Seva Mandal
Ramkrupa, Gram Seva Hously Society, Nr. S.T.
Depot Mahuva Road, Savarkundla,
Distt. Bhavnagar
46. Dehgam Vikas Yojana
Ahmedabad
47. BAIF Development Research Foundation
Valsad
48. Field Marchal Foundation Trust
Rajkot
49. SEWA
Ahmedabad
50. Sarvodaya Rachnatmak Sangh
Gundi
51. Shri Navjivan Khadi Gramodyog Sangh
Surendranagar

52. Eshwar Khadi Gramodyog Sangh
Sabarkantha
53. Sarvodaya Kendra
Banaskantha
54. Kundanpur Gram Paraspar Sahyogi Mandal
Kundanpur
55. SARTHI
Panchmahal
56. Manav Kalyan Trust
Surat
57. National Rural Development Group
Ahmedabad
58. Asmita Smvardhan Trust
Rajkot
59. Shri Bhal Vikas Sanghan Kshetra
Dholka
60. Shri Sadbhav Khadi Gramodyog Sangh
Shanduka
61. Indian Council for Training & Development
Kheda
62. Manav Kalyan Trust
Surat
63. Gram Shakti Shramjivini
Ahmedabad
64. Gram Laxmi
Ahmedabad
65. Kutch Mahila Vikas Sanstha
Kutch
66. Gujarat Gram Bharti
Kutch
67. Shakti Pratishthan
Kutch
68. Rural Development Foundation
Kutch
69. Mamta Kendra
Mehsana
70. Lok Jagruti Yuvak Mandal
Sabarkantha
71. Shri Bodiya Vikas Yuvak Sangh
Mehsana
72. Shri Navyuvak Mandal
Valsad
73. Sad Vichar Parivar
Idar
74. The Navjagruti Yuvak Kendra Sansthan
Sabarkantha
75. Sri Arbuda Khadi Gramodyog Mandal
Sabarkantha
76. Sri Vadhiyar Khadi Gramodyog Sangh
Mehsana

77. Sri Swami Vivekanand Yuvak Mandal
Kutch
78. Sri Gram Vikas Mandal
Mehsana
79. Bhal Nalkantha Sanghan Kshetra Samiti
Ahmedabad
80. Bhal Nalkantha Prayogik Sangh
Ahmedabad
81. Ahmedabad Zilla Gramya Vikas Trust
Ahmedabad
82. Institute for Studying and Transforming
Ahmedabad

[English]

Tata Communications

1339. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tata Communications Ltd. (TCL) has become the first company to launch cellular service amongst the circlewide licence holders;

(b) if so, whether the company launched services in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad on December 13, 1996;

(c) whether the company's commercial launch has been delayed pending approval from the technology evaluation centre of the DOT for its network;

(d) if so, whether Hyderabad has become 5th city of the country to have the cellular services;

(e) the time by which all the cities of the country are likely to be provided with cellular services;

(f) whether the TCL is offering three tariff structures to its subscribers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cellular service in Hyderabad and Secunderabad was commercially launched by M/S Tata Communications on 11th December, 1996.

(c) The company registered its request with Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) for testing their Cellular Network on 23.10.1996 and the clearance by TEC was issued on 29.11.96. Considering that this was the first testing of Circle Cellular Network, the time taken by TEC appears reasonable.

(d) Hyderabad is the first city in Telecom Circles where Cellular Service was commercially launched.

(e) The licenses for cellular service have been granted for 18 out of 20 Telecom Territorial Circles. As per the terms and conditions of the licences, the companies have to cover atleast 50% of the District

Headquarters within 3 years of the effective date of the same.

(f) and (g) TCL is offering 3 tier tariff structure of Air Time rates as follows with discount to bulk uses :

- (i) Peak traffic Hours Rs. 16.80/minute
- (ii) Normal traffic hours Rs. 8.40/minute
- (iii) Off Peak traffic hours Rs. 4.20/minute

Saleable Rooms at Howrah

1340. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of saleable rooms available for Retiring Rooms and Rail Yatri Niwas at Howrah as a part of the passenger amenities and the total number of rooms allotted only for Officers Rest House in New Coaching Complex, Officers Rest House at Old Complex at North Concourse (3rd Floor) and Officers Rest House at South Concourse (1st Floor);

(b) whether the Government are considering to make available more rooms for passengers;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The details are as under :-

Accommodation in

Retiring room : No. of beds = 16

Rail Yatri Niwas :

AC double bedded = 8 (Total 16 beds)

Non-AC double bedded = 14 (Total 28 beds)

5 bedded dormitory 5 rooms (Total 25 beds)

Non-AC 3 bedded 6 rooms (Total 18 berths)

Seven bedded 4 rooms (Total 28 beds)

Accommodation in Officers' Rest Rooms at Old Complex in North Concourse (3rd Floor) :-

Non-AC 2 bedded room = 10

2 bedded room = 2

2 bedded room for N.F. Railway = 2

2 bedded room for Howrah Division = 6

Officers Rest Room at South Concourse (1st Floor)

Non-AC Rest House = 4

AC Rest House = 2

Officers Rest House at New Coaching Complex:

Non-AC 2 bedded at 3rd Floor = 14

Non-AC 2 bedded at 4th Floor = 14

AC Rest House 2 bedded 4th Floor = 12

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The present arrangement is considered sufficient to cater to the needs of the passengers.

[Translation]

Appointments in Communications Department

1341. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of appointments made in the departments/undertakings of Ministry during the last three years till date;

(b) the number of candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes in the above appointments;

(c) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribes are still lying vacant at present in the departments/undertakings the Ministry; and

(d) the date by which these reserved posts are likely to be filled up and the reasons for delay therein?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

1342. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conversion of metre gauge railway line between Chennai and Madurai into broad gauge line is being undertaken; and

(b) if so, the status of the project and the time by which the said route on broad gauge is thrown open for traffic?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gauge conversion work is in full swing on Chennai - Tiruchchirappalli and Tiruchchirappalli-Dindigul sections. These works are presently targetted to be completed by March'98 and Dec.'98 respectively. Dindigul and Madurai are already linked with a BG line.

Supply of Wooden Sleepers

1343. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge orders for the supply of wooden sleepers have been placed on MMTC and Nagaland Forest Cooperatives when more than 2000 sets are awaiting despatch from various factories and an equal

number of sets are lying unutilised in various railway yards in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the orders placed with these firms alongwith the cost involved therein;

(c) whether both the MMTC and Nagaland Forest Cooperatives are commission agents for the supply of sleepers and MMTC had been blacklisted by the Railways sometime in 1993; and

(d) if so, the reasons which weighed with the Government to place orders on a black listed firm?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Orders have been placed for supply of wooden sleepers on MMTC (a Corporation of Central Government) and MARCOFED, Dimapur, Nagaland (a Corporation of Government of Nagaland), as under :

Name of Corporation	Quantity in cums.	Contract value
MMTC, New Delhi	43,000	Rs. 81.28 crores
MARCOFED, Dimapur, Nagaland	9,000	Rs. 16.61 crores
	52,000	Rs. 97.89 crores

It is not correct that 2000 sets are awaiting despatch from various factories.

(c) Both the Corporations M/s MMTC and MARCOFED, Nagaland are Public Sector Undertakings owned by Central Government and Nagaland Government respectively. MMTC was not blacklisted by Railways in 1993.

(d) Does not arise.

New Railway Projects in Orissa

1344. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the new railway projects submitted by the Government of Orissa during the last three years;

(b) whether some of the proposals have been found unremunerative; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Four proposals for new lines have been received from the Orissa Government during the last three years. The position of these is as under :

1. Haridaspur - Paradeep : The work has been sanctioned.
2. Jeypore - Malkangiri - Kottamatta : A survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

3. Talchar - Bimlagarh : A survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

4. Jharsuguda - Bishrampur via Sundergarh : This project could not be considered due to resource crunch.

Renovation of Garifa Railway Station

1345. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned for renovation, lighting, seating arrangements, restoration of platforms, staircase, platform shed etc. for Garifa Railway Station under Howrah Division of Eastern Railway during the last three years;

(b) whether passenger amenities are almost nil in this station; and

(c) if so, the steps to be taken to provide above mentioned amenities to this station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Augmentation/provision of additional amenities is a continuous process. Garifa railway station is provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic. Recently works of provision of platform shed and foot-over-bridge have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 11.55 lakh. Besides, for lighting and provision of fans on the platform a work has also been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 34,700/-

Funds for Construction of Roads in Karnataka

1346. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation of funds made to Karnataka for the construction of roads during the last three years; and

(b) the number of villages in Karnataka connected/to be connected with roads?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unauthorised Hawkers

1347. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the movement of huge local passengers/office goers using the ferry services are obstructing by the unauthorised hawkers at platforms No. 2 to 7 of Howrah railway station and the newly set up mini market;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to remove the unauthorised hawkers from the premises and scatter the Railway vending stalls to the walls of the concourse of the Railway station thereby to provide passage for the passengers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Regular drives are conducted from time to time to prevent entry of unauthorised hawkers and beggars in trains and at stations premises. In addition, Task Force Team comprising commercial and Government Railway Police/Railway Protection Force personnel is also deployed at all important stations/trains including at Howrah station to prevent entry of unauthorised hawkers/vendors to the station premises. As a result of 437 checks conducted at Howrah station premises and trains during the period April to June, 1997, 62 unauthorised hawkers and venders have been arrested and prosecuted. Besides, some catering stalls have been removed from the south concourse to make room for free movement of passengers.

High Power Transmitter at Manpad

1348. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to instal High Power Transmitter at Manpad in Kannaur district of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) A High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) is envisaged to be set up in replacement of the existing Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) at Cannanore in Kannur district of Kerala. A suitable site has been acquired at Mangattuparamba for the proposed HPT project at Cannanore. The actual implementation of the said HPT project would, however, depend upon approval of the scheme by the competent authority, subject to availability of resources and infrastructural facilities required for the purpose.

New PLF Norms for Liquid Fuel Base PP

1349. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item under the caption "New PLF norms to hit liquid fuel based power projects" appearing in the "Business Standard" dated 9-7-1997;

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

(c) the likely adverse impact of the proposed revision in PLF norms on operation/profitability/economic viability of the liquid fuel based projects; and

(d) the details of representation received in this regard and action taken/proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has laid down revised operational norms, including Plant Load Factor (PLF), for Gas, Coal and liquid fuel based power stations. After considering representations received from various quarters, CEA had decided in May, 1997, that these norms will apply to only those projects, who are not able to submit their complete Detailed Project Reports in acceptable form, i.e., complete in all respects as per the requirements of the CEA on or before September 30, 1997.

[Translation]

Illegal Public Telephone Booths

1350. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether illegal public telephone booths are being run with the nexus of employees of telephone department in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action against them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which such activities are proposed to be checked?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Out of Order Telephone Connections

1351. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of telephone connections under the Exchange 628, Nehru Place, New Delhi are out of order for the last couple of months;

(b) if so, the details of fault in the system;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far;

(d) whether the telephone bills of such consumers have been accordingly appropriate; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Majority of faults are cleared within prescribed norms, although sometimes there is some delay in fault rectification due to long spans of dropwire, cable faults, subscriber reasons etc. No faults are, however, allowed to continue for months together.

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

(d) As per departmental rule, rent rebate is allowed to the subscriber whose telephone remains out of order continuously for 7 days or more. This rule is followed in all areas of MTNL, Delhi.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

New Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

1352. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision for setting up of telephone exchanges in Bihar was taken in the last year as per information given in the annual report of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges set up in Bihar so far; and

(d) the number of telephone exchanges likely to be set up during 1997-98 alongwith locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) There is no mention of targets for setting up of new exchanges in the last year's annual report. However, there was a plan to set up new telephone exchanges where registered demand was 10 or more in Bihar.

(c) The number of telephone exchanges set up in Bihar during 1996-97 is 35.

(d) The number of telephone exchanges likely to be set up during 1997-98 alongwith their locations is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

New Telephone Exchanges likely to be set up during 1997-98

S. No.	Name of Telecom Distt.	Location
1	2	3
1.	Patna	Sampat Chak Dhanaura
2.	Ranchi	Bano Chainpur Jaldega Basia Blalwa Kurdeg

1	2	3
3.	Arrah	Narhi Chandi Tarari Pratapsagar Krishnasagar
4.	Bhagalpur	Bhikhanpur Kalajore Chandan
5.	Chhapra	Derni Maker Inshwapur
6.	Darbhanga	Alinagar Ghanshyampur Ladania Garhpura Bithan Khodabanpur
7.	Gaya	Kawacol BakeyBazau Roh Orhanpar Gurua
8.	Jamshedpur	Mango Kadma Hatgamarla Raj Nagar
9.	Katihar	Saidpur Rauta (Baisi)
10.	Munger	Rampur
11.	Sasaram	Satwarwa
12.	Hazaribagh	Sayal Huntermang
13.	Dumka	Fatehpur Mohanpur
14.	Muzaffarpur	Musahari Benibad Basdeopur Chandel Mazorganj (Mubarakpur) Sarfuiddinpur

[English]

Non-Functioning of Office of Doordarshan and AIR at Guwahati

1353. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a separate zonal office of the Engineering Wing of D.D. and AIR network for North East Region was created and established at Guwahati in December, 1995 after bifurcating the combined zonal office Calcutta;

(b) whether the said office at Ganeshguri Guwahati is not functioning after one week of its establishment and the room is locked since then;

(c) if so, the reason for non-functioning; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The zonal office could not be made functional due to delay in sanction of staff and budgetary constraints. Partial staff has recently been sanctioned. The office would become functional as soon as staff is in position.

Gold Mine

1354. SHRI N.K. KRISHANDAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state ;

(a) whether any process is going on for gold mining at Attappady hill area, Palghat District in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the feasibility of the mining of gold has been found so far?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Geological Survey of India (GSI), Unit : Kerala has an ongoing programme of preliminary exploration for gold in parts of Attappady valley in Palakkad District since 1990-91.

(c) The exploration work is at preliminary stage and hence the question of mining of gold does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone System in Haryana

1355. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of village Panchayats in Haryana where telephones have been provided and yet to be provided under the policy of the Government, separately;

(b) the time by which telephones are likely to be made available in remaining village Panchayats;

(c) the number of Panchayats where telephones have been working properly and the number of those where such telephones are out of order and the time by which these telephones are likely to be made operational; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper working of telephones?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Out of total 5946 village panchayats in Haryana, 5802 have been provided with

telephone facility as on 23.7.97. 144 village panchayats are yet to be provided telephone facility.

(b) Remaining 144 village panchayats are likely to be provided with telephone facility during the current financial year i.e. 1997-98.

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

(d) The following steps are being taken for proper working of telephone :-

1. Upgradation of outdoor plant.
2. Close coordination with local agencies for avoiding damages to underground cables.
3. Computerisation of fault repair service.
4. Laying of underground cables in ducts.
5. Use of jelly filled cables.
6. Use of improved quality of drop wire.
7. Refresher training for the staff for improving the skill.
8. Public Telephones in villages are tested daily from concerned exchanges.
9. Annual Maintenance Contract for repair of radio equipments of Public Telephones has been entered into in most of the places.
10. Solar Power back-up for Public Telephones in villages are installed progressively wherever required.

Utilisation of JRY Funds

1356. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds allotted under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana by the Union Government have not been fully utilised in some States;

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

(c) the reasons for less utilisation of said amount in the States; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in future to ensure full utilisation of the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) State-wise details of funds allocated, released available and utilised during 1996-97 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Under JRY, 25% of the district allocation is allowed to be carried over to be utilised in the next financial year. However, if any district exceeds this limit of carryover deductions to the tune of 80% of the amount exceeded are made at the time of release of 2nd instalment in the next financial year.

Statement

Performance Under JRY during 1996-97

S. No.	State/UTs	Month Code	O.B as on 1.4.97*	Total Allocation			Resources Released			Resources Available (U.B. + Release)	Resources Utilised	%Age Utilisation
				Centre	State	Total	Centre	State	Total			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	03	1547.44	13897.91	3474.48	17372.39	14594.96	3648.74	18243.70	19791.14	17488.47	88.37
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	03	127.23	142.64	35.66	178.30	103.88	25.97	129.85	257.08	198.33	77.15
3.	Assam	03	2230.47	4574.54	1143.64	5718.18	3186.93	796.73	3983.66	6214.13	4543.21	73.11
4.	Bihar	03	12350.34	27260.46	6815.12	34075.58	22856.07	5714.02	28570.09	40920.43	30563.53	74.69
5.	Goa	03	14.73	154.12	38.53	192.65	116.88	29.22	146.10	160.83	236.26	146.90
6.	Gujarat	03	1201.38	5101.00	1275.25	6376.25	4419.33	1104.83	5524.16	6725.54	6280.49	93.38
7.	Haryana	03	207.33	1225.45	306.36	1531.81	1195.38	298.85	1494.23	1701.56	1371.79	80.62
8.	Himachal Pradesh	03	304.40	489.73	122.43	612.16	388.12	97.03	485.15	789.55	745.94	94.48
9.	J & K	03	230.69	995.14	248.79	1243.93	1199.75	299.94	1499.69	1730.38	994.37	57.47
10.	Karnataka	03	2854.68	9332.27	2333.07	11665.34	6813.18	2218.30	11091.48	13946.16	12015.31	86.16
11.	Kerala	03	812.95	3395.33	848.83	4244.16	3286.60@	821.65	4108.25	4921.20	4458.15	90.59
12.	Madhya Pradesh	03	5017.19	17611.61	4402.90	22014.51	15453.15@	3863.29	19316.44	24333.63	19724.06	81.06
13.	Maharashtra	03	2510.88	15150.04	3787.51	18937.55	14338.51	3584.63	17923.14	20434.82	18664.14	91.34
14.	Manipur	03	66.16	182.82	45.71	228.53	129.92	32.48	162.40	228.56	186.36	81.54
15.	Meghalaya	03	143.78	213.92	53.48	267.40	106.95	26.74	133.69	277.47	365.90	131.87
16.	Mizoram	03	4.96	90.12	22.53	112.65	84.21	21.05	105.26	110.22	138.25	125.43
17.	Nagaland	02	32.84	229.31	57.33	286.64	210.66	52.67	263.33	295.37	164.41	55.66
18.	Orissa	03	2068.47	11274.49	2818.62	14093.11	10789.94@	2677.49	13387.43	15455.98	14426.64	93.34
19.	Punjab	03	145.85	871.51	217.88	1089.39	809.26	202.32	1011.58	1157.43	705.63	60.97
20.	Rajasthan	03	1111.79	7317.12	1829.28	9146.40	7231.81	1807.95	9039.76	7927.97	8766.70	110.58
21.	Sikkim	03	39.13	83.49	20.87	104.36	81.37	20.34	101.71	140.84	167.26	118.76
22.	Tamil Nadu	03	2987.15	12563.97	3140.99	15704.96	12088.51	3022.13	15110.64	18097.79	18040.03	99.68
23.	Tripura	03	273.27	237.46	59.37	296.83	237.45	59.36	296.81	570.08	566.91	99.44
24.	Uttar Pradesh	03	12050.23	33867.93	8466.98	42334.91	32442.69	8110.67	40553.36	52603.59	42123.49	80.08
25.	West Bengal	03	5071.91	12455.47	3113.87	15569.34	9564.86@	2391.22	11956.08	17027.99	12834.03	75.37
26.	A & N Island	03	24.47	84.41	0.00	84.41	42.21	0.00	42.21	66.68	52.39	78.57
27.	D & N Haveli	03	9.41	45.81	0.00	45.81	44.57	0.00	44.57	53.98	49.75	92.16
28.	Daman & Diu	03	3.70	26.99	0.00	26.99	26.99	0.00	26.99	30.69	27.61	89.96
29.	Lakshdweep	03	66.49	42.32	0.00	42.32	21.16	0.00	21.16	87.65	49.22	56.16
30.	Pondicherry	03	2.38	82.64	0.00	82.64	64.68	0.00	64.68	67.06	121.96	181.87

Includes release of Innovative JRY funds for the cancelled projects. (Rs. 13.49 lakhs for Kerala, Rs. 33.00 lakhs for M.P.s, Rs. 16.66 lakhs for Orissa & Rs. 10.80 lakhs for W.B.)

As per U.C.

[English]

Telecast of Calcutta Doordarshan Programmes in Tripura

1357. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken note of the demand of the people of Tripura to telecast more regional programme as well as Calcutta Doordarshan's programme in Tripura;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Requests for telecast of more regional programmes from Doordarshan Kendra, Agartala and for telecast of Doordarshan Kendra Calcutta's programmes in Tripura have been received by the Government. Due to constraints of resources, it is not possible for the present to increase the telecast hours of Doordarshan Kendra, Agartala. However, Schemes of augmentation of Studio facilities at Agartala and expansion of TV network in the State of Tripura have been included in the 9th Plan proposals. As regards the request of relay of Doordarshan Kendra Calcutta's programmes by Doordarshan Kendra, Agartala, the present practice in Doordarshan does not provide for programmes telecast from one capital Kendra to be relayed by another capital Kendra. It is, however, stated that Bengali service of DD-7 Channel uplinked from Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta is available via Satellite Mode throughout the country including the State of Tripura by using suitable Dish-Antenna system.

[Translation]

Licensing System for Cold Storages

1358. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to abolish the licensing system for setting up cold storages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said system is likely to be abolished?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The Cold Storage Order, 1980 which was

applicable throughout the country except in the States of Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, has been repealed by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Department of Rural Development) vide its Order No. 18011/3/94-M.II dated 27th May, 1997, notified in the official Gazette of India on 27th May, 1997. Consequently, no license is now required from Government of India for setting up of cold storages in the country.

INDO-US Agreement of Science and Technology

1359. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and USA recently in the field of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the date from which this agreement is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

U.N.D.P. Report on Poverty Alleviation

1360. SHRI K.S. RAYADU :

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "six point action plan to banish poverty" appearing in the "Hindu" dated June 13, 1997;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) the comparative figures of investment on Human Resource Development in India and China as per the report?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The funds under various Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes are distributed amongst the States rationally on the basis of proportion of number of rural poor in the State to the total number of poor in the country. One of main objectives of these programmes is to provide additional

gainful employment/self employment in a manner which is poor-friendly. These programmes help poor to cross poverty line.

(d) According to the UNDP's Human Development Report, 1997 public expenditure on education as a percentage of GNP during 1993-94 was 3.8% in India as compared to 2.6% in China.

Maps Consciousness

1361. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Suvey of India has launched a popularisation drive to bring about map consciousness;

(b) if so, whether the Southern Circle of Survey of India has been entrusted with the work of publishing the maps of Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and parts of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the cost of these maps;

(d) the number of Sales Centres in Karnataka for the sale of these maps; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to open more Sales Centres in Karnataka or to allow private book stalls to sell these maps and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Southern Circle, Survey of India is responsible for preparation of topographical maps and public series map, District Planning Maps including maps of important cities covering Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and Goa. The responsibility of preparing similar maps for areas covering Andhra Pradesh has been entrusted to South South Eastern Circle of Survey of India.

(c) Maps of Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and Andhra Pradesh are available in the price range of Rs. 21.00 to Rs. 28.00.

(d) There is only one map sale centre located in Bangalore (Southern Circle Office) in the State of Karnataka.

(e) There is no proposal to open more Sales Centres in Karnataka. The response of private sector has not been encouraging so far.

US Climatologist Prediction on Indian Monsoon

1362. SHRI P. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that climatologist of US predicted recently a severe case of

El Nino being in the offing which could affect the monsoon thereby causing droughts in India;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the drought situation the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Independent studies by scientists indicate lack of one-to-one relationship between El-Nino and Indian Monsoon. However, keeping in view the seasonal forecast issued by the Indian Meteorological Department and following usual practice every year Government is continuously monitoring El-Nino as well as the progress of monsoon rains, so that appropriate strategy to meet the contingencies, if any, can be adopted expeditiously.

(c) A model contingent plan for effectively responding to adverse rainfall situations in any year has been circulated to all States. The States' own plans include alternative crop strategy and suitable agronomic practices to meet rainfall deficiencies if any during any year.

Voluntary Organisations in Kerala

1363. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of voluntary organisations from Kerala that have approached the CAPART for assistance under JRY, IRDP, etc. during the last three years;

(b) the details of the projects sanctioned so far;

(c) whether several project proposals are still pending with CAPART;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) CAPART has reported that during the last three years about 800 voluntary organisations of Kerala State have approached it for grant of financial assistance for their project proposal.

(b) During the last three years, CAPART has sanctioned 172 project proposals of voluntary organisations of Kerala State. The amount sanctioned for these projects is Rs. 13.12 crores. The scheme-wise details of the sanctioned projects are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) to (e) 166 project proposals of voluntary organisations of Kerala State are pending with CAPART. The scheme-wise details of pending proposals are given in the enclosed Statement-II. These proposals are at various stages of process and appropriate decisions on these will be taken in due course. However, the pending proposals relating to Rural Housing, Social Forestry and Rural Link Roads are not likely to be sanctioned because of paucity of funds with CAPART.

Statement-I

Scheme-wise details of project proposals of voluntary organisations of Kerala State sanctioned during the last three years by CAPART.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Scheme	No. of projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned
1.	Assistance to CAPART	6	21.90
2.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme	7	24.02
3.	Central Rural Sanitation Programme	46	137.12
4.	Development of Women and Children in rural Areas	13	22.51
5.	Integrated Rural Development Programme.	4	6.68
6.	Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (Housing)	70	1039.01
7.	Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (other than housing)	5	41.53
8.	Organisation of Beneficiaries	16	8.68
9.	Promotion of Voluntary Action in Rural Development	3	3.38
10.	Panchayati Raj	2	7.43
Total		172	1312.26

Note: Provisional.

Statement-II

Scheme-wise details of project proposals of voluntary organisations of Kerala State pending with CAPART.

S.No.	Scheme	No. of projects pending
1	2	3
1.	Assistance to CAPART	3
2.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme	1
3.	Central Rural Sanitation Programme	17

1	2	3
4.	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas	21
5.	Integrated Rural Development Programme.	2
6.	Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (Housing)	116
7.	Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (other than housing)	2
8.	Organisation of Beneficiaries	1
9.	Promotion of Voluntary Action in Rural Development	3
Total		166

Note: Provisional.

Funds Allocation Under DPAP

1364. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the main objective of the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP);

(b) the allocation made to different States under the programme during Eight Five Year Plan, year-wise;

(c) whether the State Government of Orissa has demanded additional allocation in view of the chronic drought situation in that State; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :
(a) The objective of DPAP are :

(i) To mitigate the adverse effects of drought on the production of crops and livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources.

(ii) To encourage restoration of ecological balance.

(iii) To promote economic development of village community.

(iv) To improve the economic and social conditions of the resource poor and the disadvantaged sections of village community such as assetless and the women.

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

(c) and (d) As per available information no additional allocation has been demanded under the Drought Prone Areas Programme by the Government of Orissa.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)

State	(1992-93) Allocation	(1993-94) Allocation	(1994-95) Allocation	(1995-96) Allocation	(1996-97) Allocation
1. Andhra Pradesh	1203.00	1804.50	1993.00	2635.00	2755.00
2. Bihar	828.00	1242.00	1380.00	2245.00	2246.00
3. Gujarat	746.00	1119.00	1236.00	1345.00	1545.00
4. Haryana	135.00	202.50	225.00	165.00	165.00
5. J and K	214.50	321.75	357.50	495.00	495.00
6. Karnataka	1249.00	1873.50	2068.00	2265.00	2290.00
7. Madhya Pradesh	809.00	1213.50	1345.00	3510.00	3752.00
8. Maharashtra	1343.00	2014.50	2218.00	4295.00	4295.00
9. Orissa	621.00	931.50	1033.00	1045.00	1045.00
10. Rajasthan	514.00	771.00	853.00	865.00	871.00
11. Tamil Nadu	657.00	985.50	1095.00	1485.00	1485.00
12. Uttar Pradesh	1386.00	2079.00	2307.00	1985.00	2185.00
13. West Bengal	517.50	776.25	862.50	640.00	640.00

Starvation Deaths amongst Tribals

1365. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the survey of some 150 villages in the drought hit and tribal intested areas of Melghat, conducted by Anubhav Shiksha Kendra, a voluntary organisation, as published in the Indian Express of June 23, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the survey reveals conditions of object poverty water scarcity and starvation deaths amongst the tribals; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure alleviation of the condition of the drought hit tribals of this region?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) Yes, the Government's attention has been drawn to the news items published in the Indian Express of June 23, 1997;

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment is implementing various Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) throughout the country including Melghat area of Maharashtra. The main objective of these programmes is to provide wage/self employment to rural poor living below the poverty line including the tribal population. Besides, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) to provide potable drinking water to rural poor

including tribals and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) to minimise adverse effects of drought on production of crops and livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources are also being implemented. While implementing these programmes, special assistance preference is given to tribals as per land down guidelines.

[Translation]

Copper Factories

1366. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the locations of the copper factories at Malanjkhanda of Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the progress made in setting up of copper factories in the mines areas alongwith their distance from mines and the locations thereof;

(c) the progress made in increasing the production capacity of these factories;

(d) the number of local and educated people provided employment therein;

(e) whether the Government have made arrangements for the transportation of the raw-material extracted from the mines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINERALS (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Hindustan Copper Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking

under the control of Ministry of Mines and the sole producer of primary copper in the country has its Malanjkhanda Copper Project in the Birsia Revenue Circle of Baihar Tehsil, Balaghat District of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Malanjkhanda Copper Project consists of an Open Pit Mine with an annual production of 2 million tonnes of copper ore and a matching concentrator plant located very close to the mines.

(c) A proposal to examine feasibility of enhancing the present production from 2 million tonnes to 3 million tonnes with necessary augmentation in the existing concentrator plant is being considered by the Company.

(d) 184 employees are in the Executive cadre and the remaining 1545 employees in Groups B,C, and D are mostly employed from local areas in and around Malanjkhanda Copper Project.

(e) and (f) Transportation of raw material extracted from the mines is being done by Hindustan Copper Limited through Rail and Road transport.

Reclamation of Barren Land

1367. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government for reclamation of barren land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government manure which was to be provided to farmers for reclamation of barren land in Uttar Pradesh has not been provided so far; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the manure is proposed to be provided to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) As per definition contained in land utilisation Statistics, "Barren Lands" are mountainous, rocky and inhospitable areas which cannot be reclaimed at an economic cost. Thus, no scheme has been formulated for reclamation of Barren Land.

Allotment of Houses in Kanpur under Indira Awas Yojana

1368. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economically poor villagers living below poverty line in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Kanpur have not got allotment of houses under the Indira Awas Yojana and the Central norms are being violated with impunity by opening files to provide loans to uneligible persons for the construction of houses;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ordered any inquiry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken against the guilty persons and to check recurrence of such activities in the future?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hill Allowance

1369. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Postal and Telecom employees working in the remote hilly tribal areas in Maharashtra have demanded special allowance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(i) Postal Employees working in Tribal Areas of Dahanu in Thane District, Deori and Sadak Arjuri in Nagpur District., Pandharkawada in Wardha District and Chinchiroli in Chandrapur District have demanded Tribal Area Allowance.

(b) Telecom Employees working in Tribal Areas of Nasik District have demanded the Adivasi Upyojana Kshetra Protesahan Bhatta as applicable to the State Government Employees.

(c) The Postal and Telecom Department are not authorised to sanction Tribal Area Allowance. The cases relating to Postal Department are under correspondence with the field units for additional information. The Department of Telecom has sent the case to Department of Personnel for further examination.

[English]

Pancheswar Hydro Electric Project

1370. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether negotiations are in progress between India and Nepal for setting up the Pancheswar Hydro Electric Project on the Mahakali river in Nepal;

(b) if so, the proposed capacity of the project and total investment inclusive of investment in associated transmission network;

(c) sources of funds for the investment outlays;

(d) whether the Government have considered other alternative Hydro Electric Project of identical capacity within the country;

(e) whether the Government has satisfied itself that the Pancheswar project enjoys advantages superior to alternative projects in India; and

(f) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. India and Nepal had signed a Treaty on the Mahakali river on 29th January 1996. The Instruments of Ratification of the Treaty was exchanged during the Prime Minister's visit to Nepal in June, 1997. The Mahakali Treaty has come into force from 6.6.1997. A power exchange agreement was executed by the Secretary (Power) on behalf of Government of India in February, 1996.

The Mahakali Treaty envisages construction of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on the river Mahakali which will be a source of surplus power. The Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project envisages construction of a storage dam, two underground power houses on either bank of the river. The project would be implemented in a phased manner and has a potential of about 6000 MW. However, a re-regulating structure would be required for exploiting the full power potential. A Detailed Project Report is under preparation.

A portion of Nepal's share of energy shall be sold to India. The quantum of such energy and its price shall be mutually agreed upon between the Parties.

(b) The estimated cost of the project as per the project report prepared by His Majesty's Government of Nepal for the installed capacity of 6480 MW is Rs. 9170 crores (1 US\$ = Rs. .35) including transmission based on April, 1996 price level.

(c) Both the parties i.e. India and Nepal shall jointly endeavour to mobilise the finance required for the implementation of the project after the preparation of Joint Detailed Project Report.

(d) to (f) Studies are being carried out in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on power expansion model for the period (2011-2012 AD) when Pancheshwar Project is likely to yield benefits. In the studies all the existing sanctioned and ongoing and CEA cleared projects and all feasible hydroelectric projects upto the year 2012 have been taken into consideration. The result of the studies indicate that Pancheshwar power with the proposed tentative installation of 6000 MW is a cheaper alternative to the combination of coal based thermal and Open Cycle Gas Turbine plants or the combination of coal based thermal and pumped storage plants.

[Translation]

Drinking Water Projects of U.P.

1371. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several drinking water projects of Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Union Government for special assistance from the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of such projects in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh which have recently been completed?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A World Bank assisted project for Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation covering 1000 villages in 15 Hill and Bundalkhand districts of Uttar Pradesh is under implementation at a total project cost of US\$ 71 million and the same is expected to be completed by 2002 A.D.

Encouragement to Non-Conventional Energy Sources in Bihar

1372. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken so far to encourage the non-conventional energy sources in the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) the total amount spent thereon during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied with the achievements made in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government make evaluation in this regard from time to time; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the results of last evaluation made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a wide range of programmes to generate and utilise non-conventional energy such as; the Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP), the setting up of Biogas plants, Improved Chulhas, Biomass Gasification and Briquetting plants, Solar Thermal Water Heating, both domestic and industrial, Solar Photovoltaic energy based rural home-lighting, lanterns, water pumps for irrigation and village level power plants, grid connected power

from Wind Energy, Small Hydro, Biomass Combustion, Bagasse-based Co-generation and Solar Photovoltaic Energy and electrical power from Urban and Industrial Wastes, throughout the country including in the State of Bihar.

(b) The total amount released by this Ministry to the State of Bihar, during the last three years, is Rs. 466.58 Lakhs.

(c) and (d) The Government is generally satisfied with the progress of utilisation of non-conventional energy sources in the state of Bihar. However, there is need to increase the coverage of potential and improve the functionality of Biogas plants and Improved Chulhas to bring it at par with the national average.

(e) Yes, Sir, the achievements made under various programmes of the Ministry, are reviewed from time to time.

(f) The details of the physical achievements for 1996-97 under various major programmes of the Ministry, in the State of Bihar, is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Physical Targets and Achievements under Major Renewable Energy Programme in the State of Bihar, for 1996-97

S. No.	Name of the Programme	1996-97	
		Target	Achievement
1.	Biogas		
(i)	NPBD (Nos.)	2,815	682
2.	Improved Chulha (Nos.)	60,000	24,712
3.	Solar Lanterns (Nos.)	19,000	14,612
4.	SPV Water Pumping Systems (Nos.)	Not targets fixed	40
5.	Small Hydro Power Projects		
(i)	Portable Micro Hydel Sets (units of 10 KW each)	5	4
(ii)	Survey & Investigation	No targets fixed	24

NPBD = National Project on Biogas Development
KW = Kilo watt,
SPV = Solar Photovoltaic

[English]

Medicinal Value of Neem Tree

1373. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to implement an action plan to undertake research on the medicinal value of Neem Tree;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States where research work has been started on Neem tree and its medicinal value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Various research and development institutions under the aegis of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Sidha, Defence Research and Development Organization, Department of Biotechnology and University Grants Commission are pursuing research on the medicinal properties of neem tree. The major area covered include : the potential of neem oil and its fractions as a contraceptive; evaluation of the antimicrobial and immunomodulatory properties; micropropagation of elite planting material; in vitro production of therapeutic agents from cultured neem cells; isolation and characterization of active principle from neem bark for control of gastric hyperacidity and ulceration; assessment of genetic diversity in neem using molecular markers.

(c) The institutions with significant ongoing research work on neem are located in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Closure of IVCOL

1374. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision to close Indian Vaccine Corporation Ltd. (IVCOL) has been taken; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Madam, the Cabinet in its meeting dated 21-11-1995 approved that the Department of Biotechnology would initiate action for winding up and dissolution of IVCOL; and the additional cost, if any, alongwith other two partners is borne by DBT.

(b) This decision was taken because of the circumstances in which transfer of Vero Cell technology, the purpose for which primarily IVCOL was started in 1989, could not take place due to certain changes in policy to use only oral polio vaccine for eradication of polio in India instead of a combination of oral polio vaccine and injectible polio vaccine.

MOU

1375. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Himachal Pradesh Government is backing down from the MOU dated 20.10.1992 for Parvati H.E. Project and desiring enhanced allocation in the project;

(b) whether the Rajasthan Government has requested to the Union Government for intervening in the matter;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have any plan for taking up this project as a joint venture; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) An MOU dated 20.10.1992 was signed by the Governments of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat and National Capital Territory of Delhi for investigation and execution of Parvati Hydroelectric Power Project in three stages. The project is located in Parvati Valley (Kullu District) in Himachal Pradesh. The equity contribution as mutually agreed by the State Governments will be as under :

1. Rajasthan	:	40%
2. Haryana	:	25%
3. Gujarat	:	15%
4. Delhi	:	15%
5. Himachal Pradesh	:	5%

The MOU also provides that 12 per cent of energy generated from the project shall be given to Himachal Pradesh free of cost. The remaining 88 per cent of energy generated from the project shall be apportioned amongst the States, including Himachal Pradesh in the ratio of their equity participation.

The Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested for enhancement of their share in equity from 5 per cent to 25 per cent by effecting the reduction in the share of other partner States. However, this is not acceptable to the Government of Rajasthan and a request has been made to this Ministry to persuade the Government of Himachal Pradesh to honour the principle of sharing of power as incorporated in the MOU.

Since the MOU was signed between the partner States, it is not possible for the Central Government to play the role of an arbitrator. The question of sharing of power has to be mutually decided by the signatories of the MOU.

(d) and (e) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government for execution of the Project as a joint venture.

Parliament House Quota

1376. LT. GEN. (RETD.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a quota called Parliament House Quota for Railway reservation some years back, which does not exist now;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to re-introduce the same for the benefit of the people coming from the constituencies of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Reservation quotas in second class sleeper, berths were earmarked in various trains for providing accommodation to the companions of Members of Parliament when the Members of Parliament were entitled to travel in first class and their companions in second class. Since the companions of MPs are now entitled to travel in first/AC 2-tier classes alongwith MPs, there is no need to retain these quotas in Parliament House Booking Office. Reservation requisition from MPs in favour of their quests etc. are entertained in the computer terminals provided at Parliament House Booking Office having direct link with the main Passenger Reservation System at New Delhi Computerised Reservation Office.

Mass Leave by Technical Employees

1377. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the technical employees of Doordarshan and All India Radio were on mass leave during third week of May, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and duration of their leave;

(c) the impact on the programmes of Doordarshan and All India Radio due to their leave and the total loss of revenue suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

(d) the details of demand of employees and the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Technical Employees of All India Radio and Doordarshan were on mass casual leave on 18th and 22nd May, 1997, against the recommendations of 5th Central Pay Commission. In spite of agitational programme, AIR/Doordarshan services, barring stray cases, continued uninterrupted. There was no loss of revenue to the Government.

(d) The demands relate to upward revision of pay scales and have been referred to Committee of

Secretaries constituted by the Government for expeditious decision in the matter.

[Translation]

Conversion of Jaunpur-Audhiyar Line

1378. SHRI VIDYASAGAR SONKER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which Jaunpur-Audhiyar metre gauge line is likely to be converted into broad gauge;

(b) whether there is any plan to introduce any train from Jaunpur to Audhiyar;

(c) if so, the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether the rail bus on above route runs regularly; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Conversion of Jaunpur-Aunrihar line is not a sanctioned work.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Under/Over Bridge in Gujarat

1379. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the pending/ongoing under/over-bridges projects in Gujarat alongwith expenditure incurred thereon; and

(b) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b)

S.No.	Name of Work	Details and Time of Completing	Expenditure incurred thereon
1	2	3	4

Work on Cost Sharing

1.	Road Under Bridge in lieu of LC No. 11 bet. Sabarmati and Gandhigram	Complete work is to be executed by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. Time for completion not yet fixed.	Nil
2.	Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 146 at Surat	Railway's portion of work has since been completed and 90% progress has been made on approaches work. The work is targetted for completion by Sept. 1997.	Rs. 120.83 lakhs
3.	Road over Bridge in lieu of Lc. No. 20 at Sant Road -Piplod.	The work in railway portion could not be started as State Government has not started the work on approaches.	Nil
4.	Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 80 at Vapi	Work completed and road over bridge opened for traffic on 26.5.97.	Rs. 173.63 lakh

Deposit Works

5.	Road Under Bridge at Himmatnagar at Km. 321/10-11.	State Government has deposited Rs. 271.21 lakh in April, 1997 only. The work is being taken up in hand. Time for completion not yet fixed.	Nil
6.	Road Under Bridge at Maninagar-Vatva near Dskshini society.	Contract for work has been awarded in May, 1997. Work is in progress and is targetted for completion by May, 1998.	Nil
7.	Road over Bridge at Saij Sertha (Kalol) on Ahmedabad-Mahesana	State Government has deposited Rs. 3.26 crore for the work which is in progress and is targetted for completion by March'98	Rs. 1.95 lakhs

1	2	3	4
8.	Road over Bridge at Maninagar between Maninagar-Ahmedabad at Km. 190/6-8 (Cadila)	Approaches work completed and work on track portion is in progress. Work is likely to be completed in Nov. 97.	Rs. 73.36 lakhs
9.	Widening of Road Over Bridge for 4 lanes bet. Chhayapur-Pilol at Vadodara-Godhra section.	Progress of Work on Railway's portion is 5% and work of approaches has been completed. This work is targetted for completion by 1998.	Rs. 32.32 lakhs
10.	Road Over Bridge between Maninagar-Ahmedabad in lieu of LC No. 308/A at Km. 492/7-8 (Kokra)	Approaches work is nearing completion and Railway's portion of work has been completed up to pier cap level. This work is targetted for completion by Nov. 97.	Rs. 27.22 lakhs
11.	Road Over Bridge between Gandhigram-Vastrapur stations at Km. 23/9-10.	Tender has been awarded and the work is targetted to be completed by March'98.	Nil

Proposal for Badarpur Thermal Power Project

1380. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to expand Badarpur NTPC power project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of financial assistance given so far and the likely date of completion of the project; and

(d) the total capacity utilisation of Badarpur NTPC plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has no programme for expansion of the Badarpur Thermal Power Project.

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

(d) The Plant Load Factor for the current year till 30th June, 1997 was 70.59%.

ADB Aided Rural Telephones

1381. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign companies have entered into a bid for ADD aided rural telephone projects for which tenders were floated by DoT;

(b) if so, the number of foreign companies offered for the bids;

(c) the number of foreign companies have been selected for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the projects are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In all 14 bids have been received, eight bids directly from foreign companies and the remaining six jointly with Indian companies.

(c) Tenders are still under evaluation.

(d) It has been planned for the year 1998-99.

[Translation]

Irregularities Committed by TTEs

1382. SHRIMATI BHAVANABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Paswan ji dekhiye kya scene hai" appearing in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated June 15, 1997;

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

(c) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such incidents in future and streamline the passenger facilities at Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Complaints received from time to time, including the reports published in the newspapers are duly examined/investigated by the competent authority

and the remedial action including taking up the staff responsible for causing the complaints is taken. During 1994-95 and 1995-96, 2,407 and 2,252 members of railway staff respectively were taken up. In the specific instance referred to in the newspaper item, the enquiry was promptly conducted by Northern Railway and prima facie, no railway staff was found responsible. Regular steps are also taken to improve/streamline the passenger facilitation at the stations on a programmed basis by earmarking separate funds for passengers amenities.

Setting up of Local Radio Station and Low Power Transmitters

1383. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :
SHRI KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government had set up the Local Radio Stations and Low Power Transmitters on the recommendations of the Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the date on which these were installed and expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the above Local Radio Stations and the LPTs are functioning;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) Requests for establishment of TV/Radio Transmitters etc., are received from time to time from various quarters including MPs/VIPs. Such requests are kept in view while identifying the locations of new Transmitters.

Criteria for deciding locations of new Transmitters include factors such as extent of resultant coverage, terrain conditions of the areas, linguistic and cultural needs of the area, technical feasibility, availability of financial/infrastructural resources etc.

At present, 638 Low Power TV Transmitters and 73 Local Radio Stations are under operation. Apart from this, 18 Local Radio Stations are under various stages of implementation. Some of these Transmitters/Local Radio Stations are relaying only part transmission or not relaying transmission regularly due to non-sanctioning of adequate staff for these stations. Action has already been initiated for early sanction of staff.

Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic Dispensaries/Hospitals

1384. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Homoeopathic, Ayurvedic and Allopathic dispensaries/hospitals functioning under the Railways, separately; zone-wise;

(b) whether the number of Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic dispensaries are petty low in comparison with the Allopathic dispensaries;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the posts of Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic doctors are lying vacant particularly in Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof dispensary-wise and zone-wise; and

(f) the time by which these vacant posts are likely to be filled up alongwith the rules to be followed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a)

Statement

Railway/Production Unit	Homoeopathic Dispensaries	Ayurvedic Dispensaries	Allopathic Hospitals	Allopathic Health Units
1	2	3	4	5
Central Railway	15	2	16	80
Eastern Railway	17	10	14 (including CLW)	54
Northern Railway	14	10	22 (including RCF, RDSO, DCW)	101
North Eastern Railway	24	5	10 (including DLW)	51
Northeast Frontier Railway	8	2	10	50
Southern Railway	8	3	15 (Including ICF, Wheel and Axle Plant)	63

1	2	3	4	5
South Central Railway	3	3	6	56
South Eastern Railway	14	Nil	13	83
Western Railway	11	1	16	81
Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala	1	Nil		
Wheel and Axle Plant, Bangalore	Nil	1		
Total	115	37	122	619 + 51 Lock Up dispensaries

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A large network of hospitals and health units has been provided on the Indian Railways to provide regular medicare to Railway Servants under the modern system of medicine i.e. Allopathy. In addition, as a measure of staff amenity and for promoting indigenous systems of medicine, Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic dispensaries have been set up under the aegis of Staff Benefit Fund which caters to various staff welfare activities. Opening of these dispensaries depends on the demand for treatment under these systems as also the availability of funds under the Staff Benefit Fund. These Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic dispensaries do not form a part of the medicare provided by the Ministry of Railways.

(d) and (e) One post of Homoeopathy doctor is lying vacant at Chakradharpur (South Eastern Railway) and one post of Ayurvedic doctor is lying vacant at Purna (South Central Railway).

(f) The vacant posts will be filled up as soon as suitable candidates are available. The qualification for appointment as Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic physicians in the dispensaries functioning under the aegis of the Staff Benefit Fund is five years' experience after acquiring the Four-Year Diploma/Degree Course in the respective system of medicine.

Railway Property Damaged by Earthquake

1385. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major part of Central Railway has been affected by an earthquake in Narmada Ghati region in Madhya Pradesh on May 22, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of Railway property damaged thereby alongwith the loss suffered as result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to repair the damaged railway property alongwith the finance assistance given therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A large number of residential quarters and service buildings in and around Jabalpur area sustained major damages. Among them, 287 residential quarters, the station buildings at Madan Mahal and Bharaghat and the cabins at Jabalpur, Kachhpura and Adhartal require re-building. Besides these, 637 residential quarters and a number of duty bunks at various Level Crossings need to be repaired. The total cost of repairs/re-building of damages is presently estimated to be around Rs. 10.50 crore.

(c) Restoration work has been taken up.

[English]

Import of Power from Pakistan

1386. SHRI L. RAMANA :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI SYDIAH KOTA :
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enter into an agreement with Pakistan to buy power to meet the country's demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of power, India proposes to import from Pakistan;

(d) the rate at which it is likely to be imported and the areas it will service in India;

(e) the time by which the negotiations are likely to be completed;

(f) whether the Power problem of India can be solved by getting power from the neighbouring countries including Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) A proposal for the sale of power from Pakistan to India was received from Indian Embassy, Washington. The proposal is under preliminary stage of Assessment and scrutiny. Consequent to the commissioning of the last unit of 1300 MW World Bank funded. Hub River Power Project near Karachi, Pakistan is likely to have a 1000 MW surplus during the monsoon season. The surplus is largely between July to September, the expectation is that even during the lean season substantial power will be available in view of capacity addition from ongoing projects. To facilitate the transfer of bulk power to Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat, it will be necessary in due course to establish a 400 KV transmission links. In the short run a 66 KV Double Circuit line between Lahore and Amritsar needs to be commissioned. This would facilitate transmission of 200 MW power. So far, no feasibility study has been conducted regarding the modalities for effecting the transfer of power and the investments required to be undertaken.

(f) and (g) Based on the assessment made by the Working Group on Power, the energy and peak shortage in 2001-02 would be 3.8 percent and 14.4 percent respectively assuming a realistic capacity addition of 34,000 MW in the Ninth Plan (1997-2002). The import of power from the neighbouring countries will improve the power supply position in the country to some extent.

Detention of Loaded Wagons

1387. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to introduction of 'One Train System' loaded wagons are allowed to go without any checking which is in violation of safety rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to discontinuance of work during night time the loaded wagons are detained 4/5 days in Radhanagar Railway Yard under Adra Division of S.E. Railway;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether detention of wagons for a long time adds to the losses of the Railways, particularly when there is scarcity of wagons;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether due to introduction of the new system, the services of 250 to 300 staff of Radhanagar Railway Yard are becoming redundant;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the steps taken by the Government for gainfully utilisation of the services of these staff?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The detention of wagons is within reasonable limits. At present, detention to loaded rakes has been brought down.

(f) The detention to loaded rakes which was about 35 hrs. during 1995-96 has come down to about 21 hrs. during 1996-97.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) The staff are redeployed from the place where the activities have dwindled to other areas where there is requirement for additional staff.

Surprise Check by Railway Vigilance Squad

1388. SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Vigilance Squad had recently conducted surprise check at various canteens run by Railways in Delhi and found several discrepancies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to tone up its functioning so that the qualitative items are made available in various catering units in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some discrepancies regarding cleanliness and poor quality of catering items in addition to improper maintenance of the records were detected.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Constant efforts are made by the Railways to improve the quality of catering services, raw materials, standard of hygiene and up-to-date maintenance of records. Besides, checks have been intensified.

Extension of Long Distance Trains upto Gandhidham

1389. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a demand for extension of long distance trains upto Gandhidham; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon along-with the details of long distance trains proposed to be extended?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) There have been some demands in this regard.

(b) Extension of trains including of Howrah-Ahmedabad Express, Madras-Ahmedabad Express etc. upto Gandhidham has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephones in Maharashtra

1390. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications registered in the waiting list for telephone connections in Maharashtra upto 30th June 1997, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted so far;

(c) whether the Government have evolved any scheme for speedy allotment of telephone connections; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The information is given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) There is a plan to provide 225000 telephone connections in Maharashtra Telecom Circle and 226000 telephone connections in MTNL Mumbai during 1997-98.

Statement

For Maharashtra Telecom Circle

S. No.	Name of Telecom district	Waiting List as on 30.6.97	Status of Telephone connections as on 30.6.97
1	2	3	4
1.	Raigad	4348	38325
2.	Jalgaon	10876	37586
3.	Nasik	21271	79443
4.	Dhule	11846	18842
5.	Kolhapur	8218	74942
6.	Solapur	7703	44224
7.	Satara	8193	36257
8.	Sangli	11794	44419

1	2	3	4
9.	Ratnagiri	6790	17640
10.	Sindhudurg	2522	9048
11.	Ahmednagar	14743	47451
12.	Aurangabad	8008	41156
13.	Jalna	1173	8864
14.	Latur	2625	18831
15.	Osmanabad	2220	7465
16.	Nanded	3587	20476
17.	Parbhani	1754	13584
18.	Beed	2599	12083
19.	Pune	56349	255783
20.	Goa	13988	79445
21.	Nagpur	9875	101388
22.	Kalyan	60720	131231
23.	Akola	3030	25439
24.	Amravati	3324	30918
25.	Bhandara	2473	15199
26.	Buldana	2604	14301
27.	Chandrapur	3994	15916
28.	Gadchiroli	537	2589
29.	Wardha	2373	13054
30.	Yeotmal	3182	11877
Total		292719	1267576
For MTNL Mumbai		30792	1661106

[English]

Gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu

1391. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total length of rail track still to be converted into broad gauge in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the time by which the complete conversion is likely to take place;

(c) the details of sections likely to be completed by December' 1997;

(d) whether any additional grants are being considered to spend up the projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The total length of rail track to be converted into Broad Gauge in Tamil Nadu is 2612 Kms.

(b) Depends upon availability of funds and other resources.

(c) Tiruchchirappalli-Thanjavur parallel BG (50 Kms.)

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Development of Railway in West Bengal

1392. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any representation from Members of Parliament regarding development of Railways in North and South Dinajpur (North Bengal);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A representation dated 20.9.96 from Shri Palas Barman, Ex. MP suggesting expeditions construction of Eklakhi-Balughat new line and provision of at least 5 crores to the project during 1997-98 was received.

(c) The work is progressing well. The outlay has been increased to Rs. 10 crores in 1997-98 to expedite the work.

Demand of Steel in Maharashtra

1393. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the demand of steel in Maharashtra at present; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Demand assessment is made by the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel annually only on an all India basis.

(b) To augment supply of steel in the country, Government is facilitating creation of additional capacities in private sector. Modernisation/expansion of public sector steel plants has also been taken up. Import of steel is freely allowed and import duties have been gradually reduced, making imports cheaper.

[Translation]

Power Generation

1394. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Power output

not even half of need" appearing in the 'Tribune' date June 27, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto and the power shortage noticed during the month of June, 1997 in the country;

(c) whether the power generation capacity in the country is 86,000 M.W.; and

(d) if so, the average percentage of power generation during the past years and actual annual generation of power, at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As against the peak requirement of 63419 MW during the month of June, 1997, the peak availability was 50.833 MW. The peak availability during April-June, 1997 is around 60% of the installed capacity. In June, 1997 energy generation went up by 8.2% over June, 1996, a performance not achieved since January, 1995. To improve the utilisation of existing capacity and to meet the projected increase in demand. Government is pursuing both short term and long term measures which, inter-alia, include, raising the PLF of existing stations. Renovation and modernisation of old plants, building of new capacities and price and institutional reforms in the power sector.

(c) Power generation capacity as on 30.6.97 is 86296 MW.

(d) The actual energy generation as a percentage of capacity for the last five years is as follows :-

S. No.	Years	Actual Peak power met (MW)	Power Generation as percentage of installed capacity
1.	1992-93	41984	58.0
2.	1993-94	44830	58.4
3.	1994-95	48066	59.2
4.	1995-96	49836	59.8
5.	1996-97	52376	60.6

Catering Charges in Rajdhani Express

1395. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Catering charges included in the fare of various classes for the Rajdhani Express;

(b) whether the Catering services are provided to the passengers as per the norms; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The Catering charges included in the fare of various classes in the Rajdhani Express trains are fixed keeping in view the standard and quality of the menu, the number of services provided to the passengers between pair of stations, such as morning tea, breakfast, lunch, evening tea/snacks and dinner. The amount of these charges depends upon the services rendered.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These are based on standard menus prescribed for 1st AC and other classes separately.

[English]

Postal Facility in Maharashtra

1396. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices in Maharashtra where telephone facilities are available and number where such facilities are not available; and

(b) the time by which the same is proposed to be extended by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a)

(i) Total No. of Post Offices	=	12324
(ii) No. of Post Offices with Telephone facility	=	4524
(iii) No. of Post Offices without telephone facility	=	7800

(b) Telephone facility will be provided to the remaining post offices on the basis of demand from Postal Authority and on technical feasibility.

[Translation]

Low and High Power Transmitters in UP

1397. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Low and High Power Transmitters operating in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) whether any scheme of converting Low Power Transmitters into High Power Transmitters have been received from the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) 9 HPTs, 57 LPTs, 20 VLPTs and 4 transposers for relay of

DD-I and 3 LPTs for DD-II service are presently operational in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Representations are received, from time to time, from various quarters, including the State Governments, for augmentation of TV service in their respective States. Schemes for expansion of TV service are, however, formulated keeping in view Doordarshan's objective of extending its reach particularly to hitherto uncovered areas in the country. The existing LPT at Lakhimpur in Uttar Pradesh is envisaged to be upgraded into an HPT subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

(d) The normal lead time involved in implementation of a project of this nature is about 3-4 years after approval of the scheme by the competent authority.

[English]

Modernisation of Projects

1398. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to involve private companies or multinationals in the modernisation and expansion work of projects in steel sector; and

(b) if so, the total expenditure to be incurred in modernising all the steel plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) SAIL has undertaken modernisation programmes at its Steel Plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro. The modernisation programmes are currently going on. Contracts have been entered into by SAIL with multinationals/private parties/public sector undertakings for various items of work for these modernisation projects. The revival/modernisation programme of IISCO, Burnpur is under consideration. A cumulative expenditure of Rs. 11,946.92 crores is likely to be incurred on the modernisation projects of SAIL at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro.

[Translation]

Train Accidents

1399. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of train accidents occurred in the country during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 uptill June, 1997, zone-wise;

(b) the reasons for occurrence of higher number of accidents and derailments on Indore-Ujjain and Ujjain-Bhopal route under Western Railways; and

(c) the details of loss of life and property due to such accidents in areas falling under Central and Western Railway during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Information is as under :

Railway	Number of Consequential train accidents during		
	1995-96	1996-97	April-June 1997
Central	54	57	26
Eastern	32	31	7
Northern	50	58	17
North Eastern	28	21	7
Northeast Frontier	23	18	2
Southern	52	40	14
South Central	41	42	14
South Eastern	73	66	23
Western	44	44	6
Metro	1	1	1
Konkan	-	3	1
Total	398	381	119

(b) Accidents on Ujjain - Bhopal and Indore - Ujjain sections were mainly due to track defect and negligence of road users while negotiating unmanned level crossings.

(c) Information is as under :

Railway	No. of persons killed			Cost of damage to Rly. property (Rs. in lakhs)		
	95-96	96-97	Apr-Jun 1997	95-96	96-97	Apr-Jun 1997
Central	20	33	1	591.48	770.59	239.08
Western	11	11	-	90.32	132.89	4.10

Out of Order Telephones in Bihar

1400. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the telephone exchanges at block headquarters of Eastern Champaran district of Bihar are lying out of order;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to modernise or improve the said exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Steps have been taken to install higher capacity modern electronic exchanges alongwith reliable digital transmission media.

[English]

Granite Deposits

1401. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to find out granite deposits in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Granite being a minor mineral, the concerned State Governments are responsible for the exploitation of reserves besides, exploration activity. However, in view of the importance assumed by this mineral, Geological Survey of India (GSI) has taken up intensive resource survey for granite in the country.

(b) Approximate State-wise area surveyed by GSI are indicated below :-

Name of State	Approximate area covered in Sq. Km.
Andhra Pradesh	38,000
Assam	125
Bihar	1,855
Gujarat	775
Haryana	105
Karnataka	6,320
Kerala	1,000
Madhya Pradesh	4,626
Maharashtra	2,300
Meghalaya	190
Orissa	1,200
Rajasthan	17,900
Tamil Nadu	4,950
Uttar Pradesh	3,050
West Bengal	1,000

[Translation]

Trains Introduced on Ajmer-Khandwa Route

1402. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new rail services introduced on metre gauge rail route of Ajmer-Khandwa after March 31, 1991, till date; and

(b) the position of Engines and Coaches provided for this purpose during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) 69/70 Indore-Mhow Passenger has been introduced serving Ajmer-Khandwa section w.e.f. 5.2.96.

(b) During 1991-92 and 1992-93, 75 and 60 MG coaches were allotted to Western Railway. The production of MG coaches was stopped from 1993-94 due to gauge conversion.

Existing stock was utilised to run 69/70 Indore-Mhow Passenger by utilising lie-over period.

For the new M.G. trains 69/70, new diesel loco was not provided and the lie-over period of existing loco link was utilised.

Shankar Guruswami Committee

1403. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Shankar Guruswami Committee has been entrusted with the responsibility of recommending economic concession for private institutions interested to work in the field of power transmission;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received the report of the Committee;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations of the report;

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be received;

(e) whether the Government have also announced to give 16% dividend to private institutions on the investment in power transmission sector; and

(f) if so, the grounds therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir. The Sankaraguruswami Committee was set up to review the existing arrangement for planning and approval of transmission projects and to suggest guidelines for determination of transmission tariffs, negotiation of Transmission Service Agreement and for determining principles of bid solicitation and evaluation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The salient recommendations of the Committee are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Salient Recommendations of the Committee of Experts constituted to suggest guidelines regarding private investment in transmission projects

1. Overall planning of the transmission system should continue to be under the scope of CEA, POWERGRID and SEBs as at present.
2. There should be only one main transmission agency in each area. For the transmission system within a State it would be the respective SEB, its successor organisation (in case of restructuring) and/or the State transmission company. At regional/national level it should be POWERGRID.
3. The above main transmission agencies should continue under Government ownership.
4. The above main transmission agencies have to decide as to which part of the new transmission augmentation within their responsibility they would like to entrust to private sector.
5. Even in the case of transmission system to be entrusted to private company, the SEB/POWERGRID should continue to be responsible for preparation of Feasibility Report/ Detailed Project Report and obtaining necessary clearances, the procedure for which should continue to be generally as followed at present.
6. The main transmission agency should then issue a specification and obtain offers from private companies for taking up the construction of new transmission facilities on ownership basis.
7. The selection of the private transmission company should be on the basis of competitive bidding, for which the quoted annual transmission charge (under specified conditions) should be the main criteria which should also be used for arriving at the transmission charge to be paid. However, for critical lines the Committee has recommended that joint venture route may be adopted by selecting a joint venture partner through a competitive bidding process. Efforts should be made to ensure that in such cases a minimum tariff emerges.
8. Annual transmission charge should be linked to the availability of the concerned transmission component. For AC systems 98.5% has been suggested as the normative availability, above which an incentive would be payable and below which there would be a steeper reduction in the annual transmission charge to be paid.

9. Since the power flows and grid parameters would not be under the control of the private company, the payment of transmission charge is not proposed to be linked to power flows and grid parameters.
10. Since the annual transmission charge itself would get decided through competitive bidding, it would not be necessary to go into the capital cost and various individual components of the transmission charges.
11. Joint venture between the main transmission agencies and the private company are not recommended. However, in case it is found to be necessary to form a joint venture for any particular transmission project, it has been recommended that the main transmission agency should have equal participation in the operation of the joint venture, and the selection of joint venture partner should again be based on a competitive bidding process.
12. The private transmission company would be required to enter into a Transmission Service agreement with the concerned SEB/POWERGRID, for making available its transmission assets the latter, in entirety, for use, and getting paid for the same by the latter. The private company would then not be concerned with wheeling and third party access issues.
13. The transmission company would have to operate and maintain its assets according to the directions of the State Load Dispatch Centre/Regional Load Dispatch Centre, which should continue to be owned and operated by the respective SEB/successor organisation/State transmission company and POWERGRID.
14. The private transmission company should be issued a transmission license by the concerned Government on the basis of recommendation from the concerned main transmission agency.

[English]

STD Facilities to Sub-Divisional Headquarters

1404. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to connect all the district headquarters and Sub-Divisional Headquarters of the country with STD facilities;

(b) if so, the number of District Headquarters and Sub-Divisional Headquarters connected with STD facilities, till date; and

(c) the time by when all District Headquarters and Sub-Divisional Headquarters are likely to be connected?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the 522 District Headquarters and 1149 Sub-Divisional Headquarters out of 1206, have been connected with STD facility.

(c) STD facility is planned to be provided to all the remaining Sub-Divisional Headquarters with Telephone Exchanges, during 1997-99 subject to availability of resources.

Discontinuation of Trains

1405. SHRI B.K. GADHVI :

SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of trains discontinued on Delhi-Ahmedabad route on account of conversion work of this line from MG to BG;

(b) whether only Delhi Mail has been restored so far after the completion of the conversion of this line from MG to BG; and

(c) if so, the time by which the other trains e.g. Ashram Express, Delhi Express, Aravalli Express are likely to be restored on this line?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The following direct trains between Delhi and Ahmedabad were discontinued on account of Gauge conversion :-

1. Ahmedabad-Delhi Ashram Express
2. Ahmedabad-Delhi Mail
3. Ahmedabad-Delhi Express
4. Ahmedabad-Delhi Aravali Express

(b) and (c) 9105/9106 Delhi-Ahmedabad Mail has been introduced with effect from 3.5.97. It has also been decided to introduce Rajdhani Express (weekly) and Ashram Express (daily) during August'97. Introduction of additional trains between Delhi and Ahmedabad is not proposed presently due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Demand of ED Employees

1406. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demands of extra-departmental employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Talwar Committee constituted for this purpose has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken for implementation of its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Postal Department has been utilising the services of ED Agents for providing Postal services in the Country-side where the traffic density is too low to justify the management of Departmental employees. From time to time the ED Agents have been pressing for improving their service condition through their recognised Unions and as such we are aware of their demands.

(b) The details of the demands are given in the statement which have been considered in detail by Justice Talwar Committee appointed by the Government in this behalf.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per an agreement entered into by the Department with the ED Agents Union the Talwar Committee Report is to be first discussed by a Committee comprising of their Union representatives, DOP&T and Ministry of Finance. As such a final decision on the recommendations contained in the Report would be possible only after these modalities are completed. Discussions with the EDAs Unions have been already initiated in this behalf and all possible steps are being initiated to take final decision on the report.

Statement

Demands of ED employees put forward by three affiliated federations of the Deptt. of Posts are :

1. To declare that the ED Agents including applicants are entitled to get appropriate scales of pay and proportionate wages equal to their corresponding counterparts in the regular establishment to evolve suitable scheme for payment of equal pay for equal work.
2. To declare that the ED Agents being holders of civil posts are entitled to get all service benefits including scales of pay, annual increments and promotions, pension, earned leave, casual leave, LTC, HRA and such other benefits as are granted to the regular employees in the Department and direct the Government to extend such benefits of ED Agents forthwith.
3. Grant of pensionary benefits applicable to the regular departmental staff and taking into consideration the wages paid at the time of retirements on the basis of the length of service with benefits of commutation.

4. Grant of travelling allowance, medical allowance and pay scales with periodical increments as applicable to the regular staff.
5. Payment of gratuity at the rate paid to then regular staff and upper limit so fixed at Rs. 6000/- be quashed.
6. Extension of GPF and family pension benefits to ED Agents.
7. Extension of concession of compassionate appointment to one of the dependants/near relatives of an ED Agent who dies while in service.
8. Two time-bound promotions during their service in the Department-first promotion on completion of 16 years service and second promotion on completion of 26 years service as at present, no such promotional Avenues exist in the Department.
9. Payment of subsistence allowance to the ED Agents during the put off duty period, leave with wages including maternity leave to women ED Agents.
10. To direct the Government that the entire service of the ED Agents shall be counted for the purpose of fixation of pay for grant of pension etc.

[English]

Upgradation of Maninagar-Ahmedabad-Mumbai Rail Track

1407. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any plan to upgrade the Maninagar-Ahmedabad-Mumbai railway track in the near future; and

(b) if so, the time by which the plan is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Track is already upgraded on Mumbai Central - Ahmedabad section. The maximum permissible speed of trains on Mumbai Central - Vadodara section is 120 kmph. On Vadodara - Ahmedabad section, at present the speed is 100 kmph which is proposed to be raised to 110 kmph by 31.3.98 for which trials are being conducted.

[Translation]

Rail Engines

1408. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the types of Rail engines available with the Railways at present, Zone-wise;

(b) the number of engines are being manufactured annually in the country alongwith the number of engines imported;

(c) the number of coaches and wagons with the Railways at present and their annual production indigenously alongwith the number of wagons and coaches imported;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to make the country self-sufficient in the matter of production of Rail engines and wagons;

(e) the expenditure incurred on indigenous and imported products annually;

(f) whether the capacities of Railway factories such as the Jamalpur workshop of Eastern Railways are being utilised fully; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The types of locomotives available with the Railways, Zone-wise are as under :-

Statement

Railway	Broad Gauge (Dsl.)	Broad Gauge Electrical		
		AC	DC	AC/DC
Central	WDM2, WDG2, WDS4&2, WDS6	WAG2,5&7, WAP1, 2, 3 & 4	WCM1, 2, 4, 5&6, WCG2	WCAM2&3
Eastern	WDM2&6, WDS2, 4&6	WAM1, 2, 3 & 4, WAP 1&6, WAG4, 5, 7&9		
Northern	WDM2&4, WDM2C, WDS2&4, WDP1	WAG4, 5&7, WAM1&4, WAP1, 3 & 5		
North Eastern	WDM1&2			
Northeast Frontier	WDM2, WDS6			
Southern	WDM2&7, WDM2C, WDS2, 4&6	WAG5&7, WAM4, WAP1		
South Central	WDM2, WDM2C, WDS2, 4&6, WDG2	WAG1, 4&5 WAM4, WAP4		
South Eastern	WDM2, WDG2, WDS 5&6	WAG1, 5, 6&7, WAM4		
Western	WDM2, WDS2, 4&6	WAG1&5, WAM4, WAP1, 3, 4&6		WCAM1&2

Railway	Metre Gauge (Dsl.)	Metre Gauge (Steam)	Narrow Gauge	
			(Dsl.)	(Steam)
Central	-	-	NDM1&5, ZDM4A ZDM5	-
Eastern	-	-	ZDM5	-
Northern	YDM4	-	ZDM3	-
North Eastern	YDM4	YP,YG	-	-
Northeast Frontier	YDM4	-	-	B Class
Southern	YDM2&4	YP, xClass	-	-
South Central	YDM 2&4	-	-	-
South Eastern	-	-	ZDM3, ZDM2R, ZDM4A, ZDM5	-
Western	YDM1, 3, 4&5	YP, YG	ZDM5	ZB

(e) The expenditure approximately incurred indigenously on manufacture of Locomotives, coaches and wagons during the last three years is as follows :-

(Figures in crores of Rs.)

	Locomotives (*)	Coaches (**)	Wagons
1994-95	914.29	625.62	378.37
1995-96	715.76	731.00	794.33
1996-97	1013.42	906.51	1133.39

(*) Diesel & Electric

(**) Including EMUs, MEMUs & DMUs

Following expenditure on imports has been incurred :

- (i) ABB Electric Locomotives - Rs. 738 crores (approx.)
- (ii) US\$ 2.7 Million (As advance payment for Diesel Electric Locos)
- (iii) DM 8.7 million (As advance payment for coaches)

(f) The available infrastructure and manpower is being gainfully utilised in the Railway factories including Jamalpur Workshop.

(g) Does not arise.

Collision of Goods Train with a Bus

1409. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a bus collided with a goods train on a railway crossing between Barhan-Chamrauli near Agra recently;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed and injured in the accident;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of persons killed and injured in this accident was as under :

(i) Killed	-	6
(ii) Grievous injured	-	23
(iii) Minor injuries	-	15

(c) and (d) The accident was enquired by a Committee of officers which has concluded that it occurred due to negligence on the part of Bus driver who failed to control his bus and dashed with the train after breaking the barriers of gate.

(e) An FIR has been lodged against the bus driver at Police Station Aonwal Khera, Dist. Agra.

[English]

TAC-Gujarat

1410. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telephone Advisory Committees in all the districts and at State level have been constituted in Gujarat circle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Members of Parliament from the State have been nominated in the concerned district/ State level Committees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Telephone Advisory Committee for Gujarat Telecom Circle and all the Telephone Districts therein have been instituted except for Bharuch and Sabarkantha Telephone Districts.

(c) to (e) As on date 32 MPs from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have been nominated in various District/ State level TACs in Gujarat Telecom Circle representing their constituencies as per details as given in the enclosed statement-I. Seven MPs (Four from Lok Sabha and Three from Rajya Sabha) as given in statement-II who have not conveyed their willingness or option regarding their adopted constituencies, are yet to be nominated.

Statement-I

List of MPs Nominated in Various TACs in Gujarat Telecom Circle

S.No.	Name of M.P.	Constituency	Name of TAC
1	2	3	4
MPs From Lok Sabha			
1.	Shri P.S. Gadhvi	Kutch	Bhuj
2.	Shri Sanat Mehta	S'Nagar	S'Nagar

1	2	3	4
3.	Shri C.V. Patel	Jamnagar	Jamnagar
4.	Dr. V. Katheria	Rajkot	Rajkot
5.	Shri G. Javia	Porbander	Junagadh
6.	Smt. Bhavnaben Chikhalia	Junagadh	Junagadh
7.	Shri Dileep Sanghani	Amreli	Gujrat (Circle)
8.	Shri Rajendra Sinh	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar
9.	Shri Harin Pathak	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
10.	Shri Vijay Patel	Gandhinagar & Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
11.	Shri Ratilal Verma	Dhanduka	Ahmedabad
12.	Dr. A.K. Patel	Mehsana	Mehsana
13.	Shri M.K. Kanodia	Patna	Mehsana
14.	Shri B.K. Gadhvi	Banaskantha	Palanpur
15.	Shri Momiibhai Damor	Dahod	Godhra
16.	Shri Shantibhai Patel	Godhra	Godhra
17.	Shri Dinesha patel	Kheda	Nadiad
18.	Shri Satya Sinh Gayekwad	Vadodara	Vadodara
19.	Shri Kashiram Rana	Surat	Surat
20.	Shri C.D. Gamit	Mandvi	Surat
21.	Shri Manibhai Chaudhri	Valsad	Valsad
22.	Shri Mohanbhai S. Delkar	Silvasa & DNH	Silvasa & Dadra Nagar Haveli
23.	Shri Gopalbhai Tandel	Daman	Daman & Diu
24.	Shri Ishvarbhai Chavda	Anand	Dheda (Nadiad)

MPs From Rajya Sabha

25.	Shri Ahmed Patel	Gujrat (Circle)
26.	Shri Brahma Kumar Bhatt	Gujrat (Circle)
27.	Smt. Urmilaben Patle	Mehsana
28.	Shri Rajubhai Parmar	Ahmedabad
29.	Shri Laxman Bangaroo	Ahmedabad
30.	Shri G.G. Solanki	Godhra
31.	Shri anantray Devshanker Dave	Kutch
32.	Shri Chimanbhai Haribhai Shukla	Rajkot

Statement-II

List of MPs Yet to be nominated in TACs in Gujrat
Telecom Circle

S.No.	Name of M.P.	Constituency	Name of TAC
1	2	3	4

MPs from Lok Sabha

1.	Smt. A. Nisa Choudhary	Sabarkantha
2.	Shri Jai Singh M. Chauhan	Kapdyanj

1	2	3	4
3.	Shri Chandubhai Deshmukh	Broach	
4.	Shri N.J. Rathawa	Chhota Udaipur	

MPs from Rajya Sabha

5.	Shri Yogender K. Alagh
6.	Smt. Anandiben Jethabhai Patel
7.	Shri Madhav Sinh Solanki

JULY 31, 1997

135

Written Answers

[Translation]

Availability of Close Circuit TV Sets

1411. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of important stations in the country where close circuit - T.V. cameras and other security equipments have been made available?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Nine important stations of Indian Railways have so far been provided with the facility of CCTV & other security equipment. These stations are Mumbai CST, Bhopal, Patna, New Delhi, Delhi Main, Lucknow Jn., Chennai, Bangalore, Trivandrum.

Setting up to Telephone Exchanges

1412. SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government contemplate to set up telephone exchanges in Trimudani Ghat, Bahere, Darbhanga in Bihar;

(b) if so, the time by which these exchanges are likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The information regarding Trimudani Ghat, Bahera and Darbhanga is as under :-

Trimudani Ghat : There is no Registered Demand for new telephone connections at this place. So no telephone exchange is planned for this place presently. As per the policy of the Department, new telephone exchange will be planned as soon as the Registered Demand reaches 10 or more.

Bahera : This is a small place falling in the local area of Benipur exchange. So a separate exchange is not justified for this place. Telephone connections would given from Benipur Exchange.

Darbhangha : A 6000 lines electronic exchange is already working here. A 10000 lines new technology exchange has also been planned for 1997-98 for this place.

[English]

Bio-Gas Plants in U.P. and Rajasthan

1413. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed and achievements made in the matter of setting up of bio-gas plants in Uttar Pradesh,

Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Haryana during the last three years till date, district-wise;

(b) the details of plants functioning and those lying closed location-wise;

(c) whether gas stoves are easily available in Market;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of bio-gas plants proposed to be set up in the above States during the current financial year, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The information on targets and achievements for setting up of biogas plants under two Central Sector Schemes in the four States during the last three years i.e. 1994-95 to 1996-97 is given below :

State	National Project on Biogas Development		Community, Institutional and Night-soil Based Biogas Plant Programme	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Haryana	5200	5706	8	2
Maharashtra	32500	43947	72	88
Rajasthan	9500	10772	3	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	31000	31834	120	144

District-wise information on number of family type biogas plants set up in these four States during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) An evaluation study carried out by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi in the year 1995-96, reported that about 85, 84, 31 and 73 per cent of the plants surveyed were found in working condition in the State of Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, respectively. However, location-wise information in respect of non-functional plants is maintained on the basis of sample checks and complaints received in the Block/District/State Offices of the State nodal departments and programme implementing agencies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

(e) A target of setting up of 2000, 15000, 1500 and 12000 family type and 5, 35, one and 50 community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants has been allocated to the States of Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, respectively. Besides, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, All India Women's Conference, etc., which have been given

targets, are implementing the biogas programme in these States also. The State Governments and programme implementing agencies are sub-dividing these targets among districts, keeping in view the existing potential based on cattle population and availability of water, demand and problems, such as, cattle migration, brackish water, drought and floods, etc.

Statement

District-wise number of family type biogas plants set up in the States of Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97

State/ District	Number of biogas plants set up
1	2
Haryana	
Ambala	488
Bhivani	345
Faridabad	334
Gurgaon	228
Hisar	505
Jind	285
Kaithal	378
Karnal	615
Kurushetra	635
Mohindergarh	436
Panipat	292
Rewari	285
Rohtak	236
Sirsa	461
Sonepat	330
Yamunanagar	571
Maharashtra	
Ahmednagar	2946
Akola	1512
Amravati	1849
Aurangabad	892
Bhandara	3323
Beed	902
Buldhana	966
Chandrapur	1601
Dhule	1988
Gadchiroli	1825
Jalgaon	1568
Jalna	800

1	2
Kolhapur	10864
Latur	879
Nagpur	1003
Nanded	908
Nashik	1945
Osmanabad	656
Parbhani	983
Pune	2615
Raigad	1304
Ratnagiri	922
Sangli	4371
Satara	3736
Sindhudurg	1609
Solapur	781
Thane	1416
Wardha	1447
Yavatmal	1766
Rajasthan	
Ajmer	271
Alwar	279
Banswara	135
Baran	77
Bharatpur	298
Bhilwara	585
Bikaner	241
Bundi	87
Chittorgarh	795
Churu	607
Dausa	204
Dholpur	80
Dungarpur	445
Ganganagar	1456
Jaipur	274
Jalore	90
Jhalawar	439
Jhunjhunu	670
Jodhpur	112
Kota	109
Nagaur	541
Pali	339
Rajsamand	166
Sawai Madhopur	155
Sikar	692

1	2
Sirohi	88
Tonk	225
Udaipur	1404
Hanumangarh	252
Uttar Pradesh	
Agra	307
Aligarh	817
Allahabad	1100
Almora	777
Ambedkarnagar	273
Azamgarh	1079
Bahraich	613
Bareilly	615
Badaun	737
Ballia	1580
Banda	224
Barabanki	589
Basti	561
Bhadoi	184
Bijnore	784
Bulandshahar	939
Chamoli	75
Dehradun	276
Deoria	859
Etawah	752
Etah	441
Fatehpur	480
Farukhabad	488
Faizabad	552
Firozabad	318
Ghazipur	1434
Ghaziabad	675
Gonda	723
Gorakhpur	760
Hamirpur	150
Hardoi	742
Haridwar	405
Jhansi	120
Jalaon	391
Jaunpur	1379
Kanpur (Rural)	966
Kanpur (City)	116
Lakhimpur (Khiri)	1205

1	2
Lucknow	387
Lalitpur	151
Mau	465
Muzaffar Nagar	978
Mainpuri	384
Maharajganj	364
Mahoba	65
Mathura	238
Meerut	1268
Mirzapur	1247
Moradabad	818
Nainital	2449
Padrauna	666
Pauri Garhwal	1417
Pilibhit	356
Pithoragarh	84
Pratapgarh	508
Raibareli	771
Rampur	596
Sitapur	799
Saharanpur	742
Shajhanpur	819
Sultanpur	849
Sonbhadra	159
Sidharthanagar	425
Tehri Garhwal	291
Udhamsingh Nagar	329
Unnao	614
Uttarkashi	70
Varanasi	2614

[Translation]

Delivery of Telephone Bills

1414. CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the telephone bills are delivered to subscribers on the last date or after the due date of the bills;

(b) whether the Telephone Department do not sent the telephone bills to the subscribers for several years until the subscribers himself collects it from the office and the telephones are even disconnected;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the subscribers are compelled to pay the fine;

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government against the persons responsible; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (f) The information has been called for and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

New DD Kendra in Rajasthan

1415. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL :

SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL :

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up new Doordarshan Kendras and Studio in Rajasthan in near future; and

(b) if so, the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Location-wise details of TV projects presently under implementation/envisaged to be set up in the State of Rajasthan are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Location-wise details of TV projects presently under implementation/envisaged to be set up in Rajasthan subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities

Under Implementation	Proposed
1	2
PPC :	
Udaipur	
HPT :	HPT :
Barmer (PMT.)	Ajmer
Jodhpur	Anupgarh
	Bikaner
	Nathdwara
	Jaisalmer (DD-II)
LPT :	LPT/VLPT :
Hindaun	Navalgarh
Makrana	Sagwara

1	2
Tibi	Kushalgarh
	Pirawa
	Nagar
	Kishangarh (Alwar)
	Nasirabad
	Bhinmal
	Sojat
	Bali
	Sanchor
	Dariawad
	Bharatpur
	Kishangarh (Ajmer)
	Vijaynagar
	Aandhi
	Viratnagar
	Sikrai
	Surajgarh
	Taranagar
	Kotra

VLPT:

Lalsot

Laxmangarh

Legend : PPC :- Programme Production Centre
HPT :- High Power Transmitter
LPT :- Low Power Transmitter
VLPT :- Very Low Power Transmitter

[English]

HPT Towers in Rajasthan

1416. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether two high power TV Towers were constructed by the Government on war footing to counter Pak propaganda in border districts of Western Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the total amount spent by the Government on these 2 TV Towers at Chohtan (distt. Barmer) and Ramgarh (district Jaisalmer);

(c) the reasons for non-commissioning of both these TV Towers so far; and

(d) the likely date of commissioning of these TV Towers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) While construction of 10KW High Power TV transmitter (HPT)

at Jaisalmer has been completed, an interim set up (1KW) has also been made technically ready at Barmer pending completion of permanent 10KW HPT set-up.

(b) Total expenditure incurred, till June'97, on HPT projects at Jaisalmer and Barmer is Rs. 493.28 lakhs and Rs. 758.14 lakhs respectively.

(c) and (d) Though both the 10KW HPT at Jaisalmer and 1KW HPT (interim set-up) at Barmer had been commissioned nationally on 31.03.1997, the two HPTs could not be made fully functional due to non availability of staff sanction for HPT, Jaisalmer and only truncated staff sanction for HPT, Barmer. Though no specific time frame can be indicated for making these HPTs fully functional, the same would depend upon sanction of full complement of staff for operation and maintenance of these projects by the competent authority.

Implementation of Projects in Vidharbha

1417. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether progress of ongoing projects in Vidharbha Region has recently been reviewed;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of standard norms and reasons for slow progress;

(c) the details of the projects which have missed implementation targets during the last 3 years in Vidharbha Region; and

(d) the action plan for 1997-98 for completion of incomplete projects on priority basis with due weightage to backward/tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The progress of various projects being implemented in Vidhabha area was lastly reviewed in February, 97 and it will be reviewed again soon for this financial year.

(b) The schemes which are carried forward from last year are mostly transmission schemes viz. Radio schemes. The normal time frame for execution of scheme is about two and a half years which includes one year time for acquiring land through State Government. The main reasons for non-implementation of projects in time are :-

(i) Non availability of land and building due to delayed or non-allotment of land by the State Government

(ii) Delay in supply of equipments.

(c) and (d) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(c) and (d) The details of the projects which have missed implementation target during the last 3 years in Vidharbha Region and the action plan for 1997-98 for their completion are as under :

A. Transmission Projects :

13 Nos. of UHF/MW Schemes to provide STD facility to Taluka Headquarters. were delayed mainly because of delay in allotment of land for these schemes by the State Government. As a result two of these schemes had to be revise to have different routing and two schemes are being revised to Optical Fibre Cable system. All these schemes have been included in the commissioning programme for 1997-98.

Action is being taken to acquire land from private parties wherever the State Government has expressed its inability to provide the land.

3 Nos. of Microwave schemes and 1 MCPC Satellite scheme got delayed because of delay in supply of equipment. Equipment allotment for 3 of these schemes has already been done and these are expected to be commissioned during this year.

B. Switching Projects :

3 Nos. of switching projects viz. local cum TAX E-10B exchange at Chandrapur, 500 lines expansion at Amravati and 500 lines E-10B expansion at Akola got delayed. Two of these projects at Chandrapur and Akola have since been commissioned during 1997-98. The third project is also expected to be commissioned during this year.

Postal Licences to Unemployed Graduates

1418. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts is going to provide licence to unemployed Graduates to operate Mini Post Offices in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether there is a great potential to use the employed youth in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government is going to use the potentiality of the educated unemployed youth in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The Department of Post has one licensing scheme called Licensed Stamp Vendor Scheme, under which stamps and stationery are sold through its licensees. This licence is given on an application to any one who fulfils the criteria laid down and follows the prescribed conditions as per statement-I enclosed.

In the villages where it is not possible to open a Post Office "Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana" a scheme

to provide basic postal facilities through Panchayats was evolved. The details of the scheme are given in the enclosed statement-II. Under Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana, an unemployed educated youth from within the panchayat areas whose minimum educational qualification should be matriculation, on being selected by Gram Panchayat with the written consent of the Supdt./Sr. Supdt. will perform the postal functions within the areas of the panchayat.

Statement-I

Licensed Stamp Vendor :

The scheme of Licensed Stamp vendors was introduced in 1966 as a measure to provide easy availability of postal stamps and stationery and to decongest counters.

Conditions :

1. Licences cannot be granted to officials working in post offices or persons otherwise connected to post offices.
2. Preference is given to ex-servicemen, the unemployed and physically handicapped.
3. Licensee can be an individual, a firm or a corporate body.
4. The premises of the licensee should not be less than half a kilometer from the nearest post office and should have a signboard indicating availability of stamps and stationery and should be open for a minimum of five hours in a day.
5. A security deposit of Rs. 1000/- and licence fee of rs. 100/- p.a. is prescribed.
6. A stationery component of 25% of total purchase made by the vendor from the post office is compulsory.
7. A licence is valid for one year.

Statement-II

Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana

Objective of the Scheme :

The objective of the Scheme is to provide basic postal and telecommunications facilities to the Gram Panchayat villages which are still without post offices. In this scheme, the Panchayat will be the nodal point for retailing some of the basic services like sale of stamps and postal stationery, collection and delivery of letters, booking of registered articles, etc.

Functions :

The functions given below shall be performed by the Panchayat Kendra Unless otherwise specified by

the Department :-

- (a) Booking of registered letters except VP and Insured articles;
- (b) Sale of postage stamps and postal stationery;
- (c) Grant of certificate of posting;
- (d) Operation of Mahila Samridhi Yojana Scheme, where feasible;
- (e) Collection and delivery of mail including clearance of letter boxes, where feasible;
- (f) Propagation of Small Savings Scheme and Rural Postal Life Insurance; and
- (g) Other functions of Branch Post Office as and when the Department is satisfied that Kendras are able to discharge them.

In addition the following optional functions may be given to the Sanchar Kendra In-charge by Supdt./Sr. Supdt. Post Offices of concerned division.

Conveyance of mail from Account Office or nearest Post Office to Sanchar Kendra advice-versa.

The Sanchar Kendra Agent under the scheme shall also be entrusted with operation of STD/PCO/Panchayat Phone, subject to fulfilment of eligibility criteria and terms and conditions laid down by Department of Telecommunications, in villages where such facility does not exist at present. The existing PCO holders in villages can also be utilised as Sanchar Kendra Agents.

Salient Features :

Participation of the Gram Panchayats in the Scheme will be voluntary.

An unemployed educated youth from within the Panchayat areas whose minimum educational qualification should be matriculation on being selected by Gram Panchayat with the written consent of the Supdt./Sr. Supdt. will perform the postal functions within the areas of the Panchayat.

The person so identified will act as agent of the Panchayat for operating the scheme. However, for the purpose of operation of this scheme, the panchayat will enter into an agreement with the Department of Post.

Gram Panchayat will earmark a suitable place, preferably a building owned by it, for locating the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra. The location of the Kendra will not change with the change of incumbent.

Postal facilities would be made available to the people on all days of the week, except Sundays and Postal holidays. The business hours will be fixed by the Superintendent of Post Offices according to the convenience and needs of the local people and shall be duly notified. However, for operating STD/PCO/Gram Panchayat Phones, working days and hours as specified by the Telecommunication authorities shall be maintained.

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras will be established in Gram Panchayat Headquarters villages.

The Gram Panchayat will be accountable to the Department of Post for ensuring proper and efficient postal services through Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra.

The Sanchar Sewa Kendra will also be subject to regular supervision and inspection by the Department of Post.

Remuneration/Commission :

A fixed allowance of Rs. 300/- per month for providing counter services and for collection, conveyance and delivery of mail wherever permitted will be paid.

The agent of the Panchayat will be compensated for other postal services provided in the Panchayat areas by payment of :-

(a) A commission of 5% of the value of stamps/stationery will be allowed at the time of purchase in normal rural areas. In hilly and tribal areas, commission at the following rates will be allowed :-

- (i) On sale up to Rs. 100 : 5%
- (ii) On sale from Rs. 101 to 200 : 7.5%
- (iii) On sale from Rs. 201 and above : 10%

(b) A commission of 50 paise for booking and delivery of a registered article.

(c) Commission at the prescribed rates for handling Mahila Samridhi Yojana Accounts.

(d) Commission at prescribed rates for propagating Postal Life Insurance and National Savings Scheme.

(e) Commission at the rates to be prescribed for providing other services.

For operating STD/PCO/Gram Panchayat Phone, Commission as prescribed by the Department of Telecommunications shall be paid.

A system of rewarding the best Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra in a Postal Circle will be introduced in order to encourage and motivate the Panchayat to ensure efficient postal services in the area.

[Translation]

Elections to Panchayats and Zila Parishads

1419. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not holding the elections of Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad of Chandigarh so

far whereas it is compulsory to hold the elections of such institutions within six months from the date of their constitution;

(b) whether the Government are aware that no stay order of any court is in force in this regard at present; and

(c) if so, the time by which the elections are likely to be held there?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The elections to the Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad in the U.T. of Chandigarh were held in January, 1996, but the results could not be declared as the Punjab and Haryana High Court stayed the declaration of results on Writ Petition. The stay order now stands vacated following dismissal of the writ petition. The U.T. Administration of Chandigarh is taking further action on the formation of these bodies.

Telecommunication Facility in Rural Areas

1420. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of poor functioning of telephone system in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme for improvement in telephone service in rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of rural areas likely to be benefited by the said scheme;

(e) whether the progress made in rural telecommunications system is far away from the targets;

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

(g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The telephone systems in rural areas are working satisfactorily except in some difficult, inaccessible and remote areas.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) For further improving the telephone services in rural areas following steps are being taken.

(i) Provision of telephone facility to all the villages by the year 2000.

- (ii) Provision of STD facility to all the exchanges by the year 2000.
- (iii) Provision of reliable transmission media.
- (iv) Induction of modern technologies for providing village public telephones.
- (v) Increasing capacity of existing exchanges.
- (vi) Replacement of small capacity exchanges by higher capacity switches.
- (vii) Replacement of life-expired and obsolete switches by digital switches.
- (viii) Overhead alignment in the local areas being replaced by underground cable progressively.
- (d) The rural areas in all the States will be benefited by this scheme.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) and (g) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Upliftment of Rural Artisans

1421. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of schemes formulated/implemented so far for the upliftment of rural artisans;
- (b) the additional facilities proposed to be given to them during 1997-98; and
- (c) the items manufactured under the above schemes during the last two years and the countries to which these were exported?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) This Ministry is implementing a scheme of supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans. Under the Scheme, Rural Artisans living below poverty line are to be given improved tools to enable them to enhance the quality/quantity/marketability of their products and reduce their drudgery. Initially, it was launched in selected districts. Later, from 1995-96 it was extended to entire country except UTs of Delhi and Chandigarh. Under this scheme, artisan from different crafts except weavers, tailors, needle workers and beedi-workers are provided improved toolkits. The average cost of toolkit is Rs. 2000/- and the unit cost is to be fixed by DRDA concerned. The artisans are required to contribute 10% of the cost of the toolkits as their contribution with the balance 90% being met as subsidy from the Government of India. The use of power driven toolkits upto the cost of Rs. 4500/- has also been permitted under the scheme. Beyond this, it is to be linked to loan under IRDP.

At the district level the DRDA is the nodal agency for implementation. The prototypes of improved tools in pottery, carpentry, black smithy, leather work, wood crafts, metal craft and lacquerware have been developed by the National Small Industries Corporation, Regional Design and Technical Development Centre under the Development Commissioner, Handicraft and other organisations. If the State Government feel that better alternative to improved tools suitable to local conditions are available in their States, they are free to chose those models, subject to the approval by the State Level/District level/Task Force/Technical Committee set up for the purpose.

(b) The following additional facilities are proposed to be given to the rural artisans during the year 1997-98 :

- (i) Institutional arrangements for establishing marketing linkage for ensuring higher income to rural artisans.
- (ii) Supply of literature with graphics and illustrations to the illiterate rural artisans for proper use of improved Toolkits.
- (iii) Discussion with rural artisans after supply of toolkits about its utility and suitability.

(c) The rural artisans whom the toolkits are supplied are free to manufacture any item of their choice and they are free to sell their products anywhere they like. Information regarding export of such items to other countries is not available.

[English]

Gas Based Power Generation

1422. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the gas-based combined cycle method of power generation is emerging as a preferred route;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have since taken this route for power generation; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The choice between a conventional thermal power plant and gas based combined cycle power plant depends on a variety of factors including capital cost of various alternatives, availability and price of fuel and site specific environmental conditions etc. Gas based power stations are more environment friendly and have shorter destination period, besides having higher cycle efficiency compared to coal based stations.

Introduction of more train from Kanyakumari

1423. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are proposals under the consideration of the Government to operate more Express trains from Kanyakumari to important cities of the country in view of the increasing number of tourists and pilgrims to the terminal Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce express trains in the morning from Chennai to Kanyakumari and *vice-versa* at the same time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Railway Link from Amritsar to Chandigarh

1424. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a railway link from Amritsar to Chandigarh via Ludhiana is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Construction of a new line from Ludhiana to Chandigarh is included in Budget 1997-98, to be taken up after obtaining the necessary clearances for which action has been initiated. This will provide a direct rail link from Amritsar to Chandigarh.

Land Reforms

1425. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a State level conference was held in the recent past to review the progress of land reforms in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Conferences of State/UTs, are held periodically to review the progress of land reforms in the country.

(b) The last Conference of the Revenue Ministers was held in New Delhi on 28th January, 1997 which

deliberated upon important issues on land reform measures including the distribution of ceiling surplus land/Bhoodan land/Government Wasteland, restoration of Alienated tribal land, tenancy reforms, the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in land reforms etc. and recommended a set of specific time-bound measures.

These have been taken up with the concerned State Governments for necessary follow up action.

Telecom Service-National Average

1426. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telecommunications services are below the national average in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government to bring the telecommunications services in those States at par with national average;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The average number of telephones per hundred inhabitants in some of the States is less than the national average of 1.72. Steps are being taken to bring the tele density of these States at the national level by giving more weightage while fixing the targets for new telephone connections. Circle-wise targets fixed for 1997-98, waiting list as well as tele-density as on 31.3.1997 are as per details in enclosed Statement.

(e) Does not arise in view of above.

Statement

DELs target 1997-98, Waiting List and Tele-density as on 31.03.97, based on 1991 Census.

S. No.	Circle	DELs Target	Waiting List as on 31.3.97	Tele-density per 100 population
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	215000	242592	1.43
2.	Assam	35000	28422	0.56
3.	Bihar	60000	51445	0.39
4.	Gujarat	200000	265681	2.60
5.	Haryana	73000	85459	2.18
6.	H.P.	40000	46762	2.77
7.	J & K	20000	33141	0.89
8.	Karnataka	195000	165396	2.17

1	2	3	4	5
9. Kerala	262000	619955	2.94	
10. Madhya Pradesh	70000	40772	1.06	
11. Maharashtra	225000	248638	1.84	
12. North East	22500	12066	1.03	
13. Orissa	35000	44204	0.63	
14. Punjab	164000	184448	3.48	
15. Rajasthan	147000	156323	1.39	
16. Tamilnadu	249000	285276	1.73	
17. Uttar Pradesh (E)	95000	58510	0.74	
18. Uttar Pradesh (W)	99000	73763	0.74	
19. West Bengal	86000	65352	0.40	
20. Andaman and Nicobar	4500	2550	2.24	
21. Bombay	226000	804	13.06	
22. Delhi	214000	2216	14.62	
23. Calcutta	80000	84816	4.77	
24. Chennai	75000	80607	7.88	
Total	2900000	2887200	1.72	

Note :

1. North East comprises the state of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. West Bengal comprises the State of Sikkim also.
3. Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and Delhi are the Metro cities.
4. Maharashtra, West Bengal and Tamilnadu Circles comprises of respective States excluding Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai respectively.
5. Maharashtra comprises the State of Goa also.

Electronic Telephone Exchange in M.P.

1427. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install electronic telephone exchanges by replacing the old telephone exchanges in Madhya Pradesh during 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the detail thereof and the time schedule thereof district-wise, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sir, details are given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

S.No. Locations	Distt.	Existing		Tentative Time Schedule for replacement
		Type	Capacity	
1. Bilaspur	Bilaspur	MAX-I Strowger	5000	March, 1998
2. Ujjain	Ujjain	-do-	3200	March, 1998
3. Singroli	Sidhi	MAX-II U/S Type	400	March, 1998

[Translation]**Constitution of Working Group by Japan**

1428. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Japan has constituted a working group for speedy development of power industry in the country and this group will assist in raising capital and providing improved technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the aforesaid group will start its work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) With a view to support private initiative for infrastructure develop-

ment and explore business opportunities for the Japanese private sector in India, the Japanese had established a Study Group on the electric power development for India in July, 1996. After making extensive studies, the study group has finalised its report on 28.3.1997. In its final report, the Japanese private sector and the Government of Japan have acknowledged that support for development of the power sector is a vital step for industrial cooperation with India which is considered one of the big emerging markets. The Study Group has identified the States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka for Japanese cooperation. Further, progress in this direction would depend upon the initiatives to be taken by Japanese private sector and response of the concerned states. The study group proposes to continue discussions with the states concerned to identify specific areas for cooperation.

[English]

Agreement between Himachal Pradesh and Union Government

1429. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agreements reached by Himachal Pradesh with the Union Government prior to formation of the state have been implemented;

(b) the demands which are still pending with the Union Government; and

(c) the time by which the proposal forwarded by the State Government for levying electricity tax is likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Government of Himachal Pradesh has made a claim for a share of 12 per cent of installed capacity to be provided free from Hydroelectric Projects located in Himachal Pradesh but where benefits are derived from other constituent states in the region and enhanced entitlement of 7.19 per cent from Bhakra Nangal and Beas Project located in Himachal Pradesh based on population. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has also instituted a suit in June, 1996 in Supreme Court of India praying for a decree in the matter. 12 per cent of installed capacity has been allocated as free power from the Central Sector Projects of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation viz. Baira Suel (198 MW) and Chamara Stage-I (540 MW). This is based on the sharing formula applicable to hydel stations commissioned after 7.9.1990 by Central Public Sector Undertakings. The demand of the Government of Himachal Pradesh that based on population 7.19 per cent power generation from Bhakra Nangal and Beas Project should be allocated from the date of commissioning of these projects is pending before Supreme Court.

(c) The Bill has been referred to Government of India for according President's assent. The matter has been referred by this Ministry to Ministry of Law in May, 1997. After the legal opinion is received, it will be referred to Ministry of Home Affairs who will take a final decision.

Derailment of Wagons

1430. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the derailment of wagons has been caused due to failure of Ultrasonic Flaw Detector Machines which were purchased from some private companies;

(b) if so, the total number of such machines purchased during the last three years alongwith the names of the companies and the quantity received;

(c) whether the quality of said machines manufactured by ECIL compared to other manufacturers in the private sector is excellent; and

(d) if so, the reasons for placing orders to private manufacturers for the purchase of said machines?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Total number of such machines procured was 81. These were procured from ECIL-63 Nos. Electronic and Engineering Company, Andheri, Mumbai-3 Nos, Vibronics, Mumbai-9 Nos, Madsonic Inst. Mfg. Co., Ahmedabad-4 Nos and Krautkammer, Germany-2 Nos.

(c) and (d) These machines have been procured to a common specification laid down by Research Designs and Standards Organisation of Railways and hence the quality of machines is comparable.

Benefits to Indian Farmers

1431. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "benefits meant for indian farmers go to Bangladesh" appearing in the Indian Express dated May 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Normally no separate classification is prescribed for a commodity meant for export. Accordingly no separate classification for movement of Single Super Phosphate for export was prescribed by the Ministry of Railways. The traffic in this commodity booked to Bangladesh was charged at the prescribed tariff and Railway has not suffered any loss on this account.

This issue has also been examined by the Commercial Committee of Interchange (CCI) consisting of all the Chief Commercial Managers of Zonal Railways who have stated that no separate classification for export traffic of this commodity needs to be prescribed.

Regarding movement of Rice consignments sponsored by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) not utilised for Public Distribution System as mentioned in the news item, action has been taken to raise undercharges and realise the same.

Misappropriation of Funds

1432. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an allegation of misappropriation of funds in construction of staff quarters in Gaya Telecom. district Gaya (Bihar);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Pedestrian Over-Bridge

1433. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pedestrian overbridge on Ram Ghat Road Railway crossing in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh has since been constructed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the pedestrian overbridge on the aforesaid place is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) One pedestrian over bridge already exists at a distance of 55 metres from existing level crossing No. 109-A near Aligarh Railway Station. Hence, another pedestrian over bridge in proximity is not justified.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

[English]

Advertisement Scheme on Post Cards

1434. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the income of the Postal Department earned from advertisement scheme on post cards, etc. during the first quarter of the current financial year; and

(b) the estimated additional income expected out of increase in cost of post cards in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The revenue earned by the Department from Advertisement Scheme on post cards etc. during first quarter of current year is Rs. 57 lakhs.

(b) The estimated additional income out of increase in the cost of post card in the current year is Rs. 4.52 crores.

Exchange of Programme between China and India

1435. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal for extending cooperation in Television Network and exchange of programmes between India and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;

(d) if so, the salient features of such agreement; and

(e) by when this agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Doordarshan has signed an agreement of mutual cooperation with China Central Television on 2nd June, 1997 which, inter-alia envisages exchange of programmes relating to news, sports, entertainment, economic development, cultural activities, children and science and technology.

(e) The agreement is already in force.

Shortage of Wagons

1436. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that acute shortage of Railway Wagons have affected the movement of foodgrains to Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir; there has been no shortage of railway wagons. However, unloading problems on the part of Food Corporation of India affected movement of foodgrains.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Seismology Research Laboratory

1437. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director of Council of Science and Technology, Madhya Pradesh had proposed in 1993

for setting up of a Seismology Research Laboratory in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the proposal is being reconsidered particularly when Narmada Valley is experiencing the disaster of earthquake; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) Sir, no proposal from the Council of Science and Technology, M.P., was received in 1993. However, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh had approached Government in India in 1993 for upgradation of earthquake monitoring facilities in the State. As a follow up, the India Meteorological Department, Government of India, has upgraded the Seismological Observatory at Bhopal by setting up a state-of-art broad-band equipment. This equipment is operational and recorded the recent Jabalpur earthquake of May 22, 1997 and generated data relating to the event.

[English]

Review of Performance of Steel Sector

1438. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance of the steel sector has recently been reviewed;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of standard norms for PSU and Private Sector units separately;

(c) whether the steel sector has sought Government's intervention to help them in exports, and provide financial relief because of depressing conditions in domestic market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Steel periodically reviews the performance of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under its administrative control only. The main parameters of review include interalia Memorandum of Undertaking (MOU) targets; performance of the previous years; expected performance with reference to modernisation/expansion programmes; other special and current areas of concern etc. The Ministry of Steel interacts with the private sector from time to time in order to ascertain their problems and to find solutions thereof.

(c) and (d) No specific request has been received from any producer for financial assistance for exporting steel. As per the Export-Import Policy, export of steel is freely allowed. However, Government has been taking

a number of steps to enhance exports of steel which include :

(i) Full convertibility of export earnings at market rate of exchange;

(ii) Facility available to Exporters to import their requirement of raw materials duty free under the Advance Licensing Scheme;

(iii) Refund of the duty paid on any imported or excisable material used in the manufacture of export goods; and

(iv) Exemption of export earnings from income-tax under Section 80 HHC.

CAG Report on Railway Projects

1439. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the newsitem captioned "CAG ne rail mantralaya ko aade haath liya, Pichli priyojnaye poori nahin hui aur nai haath mein li" appearing in the Dainik Jagran dated May 13, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The press report is factually correct as far as the contents of CAG report are concerned.

(c) New projects are taken up by the Government based on their perception of the requirements of new lines, gauge conversions etc. to provide the infrastructure for development. These projects are implemented alongwith other ongoing projects with funding as per prioritisation based on operation/strategic considerations. The main reason for the slow progress of all these projects is constraint of resources. Best efforts are made with the Planning Commission/Finance Ministry to increase the budgetary support so that these projects can be optimally progressed.

STD Booths In Rajasthan

1440. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANQDIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of STD public telephone booths proposed to be set up in Rajasthan during 1997-98;

(b) the number of pending applications for allotment of such booths; and

(c) the number of post offices in the State, where such facilities are proposed to be made available during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The target of STD PCOs in Rajasthan during 1997-98 is 6000.

(b) Pending applications as on 30.6.97 are 13298.

(c) No separate target is fixed for Post Offices. Eligible applicants with suitable space in Post Offices are also considered for allotment of STD PCOs by the STD PCO Allotment Committee.

Issuance of Free Railway Passes to Deaf and Blind Persons

1441. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to issue free Railway Passes to the deaf and blind persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present concessions to Deaf and Dumb persons (both afflictions together) is already available to the extent of 50% in I/II/SL Class. Blind persons are also accorded 75% concession in fares of 1st, IInd/SL class, alone or with an escort.

Completion of Jammu-Udhampur Line

1442. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Jammu-Udhampur railway line alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the time by which the above line is likely to be completed;

(c) whether three years ago the then Railway Minister had announced that Jammu-Udhampur Railway Line would be extended upto Leh;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) the estimated amount is likely to be required for this purpose; and

(f) the total length and estimated cost of the railway projects that are being taken in hand in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The construction work on Jammu-Udhampur new line is in full swing. The expenditure incurred on this line upto 31.3.97 is Rs. 235.18 crores.

(b) By 31.12.99.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No survey has been conducted as such no estimated cost is available.

(f) Name of the work	Length (in Kms)	Cost (Rs. in Cr)
Jammu-Udhampur	53	331.52
Udhampur-Baramula	290	2500.00

[Translation]

Complaints about Bribes

1443. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the incidence of taking bribes for executing the jobs pertaining to installation of telephone connections from one exchange to another;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government during 1996-97 till now in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have enquired into the said complaints; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir.

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

[English]

World Bank Aid for Railway Projects

1444. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has refused to finance some of the Railway projects during the last few years;

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

(c) whether the World Bank has also refused to finance the second phase of the Mumbai Urban Transport Project; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, at the time of project identification, World Bank poses certain conditionalities and only after those have been accepted by borrowers, the projects are taken up.

(c) No, Sir. World Bank have not finally withdrawn from MUTP-II. World Bank had funded some project

preparatory studies for the Rail component and some studies for road component. They had also agreed in principle to fund MUTP-II as decided after the studies were completed. Though they had earlier stated in regard to funding of project preparatory studies that they were left with no option but to drop the project in its present form, they had also stated at the same time that the Bank would be willing to consider Bank assistance where, after a review by the parties, viz. Indian Railways and the Government of Maharashtra, projects could be developed where there would be an upfront commitment by the concerned parties and a clear institutional implementation capability.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Power Audit

1445. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of states which have implemented the policy declaration of Union Government in regard to making power audit compulsory;

(b) whether the States are moving very slow in regard to compulsory power audit;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the Government have issued any direction to the State Governments to expedite these power audit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) Four States viz., Kerala, West Bengal, Delhi and Tamil Nadu have made energy audit mandatory for specified category of industrial consumers. The Government of India has requested the other States/Union Territories also to consider issuing similar orders.

[English]

Start of Konkan Railway Trains from Dadar Station

1446. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation has met the Government for starting Konkan Railway Trains from Dadar Station; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Representations have been received for extension of KR-0111/KR-0112 Kurla-Sawantwadi Express upto Dadar. The same has been examined but not found feasible operationally due to terminal constraints at Dadar.

Postal Service in Assam

1447. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Departmental Sub-Post Offices and Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices sanctioned and set up in the Assam Postal Circle during the Eighth five year plan;

(b) whether some of the sanctioned Post Offices have not been set up during the Eighth Plan period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are aware that services in the rural Post Offices and Telegraph Offices required improvement; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Sixty three Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices were sanctioned and opened in the Assam Postal Circle during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Information regarding departmental sub post offices sanctioned and opened is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, Mail lines are being modernised and multi purpose Counter Machines are being installed in some Rural Departmental Sub Post Offices.

Telegraph: The performance of telegraph service provided in Assam is satisfactory as the quality of service in terms of percentage of telegrams delivered within 12 daylight hours has constantly improved during last three years from 90.54% in 1994-95 to 91.91% in 1995-96 and to 92.83% in 1996-97.

However, improvement in quality of telegraph service is a constant endeavour and the targets are revised every year for higher achievements. The performance of the service is monitored and reviewed at various levels for improvement in the quality of service.

[Translation]

New Railway Lines in Bihar

1448. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lay new railway lines in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the work on Koderma-Badakhana railway line is likely to be started and completed; and

(d) the amount is likely to be incurred on this project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) New lines from Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi, Ara to Sasaram, Patna to Hajipur including Ganga bridge and construction of a railway bridge on the river Ganga at Munger with rail links on both sides are proposed to be constructed, in addition to the works taken up earlier.

(c) At present only work on the first phase I on the proposed Girdih-Barkakhana-Ranchi new line, between Girdih and Koderma has been sanctioned. The work on the remaining portion would be taken up after completion of the first phase work.

(d) Will be known when work on this phase of the project is sanctioned, in the coming years.

[English]

Increase in Postmen

1449. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been increase in the number of new colonies but number of postmen has not been increased proportionately;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government regarding delay of postal mail/money orders/telegrams etc.; and

(c) the action, the Government propose to take to increase the number of postmen to ensure timely delivery of mail?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There has been increase in the number of new colonies but posts of Postmen cannot be linked with number of new colonies or increase in the population. The posts of postmen are created/sanctioned on the basis of certain norms which include number of articles delivered and distance traversed. In May, 1990, 90 posts of postmen were sanctioned for Speed Post Services. In 1990-91, 2359 posts of postmen and 151 post of Sorting Postmen were created. In 1992, six (6) posts of Postmen and one (1) post of Sorting Postmen were created for Noida Complex. A review of establishment is conducted from time to time in order to assess the justification for the essential posts and these are created/sanctioned with the approval of the Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Expenditure) as and when considered necessary.

(b) The number of complaints received during 1995-96 regarding delay of postal mail/money orders/telegrams are as under :

	1995-96 (In Thousands)
(a) Postal mails (Unregistered)	16.4
(b) Money orders	278.3
(c) Telegrams	0.22
	(Per 100 Telegrams)

(c) The Department in 1991-92 had created a large number of operationally essential posts, which also include posts of Postmen necessary for smooth operation of the delivery system. Besides, this, to ensure smooth running of delivery system, the Department have delegated the powers to the Heads of Circles to re-deploy surplus posts of Group 'C' and 'D' (including the posts of Postmen). Under the delegated powers, posts of postmen found surplus in the establishment of one operative office can be re-deployed to another operative office where there is need for additional posts of postmen.

[Translation]

Survey for New Railway Lines

1450. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have taken decision to start survey work of new railway lines in Bina, Kurwai, Vyabara and Guna in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Bina, Kurwai, Biyavra and Guna are already linked by BG lines. However, a survey for linking Bina with Biyavara has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(c) The cost will become known only after survey report becomes available. No time frame can be fixed at this stage.

[English]

Investment in Electronic Media

1451. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Foreign investments

in electronic media allowed but with strings attached appearing in Times of India dated July 4, 1997;

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

(c) the extent to which it is likely to affect our instruments of media and electronic media processings; and

(d) the steps taken to safeguards our indigenous electronic media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Mumbai Railway Development Corporation

1452. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has taken a decision to set up a Mumbai Railway Development Corporation in collaboration with the Maharashtra Government on equal cost sharing basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Memorandum of Collaboration has since been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the Memorandum of Collaboration is likely to be finalised and the Mumbai Railway Development Corporation registered under the Companies Act?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to set up Mumbai Rail Development Corporation as a wholly Government owned Company under the Companies Act, 1956 under the Ministry of Railways with equity participation by Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra. The functions of Mumbai Rail Development Corporation, among others, will be:

- (1) Develop co-ordinated plans for the rail components to be included in MUTP-II and other planned investments in Mumbai suburban rail services and execute the resulting infrastructure projects.
- (2) Integrate urban development plans for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region with rail capacity plans and proposed investments.
- (3) Co-ordinate and ensure improvement of track drainage and the removal of encroachments and trespassers from the railway's right-of-way and station approaches.
- (4) Execute specific projects for the commercial development of railway land and apportion the net income in the ratio of 1:1:1 for Railway

project in Mumbai area, Maharashtra and elsewhere in the country respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The process of preparing Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra is underway.

Autonomy for Labour Revamp in Steel Sector

1453. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "FICCI demands autonomy for labour revamp in steel sector" appearing in the Financial Express dated July 9, 1997;

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

(c) the policy of the Government over rationalisation of manpower deployment as essential requirement for economising production cost to be globally competitive;

(d) whether the Government have carried out any exercise on estimates of over deployment of manpower and formulated schemes for golden hand-shakes in the past and evaluation of such schemes in the past and effective strategies proposed to deal with the problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Norms for Opening of Post Offices

1454. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms prescribed for the opening of new post offices;

(b) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened in the country during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of new post offices are proposed to be opened in Orissa in above plan period;

(d) whether the Government propose to upgrade some post offices in the State of Orissa during the Ninth Plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The norms prescribed for opening new post offices are given in the attached Statement.

(b) The number of post offices proposed to be opened during the first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan, subject to availability of resources, is 550 out of which 500 would be Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 50 would be the Departmental Sub Post Offices.

(c) to (e) Under the Annual Plan 1997-98, a target of opening 27 extra Departmental Branch Post Offices has been allocated to Orissa. 2 Departmental Sub Post Offices are also to be opened in Orissa during 1997-98 which may be new post offices or by way of upgradation. Post Offices are opened/upgraded on the norm based justification subject to availability of resources.

Statement

Norms of opening Post Offices.

1. Norms for opening of new Branch Post Office

1.1 Population

(a) In Normal areas;

3000 population in a group of village (including the PPO villages)

(b) In the hilly, tribal desert and inaccessible areas;

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance;

(a) In Normal Areas.

The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas;

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income.

(a) In Normal Areas

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of cost.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas.

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. Norms of Opening New Departmental Sub Post Offices;

2.1 In Rural areas:

The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be

five hours per day. The hours permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

2.2 In Urban Areas;

2.2.1 In urban areas, the Post Office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

2.2.2 The distance between two Post Offices should not be less than 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other urban areas. If it is a Delivery Post Office, the distance from the nearest Delivery Post Office should not be less than 5 Kms.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

2.2.3 A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Train Accidents

1455. SHRI DEVIBUX SINGH :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of train accidents occurred since January, 1997 till date, zone-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed in each of such accidents and the value of Government property damaged therein; and

(c) the details of the train accidents took place in Punjab alongwith the number of persons killed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Zone-wise information is as under :

Railway	No. of accidents	No. of persons killed	Cost of damage to Rly property (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
Central	15	20	445.28
Eastern	15	16	321.62
Northern	31	19	219.16
N.E.	8	6	4.66
N.F.	7	1	7.94
Southern	27	1	48.29
S.C.	26	24	208.21
S.E.	44	11	939.93

1	2	3	4
Western	14	2	8.63
Metro	1	-	2.00
KRC	2	-	12.34
Total	220	100	1772.78

(c) Statistics of train accidents and related information are maintained Railway zone-wise and not State-wise.

Telecommunication System In Hilly Areas

1456. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telecommunication system is paralysed in Hilly areas due to collapse of poles and breaking of cables during heavy rain/storm;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any emergency scheme to combat such situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. However, occasional interruptions in over head alignment do occur which are attended to promptly.

(b) and (c) To minimise the interruptions and provide more reliable services following steps are being taken.

(i) Rescue teams are formed for such situations.

(ii) Spare stores kept for emergency situations.

(iii) Wherever feasible the services to be provided through satellite/wireless media/underground cable/optical fibre cable system.

[English]

T.V. Serials

1457. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the maximum number of episodes allowed to a serial on the Doordarshan;

(b) the names of series which have been allowed more than 300 episodes and the reasons therefor;

(c) revenue earned, through advertisements during the year 1996-97 serial-wise; and

(d) the number of episodes allowed to Mahabharata and Ramayana?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) In respect of a weekly serial the number of episodes

allowed normally is a maximum of 156. In respect of daily soaps the maximum number of episodes allowed normally is 520.

(b) The weekly serial 'Junoon' and the cultural magazine 'Surabhi' have been allowed more than 300 episodes. The daily serials like 'Shanti', 'Swabhimani' and 'Bhakti Sagar' are telecast 5 days a week and, therefore, have been allowed more than 300 episodes due to high viewership, TRP Rating and revenue potential.

(c) The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) 93 episodes of Mahabharata and 104 episodes of Ramayana were telecast on DD-1. Mahabharata was also repeated on DD-2.

Statement

The Names of the Serials Telecast on Doordarshan during 1996-97 as well as the Revenue Earned

DD-1

S.No.	Serial	Revenue (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Chandrakanta	165.76
2.	Swabhimani	690.51
3.	Shanti	536.52
4.	Reporter	59.76
5.	Imtihaan	59.95
6.	Junoon	561.22
7.	Kanoon	79.74
8.	Ajnabi	249.16
9.	Alif Laila	1049.05
10.	Sind Bad	9.09
11.	Sansar	76.77
12.	Bap Se Bada Rupai	2.50
13.	Akbar The Great	190.87
14.	Dastan-e-Hatimtai	20.69
15.	Ghutan	131.86
16.	Hamari Duniya	11.50
17.	Jhansi Ki Rani	96.48
18.	Diney Aladin	12.87
19.	Ek Tha Rasty	51.85
20.	Shri Krishna	2794.80
21.	Sansmaran	24.75
22.	Sukh Dukh	6.50
23.	Aparajitha	4.97

1	2	3
24.	Safe Jhooth	5.07
25.	Bhoot Nath	35.30
26.	Badla	118.18
27.	Yug	269.41
28.	Kalamati	98.40
29.	Aakhir Kaun	98.82
30.	Abhayacharan	5.50
31.	Dharam Adharam	48.92
32.	Sab Ka Malik Ek Hai	54.41
33.	Mrityunjaya	54.51
34.	Sipahi Ki Diary	18.14
35.	Tashveer	12.40
36.	Bhavna	12.60
37.	Mewa Lal	43.26
38.	Hina	49.74
39.	Farz	64.91
40.	Manthan	4.40
41.	Daya Sagar	8.60
42.	Aahsas	5.65
43.	Vidhan	7.90
44.	Qatil	1.50
45.	Om Namah Shivay	350.95
46.	Bandhan	3.50
47.	Jung	6.00
48.	Anugoonj	2.00
49.	Brahma	6.00

DD-2

1.	Aankhen	12.73
2.	Nik Jhonk	45.32
3.	Shri Krishna	22.98
4.	Aarzoo	34.56
5.	Shriman Shrimati	338.64
6.	Marshal	66.61
7.	Vansh	109.06
8.	Tu Tu Main Main	606.95
9.	Sarab	240.36
10.	Virasat	41.66
11.	Badalte Rishte	4.80
12.	Aladin	8.65
13.	Devta	28.03
14.	Mahabharat	462.25
15.	Patjhad	189.08
16.	Sahil	294.71

1	2	3
17.	Samrajya	87.38
18.	Jaldi Jaldi	4.44
19.	Disney and Mermaid	3.05
20.	Super Human	3.35
21.	Rimba's Island	7.67
22.	Denis the Menance	2.79
23.	Sahara	136.14
24.	Parchhaiyan	56.21
25.	Bible Ki Kahaniyan	26.56
26.	Sanch Ko Aanch	63.78
27.	Jai Hanuman	341.79
28.	Raja Aur Ranchoo	209.19
29.	Main Anari Tu Anari	195.50
30.	Sadma	56.16
31.	Janam Janam	10.40
32.	Ek Raja Ek Rani	158.31
33.	Padosan	84.45
34.	Samjhota	122.94
35.	Hindustani	191.98
36.	Sea Hawk	202.30
37.	Jajbat	33.86
38.	Ajnabi	25.17
39.	Paltan	54.20
40.	Jharokha	1.80
41.	Yeh Isq Nahi Aasan	6.20

Maliara Telephone Exchange

1458. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone exchange of Maliara in district Bankura, West Bengal is not working properly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the persons involved thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The telephone exchange at Maliara in District Bankura, West Bengal is working satisfactorily. However, the existing exchange which is a 128 port C-DOT exchange is planned to be expanded to 256 lines exchange during 1997-98. This will provide many additional facilities like detailed billing and dynamic STD control.

(d) Does not arise in view of above.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

1459. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of consumers are waiting for telephone connections in rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of such waitlisted consumers are in Karnataka Telecom circle; and

(c) the plans for giving connections to all the waiting consumers and the time by which the connections are likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The list for rural areas in Karnataka circle as on 30.6.97 is 87528. This is likely to be cleared by the end of current financial year i.e. 1997-98.

Demands for Post Office

1460. SHRI K. KANDASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the urgent need to provide a post-office of Pappinaickenpatty in Puthichadhiran taluk in Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the time by when the post office is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) A proposal for opening a post office at Pappinaickenpatty in Puthichadhiran taluk in Namakkal district to Tamil Nadu is under examination. If found justified on the Departmental norms, the post office will be sanctioned subject to availability of resources and Plan targets.

4th and 5th Unit of RTPS

1461. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fourth and fifth Units of the Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) Expansion Project, having generating capacity of 210 MW commissioned ahead of Schedule; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The 4th unit of the Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) (210 MW) was commissioned on 29.9.1994 as per schedule. The scheduled commissioning dates of the 5th and the 6th units of the Raichur Thermal Power Station Expansion

Project (2x210 MW) are 1.9.1999 and 1.3.2000 respectively. The work is progressing well and efforts are being made by the Karnataka Power Corporation (KPCL) to commission these expansion units ahead of the schedule.

[Translation]

Non-Commissioning of LPTs

1462. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than hundred Low Power Transmitters have not been commissioned despite of their being set up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the LPT was set up in Aheri and Sironcha cities in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra but the staff was not appointed for the functioning and maintenance of those LPTs;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether staff is likely to be appointed in near future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (f) All the Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) for which installation works were completed, have since been nationally commissioned into service, including those at Aheri and Sironcha located in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, for which staff sanctions are not available by posting staff on tour from elsewhere in the network. While proposals for sanction of staff for the LPTs at Aheri and Sironcha have already been taken up for approval of the competent authority, no specific time-frame can be indicated in this regard.

[English]

Modernisation Programmes

1463. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "SAIL worried over its two steel plants" appearing in the Indian Express dated 8th July, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any Expert Committee was formed to examine and report about the modernisation programme of Rourkela and Durgapur integrated Steel Plants;

(d) if so, the details of the Report;

(e) whether it is a fact that Rs. 10,000 crore have been spent on modernisation of these two steel plants and capacity utilisation of these plants has increased to the expected level;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(h) if so, the action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) An amount of Rs. 4472.65 crores on modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) and Rs. 3453.84 crores on modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) respectively have been spent by SAIL till 1996-97.

The modernisation programmes are in advance stages of completion in these steel plants and improvement in capacity utilisation to the envisaged level will be known on completion of the various units and their stabilisation. No Expert Committee has been formed to examine and report in this regard.

(f) to (h) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Bonus to Railway Employees

1464. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Assistant and Stenographer 'C' were paid bonus for the year 1995-96;

(b) if so, whether the said amount of bonus is being recovered from these employees;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the said employees of the Railway Board have also paid the income tax on the amount of bonus received by them; and

(e) if so, the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Assistants and Stenographers 'C' working in other Ministries were not paid ad-hoc bonus for the financial year 1995-96 on the ground that they are classified as Group-'B' non-gazetted. In fact a directive was received from the Ministry of Finance to recover the Productivity Linked Bonus amount paid to such staff of this Ministry.

(d) and (e) Since the entire Productivity Linked Bonus amount was not recovered from these employees

before March, 1997, the amount was taken into account for calculation of Income-tax.

[English]

Commercial Broadcasting System in AIR

1465. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

DR. M. JAGANNATH :

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

(a) whether the Commercial Broadcasting Centre of All India Radio has since started working in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to appoint adequate staff for early start of the said centre?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Proposal regarding sanctioning of adequate staff for Commercial Broadcasting Centre of All India Radio, Visakapatnam is under active consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Increase in Prices of Steel Products

1466. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Steel majors set to raise HRC prices" appearing in the Business Standard dated July 1, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the big steel producers have been continuously increasing the prices of their products for past years; and

(c) if so, the names of the varieties of steel the prices of which have been increased during the last three years till March, 1997 and the percentage of increase effected and the grounds on which the said price rise was effected?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details relating to SAIL in respect of some representative categories of steel are attached as Statement.

Prices

Category	Size	Date	% Increase	Date	% Increase	Date	% Increase
Semis	80/100MM	1.1.94	7.5	22.4.94	5.4	1.11.94	3.9
Wire Rods	8MM	1.1.94	4.7	22.4.94	3.9	3.6.94	0.1
TOR/TMT	10MM	1.1.94	6.0	22.4.94	3.9	3.6.94	3.2
Angles	75x75x6	1.1.94	10.1	22.4.94	5.0	3.6.94	(-)2.8
Channel	100x50	1.1.94	5.8	22.4.94	4.7	3.6.94	0.1
Joists	300x140	1.1.94	5.1	22.4.94	4.2	3.6.94	2.4
Plates	12MM	1.1.94	5.3	22.4.94	3.6	3.6.94	0.1
HR Coils	2.5MM	1.1.94	5.5	22.4.94	3.7	3.6.94	2.6
CR Coils	0.63MM	1.1.94	2.2	22.4.94	3.1	3.6.94	2.0
GP Sheets	0.63MM	1.1.94	20.5	22.4.94	2.1	3.6.94	3.7

[illegible]

[English]

Power Generation Capacity

1467. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total power generation capacity in Megawatts and the quantum of additional power in Megawatts needed presently in the country, State-wise;

(b) the per capita annual availability of power;

(c) the details of the power generation capacity and the cost of production per unit, State-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government are considering to make the power supply rate of all the states uniform in future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rural Development Programmes by Cooperative Societies

1468. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prompted the cooperative societies to undertake programmes under various schemes of the rural developments;

(b) if so, the number of such cooperatives developed so far;

(c) whether the Government have made available the seed money to these co-operatives to equip themselves to undertake these developmental programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, under group loaning schemes under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), a maximum limit of 25% of the total allocation of funds in each District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) is permitted to be utilised as subsidy with no ceiling on the quantum of subsidy. The number of persons in a group may vary from 5 to 15. The groups selected may form a society under the Registration of Societies Act or

a Co-operative Society or a Registered Company or a Partnership. No seed money is provided to Co-operative Societies under IRDP.

Commemorative Stamp

1469. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to issue a commemorative stamp on Great Novelist Tarashankar Bandopadhyay for his achievements in the field of literature on his Birth Centenary;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Posts has decided to issue a commemorative postage stamp in 1998 on the Bengalee Jnanpith Award Winners including late Sri Tarashankar Bandopadhyay. The stamp will be issued on a suitable date during the birth centenary year of late Sri Tarashankar Bandopadhyay.

Scientific Research Institutions

1470. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of scientific research institutions functioning in the country at present under the Ministry of Science and Technology alongwith their locations;

(b) the annual budget earmarked for each research institute during 1995, 1996 and 1997;

(c) whether many of these institutes have not utilized their budget allocations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof together with reasons for such non-utilizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indian Boundaries Threatened by Internet

1471. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Indian boundaries threatened by Internet" appearing in the "Hindustan Times", New Delhi dated May 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the concerned Ministries and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Computerised Post Offices

1472. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to computerise some post offices in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current year it is proposed to install 900 Computer Based Counter Machine in 460 Post Offices in the Country.

State-wise detail of the 900 machines is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise List of Computer Based Counter Machines

Name of State	Number of Post Offices	Number of Computer based Counter Machines
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	28	65
2. Assam	16	50
3. Bihar	13	30
4. Delhi	28	55
5. Gujarat	27	55
6. Haryana	07	20
7. Himachal Pradesh	16	30
8. Jammu & Kashmir	05	10
9. Karnataka	52	60
10. Kerala	46	50
11. Madhya Pradesh	45	80
12. Maharashtra	41	75
13. N.E.	20	40
14. Orissa	26	50

1	2	3
15. Punjab	18	40
16. Rajasthan	16	45
17. Tamil Nadu	19	50
18. Uttar Pradesh	23	50
19. West Bengal	13	45
	460	900

Introduction of Trains

1473. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any new train on Madras-Mangalore route; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Communication Facility at Cheaper Rates

1474. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps being taken by the Government for providing communication facility at cheaper rates for sending information regarding natural calamity, danger to life and property and other important information and for emergency conversation for remote places of rural and hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) With effect from 1.1.96, the following tariff was introduced for rural subscribers for all types of conversation :

- (i) Bi-monthly rentals reduced by Rs. 50/- for the exchange systems of 100 lines and above but below 1,000 lines.
- (ii) 100 additional free calls allowed per bi-monthly billing period.
- (iii) 20 paise per call reduced in call charges for 200 calls in excess of 250 free calls.
- (iv) Registration fee reduced from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 1000 in respect of exchange systems below 10,000 lines.

(v) Group dialling scheme provided up to 30 Kms. in rural, hilly and tribal areas of the country subject to certain conditions.

(c) The above concessions have already come into force.

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

Survey for Warora-Umred Railway Line

1475. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Field Survey Work of Warora-Umred via Chimur line in Maharashtra has been completed and the completion report submitted to the Railway Board on August 25, 1996;

(b) if so, the further steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which above project is likely to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The survey for this work which has been recently completed has revealed the cost of the 106 kms. long line as Rs. 97.3 crores, with diesel traction, with a negative Rate of Return and with electric traction as Rs. 184.78 crores, again with negative Rate of Return. In view of the unremunerative nature of the project and severe resource constraints, it has not been found possible to take up this project for the present.

[Translation]

Tehri Dam Project

1476. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tehri Dam Project is under construction in the country;

(b) if so, the date on which the construction work started and the actual cost of construction of this project alongwith the target set for its production capacity;

(c) whether a number of changes have been made in the project upto March, 1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time schedule fixed for completion of this project alongwith its total cost of construction and production capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) The Tehri Dam Project was originally accorded investment clearance by the

Planning Commission in June, 1972 for implementation by the Government of Uttar Pradesh with an installed generating capacity of 600 MW (4x150 MW) at an estimated cost of Rs. 197.92 crores. The construction work on the project commenced in 1978. The installed generating capacity of the Tehri Dam Project was subsequently revised to 1000 MW in 1983, to provide for its operation as a peaking power station to suit the system requirement, at a revised estimated cost of Rs. 1065.80 crores (1983 price level).

Keeping in view the requirements of power for the Northern Region, and the inadequacy of funds with the State Government, it was decided in November, 1986, to implement the project as a joint venture of Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh and for this purpose, the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) was set up in 1988. The scope of the project was also enlarged to implement a Hydro Complex (2400 MW) by including Koteshwar Dam and Power House (400 MW) and a Pump Storage Plant (1000 MW) as a Central Sector scheme.

The Tehri Hydroelectric Project Stage-I (1000 MW) was approved by the Government of India in March, 1994, for implementation by Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) at an estimated cost of Rs. 2963.66 crores. The Associated Transmission System costing Rs. 371 crores would be implemented by the Power Grid Corporation of India. The Project is expected to be commissioned by 2001-2002 A.D.

An expenditure of Rs. 1403.56 crores (Provisional) has been incurred by THDC on the project upto June, 1997.

Setting up of Steel Plants in Uttar Pradesh

1477. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps are being taken by the Government for consideration of pending proposals regarding setting up of steel plants in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of steel plants likely to be set up in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) No proposal regarding setting up steel plants in Uttar Pradesh from the State of Uttar Pradesh is pending for grant of an industrial licence with the Union Government.

(c) As per available information by IDBI, one steel plant under the name and style of M/s. Malvika Steel Ltd. is likely to be set up in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

1478. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether gauge conversion of Mudkhed-Nizamabad metre gauge line and allocation of more funds for Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad new broad gauge rail line were accepted and included in the Railway Budget for 1997-98;

(b) if so, the main reasons for delay in taking up the above work immediately;

(c) whether Railways have been asked to take up the conversion of Secunderabad-Mudkhed metre gauge via Nizamabad;

(d) if so, the time by which the work on this line is likely to be started;

(e) the allocation made for laying Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad new broad gauge line during 1997-98;

(f) the progress made on the above rail line so far; and

(g) the time by which the above rail line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The work on Peddapalli-Karimnagar is in good progress. The work of Mudkhed-Nizamabad gauge conversion can be taken up only after the requisite clearances have been received. Action for obtaining the same is already in progress.

(e) Rs. 5.00 crores.

(f) 24%.

(g) By the end of the Tenth Plan period.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds to Rural Development Agencies

1479. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any uniformity in the allocation of funds to the rural development agencies and Zila Parishads;

(b) if so, the average allocation of funds made to each rural development agency in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(c) whether the Union Government keep any control over income/expenditure of the rural development agency; and

(d) if so, the details of the procedure followed for monitoring the utilisation of such funds?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The Central allocation of funds to States/UTs under various Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes is made on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State/UT to the total rural poor in the country.

(b) These programmes are not being implemented in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) and (d) Various programmes implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment are regularly monitored. The monitoring mechanism, inter alia, consists of obtaining periodical progress reports/returns, financial returns/audit report, intensive field inspections, reviews and monitoring by Committees and by senior officers with the State Secretaries, Commissioners etc. Besides, the Government monitors and reviews implementation of programmes in various States through Central Level Co-ordination Committees, State Level Co-ordination Committees and at district level by the Governing body of District Rural Development Agencies.

[English]

PBX at Rail Yatri Niwas, Howrah

1480. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install a PBX at Rail Yatri Niwas, Howrah and provide telephones in all rooms for the convenience of boarders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Since installation of a PBX will involve telephone wiring for each room and entail heavy expenditure, two numbers PCO Booths of DOT (CCB Type) have been provided at each of the floors of Rail Yatri Niwas, Howrah i.e. ground floor, first floor and second floor, for the convenience of the boarders.

Reservation to Passengers

1481. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that great difficulty is being experienced by the passengers particularly in the summer season in getting reservation inspite of running special trains;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide railway reservation to all passengers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Some passengers do remain on the waiting list in important and more convenient trains during rush period like summer, pooja and winter vacations.

(b) and (c) Position of waiting list passengers is monitored on day-to-day basis and additional coaches wherever justified and feasible are attached to clear the rush. Besides, special trains are also run to clear the extra rush subject to availability of resources.

Export Capacity of Steel

1482. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether export capacity of steel in India has set to rise to 43 million tonnes by the turn of this century from the present level of around 28 million tonnes;

(b) if so, whether the proposals to raise it further to 57 million tonnes by the year 2005 A.D. have also been worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have expressed concern over the low levels of steel consumption in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the main reasons for low consumption of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) During the year 1996-97, export of finished carbon steel from India was about 1.62 million tonnes. The Working Group on Iron and Steel industry for the IXth Five Year Plan has projected an export potential of 6 million tonnes of finished carbon steel by 2001-02, which is the terminal year of the IXth Plan and an export potential of 9 million tonnes has been projected by 2006-07, the terminal year of the Xth Plan.

(d) to (f) Government is aware of the low level of per capita crude steel consumption in the country which was only 23.9 kgs. in 1994 against a world average of 133 kgs. The consumption of steel is related to the stage of economic and industrial development of a country. Following economic liberalisation, the overall economic growth is likely to step up steel consumption.

Development Works

1483. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Government about the development works to be undertaken in telecommunications and postal areas in Gujarat during the current year;

(b) if so, the details and names thereof;

(c) whether the works undertaken last year are still incomplete; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

For Telecommunications : There is a plan to provide 208000 new telephone connections in Gujarat during 1997-98. The area-wise details are given in Statement I enclosed.

For Postal Sector : The complete information is given in Statement II enclosed.

(c) and (d) *For Telecommunications* : The names of Telephone Exchanges planned for last year in Gujarat which are still incomplete alongwith reasons for delay are given in Statement III enclosed.

For Postal Sector : Only Post Office buildings at Raigadh and Viramgam and staff quarters at Modasa could not be completed by the concerned agencies.

Statement-I

*Statement to laid on the Table of Lok Sabha
Vide Parts (A to D) of Unstarred
Question No. 1483 For 31.07.97.*

Plan for DELS During 1997-98

S.No.	Name of SSA	DELS
1.	Ahmedabad	50000
2.	Baroda	20000
3.	Rajkot	10000
4.	Surat	20000
5.	Nadiad	12000
6.	Mehsana	10000
7.	Bhavnagar	16000
8.	Bhuj	11000
9.	Valsad	13000
10.	Bharuch	8000
11.	Godhra	4000
12.	Himatnagar	6000
13.	Jamnagar	5000
14.	Junagadh	11000
15.	Palanpur	5000
16.	Surendranagar	4000
17.	Amreli	3000
Total		208000

Statement-II

During 1997-98, the development programmes of the Department of Posts will include the following activities in Gujarat Circles :

- (i) Opening of Two Departmental Sub Post Offices and 25 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices.
- (ii) Installation of 55 computer based multipurpose counter machines in 27 Post Offices, the name of which are given in Annexure-P.
- (iii) Computerisation of Savings Bank services in 10 Post Offices.
- (iv) Provision of extended Satellite money order services in 10 offices around each of the V SAT stations namely, Ahmedabad, Surat and Vadodara.
- (v) Computerisation of six unit of Savings Bank Control Organisation.

*Name of Post Office***Ahmedabad Region**

1. Disa HO
2. Dhojka HO
3. Kalol HO
4. Madasa HO
5. Patan HO
6. Vijapur HO
7. Visnagar HO

Rajkot Region

1. Bhakthinagar SO
2. Bodipara SO
3. Gondal HO
4. Virpur SO
5. Jetpur SO
6. Surendranagar HO
7. Gandhidham SO
8. Kashod SO
9. Jamnagar Udyognagar SO

Vododara Region

1. Mandvi SO
2. Petrochemical
3. M. Karjan SO
4. Vithal U. Nagar
5. Vallabh V. Nagar
6. Ankaleshwar SO

7. S.V.R. College SO
8. Surat R.S. SO
9. Surat Tex. Market
10. Kosamba R.S. SO

Statement-III

List of Works Undertaken Last Year which are Still Incomplete :

S. No.	Name of exchange	Station	Capacity/ Technic
1.	Sabarmati	Ahemdabad	10K AT & T
2.	Ashram Road	Ahemdabad	5K AT & T
3.	Odhav	Ahemdabad	3K HTL
4.	Vatwa	Ahemdabad	2K HTL
5.	Ellisbridge	Ahemdabad	2K AT & T

Reasons for delay : Delay in completion of building, getting power supply connection, getting permission from Municipality and PWD for execution of cable works and delay in supply of some materials.

Halt at Shahbad Markanda

1484. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Moori Express train No. 8101/02 has been replaced by another train called Bhatinda-New Delhi Intercity Express No. 4589/90;

(b) if so, whether the Bhatinda-New Delhi Intercity Express Train has been provided more halt in Punjab in comparison to Haryana;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Bhatinda-New Delhi Intercity Express Train is not provided with halt at Shahbad Markanda whereas the Moori Express had been provided with halt at Shahbad Markanda;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide more halt in Haryana particularly at Shahbad Markanda?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (f) No, Sir. Both trains are still running and 8101/8102 Muri Express is stopping at Shahbad Markanda. 4589/4590 New Delhi-Bathinda Express is stopping at 7 intermediate stations in Haryana and 8 in Punjab. However, the feasibility of providing stoppage of 4589/4590 New Delhi-Bathinda Express at Shahbad Markanda has been examined but not found justified/operationally feasible.

Opening of Additional Ticket Counters

1485. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have planned to open additional ticket counters at Bardhaman South and North side to cope up with the rush of the railway passengers;

(b) if so, the time by which these counters are likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present 10 general counters including 5 Self Printing Ticketing Machines counters and one reservation counter are in operation at Bardhaman Station and approximately 24,772 tickets are issued daily from these counters. The existing counters are adequate to meet the present level of demand.

Door at Yatrik Restaurant at Howrah

1486. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide a door at Yatrik Restaurant, Howrah at the river-side for entrance to the restaurant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. there is already one entrance/exit from the Hotel's Lobby. Provision of another door on the river side will spoil the interior decor of the Restaurant and affect the monitoring of customer services.

Running of Nagercoil Express

1487. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the commuters travelling on Nagercoil-Mumbai route;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to run Nagercoil Express on daily basis; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started on daily basis?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Some representations for the daily running of 6339/6340 Nagercoil-Mumbai Express have been received.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Beautification of Howrah Railway Station

1488. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Government for beautification of Howrah Railway station during the last three years; year-wise and scheme-wise details thereof;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released during the current financial year;

(c) whether cleaning of railway lines, platforms, replacement of overhead sheds, seating arrangements at platforms, lighting at platforms, passenger amenities are part of beautification project; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not replacing/repairing overhead sheds, cleaning of railway lines, platforms properly?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Railways undertake works of developmental nature required to meet with the traffic handled. In addition to such works stations are kept in well maintained condition by way of periodical repairs, replacements wherever so warranted. Regular cleaning and periodical colour washing are also undertaken.

Howrah railway station being one of the important stations on Indian Railways is kept in well maintained and upto date condition. No separate amount has been sanctioned for beautification. All amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic is already provided at the station. Cleaning of railway lines and platforms are being done regularly. All platforms have been provided with sheds except platform No. 15 for which work has already been sanctioned. Passenger amenity items, electrical fittings, fans and lights are also in working condition.

Gold Deposits in Orissa

1489. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a satellite survey has revealed huge gold deposits in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Geological Survey of India has recently discovered Gold deposit in Malkanagiri district in Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the export potential of the Gold?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Geological Survey of India has not carried out any satellite survey for gold exploration in Orissa.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Million Wells Scheme in Karnataka

1490. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of wells to be dug in Karnataka during the current year under the Million Wells Scheme;

(b) the number of SCs/STs likely to get jobs under the scheme; and

(c) the funds allocated to the State thereunder during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) The Government of Karnataka has not furnished the target of Wells to be dug under Million Wells Scheme (MWS) during the current financial year. However, during 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 2915.55 lakhs would be available for the implementation of MWS in Karnataka which includes Central allocation of Rs. 2332.44 lakhs and the corresponding 20% State Share amounting to Rs. 583.11 lakhs.

(b) The objective of MWS is to provide irrigation source and land development, free of cost to the small and marginal farmers belonging to SCs/STs and non-SCs/STs poor people living below poverty line. Not less than 2/3rd of the allocation made is to be spent for schemes benefiting poor small and marginal SC/ST farmers.

(c) The total Central funds allocated to the Government of Karnataka during last three years under MWS is as under :

Year	(Rs. in lakhs) Central Allocation
1994-95	4367.14
1995-96	2332.44
1996-97	2332.44

Availability of more rooms at Rail Yatri Niwas

1491. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to make available more rooms at Rail Yatri Niwas, Howrah by vacating the space which is occupied by the Railway office;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to make space for the conference room at this Yatri Niwas;

(d) if so, whether the condition of the rooms and the fittings of this Yatri Niwas is being considered for improvement; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for proper maintenance of the electrical, civil works and cleanliness of Yatri Niwas, Howrah?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Steps have been taken to improve overall condition of Rail Yatri Niwas at Howrah, including maintenance and up-keep of the electrical accessories, civil works, cleanliness and periodic inspections.

Fast Track Project

1492. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rs. 32,000 crore fast track project moving at snail's pace" appearing in the 'Financial Express' dated 9.7.1997;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to ensure effective steps in removal of snags at operational/field levels for efficient execution of the projects during 1997-98 and project-wise strategies worked out;

(d) the action plan finalised for the project in Maharashtra; and

(e) the present status of pending power project proposals in Vidarbha and particularly in Amravati district in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of India identified 8 projects for extending its counter guarantee. Out of these fast track projects, counter guarantee has already been issued to Jegurupadu Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) of M/s. GVK Industries in Andhra Pradesh and Dabhol CCGT (Phase-I) of M/s. Enron Power Company in Maharashtra. M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Ltd. withdrew their request for counter guarantee for the Godavari CCGT in Andhra Pradesh. The remaining projects, namely Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (TPP) of M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd. in Andhra Pradesh. Neveli (Zero Unit) TPP of M/s. ST-

CMS Electric Company in Tamil Nadu. Mangalore TPP of M/s. Cogentrix in Karnataka and Bhadravati TPP of M/s Central India Power Company Ltd. in Maharashtra are in advanced stages of negotiation and counter guarantee for the projects are expected to be given shortly. In the case of Ib Valley TPP (units 4 and 5) of M/s. AES Ib Valley Power Corporation in Orissa. Government of India's counter guarantee had been accorded to the project. Subsequently, the State Government re-negotiated the project parameters, for which fresh clearance of Central Electricity Authority and approval of Government of India for the revised Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is necessary. As regards private power projects that are not eligible for Government of India's counter guarantee, model/reference PPAs have been circulated to all States/State Electricity Boards for their utilisation. Ministry of Power is providing all possible assistance sought by the IPPs for speedier development of the projects.

(e) No Private Power Proposals are pending in Vidarbha and Amravati district in Maharashtra.

[Translation]

Cellular Service in Bihar

1493. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce cellular phone service in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the time by which the cellular phone service is likely to be introduced in each districts of Bihar alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Government has licenced Cellular Mobile Telephone Service to the following two companies on a non-exclusive franchise basis for Bihar Telecom. Circle :

(i) M/S Koshika Telecom. Ltd.

(ii) M/S Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.

(b) As per the terms and conditions of the licences granted to these two companies, they have to cover atleast 50% of the District headquarters within three years of the effective date of the licences which is 12.12.1995.

[English]

Issuance of Waiting List Tickets

1494. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for issuance of waiting list tickets alongwith the procedure maintained to issue waiting list tickets for particular class;

(b) the total number of waiting list tickets issued for the selected trains of different zones during the month of May and June, 1997 train-wise;

(c) the total number of persons provided accommodation out of waiting list tickets;

(d) the number of persons whose waiting list tickets are cancelled after not getting any accommodation;

(e) whether it is noticed that Railways are issuing waiting list tickets double than the capacity of a particular class;

(f) if so, the reasons for issuing huge number of waiting list tickets when railway is unable to provide accommodation to a waiting-list passengers;

(g) whether the Government are considering for issuing less number of waiting list tickets for each class;

(h) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Maximum waiting list for a train is decided based on the total confirmed accommodation available by each class/train and trend of cancellations, etc. In order to ensure uniformity all over Indian Railways, the following uniform upper limits for issue of waiting list tickets in various classes is being adopted on Zonal Railways w.e.f. 1st July, 1996 :-

1st AC/Executive Class	-	30
2 AC	-	100
First Class	-	30
AC 2-tier/Chair Car/Sleeper class	-	300*

* 75 in case one AC 3-tier runs in the train.

The above upper limit is the running waiting list excluding RAC. In case there are large number of cancellations on particular train/trains as a result of which the accommodation is available even after the running waiting list has touched the upper limit, the Zonal Railways may increase the waiting list for such train/trains on day-to-day basis.

(b) to (d) No such statistics are maintained.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir, in some cases. During rush periods, like Summer, Pooja and Winter vacations, waiting list tickets are issued in increased number to discourage any attempt at cornering of accommodation on trains by unscrupulous elements and ensure that intending passengers are not turned away by unscrupulous staff on false pleas of waiting list being closed. In addition, it also helps railways in planning of attaching of extra coaches and running of special trains etc.

(g) to (i) There is no such proposal at present as the size of issue of waiting list tickets has already been reduced w.e.f. 1st July, 1996.

Identifications of Drought-Hit Districts

1495. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the districts which have been identified as drought-hit this year in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the special Central assistance sought and provided as drought relief measures, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) The States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa had reported drought conditions during 1996-97. Based on the information furnished by the State Governments, a list of affected districts prepared, is given as Statement-I. No reports of drought condition has so far been received from any State during the current year.

(b) State Governments are required to undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought, out of the corpus of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) which is contributed by Central and State Government in the ratio of 75:25. Statement-II indicating Statewise allocation of CRF for the years 1995-96 to 1999-2000 is enclosed. Additional assistance is provided to the States in the event of calamity of rare

severity from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). During 1996-97 request for additional assistance in the wake of drought was received from the States of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh.

An amount of Rs. 570.70 crores was sought by the Government of Orissa and Rs. 201.00 crores by Government of Madhya Pradesh for drought relief measures. An amount of Rs. 54.00 crores was release to the Government of Orissa from the NFCR during 1996-97.

Statement-I

List of drought affected districts

1. **Madhya Pradesh (9)**
Balaghat, Raipur, Durg, Seoni, Rajgarh, Rajnandgaon, Jhabua, Jabalpur and Raigarh.
2. **Maharashtra (7)**
Raigad, Dhule, Ahmednagar, Sangli, Bhandara, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli.
3. **Orissa (18)**
Bolangir, Balasore, Bhadrak, Boudh, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsunguda, Kalahandi, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Khurda, Nabarangpur, Nayagarh, Nuapada, Puri and Rayagada.
4. **Gujarat (6)**
Kachchh, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Surendranagar and Banaskantha.

Statement-II

Annexure II referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1495 for reply on 31.7.1997

Calamity Relief fund for 1995-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total 1995-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh	11721	12419	13105	13773	14359	65377
2. Arunachal Pradesh	664	704	743	781	813	3705
3. Assam	4720	5001	5277	5547	5783	26328
4. Bihar	4904	5196	5483	5763	6007	27353
5. Goa	101	107	113	119	124	564
6. Gujarat	13176	13960	14731	15483	16140	73490
7. Haryana	2365	2505	2644	3779	2897	13190
8. Himachal Pradesh	2544	2695	2844	2989	3116	14188
9. Jammu & Kashmir	1860	1971	2079	2184	2279	10374
10. Karnataka	3949	4185	4416	4641	4839	22030

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. Kerala		5229	5540	5847	6144	6405	29165
12. Madhya Pradesh		4821	5108	5389	5665	5905	26888
13. Maharashtra		6437	6820	7197	7564	7885	35903
14. Manipur		235	248	261	275	287	1306
15. Meghalaya		263	279	295	309	323	1469
16. Mizoram		120	127	133	140	147	667
17. Nagaland		160	171	180	188	196	895
18. Orissa		4625	4901	5172	5436	5667	25801
19. Punjab		5111	5415	5715	6005	6261	28507
20. Rajasthan		16899	17904	18893	19856	20700	94252
21. Sikkim		444	471	497	523	544	2479
22. Tamil Nadu		5602	5935	6263	6583	6863	31245
23. Tripura		424	449	475	499	520	2367
24. Uttar Pradesh		11809	12512	13203	13876	14467	65867
25. West Bengal		4844	5132	5416	5692	5933	27017
Total		113026	119755	126371	132815	138460	630427

[Translation]

Iron Ore Reserves

1496. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is every possibility of locating iron ore reserves from the hilly area of Bhurkud and Kandwani of Pandaria Tehsil of Bilaspur district in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the quantum of iron ore likely to be extracted; and

(d) if not, the time by which the survey work is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Indian Bureau of Mines has no information on location of iron ore reserves in the hilly area of Bhurkud and Kandwani of Pandaria Tehsil of Bilaspur district in Madhya Pradesh. However, as per Geological Survey of India (GSI) incidence of iron ore in these areas is not unlikely.

(b) GSI has no proposal to conduct any survey work in these areas during the current or next field season.

(c) and (d) Not applicable.

Setting up of Power Projects in MP and UP

1497. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL :
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up power projects with latest technology in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) for power sector is under finalisation by Planning Commission.

[English]

T.V. Studio at Vijaywada

1498. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a television production centre is being set up at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) when the foundation stone was laid and the present stage of construction work;

(c) the reasons for the abnormal delay in completion of construction work;

(d) whether there is also a demand for an additional radio channel for Vijayawada Radio Station;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foundation stone of the studio centre at Vijayawada was laid in January, 1990. While the construction of building is in progress, technical areas are nearing completion.

(c) Though the scheme was included in the VII Plan, the scope of the scheme had to be reviewed due to resource constraint, thereby, delaying implementation of the project.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Though there is a demand for setting up of Second Radio Channel (Regional) at Vijaywada, there is no programme imperative to justify the Channel at Vijayawada. Therefore, at present, there is no proposal for setting up of a Second Radio Channel there.

Facilities in Vanchinadu and Vainadu Express Trains

1499. SHRI P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a number of complaints about the inadequate facilities in the Vanchinadu and Vainadu Express trains running in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No complaint has been received in respect of 6303/6304 Vanchinadu Express but one complaint has been received in connection with 6301/6302 Vainadu Express in June'97.

(b) The complaint received in respect of Vainadu Express was about non-availability of first class chair car coach.

(c) Vainadu Express was converted from vacuum brake system to air brake system and the number of coaches was increased to 21. On account of non-availability of air brake type 1st class chair car coach, this facility could not be provided. Action has been taken to convert one vacuum brake 1st class chair car to air brake type which will be provided on this train shortly.

[Translation]

Post Office in Loni

1500. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is only one post office in Loni, Ghaziabad;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to open sub-post offices there is proportion to its population;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which sub-post Offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) At present no such concrete proposal has been formulated. Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of norm based justification and availability of targets and resources. During the Annual Plan 1997-98, a target of opening 6 Departmental Sub-Post Offices in the State of Uttar Pradesh has been fixed.

Appointment of General Managers

1501. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any criteria or rules for the appointment of General Managers in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these rules and criteria are being complied with;

(d) the number of posts of General Managers are lying vacant in Railways at present; and

(e) the time by which these vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The procedure and guidelines for appointment of GMs and equivalent are contained in the Government of India's Resolution No. E(O) III 84/PM/6/132 dated 16.07.86 as amended vide Resolutions dated 30.01.87 and 26.02.88. These Resolutions are published and notified in the Gazette of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) At present eight posts of General Managers and equivalent are lying vacant, which are being looked after by local arrangements. The process of filling up these posts on regular basis has already been initiated and the posts are likely to be filled up in the near future, depending upon the clearance from the competent authorities.

[English]

Post Offices Running from Small Houses

1502. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a number of post offices are functioning in small houses in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the number thereof, circle-wise;
- (c) whether the Government propose to construct buildings for such post offices; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, circle-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Telephone Connections in U.P.

1503. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of telephone connections installed during the last six months in U.P. particularly in Agra Exchange;
- (b) the number of telephones installed during the last three months but not functioning;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which these telephones are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a)

<u>U.P.</u>	<u>Agra</u>
159480	6031

(b) to (d) Telephones installed during last 3 months are operational, except for faults, which when reported are attended to promptly.

Purchase of Power from Neighbouring Countries

1504. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have taken a decision to import electricity to meet the shortage of electricity in the country;
- (b) if so, the names of countries and the estimated quantum of electricity likely to be imported;
- (c) whether the required transmission arrangements have been considered for importing electricity;

(d) if so, the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard;

(e) whether the said imported electricity would be beneficial from economical point of view; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (f) The status of exchange of power with neighbouring countries is as follows :

(1) Bhutan

India is importing power from Chukha Hydro Electric Project in Bhutan for the past few years and transmitting the same in the various constituent states through existing transmission network constructed by Powergrid. The quantum of power imported is 1388 million units per annum. Government of Bhutan also buys power from West Bengal and Assam State Electricity Board.

(2) Nepal

The power exchange between India and Nepal commenced in October, 1971 following Secretary level discussions between the two countries. The quantum of exchange of power initially was upto 5 MW which at present has been raised to 50 MW. The exchange of power takes place at 17 places along the Indo-Nepal border through the existing transmission network. The Mahakali Treaty between Government of India and Nepal provides that Nepal shall have the right to receive 70 million units of energy on a continuous basis, free of cost, from the date of entry into force of the Treaty. For this purpose India is required to construct a 132 KV transmission line upto Mahendra Nagar, Nepal on the Indo-Nepal Border from the Tanakpur Power Station. The transmission line will be constructed by Powergrid Corporation of India Ltd. An umbrella agreement between India and Nepal has also been initiated in February, 1996 opening the entry of private sector in the exchange of power between the two countries.

(3) Pakistan

A proposal for the sale of power from Pakistan to India was received from Indian Embassy, Washington. The proposal is under preliminary stage of assessment and scrutiny. Consequent to the commissioning of the last unit of 1300 MW World Bank funded, Hub River Power Project near Karachi, Pakistan is likely to have a 1000 MW surplus during the monsoon season. The surplus is largely

between July to September, the expectation is that even during the lean season substantial power will be available in view of capacity addition from ongoing projects. To facilitate the transfer of power to Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat, it will be necessary in due course to establish a 400 KV transmission links. In short run a 66 KV Double Circuit line between Lahore and Amritsar needs to be commissioned. This would facilitate transmission of 200 MW power. So far, no feasibility has been conducted regarding the modalities for effecting the transfer of power and the investments required to be undertaken.

(4) Bangladesh

Consequent to the discussion regarding exchange of power between India and Bangladesh at various levels, the two Governments have agreed to prepare a joint feasibility report for inter-connection of power systems between Bangladesh and India with Powergrid Corporation of India Ltd. being authorised to prepare the feasibility report from the Indian side. The Asian Development Bank has agreed to finance a feasibility study for exchange of power between India and Bangladesh under its Regional Technical Assistance Programme. A Tripartite Meeting has been held at ADB, Manila on 29th and 30th May, 1997 regarding the Project. The project envisages export of surplus power from Eastern region of India to Western Bangladesh. The project also envisages export of surplus power from Eastern Bangladesh to the North Eastern Region of India. Initially, this would be of benefit to States belonging to the Eastern and North Eastern regions of India and once all the links of the National Grid are complete, the benefit could extend to the country as a whole.

Introduction of Trains

1505. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Northern and Southern Railways have decided to introduce new trains to cope up with the rush of passengers;

(b) if so, the details of such new trains;

(c) the details of trains whose frequency have been extended;

(d) the extent to which these trains have been able to cope up with the rush of passengers; and

(e) the details of the sectors in which these trains are running and the steps taken to maintain the punctuality of the trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following trains are proposed to be introduced by Northern Railway and Southern Railway during 1997-98 :-

1. Ahmadabad-Delhi Swarnajayanti Rajdhani Express (weekly)
2. Secunderabad-Nizamuddin Swarnajayanti Rajdhani Express (weekly)
3. Bangalore-Nizamuddin Swarnajayanti Express via Hubli (weekly)
4. Hatia-Ranchi-Delhi Swarnajayanti Express (bi-weekly)
5. Visakhapatnam-Nizamuddin Swarnajayanti Express via Vijayawada (bi-weekly)
6. Madras-Tirupati Intercity
7. Vasco-Bangalore Express
8. Gorakhpur-Dehradun Express (bi-weekly)
9. Coimbatore-Bangalore Intercity
10. Delhi-Faizabad-Muzaffarpur Express (weekly)
11. New Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express (Reverse)
12. Madurai -Erode (bi-weekly) Link Express to Jammu Tawi
13. Nizamuddin-Ernakulam Express (weekly)
14. Jaipur-Amritsar Express via Hisar (bi-weekly)
15. Mysore-Trichy Express
16. Delhi-Ahmedabad Ashram Express

(c) The frequency of 7611/7612 Amritsar Nanded Express has been increased from weekly to tri-weekly and it is proposed to increase the frequency of 9767/9768 Jaipur-Chennai Express from weekly to tri-weekly and 4245/4246 Surat-Varanasi Express from 4 days in a week to 5 days in a week w.e.f. August '97.

(d) The above train services would by and large be adequate to cope up with the rush of passengers of the sectors they will serve.

(e) The details of sectors are given above in reply to part (b).

All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives are also being launched.

Doubling of Shoranur Mangalore Railway Line

1506. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of work on the doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore Railway line as on June 30, 1997;

(b) the total cost of the project and expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Work on Calicut-West Hill-Elathur and Quilandi-Tikkotti sections have been completed and the section is expected to be commissioned in Aug., 97.

Work on critical and long lead items has been started on the rest of the section.

(b) The cost of the project is approx. Rs. 300 crores. An expenditure of Rs. 33.80 crores has been incurred upto 30.6.97.

(c) Subject to availability of funds, another 8 block sections will be completed in 1998-99. The entire work is planned to be completed progressively within the 9th Plan period.

[Translation]

Solar Energy Operated Lanterns

1507. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for supply of solar energy operated lanterns to the States;

(b) the quantum of such supplies made during each of the last three years, state-wise; and

(c) the reasons for short supply of the lanterns and steps proposed to be taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Targets for solar lanterns are allocated to the States/UTs keeping in view their proposals, progress of implementation of the previous projects, quality of implementation and overall budgetary allocation available for the programme.

(b) The State-wise details of Solar Lanterns supplied during the last three years attached as Statement.

(c) Slow implementation of the Projects by the State agencies, delay in supply of solar lanterns by the manufacturers and time taken in distribution of the solar lanterns to the beneficiaries are the main reasons for

the short supply of solar lanterns in some of the States. Among the steps being taken to improve the quality and speed of implementation of the programme are : (1) giving clear guidelines to States on procurement and distribution arrangements; (2) giving time limits for different steps of implementation; (3) establishment of additional test facilities at Calcutta and Trivandrum to reduce delays in testing of lanterns samples submitted by manufacturers; (4) requesting State agencies to pass on funds received from the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources to manufacturers as advance; (5) opening of special showrooms for solar products; and (6) involvement of NGOs in the implementation of the programme.

Statement

State-wise details of the solar lanterns supplied during the last three years i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97

S.No.	State/UT	Nos. of Solar lanterns supplied during		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1370	2920	1540
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1218	-	-
3.	Assam	100	50	-
4.	Bihar	95	4905	14614
5.	Gujarat	679	1503	1632
6.	Haryana	1579	3285	2922
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2070	3480	2500
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	200	1600	100
9.	Karnataka	-	300	-
10.	Kerala	3346	5500	11905
11.	Madhya Pradesh	598	-	5000
12.	Maharashtra	992	-	-
13.	Manipur	-	543	-
14.	Meghalaya	1100	-	655
15.	Mizoram	286	164	-
16.	Orissa	898	686	187
17.	Punjab	-	500	-
18.	Rajasthan	-	500	3778
19.	Tamil Nadu	13	600	1219
20.	Tripura	38	168	-
21.	Uttar Pradesh	7854	14025	5900
22.	West Bengal	757	693	420
23.	A & N Islands	-	176	38
24.	Delhi	1601	1602	307
25.	Lakshadweep	57	182	218
26.	Pondicherry	-	215	-

Earthquake in M.P.

1508. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the gravity of the earthquake occurred on 22nd May, 1997 in Narmada Valley region of Madhya Pradesh and the quantum of properties and lives lost therein;

(b) the names of villages, development blocks and wards with the names of towns of such occurrence;

(c) whether any study team from the Centre has visited the site of the earthquake;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the compensation being given to the sufferers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) An earthquake of magnitude 6.0 (on Richter scale) occurred on 22nd May, 1997 with epicentre around 23.1° N, Long.:80.1° E. As a result, 39 human lives were lost and about 1.65 lakhs houses damaged.

(b) The earthquake was felt at Jabalpur, Panagar, Sehora, Senoi, Mandla, Damoh, Bhopal, Panna, Chhatarpur, Satna, Shahdol, Rewa, Raipur, Bilaspur, Rajendragoon, Ambikapur, Gwalior, Gund, and Dewas towns affecting 67 wards and 386 villages.

(c) to (e) The teams from India Meteorological Department, Geological Survey of India and National Geophysical Research Institute visited the earthquake affected areas and set up portable instruments to record aftershock activities. The Ministry of Agriculture deputed a Central Team for assessing the requirements of relief and rehabilitation. On the basis of the report of the Central Team, the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) has assessed the relief requirements at Rs. 55.36 crores and decided to release Rs. 45.26 crores from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) and Rs. 10.10 crores as advance from State Calamity Relief Fund (SCRF) for 1997-98. The funds as recommended by NCRC were released to the Government of Madhya Pradesh on 26/6/1997 to provide compensation and relief to the sufferers.

In addition, the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and Ministry of Textiles have contributed, as follows :

Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment :

- (i) A total amount of Rs. 29.12 crores as loan has been sanctioned by HUDCO for construction of 2925 housing units and repair of 8650 units in Jabalpur.

- (ii) HUDCO will provide Rs. 1.00 crore for establishing 5 building centres in the State. HUDCO would be giving assistance for putting-up Model houses of various sizes in each of the building centres.

Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment

An amount of Rs. 4.00 crores has been released for reconstructing 2500 houses in the districts of Jabalpur, Seoni, Mandla, Chhindwara.

Ministry of Textile

An amount of Rs. 2.00 crores has been sanctioned to the affected weavers. In addition, an amount of Rs. 2.95 lakhs has also been released to the State Government under the Health Package Scheme for providing spectacles and testing of eyes of the handloom weavers.

[English]

Weight of Parcels

1509. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government attention has been invited to the news-item captioned 'Vajan Rakhnei per Hota hai Parcelon ka Vajan' appearing in the "Nav Bharat Times" dated 28, May 1997;

(b) if so, whether Government have inquired into the matter and the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Vigilance Department against the corrupt practices of booking parcels in the railways during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the procedure for booking of parcels at New Delhi and Delhi Stations, the party can approach the booking clerk directly or through the Forwarding and Clearing Agents to book their parcels. These Agents are authorised to help the customers in booking and clearance of traffic.

The complaint was investigated and a large number of merchants were contacted. However, none of them reported any such complaints against the agents. Further, no complaint has been received regarding harassment in booking or clearance of parcel or any merchant being compelled to approach any agent for booking their traffic.

(c) 58 preventive checks were conducted in parcel offices at Delhi and New Delhi during the year 1996-97 as a result of which 10 corrupt staff were taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

Companies Operating Cellular Services

1510. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether DOT is entering into cellular phone operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of companies issued licences for operating cellular phone (mobile phone) and pager services in the country;

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

(e) the details of revenue earned by the Government from them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Department of Telecom is proposing to introduce Personal Communication Service (PCS) in important towns in India with facility of mobile and roaming. This service is expected to provide variety of services like voice and high speed data, flexible billing, priority calls etc.

(c) 21 companies have been issued licences for operating cellular phones (mobile phones) and 21 companies have been issued licences for pager services in the country.

(d) Names of the companies (Licences) operating citywise and Telecom Circlewise for Cellular phones (Mobile phones) are given in the statement-I enclosed and for Pager Services (Radio Paging) are given in statement-II enclosed.

(e) The revenue earned through collection of licence fee from the Cellular licences upto June, 1997 from Cellular phones and Radio Paging Services is Rs. 2655.20 crores and Rs. 99.68 crores respectively. This includes penalties due to delayed payment.

Statement-I

Licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service

Four Metro Cities

Metro City	Name of the Company
Bombay	BPL System & Projects Ltd.
Bombay	Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd.
Calcutta	Modi Telstra Pvt. Ltd.
Calcutta	Usha Martin Telecom Ltd.
Delhi	Bharti Cellular Ltd.
Delhi	Sterling Cellular Ltd.
Madras	RPG Cellular Ltd.
Madras	Skycell Communications Pvt. Ltd.

Twenty Territorial Telecom Circles

Circle	Name of the Company
Assam	Reliance Telecom Ltd.
Andhra Pradesh	J.T. Mobiles Ltd.
Andhra Pradesh	Tata Communications Pvt. Ltd.
Bihar	Reliance Telecom
Bihar	Koshika Telecom
Gujarat	Birla AT & T Communication Ltd.
Gujarat	Fascel Ltd.
Haryana	Escotel Mobile Comm. Pvt. Ltd.
Haryana	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.
Himachal Pradesh	Bharti Telenet Ltd.
Himachal Pradesh	Reliance Telecom Ltd.
Karnataka	Modicom Network Pvt. Ltd.
Karnataka	J.T. Mobiles Ltd.
Kerala	Escotel Mobile Comm. Pvt. Ltd.
Kerala	US West BPL Cellular
Madhya Pradesh	Cellular Communications India Ltd.
Madhya Pradesh	Reliance Telecom Ltd.
Maharashtra	Birla AT&T Comm. Ltd.
Maharashtra	US West BPL Cellular
North East	Hexacom India Ltd.
North East	Reliance Telecom Ltd.
Orissa	Koshika Telecom
Orissa	Reliance Telecom Ltd.
Punjab	J.T. Mobiles Ltd.
Punjab	Modicom Network Pvt. Ltd.
Rajasthan	Hexacom India Ltd.
Rajasthan	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.
Tamil Nadu	US West BPL
UP (West)	Koshika Telecom
UP (East)	Koshika Telecom
UP (East)	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.
West bengal	Reliance Telecom Ltd.

Statement-II

Status of Radio Paging Service in 27 Cities as on 30.6.1997.

S.No.	City	Name of the Company
1	2	3
1. Ahmedabad		Microwave Comm. Ltd. Hutchison Max Ltd. DSS Mobile Comm. Ltd. RPG Paging Ltd. Eider PWI Comm. Ltd.

1	2	3
2. Amritsar	ABC Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Beltron Telecom Ltd. Punwire Paging Ltd.	
3. Bangalore	Page Point Services Pvt. Ltd. Telesistem Pvt. Ltd. Hutchison Max Ltd. DSS Mobile Comm. Ltd. Eider PWI Comm. Ltd.	
4. Bhopal	Easycall Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Telecom Informatics Pvt. Ltd. Nice Pvt. Ltd.	
5. Calcutta	Easycall Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Microwave Comm. Ltd. Modi Korea Telecom Ltd. West on Pages Pvt. Ltd. Eider PWI Comm. Ltd.	
6. Chandigarh	ABC Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Hutchison Max Ltd. Modi Korea Telecom Ltd. West on Pagers Pvt. Ltd. Eider PWI Comm. Ltd.	
7. Chennai	Telesistem Pvt. Ltd. RPG Paging Ltd. Modi Korea Telecom Ltd. DSS Mobile Comm. Ltd. Eider PWI Comm. Ltd.	
8. Coimbatore	Telesistem Pvt. Ltd. Usha Martin Telekom Ltd. Telecom Informatics Pvt. Ltd.	
9. Delhi	Microwave Comm. Ltd. ABC Comm. Pvt. Ltd. RPG Paging Ltd. DSS Mobile Comm. Ltd. Eider PWI Paging Ltd.	
10. Ernakulam	Telesistem Pvt. Ltd. BPL Systems and Projects Ltd. Usha Martin Telecom Ltd. Eider PWI Comm. Ltd.	
11. Hyderabad	Easycall Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Hutchison Max Ltd. DSS Mobile Comm. Ltd. Page Point Services Pvt. Ltd.	
12. Indore	Easycall Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Usha Martin Telecom Ltd. Modi Korea Telecom Ltd.	
13. Jaipur	ABC Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Modi Korea Telecom Ltd. West on Pagers Pvt. Ltd. Usha Martin Telecom Ltd. Eider PWI Comm. Ltd.	

1	2	3
14. Kanpur	ABC Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Modi Korea Telecom Ltd. West on Pagers Pvt. Ltd. DSS Mobile Comm. Ltd.	
15. Lucknow	Modi Korea Telecom Ltd. DSS Mobile Comm. Ltd. Weston Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	
16. Ludhiana	ABC Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Hutchison Max Ltd. Beltron Telecom Ltd.	
17. Madurai	Telesistem Pvt. Ltd. Usha Martin Telecom Ltd.	
18. Mumbai	Page Point Services Pvt. Ltd. Matrix Paging Pvt. Ltd. Microwave Comm. Ltd. DSS Mobile Comm. Ltd. Eider PWI Paging Ltd.	
19. Nagpur	Easycall Comm. Pvt. Ltd. West on Pagers Pvt. Ltd. Beltron Telecom Ltd. Nice Pvt. Ltd.	
20. Patna	Easycall Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Beltron Telecom Ltd. Telecom Informatics Pvt. Ltd.	
21. Pune	Matrix Paging Pvt. Ltd. Hutchison Max Ltd. DSS Mobile Comm. Ltd. Page Point Services Pvt. Ltd. Eider PWI Comm. Ltd.	
22. Rajkot	Matrix Paging Pvt. Ltd. Microwave Comm. Ltd. Usha Martin Telecom Ltd. West on Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	
23. Surat	Microwave Comm. Ltd. West on Pagers Pvt. Ltd. Beltron Telecom Ltd. Matrix Paging Pvt. Ltd.	
24. Trivandrum	Telesistem Pvt. Ltd. BPL Systems and Projects Ltd. West on Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	
25. Vadodara	Microwave Comm. Ltd. Hutchison Max Ltd. West on Pagers Pvt. Ltd. Matrix Paging Pvt. Ltd. Eider PWI Comm. Ltd.	
26. Varanasi	ABC Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Modi Korea Telecom Ltd. Beltron Telecom Ltd.	
27. Visakhapatnam	Easycall Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Usha Martin Telecom Ltd. West on Pagers Pvt. Ltd.	

Status of Radio Paging Services in Telecom Circles as on 30.6.97.

S.No.	Circle	Name of the Company	Remarks
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	Matrix Paging Pvt. Ltd. Nice Pvt. Ltd.	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Punwire Mobile Comm. Ltd.	Licence Terminated
3.	Assam	Easycall Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Nice Pvt. Ltd.	
4.	Bihar	Vacant	
5.	Gujarat	Punwire Mobile Comm. Ltd.	
6.	Haryana	Punwire Paging Ltd.	
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Punwire Paging Ltd.	Licence Terminated
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	Vacant ABC Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Nice Pvt. Ltd.	
9.	Karnataka	BPL Wireless Comm. Ltd. Punwire Mobile Comm. Ltd. Vacant	
10.	Kerala	BPL Wireless Comm. Ltd. Punwire Mobile Comm. Ltd. Vacant	LOI* to ITI Ltd.
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Punwire Mobile Comm. Ltd. Modi Korea Telecom Ltd.	
12.	Maharashtra	Punwire Mobile Comm. Ltd. Vacant	
13.	North East	Easycall Comm. Pvt. Ltd.	Licence Terminated Licence Terminated
14.	Orissa	Microwave Comm. Ltd. Telesistems Pvt. Ltd.	
15.	Punjab	Punwire Paging Ltd. Hutchison Max Pvt. Ltd.	
16.	Rajasthan	Punwire Mobile Comm. Ltd. Modi Korea Telecom Ltd.	LOI* To ITI Ltd.
17.	TamilNadu	BPL Wireless Comm. Ltd. Punwire Mobile Comm. Ltd. Vacant	
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Punwire Mobile Comm. Ltd. Microwave Comm. Ltd.	
19.	West Bengal	Modi Korea Telecom Ltd. Easycall Comm. Pvt. Ltd.	Licence Terminated

*Letter of Intent.

Power Generation Cost in Private Sector

1511. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any preventive measures to control power generation cost in private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the difference of power generation costs between public sector and private sector at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) In order to bring in greater transparency and competitiveness in the award of private sector power projects by generating companies, competitive bidding has been made mandatory from 18.2.1995. For power projects, where MOUs by the states had been entered into prior to this date, the states had been asked on 28.6.1996 to ensure the award of Engineering Procurement Contracts through a process of International Competitive Bidding. In addition,

the Central Electricity Authority, while according techno-economic clearance, inter-alia, looks into the reasonableness of the cost.

(c) The cost of power generation of a project is dependent upon its year of completion, completed cost, type, technology, location, funding pattern, interest rates, price and source of fuel, etc., which render comparability of cost of generation of different plants difficult.

[Translation]

Railway Projects

1512. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway projects announced by the Government during the last five years;

(b) the details of projects lagging behind their original schedule alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which the cost over run in respect of each project; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Old Telephone Exchanges

1513. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of old telephone exchanges in Mumbai;

(b) whether there is any proposal to modernise them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are twelve exchanges of old Technologies (electro mechanical).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These twelve exchanges are with a capacity of 131000 lines. 40,000 lines are likely to be replaced during 97-98 and rest in subsequent years.

Visit of Central Team to Abroad

1514. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether team led by Cabinet Secretary went abroad for encouraging foreign investment in Power Transmission Sector;

(b) if so, the names of other members of the team and the names of countries visited by them alongwith the period of stay there;

(c) whether this team has been assured of investment by the certain foreign investors;

(d) if so, the amount of investment likely to be made as per this assurance; and

(e) whether foreign investment in Power Sector in the country is legally permissible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) A joint Government/business delegation led by the Cabinet Secretary visited USA to meet and interact with the various types of interests most likely to affect decision to invest in infrastructure including power sector in the country.

(b) The delegation visited USA in June, 1997 (between 8th-18th June, 1997) for a period of seven working days. The names of the members of the official delegation are as follows :

1. Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, Cabinet Secretary.
2. Shri N.P. Bagchee, Secretary, Ministry of Coal.
3. Shri Yogendra Narain, Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport.
4. Dr. Shanker N. Acharya, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance.
5. Shri Shyamal Ghosh, Secretary, Dept. of Electronics (Only at San Jose)
6. Shri Pardeep Baijal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power.
7. Dr. Avinash Chandra, Director General, Hydro Carbons, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
8. Sh. Dharendra Singh, Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat.

The names of the members of business delegation are as follows :-

1. Shri Anil Ambani, Managing Director, Reliance Industries.
2. Shri K.K. Modi, Chairman, Modi Enterprises.
3. Shri K.G. Ramanathan, CMD, IPCL, Baroda.
4. Shri Ashok Aggarwal, Director, TCI, Infrastructure Finance Ltd.
5. Shri C. Das Gupta, Dy. Managing Director, CESC Ltd.
6. Dr. Som Dutt, Som Dutt Builders.
7. Shri C.L. Verma, CMD, Continental Construction Ltd.

8. Shri K.N. Shenoy, Executive Chairman, ABB Limited
9. Shri R. Seshasayee, Dy. Managing Director, Ashok Leyland Limited.
10. Shri A. Ramakrishna, President (Operations), Larsen & Toubro.
11. Dr. Ashok Harane, Chief Executive, Power Business Group, ILFS.
12. Shri S. Chandrasekhar, Managing Director, Bhoruka Power Corporation Ltd.

(c) and (d) As stated in reply to part (a), the delegation visited USA to meet and interact with the various types of interests most likely to affect decisions to invest. The flow of investment is expected to take place over an extended period in line with the progress in putting in place new investment arrangements. However, such interactions served to reinforce interest since the delegation met with a large number of persons in business, finance and in key Government Departments as also multilateral agencies.

(e) The private power policy allows private sector to invest their capital in Power sector in India.

Loans from HUDCO for Rural Development

1515. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide loans to States through HUDCO for construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana and other rural development programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount given to each State under the Indira Awas Yojana during the last three years; and

(d) the number of houses constructed under this scheme and the number of houses yet to be constructed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

(c) The amount released to each State under Indira Awas Yojana during the last three years is given in the statement attached.

(d) Since inception of Indira Awas Yojana in 1985-86 around 37 lakh houses have been constructed. About 7 lakh houses have been targetted for construction during current financial year. Statewise break-up is being finalised.

Statement

Indira Awas Yojana

Central Releases for the Last Three Years

Name of the State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
(Rs. in Lakhs)			
Andhra Pradesh	2500.79	8844.20	11260.90
Arunachal Pradesh	24.19	96.78	159.82
Assam	669.09	2656.32	3157.45
Bihar	5279.02	17339.21	15737.76
Goa	26.14	86.12	71.82
Gujarat	1037.66	3490.09	3308.95
Haryana	179.22	1114.63	698.28
Himachal Pradesh	83.05	334.39	269.16
Jammu & Kashmir	232.79	952.48	1071.39
Karnataka	1718.36	6273.33	6883.89
Kerala	496.51	2566.68	2351.03
Madhya Pradesh	3718.76	11468.39	11372.21
Maharashtra	2982.02	12478.10	7387.12
Manipur	31.01	91.54	285.32
Meghalaya	36.28	116.84	46.70
Mizoram	15.29	67.13	54.78
Nagaland	38.89	306.60	275.31
Orissa	2184.62	6358.60	7943.55
Punjab	127.45	352.35	582.29
Rajasthan	1412.68	5167.49	4032.70
Sikkim	14.16	231.28	27.42
Tamil Nadu	2081.47	8380.97	9222.31
Tripura	40.27	209.03	144.47
Uttar Pradesh	5578.26	20560.34	23733.55
West Bengal	2280.79	7357.05	7668.93
A & N Islands	11.45	60.38	28.26
D & N Haveli	6.22	35.60	27.86
Daman & Diu	3.66	25.08	7.54
Lakshadweep	5.75	33.64	11.83
Pondicherry	11.21	23.10	103.23
Total	32827.06	117077.74	117925.83

[English]

Telephone Facilities in Maharashtra

1516. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of village panchayats connected with telephone facilities in Maharashtra, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which the remaining village panchayats are likely to be connected?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Out of total of 24,752 village Panchayats, 22249 have been covered with Telephone facility. District-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) All the villages including village panchayats are likely to be covered with telephone facility by the end of IXth Five Year Plan.

Statement

Number of Gram Panchayats provided with VPT in Maharashtra State

S.No.	Field G.M.	Name of the Districts	Total Gram Panchayats	Telephone facility in Gram Panchayats
1	2	3	4	5
1.		Akola	936	936
2.		Amravati	804	685
3.		Bhandara	1046	845
4.		Buldhana	828	812
5.		Chandrapur	804	655
6.		Gadchiroli	458	279
7.		Wardha	481	481
8.		Yeatmal	1123	779
		Sub Total	6480	5472
9.		Raigad	660	660
10.		Ratnagiri	768	499
11.		Sindudurg	388	314
		Sub Total	1816	1473
12.		Nasik	1224	1175
13.		Dhule	962	856
		Sub Total	2186	2031
14.		Jalna	557	557
15.		Beed	924	636
16.		Latur	637	637
17.		Osmanabad	544	429
18.		Nanded	1163	1060
19.		Parbhani	1073	806
		Sub Total	4898	4125

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Jaigaon		1062	1062
21.	Sangli		631	588
22.	Satara		1213	1083
23.	Solapur		931	931
24.	Ahmednagar		1160	1160
25.	Aurangabad		693	693
26.	Thane		882	820
27.	Kolhapur		913	913
28.	Nagpur		710	710
29.	Pune		1177	1003
	Total		24752	22064

[Translation]

STD/PCO Allotment Rules

1517. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to amend the rules regarding allotment of STD and PCO booths to handicapped persons and ex-servicemen to extend communications facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Meagre Amount Spent on Passenger Amenities

1518. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the new item captioned "Railways spent meagre amount on amenities";

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the amount spent on passenger amenities during each of the last three years out of the total revenue earned; and

(c) the reasons for allocation of inadequate amount for providing passenger amenities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Passenger Amenities at stations are provided as per norms based on the volume of passenger traffic handled. Allocation of funds for passenger amenity works has no relation with the revenue earned.

Railways are very much alive to the needs of the travelling public and the requirements have been taken

into account while making the allocation for the current year.

Expenditure incurred on passenger amenities during the last three years and allocation for the current year is as under :

Year	Rs. in crore
1994-95	73.34
1995-96	87.98
1996-97	87.96
1997-98	80.00

Issuance of Waiting List Tickets

1519. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for getting tickets in Wait List status by passengers in almost all North-East bound trains even on the first day of opening of reservation; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to sort out the problem in the interests of passengers of North-East Region?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) During the peak seasons such as Summer Rush, Pooja Rush and Christmas vacations, reserved accommodation in popular trains is in high demand and gets filled up within a short time. This phenomena is, however, restricted to the peak periods and during the lean period, accommodation remain available for much longer period. The waiting list position on important trains during rush periods is closely monitored and depending on the demand, additional coaches are attached to the extent possible.

[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephones

1520. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of waiting list for telephone connections upto June 30, 1997 in the country, state-wise;

(b) the policy of the Government to provide telephone connections to the people registered in waiting list;

(c) whether the Government are working on any action plan to allot telephone connections to all the people registered in waiting list by 30th June, 1998; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Details of Waiting List, as on 30.6.1997 are given in the attached statement.

(b) to (d) Targets are set for provision of 29 Lakhs of new Telephone Connections in the Country during 1997-98. In many of the States, major portion of the Waiting List as on 31.3.97, will be cleared during 1997-98 by provision of new Telephone Connections and in case of the rest of the States, the Waiting List will be cleared during 1998-99 and there after. Necessary equipment and materials are being arranged to achieve the target.

Statement

Statement to be laid on the table of Lok Sabha vide part (a) of the unstarred question No. 1520 for 31.7.1997.

State-wise waiting list for telephone connections as on 30.6.1997

S.No.	Name of the State	Waiting List
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,66,604
2.	Assam	28,953
3.	Bihar	62,907
4.	Gujarat (including Dadar, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli)	2,97,613
5.	Haryana	98,442
6.	Himachal Pradesh	51,499
7.	J & K	31,561
8.	Karnataka	1,99,049
9.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep U.T.)	6,56,973
10.	Madhya Pradesh	60,198
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa and Mumbai)	3,23,511
12.	North-East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	14,178
13.	Orissa	40,838
14.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	2,12,599
15.	Rajasthan	1,73,254
16.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai & Pondicherry U.T.)	4,17,699
17.	Uttar Pradesh	1,53,771
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands & Calcutta)	1,73,943
19.	Delhi	17,086
Total		32,80,678

Survey for Hajipur-Suraul Railway Line

1521. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had announced to conduct a survey to lay Hajipur-Suraul new railway line;

(b) if so, when the said announcement was made;

(c) whether the Government have conducted the above survey;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Expenditure Incurred on Gramset Scheme, Gujrat

1522. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on Gramset Scheme in each district of Gujarat particularly in the tribal districts during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(b) the details of the programmes telecast under this scheme;

(c) whether the Government propose to seek the participation of the tribal people in these programmes with a view to promote tribal culture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) There is no Gramsat Scheme being implemented in Gujarat. However, a Gramsat Pilot project is being carried out by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in the tribal district of Jhabua of Madhya Pradesh. The regular transmission in this project has started from November 01, 1996. This is a two year project. Rural development programmes are broadcast for an hour everyday in the evening for reception in 150 villages in the district of Jhabua. The transmissions include programmes on watershed development, environment, health, hygiene, education, etc. Programmes include those produced in Jhabua district with the participation of the local people.

[English]

Power Shedding in Delhi

1523. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi continues to reel under acute

power-scarcity with prolonged power-shedding and break-downs this summer;

(b) the power supplies available to the capital from different sources and the extent of shortage of power; and

(c) the steps taken to conserve energy and to make optimum use thereof for priority sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) During April-June, 1997 the energy shortage and peak deficit in Delhi was 1.0% and 4.0% respectively. The Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) announced a programme of load shedding for one hour in various localities on a rotation basis during May and June, 1997 in order to maintain the balance between demand and availability of power. However, some areas suffered from power cuts for a longer period and also faced low voltage conditions mainly due to local faults, transmission, distribution and transformation constraints in the DVB system.

(b) The details of average per day availability of power to Delhi from various sources against requirement during 1st July to 14th July, 1997 are as under :

Energy Requirement (MU/Day)	Energy Availability (MU/Day)	Shortage (MU/Day)	Percent Shortage
47.83	46.17	1.66	3.47%

(c) Delhi Vidyut Board have imposed restrictions on use of Air Conditioners during peak hours and banned use of power for advertising and promotional activities like neon signs, decorative lighting, window displays etc.

Clearance of Power Projects

1524. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the IPPO Tamil Nadu has approached his Ministry and pointed out the anomaly and the delay that this will cause in obtaining necessary clearances;

(b) whether the Ministry of Power has confessed that the Lacuna still existed; and

(c) if so, the steps are likely to be considered to remove this lacuna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

Introduction of Rajdhani Express on Delhi-Ahmedabad Route

1525. SHRI B.K. GADHVI :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a Rajdhani Express on Delhi-Ahmedabad route via Jaipur-Ajmer-Palanpur; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to introduce a weekly New Delhi-Ahmedabad Swarnajayanti Rajdhani Express via Jaipur-Ajmer during August'97.

Out of Turn Telephones to Employees

1526. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of out of turn telephone connections provided to departmental employees working in the office of District Manager Telephone, Bareilly during the last one year till 1.6.1997;

(b) whether district level officers are competent for providing out of turn telephone connections to employees; and

(c) if so, the limit thereof and the procedure followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, no out of turn telephone connection has been provided to departmental employees working in the office of District Manager Telephones, Bareilly during the last one year till 01.06.1997.

(b) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Nala Cleaning Works by Railways in Mumbai

1527. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that despite payment by the Mumbai Municipal Corporation, the Central Railway authorities failed to carry out the nala-cleaning works as per schedule;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to ensure smooth railway services even during high tide period during current monsoon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Following Mumbai Municipal Corporation's payment for the nallah-cleaning work (de-silting) within the portion of Central Railway, the Railway had awarded contract for the work on 01.04.97. As per the Agreement, Mumbai Municipal Corporation was to clean the upstream and downstream portions of the nallahs. However, the Corporation could finalise tenders for the work within their portion only in the middle of May, 1997. This delayed the schedule for cleaning of nallahs. However, the cleaning work has been carried out effectively thereafter except for the 3 nos, nallahs, viz.. (i) Mukhopadhyay Nagar nallah at Km. 12/5-6; (ii) Santoshmata Nagar nallah at Km.23/10-11 and Km. 24/2; and (iii) Culvert at Km. 18/6-7, downstream portions of which are required to be modified suitably by the Municipal Authority as per the BRIMSTOWAD REPORT.

(c) Regular de-silting is being done to ensure free flow through the nallahs. Mumbai Municipal Corporation is being pursued constantly for carrying out the necessary modifications of the nallahs at the above-mentioned three locations to avoid flooding of the railway tracks, particularly across the Mukhopadhyay Nagar nallah at Km. 12/5-6.

Upgradation of Chandlodia Railway Station

1528. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the Chandlodia railway station in Gujrat in view of fast development of area viz. New High Court and other important institution near the station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to provide necessary amenities at the railway station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Chandlodia railway station situated about 5 KMs away from the New High Court of Gujarat is provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic. There is no proposal at present for further development of the station.

[Translation]

Post Offices in the Country

1529. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices and the number of employees working in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons provided permanent jobs during last three years alongwith the percentage thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to give them the status of Government employees; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Upgradation of Post Offices in U.P.

1530. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade some branch and sub-post offices on the basis of population in Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Post Offices are not upgraded on the basis of population. A target of opening 6 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh has been fixed for Annual Plan 1997-98 subject to availability of resources. These could either be new post offices or upgraded ones.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Computerised Railway Reservation

1531. SHRI RAVINDER KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the computerised Railway reservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the computers installed at return ticket reservation counter in Delhi remained out of order for several days during May-June, 1997; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to solve such problems?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Improvement and modernisation of computerised passenger reservation service is an on-going process and steps are regularly being taken to improve the quality of service to passengers by introducing facilities namely.

(1) Automated reservation status enquiry through Interactive Voice Response System in which telephonic enquiries are answered promptly an efficiently through a computer simulated voice.

(2) Facility of Reservation Availability Position Information Display (RAPID) which has been provided at major reservation officers.

(3) Networking of the five main computer systems, the software for which has already been partially developed and implemented at Delhi and Secunderabad. Networking is proposed to be done between these two Systems in the first phase.

(4) Installation of high speed telecommunication links between the five main systems to substantially increase the efficiency and speed of data transfer.

(5) Expansion of computer reservation facilities to additional stations from year to year and opening of additional satellite reservation offices in the metropolitan and major towns.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no such instance when computers installed at return ticket reservation counter in Delhi remained out of order for several days during May-June, 1997. However, there were recurring problems in telecommunication channel links in 5 systems at Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai, Madras and Secunderabad. The average working period of counters was maintained at 97% efficiency level.

[Translation]

New Line from Darbhanga to Hasanpur

1532. SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to lay a new railway line from Darbhanga to Hasanpur Kusheswar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a new line is already under construction from Sakri to Hasanpur via Kusheswarthan. A survey has been taken up for construction of a new line from Darbhanga to Saharsa via Kusheswarthan. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[English]

Liquid Fuel Power Plants

1533. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the liquid fuel based power plants are considered to be short term solution to the shortage of power in the country;

(b) whether the Government have taken a decision to subsidised the liquid fuel imports for power plants under the administered pricing mechanism;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the likely effect thereof on the feasibility of setting up of liquid fuel power plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Pricing of liquid fuel imports for power plants would be outside the administered pricing mechanism and would not be linked up with Oil Pool Account. The prices would be based on international prices and would not have any element of subsidy. This is not expected to have any adverse effect on the feasibility of setting up of liquid fuel projects to the extent of 12000 MW.

[Translation]

Shortage of Power in Villages of Rajasthan

1534. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that despite vigorous efforts of Rural Corporation of India there is shortage of power in various villages and towns of Rajasthan and there are various such villages which have not been electrified as yet;

(b) if so, the names of the districts and the villages which have been electrified by the Rural Electrification Corporation of India with the assistance of the State Government during the last three years; and

(c) the names of the district which have been selected for electrification as per the target fixed for the current year and the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) has informed that even though there is a shortage of power in the State it has not affected achievement of village electrification plan targets in the State. As per 1981 census out of 34,968 inhabited villages in Rajasthan, the State has reported electrification of 31,320 villages upto March, 1997. The balance 3648 villages remains to be electrified.

(b) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) only provides financial assistance to State Electricity Boards/ Electricity Departments for rural electrification programme and actual execution of the programme including electrification of villages is undertaken by the respective SEBs/Electricity Departments. District-wise number of villages electrified by RSEB both under REC Financed Scheme and State Plan funds during the past three years are given in the attached statement.

(c) State-wise rural electrification programme for the current financial year 1997-98 is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission. However, it is propose to electrify 480 villages in Rajasthan under REC Financed Scheme.

Statement

District-wise village electrified during 1994-95 to 1996-97*

S.No.	District	No. of inhabited villages 1981 census	Villages Electrified During		
			1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ajmer	923	15	1	14
2.	Alwar	1892	16	10	12
3.	Banswara	1445	35	8	41
4.	Baran	1045	40	13	12
5.	Barmer	853	23	9	7
6.	Bharatpur	1328	22	11	19
7.	Bhilwara	1512	9	3	-
8.	Bikaner	571	5	-	3
9.	Bundi	783	16	16	21
10.	Chittorgarh	2144	46	47	58
11.	Churu	855	17	7	12
12.	Dausa	793	18	41	21
13.	Dholpur	538	11	1	3
14.	Dungarpur	832	16	16	5
15.	Hanumangarh	-	75	139	145

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Jaipur	1913	15	50	13
17.	Jaisalmer	462	10	12	1
18.	Jalore	602	4	-	3
19.	Jhalawar	1444	41	36	40
20.	Jhunjhunu	689	-	-	-
21.	Jodhpur	705	5	-	-
22.	Kota	798	18	12	9
23.	Nagaur	1223	12	12	1
24.	Pali	818	-	-	-
25.	Rajsamand	939	16	6	17
26.	S. Madhopur	1534	18	16	16
27.	Sikar	813	-	-	-
28.	Sirohi	433	-	-	-
29.	Sriganganagar	3886	189	196	145
30.	Tonk	1017	27	30	28
31.	Udaipur	2178	37	58	54
Total		34968	756	750	700

efforts and time required to collect the names of the villages which have been Electrified during the last three years is not commensurate with the results. Hence number of electrified villages is given.

[English]

Refund of Money of Unutilised Tickets

1535. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a station Superintendent or any other officer of a Railway Station is authorised to refund money of an unutilised ticket of a passenger for a long journey by Express/Mail trains purchased from any station in the country if the passenger does not perform journey due to sudden sickness and if he wants to purchase ticket for next day by that refund money;

(b) if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) the mode of assistance provided to such passengers by Railways if that passenger has no further money to purchase ticket for next day if refund is not given to him for his unutilised ticket from that station; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the refund is made to such passengers on that railway station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) As per rules, refund on reserved, RAC and wait-listed tickets is admissible at all stations on Indian Railways within the time limits prescribed in the rules provided that verification of such tickets is possible at the concerned station. However, the Station

Masters of 452 important stations have been given discretionary powers to grant refund of fare on unused tickets, issued from their stations, where refund is not admissible due to expiry of the time limits prescribed in the rules.

(c) and (d) The Railways do not grant any financial assistance to passengers for purchasing tickets. However, the facility of postponement of journey on reserved tickets is already available, provided that a confirmed reservation is available on the day of the proposed journey.

[Translation]

Faulty Telecom Services in U.P.

1536. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the faulty telecommunications services in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the telecommunications facilities; and

(c) the allocation made for incurring expenditure on improving the telecommunications facilities during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The telecommunication services in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh are working satisfactorily. However, the telecom services which are connected on less reliable media like overhead alignment/carrier systems etc. are being progressively replaced by reliable media such as Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Ultra High Frequency (UHF), Multi Channel Per Carrier (MCPC), Very Small Aperture Satellite (V-SAT) terminals etc. Performance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) is being closely monitored at different levels and efforts are also being made to improve the working and to replace faulty/irreparable Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the rural areas, where required.

(c) The plan allocation for Department of Telecommunications as a whole for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 10766 crores out of which a sum of Rs. 625.68 crores is proposed for improving telecom facilities in Uttar Pradesh. The allocation for rest of the periods for ninth five year plan shall be finalised in due course.

Gauge Conversion

1537. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have contemplated any proposal to convert Udaipur-Jodhpur railway line into broad gauge in near futures;

(b) if so, the time by which the above line is likely to be converted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Gauge conversion work is in progress in Jodhpur-Marwar and Udaipur-Chittaurgarh sections which when completed will provide a BG route between Udaipur and Jodhpur. A survey for conversion of Mavli-Marwar has also been taken up. Further consideration of conversion of this route will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Broadcast of National Games on National Network

1538. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the time allotted for the coverage of the National Games on National Network is inadequate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to give adequate coverage to such national events in future; and

(d) the norms proposed to be prescribed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to give adequate coverage to all major sports events of National importance keeping in view its other programme requirements. In pursuance of this, Doordarshan had made extensive arrangements for coverage of the recently concluded National Games. Besides covering various events live/deferred or recorded on all days, Doordarshan arranged live coverage of the Opening and Closing ceremonies of the Games. In addition, daily highlights were also telecast.

Doordarshan will continue to do so in future also.

[English]

Benefits to retired Railway Employees

1539. COL. (RETD) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that large number of benefits have been sanctioned to retired Railway employees recently including Chairman;

(b) if so, the number of such persons and annual expenditure incurred thereon, category-wise;

(c) whether grants of such benefits to retired Railway employees are covered under the Rules; and

(d) if not, the reasons for issue of such benefits?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) During 1996-97, certain improvement was effected in travel facilities available to retired Group 'D' employees, retired Board Members, including Chairman, and retired railway employees covered under Retired Employees Liberalised Health Scheme.

(b) The number of employees benefitted under the above improvement in travel facilities and the expenditure involved are not maintained. However, the number of retired Board Members who have availed of card passes under the improved travel facility so far is only 43.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Delay in Distribution of Letters

1540. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the delivery of letters are delayed at destination itself for more than two days; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for delivery of letters on the next day in cities of each of the States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Generally, delivery of letters at destination is not delayed. However, occasional instances of delay in delivery of letters may occur due to unavoidable reasons such as natural calamities, late running of mail carrying trains, buses or planes, inadequacy of delivery manpower and sudden and exceptionally heavy volume of mails like corporate mail and Greeting mails etc.

(b) Generally, letters originating within the city are delivered on the next working day subject to the limitations mentioned in (a) above. The following steps have been taken to ensure expeditious delivery of mails in cities :

- (i) A separate system for handling local letters called the Green Channel has been set up in the cities.
- (ii) Delivery arrangements in cities are reviewed and in some cities deliveries have been ordered to be restructured to find delivery manpower for deficient areas.
- (iii) Proposals for creation of additional delivery manpower have been taken up with the Ministry of Finance.
- (iv) Rationalising of mail processing by prioritised and segmented handling of mails of different categories according to their time-sensitivity.
- (v) Mopeds have been provided to postmen serving in heavier beats of some selected cities for delivery of mail.
- (vi) Constant monitoring is undertaken of the delivery of mail in various cities both at the headquarters and field level.

Expansion of Facilities at Chandigarh Railway Station

1541. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for expansion of various facilities at Chandigarh Railway Station during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount sanctioned therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Works relating to provision of washable apron on line No. 1 and 4 and shelter on platform No. 2/3, development of coaching terminal facilities and extension of shelter on platform No. 1 have been taken up at Chandigarh at a total cost of Rs. 617.98 lakh with an outlay of Rs. 87.91 lakh during 1997-98.

Inadequate funding of Rural Employment Schemes

1542. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed labour and material ratio of 60:40 in execution of works under various Rural Employment Schemes;

(b) whether this labour and material ratio is not practical in view of increased material cost and the consequent complaints in the execution of works;

(c) whether the Government have received proposals for amendment in the ratio of labour and material from various States;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU):

(a) Under the rural employment programmes i.e. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), wage-material ratio is fixed at 60:40.

(b) to (d) There have been requests from some sources to revise the wage-material ratio. The primary objective of JRY and EAS is to provide wage employment, the major portion of expenditure under the programmes, therefore, should go towards the creation of wage-employment for the rural poor. The wage-material ratio is, therefore, kept at 60:40.

Power Generation Capacity in Gujarat

1543. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power generation capacity of each power station in Gujarat has increased during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan during the current Financial year to increase the power generation capacity of power stations of the state; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. AKAGH) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Power Projects in Orissa

1544. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the power projects received in the private sector in Orissa during the last two years and the extent of power likely to be generated from those projects;

(b) the projects in Orissa actually cleared for commissioning;

(c) the status of availability of coal and fuel for running these projects;

(d) whether the fuel requirement for some private projects in the State has been rejected by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;

(e) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard; and

(f) the total power requirement of the State and the share of power generated in private and public sectors separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. AKAGH) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Power Projects of Maharashtra

1545. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some power projects of Maharashtra are lying pending with the Central Electricity Authority as on June, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of projects accorded clearance by the Central Electricity Authority during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to make available loan to the State from the World Bank for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. AKAGH) : (a) and (b) No Power project proposals from Maharashtra is pending in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of techno-economic clearance as on 30.6.97.

(c) Bhadravati TPS (M/s Central India Power Co. Ltd., Promoted by Nippon Denro Ispat (Ltd.), has been

accorded techno-economic clearance in Maharashtra during the last 3 years.

(d) and (e) No proposal for World Bank assistance to new power projects in Maharashtra is under consideration of the Government of India.

**STATEMENT CORRECTING THE ANSWERS TO
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 903 DATED
27.02.1997 REGARDING TELEPHONE
CONNECTION ON PRIORITY**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : The Lok Sabha unstarred question number 903 replied on dated 27.02.1997 was as under :-

(a) the number of telephone connections sanctioned on out of turn priority under the discretionary powers during the last three years;

(b) how many of them were installed in J and K during that period;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Phones to Kill' published in the 'Frontline' dated December 13, 1996 at pages 31-33;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to hand over the case to CBI for further investigation; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

2. Reply to Part (a) of the question was given as under :

"(a) A total number of 39,880 out of turn telephone connections were sanctioned under discretionary powers during the last three years."

Inadvertently, the original requests as sanctioned by the then MOS (C) and forwarded directly to the Chief General Manager, Shimla were not included in the reply. In view of this part (a) of the reply may be corrected to read as under :

(a) A total number of 57,275 out of turn telephone connections were sanctioned under discretionary powers during the last three years.

3. The reply to part (d) of the question was given as under :

(d) Out of 26 requests of telephone connection in a single list, a total of 12 out of turn telephones were sanctioned for J and K Circle on 24.01.1991 vide diary numbers 13742 to 13753 by the then Hon'ble MOS(C).

There is a typographical error in the date which should read as 24.01.1996 instead of 24.01.1991.

The delay occurred due to adopting the due procedure in compiling the answer and necessary follow up action. However, the delay is highly regretted.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Papers to be Laid on the Table.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will see after Papers are laid on the Table please.

Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Indian Post Office Act, 1898 etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy of the Radio, Television and Video Cassette Recorder Sets (Exemption from Licensing Requirements) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 393(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 1997, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2213/97]

- (2) A copy of the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 267(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 1997 under sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2214/97]

12.01½ hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

Second Report

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE Fourteenth and Fifteenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Sir, I beg to present the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture :—

- (1) Fourteenth Report on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Fifth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (1996-97) relating to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- (2) Fifteenth Report on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observation contained in the Second Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (1996-97) relating to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

12.02¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE Sixth Report

[English]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banaskantha) : I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence on the Navy (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Tenth Report

SHRI D.S.A. SIVAPRAKASAM (Tirunelveli) : I beg to present the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have not given any notice Shri Ahamed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, there is a serious matter. The Intelligence Bureau people are keeping an eye on the Members of Parliament inside the Parliament House. It is an insult to the members of the House. The Home Minister must make a statement as to whether the IB people have been called in to keep an eye on the activities of Members of Parliament inside the Parliament House...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : The IB matter should be taken up...(Interruptions)

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fifteenth Report

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : I beg to present the Fifteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.04¼ hrs.

LEADERS AND CHIEF WHIPS OF RECOGNISED PARTIES AND GROUPS IN PARLIAMENT (FACILITIES) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for facilities to Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and groups in Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for facilities to Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and groups in Parliament."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I introduce** the Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSHI (Howrah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the dignity of the House demands and the dignity of the Members demand a probe into what is reported in a news item today in the Press that the IB was keeping a tab on the activities of the MPs inside the Parliament. This is not only unfair, but it is against the privileges of the MPs. It is against the dignity of the House. The Minister of Home must make a statement...(Interruptions) It is a serious thing. We cannot keep quiet...(Interruptions)

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 31.7.97.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : It is a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

12.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of privilege. If the IB people are trying to harass us...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : It has been reported that the IB is keeping surveillance on the MPs inside the Parliament...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall allow all of you, one by one.

Shri Chandra Shekhar.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow every hon. Member, please let him speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed him.

12.07 hrs.

RE: INSTALLATION OF A STATUE OF MAHATMA GANDHI NEAR INDIA GATE

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am speaking on such an issue on which there would be hardly any dispute in this House. I had taken permission of the Hon. Speaker, yesterday itself. The controversy regarding installation of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at India Gate has been raging for the last 30 years. Shri Narasimha Raoji had laid the foundation stone at India Gate three years back with the promise that August Kranti Udyan would come up there and the statue of Mahatma Gandhi statue would be installed therein. Some thinkers and intellectuals of this country having a different mind set, had moved the Court and whatever they stated in the Court is enough to hurt anybody's feelings anywhere. So I do not want to respect them. They said that the statues of Mahatma Gandhiji installed throughout the country look like a caricature and installation of Mahatma Gandhi statue at India Gate would be an insult to the country and Art as well. They also remarked that it is a kind of aesthetic vandalism. The people belonging to Swatantra Sangram Sangathan and particularly Shashibhushanji had raised their voice opposing such a move and about 4-5 days back the Court has given the verdict that the Government should install the statue and a decision should be taken in this regard within 4-5 days. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you know that there was a statue of George-V, installed in a canopy at India Gate. Shri Ram Manohar

[Shri Chandra Shekhar]

Lohia had requested to remove it but the Government did not heed to his demand. Then in 1968, some youth disfigured the statue and then the Government were compelled to remove the statue. A continuous demand is being made to remove the canopy and to establish a Shahid Udyan (Martyr's Park) there. Shri Narasimha Raoji had laid the foundation stone but the Government are maintaining silence over the issue. Now, it is difficult to say as to what the Government would do after this verdict of the Court. Those people who look at the history through the eyes of the so-called thinkers may think that we are trying to remove the work of Lutyens sahab. Perhaps, they do not even know that the canopy was not the work of Lutyens sahab, rather when Gandhiji embarked on his Dandi March in 1930, some of the princely kings, whose names I do not want to mention, had put up the canopy there and the picture of George V in it in order to support the British imperialism. It would be of no use if I say anything about the said statue, nor I would like to say so. But what surprises me is why the successive Governments could not take a decision for the last 20-25 or even 30 years. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will not read it. Shri Jaipal Reddyji is one of those gentlemen, who have written letters favouring installation of Mahatma Gandhi's statue. Perhaps, he remembers his letter. Shri Indrajit Guptaji who is the present Home Minister is also one of them. Others are late Shri Madhu Limaye, who is, unfortunately no more, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the Ex-Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, our Leader of the Opposition, Shri Sidh Raj Dhatta, Shri Satya Prakash Malviya, our fellow Shri Nitish Kumar who sits with us here, Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma, Shri Sadiq Ali, the great Gandhian and Shri Krishna Kant, who is a now candidate for Vice-Presidency, has also written in this regard in his capacity as the Governor. In addition to this, there are many other people who have favoured installation of the statue. I am unable to understand as to why the Government is so hesitant?

The Steering Committee had taken a unanimous decision, perhaps Shri Indrajit Gupta was the convenor and then Shri Narasimha Rao had organised a function wherein I too had delivered a speech but nothing has been done during the last three years. I would like to know the reaction in the foreign countries and among some intellectuals about the views of the few makers of the history of the country who overlook 90 or 95 crore population of the country, who view the history from their own angle and whether, taking that into account, we are going to postpone installation of Mahatma Gandhi's statue everytime? I would like to ask the Leader of the House and various Ministers as to whether they want to create the same situation in the country which may result in removal of canopy as has been seen in the case where the statue of George-V was removed.

If we do not honour the feelings of the people then the day is not far off when the canopy would be removed from there, which may have serious repercussions for the country.

You please do not think that I am scaring you or warning you. But I am seeing a threat. There is a resentment among many people. We should not think that whatever decision we make in the House will be applied throughout the country. Today we are neglecting and insulting Mahatma Gandhi. So many statues are being installed and so many monuments have been set up. I do not want to mention about it but I would like to say that the Government is silent as far as installation of Mahatma Gandhi's statue is concerned.

All the memorials being constructed in Delhi and those in whose memory they are being constructed are all dwarfed against Mahatma Gandhi. I do not want to indulge in comparison but a country which can not honour a person like Mahatma Gandhi and is got confused by the baseless arguments of a few so called intellectuals, is in fact, heading towards chaos. However I do believe that the Government would wake up and complete the task.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want to say something?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : There cannot be any dispute on this. The Government should take an early decision.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North-East) : The entire House supports the issue just raised by Chandra Shekhar ji.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : I fully share the sentiments of Shri Chandra Shekhar. Shri Paswan is here. Let him say something on this.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is really a matter of utter shame that the issue of Mahatma Gandhi's statue has been made controversial and is being debated in the House...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not any discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It is not an issue of discussion. Prompt action should be taken on the issue raised by Shri Chandrashekhar ji...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I feel that all the Members agree on it. I, therefore, call the Leader of the House.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mahatma Gandhi is the tallest leader of our freedom struggle. The Members have quite aptly said that this cannot be the issue of discussion. I on the behalf of the Government assure you all that I would request the Prime Minister and would also apprise him of the sentiments expressed here in this House and the Government would take action on it soon
...*(Interruptions)*

12.14 hrs.

RE: ARREST OF FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OF BIHAR

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have gone to the next item.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have risen to raise a very sensitive and important issue in the House. Some days back, a writ was filed in the Patna High Court by the Collector and S.S.P. of Patna to provide full cooperation to the CBI into investigation of the Fodder Scam, but when the Supreme Court issued the warrant and the director...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Supreme Court had rejected the bail application but had not issued the warrant. You please do not...*(Interruptions)*

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV : When the CBI director Shri Sharma had issued arrest orders, the CBI, DIG Shri Kaul had initiated the process for his arrest at Patna. The arrest procedure was set on and he asked the DGP to cooperate in the arrest process, and when he asked the Chief Secretary, Collector and SSP to cooperate in the arrest process, they not only refused but the collector and the SSP threatened the CBI officer to keep mum or face the consequences. Thereafter when

the CBI, DIG of Patna contacted the concerned officer of the North-East Shri U.N. Biswas, he directed him to approach the monitoring court. When the CBI advocate went to the monitoring court and briefed the entire happenings, the Court asked to file an application. The application was filed and the monitoring court of the High Court issued the orders to the military.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the orders were issued to the military, Shri Upendra Biswas received a letter from the Centre by Shri Sharma asking him to clarify as to for what reasons he asked the military to interfere and the letter of Shri Biswas published in the newspapers amply makes it clear that he was threatened to be suspended. Therefore, the matter which was going on for about one year got influenced by it...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister of State for Coal says that they do not believe in witch hunting and also do not encourage corruption but two High Courts advocates of Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav were despatched to Patna by a plane of Coal India and top of all, one judge sought police protection saying his life was in danger. This has been stated by a Patna Judge. 200 goons were positioned from Court premises to where Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav was kept. Even when the former Union Minister Shri Kalpnath Rai was jailed, he was put behind the bars in Tihar jail. Even Shri Narasimha Rao's hearing was held in the special court but when Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav was sent to jail, then special arrangements were made and ACs were installed in the jail. I would like to ask as to whether there are two laws for two different persons.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the manner in which the obstackles are being created in the finding of the monitoring court, this matter goes beyond the simple matter of investigation to that of larger public interest. I earnestly request you to interfere in this matter and the law should be same for all. No special treatment should be meted out to anyone and the law of the land should be applied uniformly to all...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat now. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not spoil your case. Please sit down. There should be some limit.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Nitish Kumar.

I have called Mr. Nitish Kumar. I have allowed him to speak. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Laloo Yadav has been released on the pretext that he will surrender tomorrow...(Interruptions) and the Prime Minister gives a statement here that we will not compromise with corruption...(Interruptions) but I feel corruption is being given a push in this manner and the Government want to keep Bihar in a state of confusion...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue that has been raised just now by Shri Rajesh Ranjan, has appeared in the newspapers today and everybody has gone through it. According to the information received later...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : This is not an issue only related to Bihar, the Union Government, the CBI and the Prime Minister all are concerned with it...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Except for the submissions made by Nitish ji, nothing else will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Not many Members should speak at the same time.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed him to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they have already said whatever they were to say. Kindly listen to me. The matter which I am raising does not relate only to Bihar...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat, I will allow everybody.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow everybody.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am raising a constitutional matter. Our fellow members should understand that I

* Not Recorded.

am not raising any issue relating to Bihar. It is evident from his submissions that there is complete breakdown of state machinery in Bihar. When his interim bail application was rejected by the Supreme Court and when Director, CBI gave direction to the CBI officials in the state to get the non-bailable arrest warrant executed, they approached the state authorities including Chief Secretary, DGP, the district administration, but to no avail as they got no cooperation from these officers. May I know from the Union Government whether there can be any other example of breakdown of state machinery as in Bihar where CBI personnel did not get any support from the state Government in getting the Court's order executed? Can there be any other example of breakdown of State machinery? And if it is an example of breakdown of state machinery, then what was the Union Government doing?

Another question is being raised about the army help which is said to have been sought by the CBI on the instruction of monitoring Court-as has appeared in newspapers - after the state machinery defied the Court order. We want to know from the Government whether the army help was sought? I do not know whether seeking the army help was proper or not. But the question is that what were the circumstances which led the CBI to seek army help?

Show-cause notice is being served on the investigating officers and it is said that action to suspend them is likely to be taken. I would like to know from the Government as to what is the truth in this regard? A conspiracy is being hatched to wipe out the investigating officers from the whole scene. They were looking into the matter under monitoring of the Court but now they are on the verge of their suspension. Whether the country is likely to tolerate such an action? I want some clarification from the Government in this regard.

The third clarification which we want from the Government is that under which rule non-Government persons, who have nothing to do with Coal India or the Government were brought from Patna in the plane of Coal India. Whether Coal India plane is meant for ferrying an advocate just because he happens to be the defence lawyer of the accused? All these news have appeared in newspapers. People are very much anxious to know about this. I, through you, want the Government to clarify their position in this respect.

One thing, I would like to say as warning to the Government that the Prime Minister had repeatedly given assurance that the Government would not interfere in the CBI's functioning. But inspite of that if such things are happening to punish the honest investigating officers by interfering in CBI's functioning then the country is not going to tolerate that? We would like to know from the Central Government that since there is

complete breakdown of state machinery in Bihar, what action they propose to take in the matter as there can be not any other better situation than this for invoking Article 356. We urge the Government to invoke the Article 356 and dismiss the State Government there.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I entirely share the agitation of the hon. Members of this House. We have heard a surfeit of Bihar. For the last three or four days, since the opening of this Parliament Session, the questions that have been raised are really centered around Bihar. I am not on that subject.

I am on a subject which, unfortunately, rises from what Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Rajesh Ranjan have just now mentioned in this House. I entirely share the agony expressed by the hon. the Home Minister that on this occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of our Independence, if and most unfortunately the high office of the Chief Minister of any State, somebody holding that high office, should be courted by authorities of the State, it is not an ordinary event. It is an event that really ought to make us reflect. That is my one point but that has already been said.

What has been said about the request for the employment of the Army is the most alarming statement made. I do not know if this is correct. I do not know on what basis this has been made. Shri Nitish Kumar is one of the seniormost Members and a very responsible Member of this House. He has said that a request was made...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : By whom?...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I want to know the details. I do not know who made the request. I do not know how we are to countenance one wrong after another, one enormity after another. We are now calling the Armed Forces to play a role for which they are not at all suited or equipped or trained or meant. Does the Union Government know anything about this? Is it not mandatory on the Union Government? Shri Nitish Kumar has said something. Surely it has appeared in the newspapers. He informed me that it has appeared in some newspapers. If this has happened, this is extremely alarming. We want to know not simply what has happened...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV (Banka) : Will the House function on the basis of newspaper reports?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I did not hear.

SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV : Will you come to know about a thing only after going through the newspaper?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : No, I am expressing my concern.

SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV : How many persons are there in this country against whom warrant has been issued for two hours only? He has filed an appeal in the supreme Court and has surrendered also. Now what is the need to raise this matter. The senior persons like hon. Jaswant Singh ji are talking about it, who are fully conversant with law.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not confuse him. Let him speak.

[English]

Why are you interrupting your own Member?

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Hon'ble Member has not fully understood what I am saying. I am not talking about the hon. Supreme Court or any case thereof...(Interruptions). No, I have not mentioned Supreme Court or any other institution. You are aware that it is in itself a serious matter that Army should be called in and...(Interruptions). No, Nitish ji is saying so then you may clarify it. The Central Government may clarify it because in my opinion it is a serious matter in itself...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The state machinery has refused to cooperate.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I do not know who can call the Army. I would like to know...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The Government should deny this. This is an extremely disturbing news. The Government should stand up and clearly say, 'no such event took place'.

[Translation]

The matter will be over. The Government should say that no such thing has happened and Army was not called. If it was called then I feel that it is a bad thing and the Government should give its explanation...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : On this very issue Shri Chandra Shekhar wants to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, whatever has been said by Shri Jaswant Singh ji, a part of it...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a question of dismantling of structure...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down. I have not yet called you:

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have allowed him.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I agree with his point that if the Army has been called in, then there could be nothing serious than this. The power of calling the army rests either with the State Government or the Governor. If the judges and that too of a trial court decided to call the Army and advised CBI to this effect, then I will say to Nitish ji that we will have to consider the serious consequences of such an act. Saying that the State Government was not cooperating also does not appear to be correct. If the State Government would not have cooperated then Loaloo Prasad Yadav would not have been behind the bars today...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please allow the senior most Member to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I am not going to sit because of your loud noises. Mr. Deputy Speaker, please tell the Members that I have faced many a such uproaring scenes and I am not going to be cowed down by this. I am talking about yesterday. I am talking about full cooperation. When the day before yesterday, Laloo Prasad Yadav had said that he was surrendering, then it was clear that he was about to go to jail or court. At that time some extra enthusiastic persons wanted to arrest him earlier. Such persons are neither worried about Bihar nor about the country. If Laloo Yadav would have gone to jail a little later, then it would have hardly made any difference. I am aware that some persons have personal prejudice. They see no other danger. Let me come to the real point that which magistrate advised the CBI to call the Army? If it was advised to CBI then who was that officer of CBI who called army? An inquiry may be conducted against him. Inquiry may also be conducted about the conduct of the magistrate who advised the help of the Army.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we have been saying openly and I believe the entire House has said that all cases of corruption or even crimes should be fully investigated. No one is above the law; or should be above the law whether he is occupying a very high position in our national life or constitutional position. We have been saying that. In the last debate, we have said that. Nobody, I believe, has said, 'you exonerate such persons'. But for an issue, a criminal investigation has become unfortunately politicised to the extent that today we are even extolling for calling of the Army.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Who is that person?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have not mentioned your name. Some are doing it. Therefore, let us not obliterate all the *Lakshman Rekhas*. The areas of Executive, Judiciary and Legislature are all being obliterated today.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The State machinery did not coopeate. Please say something about that also. Such situation arose that this question is being raised.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nitish ji, I have allowed him.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Let this Bihar issue which we have been condemning, be not utilised for the purpose of disturbing the constitutional equilibrium in this country. Now on every issue, imposition of Article 356 is being demanded on the floor of the Hosue as if it is a matter which is to be decided here. On every issue, on every day, we find even a responsible Member who was a Minister, demanding imposition of Article 356. Just because something has happened, if a Member would demand imposition of President's Rule, what is going to happen in this country?

Sir, we are proud of our Army. As a citizen of India, I am proud of our Army. They have played a wonderful role. They are protecting us. They should not be involved in any or every matter of politics. The Army, apart from protecting us during natural calamities, has served wonderfully well. I am appealing to you that let us not minimise the seriousness of what is happening in Bihar. But let this House not become a second Bihar Assembly every day. That is my request...(Interruptions). But we have many important functions to discharge ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Confusion is being created. He is deviating from the issue. We respect senior leaders...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let me speak first.
Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me have my say.
Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me one minute.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : For God sake, please keep silence.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Before taking up next item, I would like to say two things. The first thing is whether the report to call the Army in Bihar is correct or not and if so, at who's instructions? The second point is whether or not anybody has gone on the plane of Coal India. I would like that the Government should make a statement today or tomorrow in this regard.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : See, he is deviating from the issue...(Interruptions) It is injustice...(Interruptions) We respect senior leaders but Shri Somnath ji has totally deviated this issue. I would like to say this thing...(Interruptions) I would like to say that deviation has been done...(Interruptions) but the State Government machinery did not cooperate...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This matter is closed now. I have already given a direction to the Government. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Yadav, you had your say. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Chair rightly expresses its mind and desire on many occasions, but I do not think the direction is given ordinarily...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Let me hear something.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You expressed your desire that the Government should make a statement...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I would like to urge upon you that State machinery did not cooperate the Central Agency in performing their functions even after the directions issued by the Court...(Interruptions) They defied the directions. It is a total non-cooperation of the State machinery and all this has happened at the instance of P.M....(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The matter is closed now. I have called Shri Dasmunsi to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, please allow me to speak...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Gentlemen, nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are many other important issues also apart from Bihar. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seats now.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, their demand is justified...(Interruptions). In a way Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Lalmoni Chaubey seem to be correct and justified. When the Government is explaining other things, it should also be stated whether the State Government of Bihar have cooperated in this matter or not? What is the need to make so much hue and cry?... (Interruptions) I am not aware of the discussions held with the Prime Minister...(Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : It has been published in newspapers...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : But this Government...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He will not talk to you. He has spare time to talk with the accused...(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : It does not make any difference to me whether the Prime Minister talks to me or not. The people who do not want to talk, are saying...(Interruptions). His views seems to be correct. This question is being raised whether the Government of Bihar gave cooperation in this matter or not and the Government should inform about it. What is the need of making hue and cry in this manner...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV : Laloo ji has announced...(Interruptions) Jail Bharo...(Interruptions)

12.43 hrs.

RE: ALLEGED SURVEILLANCE OF MPs

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the time. I am also grateful to Shri Chandra Shekhar for his nice intervention.

I want to draw your attention to a very serious matter. It concerns all the Members of this House. There is a serious report that the Intelligence Bureau people are keeping surveillance on the Members of Parliament inside the Parliament premises. The Prime Minister, all the Ministers and a few important Members of Parliament are entitled to come to the Parliament premises with security and we have no objection to that. But if the IB people are keeping surveillance on the activities of the M.Ps., it concerns the dignity of the House and the privileges of the Members. I would like to tell you - my party's Chief Whip is present here - that seven days before, one of our staff members in the office told me that one IB official was coming inside our party's office and asked me to kindly nab him. The moment I went there, he ran away. I brought it to the notice of our party's Chief Whip...(Interruptions) Yes, in our party's office in the Parliament House. I tell you, Sir, that if there is an iota of truth in the report that has appeared today, the Government, in its full responsibility, should come out with a statement, either accepting it or denying it. If they accept it, they should tell us the reasons for which the IB officials are operating inside the Parliament premises. If they deny it, we do not mind that. But the fact remains that this has created a serious embarrassment for all the parties, irrespective of the party they belong to. We are entitled to meet any M.P. in the Central Hall, we can go to library, and we can go to canteen. We may have different kinds of talks with

people. IB has not right to keep an eye on us within the Parliament premises...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Sir, only, MPs are criminals in the country...(Interruptions) In view of the Government there are only two types of criminals, nobody else is criminal in the country...(Interruptions). It is the duty of the Government...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I share Shri Dasmunsi's concern. We have discussed this matter in the Executive of our Parliamentary Party. We too have an Intelligence Bureau surveillance outside our office on a daily basis.

Sir, the rot really set in in 1984, and that rot of 1984 set in when we permitted the dilution of the authority and responsibility of the Chair for the total security within the premises of Parliament. The day we permitted external agencies — I hope Shri Chandra Shekhar will forgive me — the day we permitted the S.P.G. elements to enter the premises of the House, the day we permitted the C.R.P.F. elements to enter the premises of the House, to provide protection to Parliament, which is the responsibility of the Chair, that day the responsibility of the Chair was voluntarily diluted and thereafter the presence of the I.B. and other such agencies has become an inevitability. It has been a presence not since today or yesterday but it has been a presence since 1984. Repeatedly we have brought this to the notice of the hon. Speaker that this is a violation of the authority of this Parliament which theoretically we call sovereign and of which the total responsibility of security rests only with the Chair. We accepted it. All of us accepted it. The day we accepted this dilution of the inviolability of Parliament, the inevitability of Intelligence Bureau was absolutely on the cards. We accept S.P.G. and all kinds of armed people to roam the corridors of Parliament.

I have often pointed out that these people sit with their fingers on the trigger. Nowadays it is monsoon. But in the heat of summer they keep dozing. I have often expressed an apprehension that what if they start fighting with each other? What if suddenly somebody pulls a trigger by accident?

Sir, this is a very serious matter. It is not simply a question of surveillance and supervision over Members of Parliament. By all means you carry out your surveillance on the B.J.P. We are an open book. An I.B. man has been sitting in front of our parliamentary office. What is the point of protesting? To whom do we protest? This Government? This has been an issue which the Chair ought to have taken very seriously because we

have violated the totality of what we theoretically call the sovereignty of this Parliament and we are responsible...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I agree with Shri Jaswant Singh that the question of security and safety of this building and the Members rests with the Chair. On various occasions we have discussed on this and meetings were held on this. We were told that there are serious apprehensions of breach of peace, danger to even the Parliament building and, therefore, we had to leave it to the Speaker on many occasions. In your judgement, in your wisdom you had to take a decision because we were not even told the details of the nature of apprehensions that were there. It happened that we were sometimes summoned to be told that a serious situation may arise because of threats. Therefore, we had to leave it to the hon. Speaker. But, surely and obviously that does not mean surveillance on M.Ps. Protecting this building or protecting the M.Ps. from terrorism or somebody or some other similar situation does not mean the Members should be under surveillance. This is objectionable. I am sure if there is any such move it should be discontinued and the Government should make a statement on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will only say that this is a very serious matter and the Government should take note of it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why are you annoyed? I have allowed Shri Azmi. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister say something. Please allow the Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Chirayinkil) : Sir, there are so many cameras here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do you not listen to me? The hon. Minister is speaking.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, I have to mention only one thing. This news items appeared in the *Indian Express* on the front page that all MPs are being observed and that they are under the scrutiny of IB. This is the most insulting news towards MPs...*(Interruptions)* The news items is projected on the front page. Who has given this news? Is it a fact? If it is happening so, it should be stopped forthwith and precautions should be taken by the Speaker. The entire House should be taken into confidence in this regard.

It should be ensured that there is no surveillance in the Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let it be completed first.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by Shri Priyaranjan Das Munsii is a very important issue. It is a question of dignity and decorum of entire Parliament. It is not a question which could be averted.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : What is the need for him to speak?

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one officer of the rank of Joint-Secretary is sitting in the premises of Parliament House for security purposes. That is why CRP, SPG or IG have nothing to do here...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why do you lose your temper?

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Apart from the security of Parliament, the Government should withdraw any of the security agencies, whether it is SPG, IG or CRP. It should be withdrawn from today onwards.

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Sir, in the wake of the decision that has been delivered by the Kerala High Court, I understand that the Fundamental Rights of the people and the political parties have been infringed...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In addition to this, there are other issues also. I take up the other issue and you again switch over to the first one.

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : The trade unions and other organisations, especially the peasantry take recourse to movements and realise the demand. Despite various types of legislations, land reforms could not have been effected in West Bengal unless the peasantry of West Bengal had risen to the call and fought for realising the demand and materialising it. Subsequently, the Government had taken it up and legalised all the things. Therefore, I request the entire House to discuss the matter and come to a decision because in the year of fiftieth anniversary of our Independence we find that there is an imbalance between the rights and privileges of the Judiciary, Executive and Legislature. Here is an

JULY 31, 1997

263

[Shri Tarit Baran Topdar]

example that the Magistrate or some judge has ordered the access of the military in the Bihar affairs which they cannot do. I apprehend that some day, just as a *suo motu* case has been taken here, the High Court or Supreme Court will *suo motu* come out with a decision that we all should be vegetarian. Therefore, I want to say that the Parliament should be seized of this matter and a special discussion should be held on this matter so that we can come to, and express, our decision in this matter. Especially, I want that the Government should file an SLP in the Supreme Court against this order.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : The judgement of the Kerala High Court is against the *bandhs*, which is actually negating the Fundamental Rights of citizens and crippling their Rights. A number of incidents have taken place during the *bandhs*. Because of the inadequacy of transport facilities and because the *bandh*, the organisations prevented sick people from reaching the hospitals, a number of deaths had taken place.

Sir, the very fundamental rights of the citizens of this country have been totally obstructed by the people who observe *bandhs*; whether the *bandhs* are called by this side or that side, they are an affront on the fundamental rights of the people. The Kerala High Court has given a judgement keeping with the aspirations of the people. The people are entirely against *bandhs*...*(Interruptions)* Are you prepared to take a referendum of the people on this issue? You may say anything, but the entire people of Kerala are against *bandhs*. Therefore, no discussion against the judgement of the Kerala High Court can take place in this House. The High Court has, in its wisdom, given this judgement. It is the onerous duty of this House to uphold that judgement. This is what I want to say...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Do you know how many people died during *bandhs*? They have killed so many people...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the recent judgement of the Kerala High Court banning *bandhs* in the State is a welcome step. We are not against collective bargaining and we are not against agitation. When something goes against the interest of the people, there should be agitation. There should be collective bargaining and there should be peaceful methods of agitation. But in Kerala everyday there is a *bandh*. If somebody gives a notice in the Press today that tomorrow is a *bandh* in Kerala, then all the shops will be closed and all the essential services like hospitals, newspapers will be affected. The common

man is very much affected by these *bandhs*, the business in the State comes to a halt and the normal life of the people is completely affected. The interesting thing here is, no responsible political party is giving a call for any *bandh*. If the BJP, or the Congress or the CPI (M) gives a call for *bandh*, I can understand that. But no responsible political party is giving a *bandh* call. It is very unfortunate that there are *bandhs* almost everyday in Kerala. We do not accept this type of activities in the State of Kerala. So, I fully endorse the view expressed by Prof. P.J. Kurien...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have passed on to the next item. Shri Pramod Mahajan.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, before Shri Mahajan speaks, I want to say something on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow me to listen to him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is a matter which cannot be treated like this during Zero Hour. This is a very serious matter concerning the people of this country. It has so long been treated and we shall not yield on that. This is a fundamental right of the working class and the common people of this country to ventilate their grievances even to the extent of calling a *bandh*. It has been held by the Supreme Court that the right of demonstration is a fundamental right. The question may be, how should *bandh* be observed? We are not saying that it should be observed by violence and we are not saying that it should be observed by *zabardastism*. We shall never give up this accepted method of protest.

Sir, for the purpose of orderly development of this country, it is essential that the Government or even the Judiciary does not prohibit a method, a well-known method for ventilating the grievances. What is the basis of Public Interest Litigations these days? It is mainly meant for the vulnerable sections of the society because they cannot approach the courts for redressing their grievances. Therefore, the courts have evolved a method of giving a law of locus standi and allow these Public Interest Litigations so that there may be a forum for ventilating the grievances of the vulnerable and oppressed sections of the community.

13.00 hrs.

On the blinding issue, on the child labour issue, on the issue of atrocities on women and Harijans, many proceedings are taking place. Today, if the people of this country call a *bandh* or a *hartal*, it is for the people to join it or not...*(Interruptions)* I can understand some hon. Member suggesting that political parties or trade unions should consider seriously and decide upon

important issues on which to call a *bandh* or not. Observance of these *bandhs* and *hartals* depends on the people. Let this country not go back to the dark days of emergency once again. We have seen how people lost their lives. What did you do then, Prof. P.J. Kurien? Did you have the courage to come and tell your leader to withdraw the emergency? Did you do that? Lacking in courage, you only surrendered to them. We shall not go back to the dark days, to the colonial days any longer. The people of this country will never accept it. Please do not create a provocation like this. We have won independence, but large numbers of people of this country do not know what independence really means. Have they got jobs, food and shelter? Is there any protection to them?...*(Interruptions)* We shall go on fighting for them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you. Now Shri Pramod Mahajan will speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not fair.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to me also. The BAC has decided that there would be no lunch hour. Let the House take a decision first. I want to know whether you want to have the lunch time or not.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : We want lunch hour.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Let this debate continue for another 10 or 15 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes. There is no lunch hour now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down now. That matter is closed now. I have called the next hon. Member, Shri Pramod Mahajan.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Pramod Mahajan says. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North-East) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also had to express my views on all these issues as to whether the statue of Mahatma Gandhi may be installed at India Gate or not calling the Army was justified or not or whether *bundh* should be organised or not, but I thought that I would not speak on these issues as I had not given notice about it and will speak on the very subject on which I have given notice.

* Not Recorded.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that if permission to speak is to be granted to all the Members during Zero Hour, then speeches of great leaders on one or two issues seem to be correct, but if on each and every issue it goes on like this and they express their views in a long debate then it would be difficult to continue the Zero Hour.

13.05 hrs.

[SHRI CHITTA BASU in the Chair]

Therefore, I would like to request that only a Member who has given notice should be granted permission. And in any special case, you may exercise your discretionary power...*(Interruptions)*

The matter on which I had given notice is perhaps not so an important matter as this discussion was. I want to draw the attention of Shri Jaipal Reddy ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last few days Doordarshan is telecasting a two minute programme namely 'Vande-Maatram' on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of 50th Year of our Independence. I will not say that this advertisement is being telecast on Television only just for information. There are many prominent freedom fighter in this programme. Even our former President Shri Venkataraman also recalls memories about Vande Matram. That is followed by the announcement of 'Vande Matram'.

Veteran freedom fighters narrate their experiences daily. This is a very good programme. When we see this programme, at least our present generation which did not participate in freedom movement, comes to know about all these leaders. It seems very good but when this programme is over, we feel very bad because at the end sponsoring authority comes in between with their advertisement.

[English]

"Colgate, that makes India smile.

[Translation]

Now I feel that independence did not mean freedom from foreign rule but it meant to be indigenous and self-reliant. If Doordarshan has to give information of 'Vande Mataram', Doordarshan can do it on its own. There is no need to seek advertisement for this and that also at least from multinational company.

[English]

"Colgate that makes India smile." I do not know who makes India smile...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

On this 50th anniversary of Independence all of us are sad and Colgate claims that India is smiling. I feel that it is very improper to show the advertisement of multinational company after such a nice programme. This programme should be telecast without any advertisement. If you want to give an advertisement, there are so many indigenous companies.

[English]

"Colagate, that makes India smile",

[Translation]

Advertisement should not be telecast henceforth.

[English]

The Minister is responding. Allow him, please.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : I will reply ... (Interruptions)

Sir, I am thankful to my hon. friend Shri Pramod Mahajan for having drawn the attention of the Government to this incongruity. I totally share his sentiment. I will certainly see what can be done. But I must also hasten to clarify that this programme is sponsored by the people who prepare the programme. The programme itself, as you have yourself rightly pointed out, is excellent and very evocative. Recently I saw this short programme in which Shri Nijalingappa figures. It was really inspiring.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Today, it is about Gandhiji.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Therefore, I will try to look into it. We will see whether it is correct... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Independence Cup is also sponsored by Pepsi. Pepsi, Coca Cola and Colgate have a lot of money and they go on sponsoring Independence programmes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I agree, I think that after that much of the significance was lost! Let them sponsor it without disclosing their names ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is about the question that was discussed about the Kerala High Court's verdict.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Again, you are going back to that subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I take just a minute. I have to make one point. It is a question of

people's fight. *Bandh* is one of the weapons which we have been using from time immemorial. We used it during our freedom struggle. We have been doing that. I would also like to inform that there were certain occasions when *bandh* was held. For example, when the unfortunate killing of Shri Rajiv Gandhi took place, had not the Left Front in West Bengal called a *bandh*? That was, I think, a massacre. That being the situation, the *bandh* was held. That is why, I think it should be permitted... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I take just a minute.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members have given their notices on this particular subject. I think, it is not necessary to deal with this subject now. Hon. Deputy-Speaker has communicated that there are other urgent subjects to be discussed.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ahamed, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Members of all the political parties from Kerala have been allowed. I may also be allowed to speak... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, many Members have spoken and some Members from Kerala have also spoken. I think, we should close this subject.

Shri Sukh Lal Kushwaha to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA (Satna) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government through you that on 29th May, demonstrators were gunned down in Mehar which comes under my Constituency. I have been trying to raise this issue for a long time but I did not get a chance to speak as I belong to a very small party. Today I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to tell about this point that why demonstrators were gunned down on 29th, what was their fault. Why they were demonstrating in front of the Police Station. The reason behind this is only that a demonstration was organised on 30th in protest against the exploitation of labourers by the management of Sarla Nagar Cement Factory wherein labourers had to gherao. The organiser of that demonstration Shri Ramesh Tiwari, leader of the labourers was murdered on 27th and it is a secret that who was behind the murder. But I would like to submit in this regard that I met with the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs many a times to conduct an inquiry into the murder of Ramesh Tiwari on 27th. The Minister of Home Affairs wrote to

the State Government about it. But the intention of the State Government is doubtful because permission was granted to conduct a CBI inquiry with regard to the murder of Ramesh Tiwari whereas judicial inquiry was permitted in a case where 10-12 people were killed. The needle of suspicion indicates towards Government because as per official figures, only six persons were killed whereas it is published in the Newspaper that twelve labourers were killed and forty eight injured when bullets were fired at them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : They have admitted the killing of six persons...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you stand, there is no need to stand.

SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that six persons are reportedly missing and the dead bodies of these six persons were deliberately shown as missing. The curfew was imposed for two days. No one could come out in the city and in the meantime efforts were made to destroy the adequate proofs. The Police Station and vehicles were set on fire, stones were pelted and their own record was burnt. Nobody raised a voice against this. 15 people are still in jail and false cases have been registered against them. No one could raise his voice. So much terror was created there that no one could raise voice against them. How the dead bodies were disposed of. One tribal person disappeared on 29th. When his son Suburokon went to lodge the report, the police kept him in the Police Station for three days and was beaten to death. He was asked not to mention the date of disappearance of his father as 29th but some other date. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I submit that in this incident six dead bodies were disposed of and one person, who tried to lodge the complaint of disappearance of his father was beaten to death. Therefore, I would like that a CBI inquiry may be conducted into this matter and the incident of police firing and death of labourers there in should also be inquired into. A case may also be filed under section 302 against the police officer found guilty and they should be suitably punished. A case under section 302 should be filed against those who forcibly took Suburokon from his home and beat him to death after keeping him in custody for 72 hours. Sir, through you, I demand that a cases under section 302 should be filed against those police personnel who have beaten up these innocent and armless persons in Mehar. The police personnel found guilty should be sent to jail and punished...*(Interruptions)* I would like that CBI inquiry may be conducted into the police action in this case...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not proper.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Mr. Chairman, in the Indo-Pak war of 1971, India got decisive victory. After Second World war, this was the only war in which a country had got a decisive victory. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards one of the aspects of this golden moment of the Indian History.

This is like this that on Rajasthan border, 2500 Pak soldiers attacked Indian post at Longowal when only 120 Indian soldiers were there to protect it. Those 120 Indian soldiers not only retaliated but also killed all the enemy Jawans and destroyed their 45 tanks. Making it a base, an excellent film has been made recently named 'Border'. This is a good film which gives a message of patriotism. But unfortunately or unknowingly, it has been shown in this film that the hero named Subedar Ratan Singh dies at the end. His two companion named Captain Mathura Das and Dharmvir Mann have also been shown as dead.

Here I have got a photograph of that soldier who also received 'Vir Chakra' later on. He is 75 years old and very much alive. I request that the Government of India should arrange to get the film rectified accordingly. At present he is getting mere Rs. 50 as pension which is very unfortunate on our part. Sir, through you, I would like to demand that the Government should reconsider the matter of pension of such brave soldiers who are getting a pension of Rs. 50 only and take an appropriate decision. I believe that on the occasion of celebrating 50th years of our independence this year, if we reconsider to increase the pension etc. of those soldiers then this will be a big gift for them. This is my demand.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Haradhan Roy.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we want to bring to your notice a very important matter. Here we are seeing some new surveillance cameras. We want to know what these cameras are...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this? Please Speak one at a time.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, there are some new surveillance cameras just above your chair...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, some fitting is seen in this Chamber, which is, I think, a very old fitting. Now, it has been cut at many places and some cameras have been fitted into it. This House may be informed as to what these cameras are for.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : My objection is for the last 8 days. These cameras have been installed for the last 8 days.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We have seen them today only.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Are they from Doordarshan? What do they supposed to do with it?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Chirayinkil) : Without any information who did all these things?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I can ask our staff to see what the actual matter is. Then only can we report to you.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is very much present here. He must be knowing about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is ready to respond to it he may do so. But for me, I think, it is not quite possible to immediately get it enquired. But the matter can be enquired into.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is a serious matter. There should be some information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not be so impatient.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : I fully agree that it is not looking proper. The cameras can come in here only on the orders of the Speaker. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has nothing to do with this. It really looks very odd. I think, it is up to the Speaker to decide.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : It is an infringement on the rights of the Members. I think, these are surveillance cameras.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot say anything on this. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs could not respond to this. He says that it is not within his jurisdiction. Now, the entire House is under the control of the Speaker. Naturally, I would expect some kind of patience from hon. Members. I shall have the matter taken up with the Speaker and then report to you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.J. KURIEN : Even the Speaker has no right to allow anybody to do surveillance in this House. We should know about this.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : These cameras are there all over the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, I think, you should see that other Members also have to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : When the entire proceedings are being telecast live on Doordarshan what is the need to put up cameras for surveillance? Is it to cover the Members who are sleeping?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, my ruling is, this. This subject is closed.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to differ from my friend, Shri Pramod Mahajan on one point. Today, in one of the newspapers, *The Indian Express*, There is a headline...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not proper. I now call Shri Haradhan Roy.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : It has come as a headline in *The Indian Express* today...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing shall go on record except what Shri Haradhan Roy says.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not given you permission to speak. You are not permitted.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, I think, these are not Doordarshan's cameras but of other private channels. These cameras could have been installed only under...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Are they cameras belonging to private channels?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I tell you, nothing inside this building can come without the permission of the Speaker. The hon. Chairman has already said that he would bring this issue to the notice of the Speaker.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : If the decision is taken by the hon. Speaker, we do agree with that...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already said that the matter will be brought to the notice of the Speaker and the information available from the Speaker's office will be communicated to the House. The hon. Minister has also given some preliminary reply on this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Sir, you did not give us the chance. My name is on number 7. I give notice daily but you do not give me a chance ...*(Interruptions)*

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, this is not the way. You give a chance to those

persons only who are sitting in front rows
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, this will not do. Why do you not give us chance? Whether you will give chance to those Hon'ble Members only who sit in the front rows? Whether you will not give a chance to the back benchers?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : Everytime you make a hue and cry. What do they think...*(Interruptions)*
We are also elected Members...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not stand like this.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : We also need time to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry. Mr. Ram Naik, would you kindly help the Chair?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already called Shri Haradhan Roy.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was telling you about the grandcord line between Asansol and Dhanbad. There is a bridge on river Khuriya in between Thaparnagar station. On the last 22nd, about 27 feet wide 20 feet of land caved in on both side posing great danger to this line. All our long distance trains such as Rajdhani Express, Shatabadi Express, Kalka Mail, Poorva Express etc. generally run on this line. Local trains are also running on this line. This has happened due to the illegal mining of coal by the Coal India Ltd. If some arrangement is not made in that regard a major accident can take place in which a lot of people may die, as it happened in Haryana recently. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Government in this regard with the request that some proper arrangement for that line should be made at the earliest, otherwise the situation may be disastrous and a lot of human lives will be lost.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The zero Hour is over. Now, we will taken up item No. 9, that is Matters Under Rule 377. Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Zero Hour is over.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bateswar is approximately 62 kms away from Agra. Every year a fair is organised there. Lot of pilgrims from all over the country come here. 101 temples situated on the banks of river Yamuna are quite attractive from the tourist point of view...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : Sir, for the last two days I have been asking for an opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)* Now, you are saying that it is over. How is it?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN (Sheohar) : We are giving notices continuously for the last three days on a subject but we are not getting opportunity.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, already we have spent around one and a half hours...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, there are so many hon. Members to speak. I have only a limited time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Why should you not allow another four or five hon. Members to speak?
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I suggest a via media. It is true that those who have not given notices have taken a lot of time...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Neither you listen to him nor to me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : You extend the Zero Hour by half an hour. If necessary, we will sit late. Let those who have given notices speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may also listen to me. Please advise me.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ahamed, you are sufficiently a senior Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are more than 20 hon. Members still to participate.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Naik has suggested something now.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are more than 15 hon. Membes whose names are to be called out. If every hon. Member is to be covered, it would take more time. I now leave it to the House to decide.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : You may call out all the 15 Members...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not know how to manage this. It is not proper. It is not the way to help the Chair in conducting the business of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow me. Please listen to me. You may please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Mr. Chairman is not helping us.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : A solution will be found in this way only. Otherwise we will spend half an hour in just discussing whether we have to speak or not. Mr. Chairman is finding a way out.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, will you allow me to listen to you? Will you listen? You allow me to listen to you and listen to me also. There are more than 15 hon. Members in the list. If you want every hon. Member to be accommodated, it requires more than an hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : If we are not allowed to speak then House will not function.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : You may give them only two minutes each...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you all agree to give them two minutes each, then it would take half-an-hour. Let us hope that it will be concluded in half-an-hour. In that way, we shall complete it at 2 p.m. Only those who could be accommodated would be accommodated; some hon. Members may not be covered also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You may call only those who have given notices.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : You only listen to the Senior members.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, some hon. Members would not be covered.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Let us see; let us try that up to 2 p.m.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. The ruling once given by the chairman is now being changed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Katheria, with your consent, Matters Under Rule 377 is temporarily postponed. I would call out the names of the hon. Members as per the list; any hon. Member can inspect it also. Now, Shri Braj Mohan Ram may speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM (Palamu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a dolomite and lime-stone mine of SAIL is located in my Lok Sabha Parliamentary constituency Palamu in Bihar. At present, the management of Bokaro Steel Plant is functioning in an arbitrary manner. Approximately 50,000 labourers are working there. Even then the management of Bokaro Steel Plant is conspiring to close it down.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the conspiracy being hatched by the Management of Bokaro Steel Plant to close down the factory. I would like to draw the attention of the Government that in the name of modernisation, Bokaro Steel Plant is not considering lime stone as a standardised item and they say that percentage of Silika is high in it, whereas they are purchasing lime stone with more Silika content from the outside parties. There is a deep rooted conspiracy behind it. The Bokaro Steel Plant Management has some vested interest behind these purchases.

The day to day test reports of the quality control of Bhavnathpur lime stone mines is sent to the Raw material Division at Head Quarter Calcutta. If their reports are tallied with the materials bought by Bokaro Steel Plant from other parties, then the reality will come out. I had drawn the attention of Chairman of "SAIL" but he said that he is increasing their quota. He gives the assurance to increase the quota and also wrote to me in this regard. Shri G.S. Gareha had fixed a quota of 2.44 lakh tonne for the current year. But four months have already passed and no action has been taken till now. Bokaro Steel Plant is taking only 10 thousand tonne lime stone per month.

I would like to request you that in the interest of labourers and keeping in view the whole situation and their backwardness, an assurance should be given to bring about improvement in the situation.

Dolomite is being supplied to Bokaro Steel Plant from here and we do not have any problem about that but ultimately we will be forced to stop it. Therefore, quota should be increased at the earliest. If the lime stone mines are closed down, a situation of starvation may arise for thousand of labourers. Therefore, I request the Government to continue a committee of the Members of Parliament to visit Bokaro and Bhavnathpur and investigate the matter so that the facts in the matter are ascertained. Contract workers have not been paid wages for two months. We met the Chairman in this regard and urged him to pay the wages. I was informed by the office of the Chairman that payment had been made, but the fact remains that payments have not been made till now. So, the Government is urged to get the wage arrears paid to the workers at the earliest.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Anand Mohan, you have only written 'urgent matter' but you have not mentioned as too what is that urgent matter.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the attention of the House was drawn during Zero Hour on 25.8.96 to the indiscriminate smuggling of narcotics in the big cities of the country. Particularly in Mumbai this trade has been going on at large scale. Smugglers involved in this trade have their direct relations with the three high officials of Anti Narcotics Department in Mumbai...* Such type of news is often published in the newspaper. This secret nexus between there higher officers of Anti Narcotics Department and smugglers was disclosed by the two smugglers Abu Dawood and his son Yunus, who were arrested in Pakistan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The names should not go in record. Please don't mention the names.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Both the above stated smugglers...* have admitted that they have been getting cooperation in this trade. "The Daily Pakistan" published from Lahore, on 5th February, 1995 has also...* Confirmed their connections with the smugglers, selling of Internationally intoxicating objects...* They have secretly visited Pakistan also. A news in this regard has been published in "The Asian Age" dated 17th August, 1995 published from Mumbai...* They have accumulated property worth of Rs. 250 crore approximately in a short span of time through their corrupt practices. A report to this effect was published in "The Free Press Journal" published from Mumbai in August, 1995. The Interpol & American Intelligence Agency have also shown keen interest in this matter.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

The Anti-Narcotics Department Mumbai had arrested a smuggler...* alongwith narcotics on 2.1.1996. He had stated in his statement that he had given Rs. 30 lakhs to...* and his collegues for getting his name removed from case No. C.R.No. 38/93. So, in exchange of that, the name of...* was removed from the charge sheet. This transaction was proved during investigation and...* was dismissed on 21-2-96...* In his statement he admitted that...* and other officials were involved in this transaction.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : For continuously 6 days i.e. from 28th April, 1997 to 3rd May, 1997 it was published in the local daily "The Daily" as to how Shri Rahul Roy Sur, Shri Salaskar and Shri Ashok Khendkar accumulated crores of rupees through smugglers and helped them and protected them during their tenure in the Anti-Narcotics Department, Mumbai...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, what is happening here? They do not apply their mind as to whether the matter is urgent or not. Is what he is raising an urgent matter? So much time of the House is consumed...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The names which he has mentioned shall not go on record.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : These high officials burned some waste in the name of burning seized drugs and again supplied the same to the smugglers.

Regarding these misconducts, a letter signed by various Members of Parliament was submitted to the then Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao on 28.8.96. Hon. Members of Parliament Shri Chiman Bhai Mehta also wrote letters to the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Finance Minister on 26.8.95 to draw their attention in this regard. A letter in this regard was also submitted to the above persons on 16.8.96.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing shall go on record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am going by the list.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : But it is regretful that till now no action has been taken in this regard. This

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

** Not Recorded.

[Shri Anand Mohan]

nexus between the high officials of Anti-Narcotics Department and smuggles of a terrorist country like Pakistan is very dangerous for the unity and integrity of our country. Even then, it is ironical that the Government has not taken any action in this very sensitive matter. It is not at all appropriate for the Government to show such negligence in the matters of national interest.

I, therefore, would urge the House and the Government to get this entire issue investigated by the C.B.I., RAW and Intelligence Bureau and severe punishment should be meted out to the officials involved therein.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : How long can I shout? The Chairman is not expected to shout against the hon. Members of the House. I have explained that there is a list. You cannot accuse me that I do not call the names according to the serial number. Therefore, I am calling the names according to the serial number.

Secondly, I shall have to close it by two o'clock as decided by the House. It is not a decision or left to the discretion of the Chairman. It is a decision of the House that this thing will continue till two o'clock. I shall call the names serially and whosoever is accommodated is accommodated and whoever is not accommodated, I cannot be held responsible.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Again, you ask me to shout.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House is not interested whether you are accusing me or not accusing me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, whereas entire Bihar state is facing acute power cut problem, this problem has also arisen in my constituency Ranchi which has population of about twelve lakhs...(Interruptions) The factories are also on the verge of closure there. During the summer season apart from power-cut problem, people have also faced the problem of drinking water. Water supply pipe has been broken and power and drinking water supply is not properly being made due to the negligence of the concerned department. This has resulted in closure of a number of factories. People are migrating to other places. So, I request the Union Government to make proper arrangements for power and drinking water supply to the entire state and especially to Ranchi.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire community of farmers in the State of Karnataka,

particularly in Kolar district, is facing a crisis as the prices of vegetables and fruits like onions, potatoes, tomatoes and mangoes have gone down very steeply. This distress sale of vegetables and fruits has brought forward several serious problems for the farmers of Karnataka. Tomatoes are being sold at the rate of 50 paise per kilogram. The unsold tomatoes are thrown on the streets. The unsold vegetables and fruits cannot be kept for a long time as these are perishable items. At the same time, unfortunately, there are no 'cold storage' facilities for vegetables and fruits throughout the State of Karnataka.

In Kolar district, the condition of the vegetable growers and fruit growers is miserable. They are getting water from a depth of 500 to 600 ft. The rainy season started three months back but there is no rain at all. Tomato is grown in more than 2,000 acres of land in the Kolar district comprising 11 taluks. Each farmer has spent about Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000 per acre. The total estimated cost on all the crops is Rs. 10 crore. They expected a yield of Rs. 50 crores. But they have lost the whole crops.

I would like to urge upon the Central Government to take some immediate steps to send a study team.

Hence, the Centre should send a study team for spot verification and to study the situation of the affected poor farmers. This entire thing should be treated as a natural calamity and Rs. 20 crore should be released immediately as compensation for the farmers in order to enable them to purchase fruits and vegetables and also to help the producers to set up a nodal agency.

I would like to urge upon the Government to set up food processing industries in each of the districts of Karnataka particularly in Kolar and either in Chintamani or in Srinivasapur.

Sir, the most important thing is that water is not available. This is a very serious point. We are getting water from 500-600 feet and that too with a lot of difficulty. In this situation also the Government of Karnataka and the Central Government has not come forward to protect the interests of the poor farmers. In this connection I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister to send a team there to study the situation. I would also like request the Minister of Food Processing Industries to visit the place and make some convenient arrangement for the farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH (Kannauj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of the total production of vegetables and food items in the country, the share of Uttar Pradesh

is 30 percent. And out of this 30 percent share, 30 percent contribution has been made by my province alone. The fact remains that 45 percent crop was spoiled last time. The main reason behind this is the shortage of cold storages in the country. The cold storage rent in Uttar Pradesh has been so less till now that the private sector did not enter this field and the result was that whole of the products got spoiled. I would like to request you that the Government should issue necessary instructions in this regard. Subsidy should be given for construction new cold storages and there should be uninterrupted supply of power. Besides this, the rate of interest should also be low. On the last 27th May, Uttar Pradesh Government have withdrawn their notification in this regard. Construction of cold storages in Uttar Pradesh is also imperative for the reason that the goods produced in this region are perishable and to save these goods, electricity is a must. The Union Government should issue necessary instructions to ensure uninterrupted supply of power.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the road from Varanasi to Shaktinagar being constructed as Highway by Ircon company has been dug like a ditch and everyday accidents are taking place there. The construction work is going on at a very low speed. Lakhs of people are disturbed., This has resulted in great resentment among the people of that area. So I request the Union Government to take necessary action to repair this road so as to prevent loss of lives and property.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, now a days lakhs of religious people are bringing holy Ganges water from Haridwar and Triveni. Delhi Government has done an appreciable job in this direction. They have made lodging arrangements for Kanwadiyas. Likewise they have made a programme to provide financial assistance worth Rs. 10,000 to these Delhities who are going to Amarnath Yatra. I would like to request the Union Government to constitute a committee on the line of the Pilgrimage Development Committee of Delhi Government so that the visitors are provided assistance through that Committee. This is what I want to submit to you.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Names of only those members should be called who are present in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you for your advice.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to raise a

very important question in this House. You might be aware that hearing capacity of a person is generally 60 decibel and its speed does not go beyond it. Whenever a person listens to any programme on his Radio or television, normally he or she hears them at this much speed but when commercial advertisements come in between the programmes, then the sound goes fast which creates a lot of problems and difficulty in hearing. Hearing capacity of the people get affected and consequently they cannot hear properly. Persons having big and costly television sets, control it with remote but common people have T.V. sets worth two-two and half thousand rupees having no remote control. Therefore, I request that less noise should be made in advertisements for trade so that the hearing capacity of common man may not lessen.

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'Nidar' (Jalesar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I, through you, would like to raise an important question in the House. Any country which is economically weaker, if enslaved can free itself but if it is psychologically enslaved, it can never free itself. Cultural invasion through foreign electronic media is being made on our country to destroy culture and Sanskara. United States of America is our friendly country. Our administration, Akashwani and Doordarshan are being pressurised through the Chairman of Federal Communication Commission and Member of Parliament. Whenever need arises, I shall stand as witness. Even our Prime Minister is being pressurised that these should be given full right to spread all over the country. Fortunately, an order was issued on July 16 that the telecast right of Direct to Home (DTH) system which may destroy over total cable system which is the biggest cable system of the world, not be given directly to any foreign national. But I have come to know that these foreign media kings, without permission of Government of India, have set up four offices and have recruited three hundred employees and have implemented 'Direct to Home' system. They have started selling equipments. But the real danger is that we will have no control over their instructions and our entire system and even the Government does not know as to when what they will show through smart card installed in it. For example, 4-6 higher ups of Doordarshan who also used to work with ZEE TV, are presently working with them and getting crores of rupees.

I, through you, would like to urge upon the Government not to permit these barons of electronic media who want to invade India through electronic media if we really want to save the culture of the country and unity and integrity of India at any cost from these infiltrators as they have done in Britain. They have been instrumental in changing the Government Their entry should be stopped even by enacting most stringent

[Prof. Ompal Singh 'Nidar']

Acts. There should be provision of punishment in it. Therefore, I, through you, would like to urge upon the Government that a ban should be imposed on it.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to draw the attention of the Government to a Constitutional impasse due to the inability of two elected Members of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly to take their seats in the House because of the denial of permission to take oath in Urdu.

Sir, you would very well realise that oath is taken pursuant to a Constitutional provision. According to Article 188, no Member can function in the House unless he first takes the oath. These two Members, Shri Alam Bati Azmi and Shri Wasim Ahmed, were denied their Constitutional right, their Fundamental Right, to take oath in Urdu. It is a serious negation of the Constitutional rights; it is a serious negation of the Fundamental Right; it is a serious negation of all the precedents in the matter. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that the Government takes up this matter and sees to it that those Members are also in a position to take their seats in the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, four months have already passed. During these four months, that Assembly has been transacting business and these two elected Members are unable to participate in it. It is a massacre of the entire system.

There is the Constitutional right to take oath according to the Third Schedule. Article 188 says that the oath is to be taken according to the Third Schedule. The Third Schedule lays down all the forms. Then there is the Eighth Schedule listing all the national languages. This is a question of the right of a linguistic minority - say, a Tamilian's right to take oath in Tamil in Gujarat Assembly, the right of a Keralite to take oath in Malayalam in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. These are the rights of the people of linguistic minority. According to even Article 29, Clause (1) of the Constitution, the right to language, the right to script, the right to culture have been guaranteed and all these are being violated.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have made your point.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There is need for a direction from the President of India to the authorities in Uttar Pradesh to see that the Constitutional rights are protected. I, therefore, appeal through you, to the Home Minister and the Prime Minister that the matter should be taken up. I have written to the Prime Minister in the matter. I have written to the Governor of the State, to the Speaker of Vidhan Sabha and also to other

authorities. I hope that this particular right will be upheld and these two Members, without any further loss of time, will be allowed to take oath in Urdu. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Home Minister, I think you have taken note of it. The Home Ministry should take appropriate action in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : Yes, Sir.

14.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up the next item.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is answered.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have decided.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Leaders of the parties are here. On the request of various Members of this House, we decided and I decided from this Chair, to extend the time by half-an-hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can we run the House?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA (Jalaun) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give one minute's time to each of us to speak...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down. I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Azmi ji. It is not right. When Chairman is on his legs, it is not proper.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me explain. It was decided by the House itself, not by the Chairman, this morning that the Zero Hour would continue up to two o' clock. It was also agreed that I shall call the names serial number-wise from the list. That I have done. Therefore, there is no further scope to prolong the time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : How many Members are still there to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are more than ten Members.

Now, the hon. Members shall allow the House to continue. Let us take the next item of Business.

Now, Matters under Rule 377.

Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) : Sir, I am on point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The bell is being rung.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now there is quorum.

14.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to develop Bateshwar near Agra as a tourist resort

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DA AL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is Bateshwar Mela about 62 k.m. from Agra. This fair is organised once a year. The devotees from all over the country come here. The 101 temples on the banks of Yamuna are very important from the tourism point of view. The Government of India had sanctioned about 40 lakh rupees in the year 1993. The hon'ble Minister of Tourism had declared Bateshwar as place of tourist importance. No progress has been made in this regard so far.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested that early action may be taken to develop Bateshwar as a tourist centre.

(ii) Need to provide more railway facilities at Jalesar road railway station, U.P.

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the railway services in my Parliamentary constituency Jalesar are acutely sparse. It is very necessary to provide halt of Magadh Express at Jalesar Road and for Marudhar Express and Jodhpur - Howada Express at Ferozabad. The halt of these trains and

introducing EMU Passenger train from Delhi to Tundla would benefit lakhs of people of this area and there would be development of trade, agriculture and tourism etc.

Sir, through you, I request the Minister of Railways to solve these problems.

(iii) Need to set up a Groundnut Research Centre at Churu in Rajasthan

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture towards my Parliamentary Constituency Churu district in Rajasthan and submit that a large quantity of groundnut is produced in Churu district which has comparatively thick grain and upto 20 quintal groundnut is produced in one Bigha, but due to lack of adequate and proper marketing facilities, the farmers of my constituency are compelled to sell their produce to the middlemen and traders at low prices.

I request the Minister of Agriculture that arrangements should be made for procurement of groundnut through Central Agencies in Churu district. Arrangement for export of groundnut be made and efforts should be made to increase its consumption in the country and its use in food for removing the difficulties of the farmers and for the progress of the farmers. Agriculture extension service may be made available for developing improved variety of groundnut and increasing the yield. Special subsidy should be made available to the farmers for meeting the basic needs such as purchase of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agriculture implements so that the production of groundnut may be increased in Rajasthan and the farmers may be benefited.

(iv) Need to introduce a new Train/DMU between Rourkel and Sambalpur in Orissa

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, Rourkela and Sambalpur are two premier towns in Orissa coming within the same northern revenue divisions of the State. But this important industrial sector is not properly served by the Railways. Due to want of required number of trains, large number of passengers are subjected to a great deal of inconvenience. Although the minimum demand for the introduction of another passenger train/DMU originating from Rourkela in the morning and returning from Sambalpur in the evening was acknowledged by the divisional and zonal authorities, it is a matter of regret that the same has not

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

yet materialised. As a result thereof, discontentment among the people is mounting up.

I would, therefore, request the Minister of Railways to personally intervene in the matter and do the needful in this regard without further delay.

(v) Need to lay Railway line between Tellicherry and Mysore via Coorg

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Sir, the demand for a Railway line between Tellicherry and Mysore via Coorg has been pending for the last nine decades. The first survey on this route was initiated during the British regime by the South Indian Railway Co. This survey had to be abandoned midway due to the outbreak of the First World War. Thereafter, three more surveys were conducted before Independence. All these surveys go to show that this route is economically feasible and strategically important. The erstwhile Mysore State and Madras Presidency had strongly recommended this line. After Independence also, techno-economic feasibility surveys were conducted. By all standards, this railway line will help in developing Kerala and Karnataka. Thousands of trucks and hundreds of buses are plying on this route daily. The great potential for tourism in this part of Kerala and Karnataka attracts thousands of tourists every year. Ports of Calicut, Beypore, Tellicherry and Azhikkal could develop as a result of this line. Coorg, Wynad, Mysore and Cannanore have an abundance of cash crops. Trade and industry will prosper in this region by laying of this railway line. As of now, persons travelling from Tellicherry to Mysore have to take a round about route of about 600 kms. via Jolarpet whereas a Tellicherry-Mysore line via Coorg will shorten the distance to about 200 kms. Former Railway Ministers including late Lal Bahadur Shastri were convinced of the genuine necessity for such a track.

I request the hon. Railway Minister to give paramount importance to this century old proposal.

(vi) Need to ensure that the people living below poverty line in Sitamarhi district, Bihar are issued 'red card' to draw ration at subsidised rates under Public Distribution System.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Sir, the Union Government are distributing 10 kilogram wheat to each family living below the poverty line per month under Public Distribution System at half the rates. The State Governments issue 'red card' to the families identified as living below the poverty line. The rules are

not being followed properly in issuing 'red cards' in Sitamarhi district of Bihar. The lands are not being issued to the landless agricultural labourers, small farmers, coolies, Rickshaw pullers etc. in rural areas due to which there is a lot of agitation and discontentment among rural people.

I request the Union Government that an inquiry may be conducted about all the red cards issued in Sitamarhi district to make Public Distributions System more effective and popular and to benefit the people living below poverty line and issue order for issuing the red cards to the deprived families.

(vii) Need to sanction adequate funds for development of Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in Kerala

[English]

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Chirayinkil) : Sir, the Airport of Thiruvananthapuram lies in a very important international air route from the Southern hemisphere to the northern hemisphere. It is one of the safest airports too. It was only in 1991 that the Trivandrum Airport was declared an International Airport, and this was the first airport in India after Independence to be declared international. A good number of foreign airlines are willing to operate from Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum). Many others would like to use the airport for refueling and other services. But the developmental work of this airport is only at a snail's pace, which has led to the loss of crores of rupees every month. On the other hand, the passenger traffic is increasing even without much amenities due to lack of funds.

I urge upon the Union Government to look into this matter immediately and allocate sufficient funds for the development of the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport without any delay.

(viii) Need to set up an F.M. Radio Station at Manjeri in Kerala

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : There was proposal to set up an FM Radio Station in 'Manjeri', with 3 kv FM Transmitter and sufficient amount has been sanctioned for this project. The formalities of acquisition of land earmarked for the installation of the Radio Station have also been completed by the local people.

It is a matter of serious concern for the people of this region that an FM Radio Station has not so far been set up at Manjeri in Malappuram district of Kerala, which is the most backward area.

It has already been delayed and the Chief Engineer, AIR, Southern Zone should take expeditious steps to

start construction work of the building for the Radio Station at Manjeri which is a major project for Malappuram district of Kerala State. I therefore, urge upon the Government for expeditious implementation of this project.

14.17 hrs.

MOTION RE: ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON
DALITS IN MUMBAI, NAGPUR AND OTHER
PLACES IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA
AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY—*Contd.*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir,...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, it would be appropriate had the hon. Home Minister or the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs were present during the discussion.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND
EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :
Sir, I am present here.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, Mr. Yerrannaaidu is there but the Government is unrepresented.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the Minister of State for Home Affairs is just coming within five minutes. He was just here.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, I had begun my intervention yesterday and I had outlined the important aspects of this whole controversy by saying that there were three important aspects to the events of the 11th and subsequently, the attack on Shri Bhujbal's house and trying to find somebody to frame-up in this whole matter.

I am objecting to the attempt made by the Sate Government and the Shiv Sena leaders to justify this shoot-out. I have already gone over the matter of the tanker and I do not want to repeat it. But I will come back later and try to tell the hon. Home Minister and the House why the Shiv Sena Leadership wants to justify this brutal killings of the Dalits.

There is an attempt to find some scapegoat, try to fix the responsibility and frame somebody. I will now go ahead and show how many different theories have been propagated by the Shiv Sena Leaders, the Shiv Sena MPs and anybody who was connected with that Government. I will just recount a series of what you call red-herring, an attempt to divert attention, trying to put the blame on somebody in the Congress, somebody in the RPI or somebody in the Assembly.

Why is the judicial enquiry on? I do not know why this attempt is there to politicise this issue and try to find somebody to pin down the blame. Are the Shiv Sena leaders guilty of something? Are they afraid that something would be found in this inquiry?

I will now proceed to show how many different theories are there.

The first theory is that immediately after the police firing the Congressmen reached there. Shri Bhujbal went there immediately. Later on, the AICC delegation led by our Deputy Leader Shri G. Venkat Swamy went there. Shrimati Meera Bhai went there. They were all welcomed. The *dalits* who have been traumatised met all these people but nobody from the Government, nobody from the BJP or the Shiv Sena was allowed to go there. They were not allowed to get down from their cars. So, a theory is being propagated that because the Congress men were allowed to go there, they must be in league with somebody who had garlanded the statue.

Sir, I will now quote from a letter written by Shri Sanjay Nirupam, a very respected and an honourable Member of Parliament of Shiv Sena. He is a very close associate of the Shiv Sena leader. He has written a letter on behalf of the North Indian population living in Mumbai to the Governor of Maharashtra and he has been kind enough to circulate a copy of his letter to us. This is a 'Congress conspiracy theory'. The letter says :

"We strongly feel that the whole act has been engineered by the Congress. It is evident by the initial investigations by police and circumstantial evidence, so far the identified suspects are known to be close associates of the Opposition Leader."

I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs whether he knows that...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we name anybody in our speech, they disturb and interrupt. Then, why is Prithviraj naming Shri Sanjay Nirupam here?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : He has written a letter to me, I am quoting that...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

I am quoting the letter of Shri Sanjay Nirupam written to the Governor of Maharashtra.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Home Affairs certain questions. Are there initial suspects? Does he know about initial suspects? The HHome Minister, in his

[Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan]

intervention in Lok Sabha, has said that he was not allowed to meet any senior police officer, who was there. When he went to Ramabai colony, he was not allowed to meet any senior police officer. That is what the Union Home Minister says. Now, here we have a letter from the hon. Member of Shiv Sena saying that there are initial suspects, there is circumstantial evidence and this points to somebody. The Home Minister should find out...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : The Home Minister could have summoned the officers. Nobody has stopped him...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : That is what I would like to know. You are absolutely right. I agree with you. The Home Minister should have summoned the officers. He did not do that. He has said that nobody came to him.

This is a 'Congress conspiracy theory'.

In the same letter, Shri Sanjay Nirupam contradicts himself. I again quote his letter :

"We draw your attention to the statement of RPI leader Shri Raja Dhale that the whole act was operated by some community members staying in the colony itself."

Now, it is some RPI person.

Sir, this accusation about Shri Raja Dhale has been totally denied by Shri Raja Dhale. That is a different point altogether. Interestingly, in this letter he says two things.

Shri Pramod Mahajan tried to give comparative figures of desecration by saying so many during the Congress rule, so many during the Janata Dal rule and all that.

The letter written by Shri Sanjay Nirupam says one thing interestingly. It says :

"During the regime of the Congress Government in the year 1994, Baba Saheb's statue was desecrated 184 times..."

Shri Sharad Pawar also has said this.

It further says :

"During the Shiv Sena-BJP regime, Baba Saheb's statue was desecrated 20 times and that also during the Assembly Session, which proves that these twenty times also, it has been done by none other than Congress men.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Who has said this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : This is Shri Nirupam's letter to the Governor...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Now you are quoting Shri Pramod Mahajan.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Shri Pramod Mahajan has given the figures. I am not quoting Shri Pramod Mahajan but I am quoting Shri Sanjay Nirupam's letter. There is a very strange logic. It says that the Baba Saheb's statue was desecrated 184 times during the Congress rule, 20 times during the Shiv Sena rule and, therefore, these 20 times also it must have been done by Congressmen. I would like to ask him one question. Does it mean that these 184 times also, it was done by somebody else? Who did that? This kind of trying to point fingers wildly and trying to do a wild goose chase is not necessary. There is going to be a judicial inquiry.

Now we come to a new theory.

This is from the newspaper, *Saamna*, the mouthpiece of Shiv Sena of July 14th. It says 'the conspiracy to desecrate the statue was hatched in Shri Pichad's house. Shri Pichad is a Congress leader of the Opposition. I will not go into the details. I have got a cutting here. So this is another theory.

There is yet another theory to which Shri Pramod Mahajan also referred to, which is the speech of Congress MLA, Shri R.R. Patil during the debate on law and order in Maharashtra. He has further clarified the whole thing. He did say while discussing the law and order situation in Maharashtra. What else would a person from the Opposition say? He referred to the atrocities on Harijans. He referred to the attacks on journalists. He referred to the attacks on the elected representatives and on the social workers. I will come to that later as to what sort of a rule is going on. He referred to the murder which the Government is not investigating, the extortion racket, the forcible vacation of flats and all that. In that light, he said, 'there is a *Smashan Santata*.' Now again somebody is trying to obliquely hint at it. May be, he knew. If he knew, why do you not arrest him? Why do you not find out that there is a conspiracy? Why all these oblique finger-pointing?

Further, Sir, again quoting Shri Mahajan, he referred to the incident in Parbhani and gave some names of people who happened to be from a particular community. He further said that one of them was trained in Pakistan. Very good, let the Government find out what it is. So there is always yet another theory. The ISI could have tried to destabilise the country. It is a very convenient

theory. All these red-herrings are being planted by everybody.

Then there is also another theory. Shri Bhujbal met this underworld don who was referred to as a *Mafia* don. I do not know who is this *Mafia* don or underworld don or whatever you want to call him, whose friend he is. And that Shri Bhujbal met some pawn somewhere, some damn somewhere and therefore, they must have hatched a conspiracy.

Shri Bhujbal has a 24-hour escort, personal bodyguards given by the Maharashtra Government. His every minute to minute movements are known. Why do they not tell us where did he go and when did he meet?

Before I come to the next allegation of this conspiracy theory, I must refer to this *Mafia morcha* by this *Mafia* don. Who was this *Mafia* don? Why do you say that he is friendly with the Congress? ...*(Interruptions)* There was a reference that this *Mafia* don who was very friendly with Shiv Sena at one time so much so that in another context, in the context of Hindu-Muslim tensions, the Shiv Sena leader, Shri Thackeray has said that if a particular community has Dawood Ibrahim, then we have this don whose name is Shri Arun Gawali. Further he was arrested. Now something - some falling apart or something like that - must have happened. I do not know what happened ...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding. Let me complete and then let Shri Mohan Rawale speak. Further this person has been...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana) : You give the reference. Is there any reference?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : You can deny.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member is levelling baseless allegations. I request that he should not level wrong allegations. When did the incident of Daud and Gawali take place and what is the relation of that incident with it. He is levelling wrong allegations against the Chief of our party, Shiv Sena...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He will deny.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : He will deny but he can not level baseless allegations like this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no objection in naming like this but he should think before levelling any allegations.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Is there any evidence with you?

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : It is widely published in the newspapers. What is the objectionable part? There is nothing objectionable.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him continue. No side talks please. Let him speak.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : The very underworld figure was recently arrested by the Shiv Sena Government. This person, whom I have named just now and about whom they say, led a *morcha* on 17th of July and he was arrested by the Shiv Sena Government about a month back.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana) : Why do you say Shiv Sena Government? But this is a Government of BJP also.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I stand corrected. Thank you very much. My hon. colleague has corrected me. When I mean Shiv Sena, I mean any reference to Shiv Sena also meant BJP. I thank you very much for correcting me because this Government led by the Shiv Sena would not be in office but for BJP's support. I appreciate it. This person was arrested and one hon. Member of this House, Shri Mohan Rawale went on a hunger strike against that arrest.

He is a very close friend of mine...*(Interruptions)*. I wish he would clear the position later...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Sir, he has named me, hence I would like to give personal explanation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : It would be better if you speak later on...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You speak, what do you want to say.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : My constituency has Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and the people of all communities ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First you clarify that point.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : He lives in my constituency who has been named by him. 'Dogli Chal' comes under my constituency. Such tension was created there. Police came there to arrest him. Our corporator Dileep Chauhan also lives there. He came to me ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You address the chair.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : He told me that two and half or three thousand women are sitting there. You go otherwise tension, firing may be resorted to there. I went to police station from there. Thereafter, I went to 'Dogli Chal'. There I held talks with Arun Gawali and Police and from there I went to Police station and held talks with A.C.P., Shri Subrahmaniam and told him, if you want to arrest him, you go there and arrest him directly. He replied, no, you take him and we would grant him bail. A.C.P. promised me. With that promise I went to 'Dogli Chal'. All women and Arun Gawali were sitting there. I advised him to go with me because I did not want that riot may erupt in my constituency ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, he has every reason to explain as to why he went on hunger strike, what was the reason...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I thought he is going to be the next speaker....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : He boosted my morale. Whatever Sharad Pawarji has said, I will mention that later on. Tension was prevailing in Dogli Chal ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : You conclude your speech soon as it is affecting my link...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will also suggest that you should conclude your speech soon.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I just made a point that he went on hunger strike...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I am on a point of order. If Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan wanted to make any specific reference to Shri Mohan Rawale, he should have given him prior notice. He did not do that and that is required as per rules. But since has taken his name, at least let him have his say. According to the rules, that is very important...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please be brief.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I have allowed him. I have yielded....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is why, you should have followed the practice. Please do not do like that...*(Interruptions)* You have to yield...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : He has gone on hunger strike...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let him finish.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : When I went back to "Chaal" the women there started telling that they would take Arun 'Gawli' to the Police. I assured them that I was a Member of Parliament and a responsible person. I further told them that the A.C.P. had asked me to bring him, and they would release him on bail. I took them to the police station but the A.C.P. was not there. I waited for him for half an hour and after that I came back. I observed that everything has gone completely hay-wire. When the A.C.P. came, he told us that they were going to arrest him. I told him that he had cheated me. The people of my area who have elected me, have reposed their faith in me. Whenever any person faces any trouble, then we take him to the Police Station. As such when the police had trapped me, I had gone on fast. I wanted to tell this for the information of the House ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have given your personal explanation, alright.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : ...*(Interruptions)*. I thank my friend. He has clarified as to why he went on hunger strike when Shri Gawli was arrested. That is my only point.

Now, I would like to continue my speech. There is a much more serious conspiracy and I will hold the Minister of Home Affairs responsible for the situation which is being created there. The Minister of Home Affairs went there and made some remarks which are totally uncalled for. We had — whether it is the Legislative Party or the Congress Parliamentary Party, led by our Leader — called on the hon. Prime Minister and demanded imposition of Article 356. This is an official demand to the Governor of Maharashtra and to the Prime Minister here. The Home Minister went there and made some remarks which were not called for. These are very contradictory remarks. I do not want to go into that. It has already been explained. What happened then? He got an assurance from an extra constitutional authority that henceforth nothing would happen, and the Home Minister was satisfied.

Further, the Home Minister said that the law and order situation was bad but had not collapsed. I do not know what he meant by that. Immediately after the Home Minister went back, these forces which were trying to accuse somebody to take political mileage out of it, to take revenge at some particular person, created a false affidavit by a person called Rajendra Gupta or Rajendra

Aggarwal, to which Shri Sarpotdar referred yesterday. This affidavit tries to frame the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Bhujbal. The affidavit says: "I went to Shri Bhujbal on a particular day"- the date and time is given - "and met him. Shri Bhujbal told me: 'We want to destabilise the Government. I have a plan. I will show you the Ambedkar's statue at Ramabai Nagar. You have to go there and garland that statue. I shall give my car, I shall give my men and you have to do it'." Then this person further says: "I again met him on 8th" - the date and time is given. What sort of an audacity is there to try to frame a constitutional institution, a Leader of the Opposition! But why did this happen? It happened because of conflicting signals from the Home Minister that things were not that bad.

Now, what happened to this affidavit? I requested Shri Sarpotdar to tell me whether it was the first affidavit or the second affidavit. Fortunately for Shri Bhujbal, on both the days and times when he says Gupta met Shri Bhujbal, Shri Bhujbal was not there. Shri Sharad Pawar has very clearly said that on the first day he was with him before the Srikrishna Commission throughout the day from nine o'clock in the morning to six o'clock in the evening. He was not in the *morcha* that he talks of. Now, this very Rajendra Gupta has changed the affidavit and changed the date to suit them. The people who have tried to frame him, fortunately made a mistake. What would have happened to Shri Bhujbal if he did not have a clear alibi, a distinct presence elsewhere? With this sort of an attempt, what sort of a Government is going on there? Gupta said, he went to the Police Commissioner. No other newspaper has carried this story, except *Samana*. What did *Samana* do? After assuring the Home Minister, *Samana*. "Catch hold of Bhujbal. *Dalit* brothers, Bhujbal is the person who has desecrated the statue. Catch hold of him." This article is dated 17th July. This is an inflammatory article trying to frame an innocent man.

But, Sir, we must go into the background as to why Shiv Sena is trying to target this one man. Who is this Bhujbal? These two instances cannot be separated. Whether law and order has collapsed or the kind of a Government that is working in Maharashtra, the whole Bhujbal? Bhujbal issue is very important. Why is this anger against Bhujbal is an ex-Shiv Sena man. Shri Sarpotdar has said that once upon a time he was the right hand man of the Shiv Sena supremo. He knew the inside working of Shiv Sena. He knew all its leaders. Bhujbal belongs to OBC community. He was a vegetable seller in Mumbai. Being in Shiv Sena for 26 years, he saw a blatant upper caste bias in the minds of the leadership. Whenever it came to the position of power, it was always the upper caste. Having realised the danger, the threat and the fascist mentality in the Shiv

Sena, with the danger that is posed to democracy, the *dalits* and the backwards...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Don't you know that twice he had been the Mayor of Mumbai...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : He was the Mayor once...(Interruptions) Sir, let there be no interruptions.

When Shiv Sena decided against the implementation of the Mandal Commission's recommendations, he finally got sick of Shiv Sena and, at a great personal risk, left Shiv Sena and joined Congress. Obviously, the Shiv Sena leadership was incensed. How dare he leave Shiv Sena? They thought it was a bad example for others. They wanted to teach him a lesson. They wanted to set an example for others. With personal inside knowledge of Shiv Sena, Bhujbal is a strident critic of Shiv Sena. Today he is the Opposition Leader. It is an obligation to work as an Oppositoin Leader to criticise the BJP Government, to criticise Shiv Sena.

He is doing that. but, Sir, because he is a strident critic and is functioning as a constitutional institution and the Leader of the Opposition, he is Shiv Sena's enemy number one. He is a thorn in the side of the leadership. He is a big risk and, therefore, he must be discredited at any cost. He must be silenced and if need be physically silenced. If you see the hundreds of articles that have appeared in Shiv Sena's mouthpiece *Saamna* — nobody can say that he has been misquoted because it is the official organ of the Party — you will see that these threats are not idle threats but there is a continuous campaign to vitiate the atmosphere to set one community against the other and to frame the Congress leaders and Shri Bhujbal in particular: Shri Bhujbal is just not a person but he is a constitutional institution...(Interruptions) There are other attempts to discredit him. I am not going into that. There is a mention about Godse's statue which is completely false and which he has denied. It has been published in *The Times of India* and all that. I will not go into that...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Chavan, you have already taken 40 minutes.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, I had just begun my speech yesterday evening. I did not want to break my speech but I agreed to speak today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You took 13 minutes yesterday.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, I will just come to another point mentioned by Shri Sarpotdar. He very obliquely hinted that there was some construction

[Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan]

company. It is an attempt at spreading disinformation. What construction company was he referring to? Yes, it is a fact that Shri Bhujbal's son has a construction company. But when I refer to this I must also refer to the B.J.P. - Shiv Sena's election to break the hutments and by giving large FSI to builders. This has not materialised. The promise has not materialised. The people are upset. I will just go a little into it. Under this scheme, on 23rd of June this year five thousand hutments in a Kandivli slum were brutally demolished by the Government with bulldozers...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

It is very important...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : What is the subject of debate in the House? Have a debate on that subject only...(Interruptions) You have forgotten the dalits. This is your love for dalits. You should speak on the issue being discussed.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I am coming to that...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Your matter for speech on dalits has been exhausted...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now you please conclude.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I am not going into that. Sir, they are unnecessarily interrupting me. I did not do that to them...(Interruptions) Why are you afraid of the truth? Why can you not listen? ... (Interruptions)

Sir, I want to come to the subject...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is concluding. Let him conclude.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, I am coming to it. I want to conclude now.

These huts have been demolished without warning. Fifty thousand slum dwellers were rendered homeless. There was a massive *morcha* on 9th of July organised by the Congress. Before that, on 8th of July, there was a massive *morcha* against unemployment. The promise given by the Government that 27 lakh jobless youths will be given jobs was also not fulfilled ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane): Our Government is there for only 30 months. They were in power for 40 years. What have they done in Maharashtra? Why were they thrown out of the power by the Maharashtrians? They are out of power in Maharashtra because they have done nothing for 40 years...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, I want the Government to inquire into the nexus between the builders and the plan of Shiv Sena to be helplass. ... (Interruptions) Sir, I am coming to another story.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : Sir, they have ruled for 40 years in Maharashtra. What will we do in thirty months...(Interruptions)

[English]

They were ruling for 40 years. What have they done to the poor people and the *Dalits*? They can get the statistical data to see for themselves.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do you not allow him to conclude?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, I will come to another story. Ramabai Nagar was also a colony which was to be resettled. It is alleged that there was a dispute between two Ministers as to who was going to be the builder. A builder called Frankie Builders was to be given the contract...(Interruptions) I want the Government to inquire into it...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Chavan, has what you are talking got any relation with the motion before the House? Please be relevant to the subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Ramabai Nagar where the desecration has taken place has to be settled...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, he is losing his balance ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should not speak everytime.

[Translation]

Look, sometimes it is O.K. but interruptions at everytime is not good.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : The Motion is on something different and he is talking something different. How can we tolerate that? If he is speaking on the Motion, we will keep quiet. But he is not speaking on the Motion...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I want the Government to probe the connection. Who is this builder? Why was he allowed to come to Ramabai Nagar?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, please conclude.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Now, I will come to the final part of my speech. We have recommended to the Prime Minister that the Government be dissolved. Why are we saying that? Is it only because 11 *dalits* were killed there? Is it because Shri Bhujbal, the leader of the Opposition was attacked?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Shri S.B. Chavan, Member of Rajya Sabha has said that Article 356 should not be applied. What is your reaction?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I will come to that. I want to show you that the attitude of Shiv Sena and the BJP which is supporting it is an anti-*dalit* attitude. I am coming to the main part of my presentation. I will give you some instances...(Interruptions) It is well known. I will refer to one sentence. It was the Shiv Sena which organised a street mobilisation and an agitation against Ambedkar's book "Riddles of Hinduism". They stopped publication of Ambedkar's literature. The agitation when the Marathwada University was renamed was dealt at length by Shri Sharad Pawar. But I just want to put one thing straight on record. This decision to rename the University was taken because of the unanimous decision of both the Houses of Maharashtra Legislature and not because of some community.

Then, the Shiv Sena leaders have been trying to distinguish between *dalits* and Nav-Budhas. They are also calling that Dr. Ambedkar was a leader of Nav-Budhas only. Some strange theory of *Rastantar* has been propounded. I will just very briefly translate a *Saamna* article *Dhaletwere Pat Ari* - enough is enough. It orders Nav-Budhas

[Translation]

You have changed your religion but not the blood. Therefore, we look at you with a different feeling. If we have had to take revenge, then we could have taken it long back but you and we are following the same path.

[English]

Now, what *badla*? Why the revenge?...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : What is wrong?...(Interruptions) Sir, could they talk about it?...(Interruptions). brothers who have changed their religion...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I am talking about the spirit of taking revenge.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan, you have taken 45 minutes.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Please give me five minutes.

When the BJP-Shiv Sena Government was installed in the office, they ordered all the photographs of Dr. Ambedkar to be removed from the offices. There was a big agitation. The Leader of the Opposition complained and then they restored it. I want to highlight the mindset ...(Interruptions) The uniform controversy has already been raised. I will not go into details...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri V.V. Raghvan.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I will finish, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : How much will I wait?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I will take only two minutes. There is a systematic campaign against Parties given to *dalits* and attempts are made to instigate the upper cast against *dalits* about job reservations, about admissions, and about the Atrocities Act. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe recruitment has not been extended beyond a year. The promotion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been stopped. The cases under the Atrocities Act have been withdrawn. The subsidy given to the Mahatma Phule OBC Development Corporation has been withdrawn. Why is there a systematic campaign against *dalits*? This Government and particularly its ideology is such. It is propagating a Fascist ideology. The Shiv Sena leaders use the name of Hitler which is well known. I do not have to describe it. They do not call Mahatma Gandhi the father of the Nation. There are inflammatory articles in *Samna*. There are attacks on Journalists, first one the Mahanagar attack and now the attack on *Deshonatti* paper by a Minister of Shiv Sena and the Chief Minister yesterday has instituted a special committee to investigate the attack. There is a standard practice of attacking the newspaper. He has now appointed a committee. There are attacks on social workers like Shrimati Medha Patkar. She was attacked because she was agitating about Enron. Shri Anna Hazare who was trying to probe corruption in the Government was written about. There have been attacks on the judiciary. That is why, we want this Government to go...(Interruptions). There were attacks on judiciary. There took place a physical assault on the court of Holambe Patil which was referred to by Shri Sharad Pawar. Justice Srikrishna Commission was sought to be wound up.

Now, I will come to a very important point. The life of the citizens in Mumbai is not safe.

Sir, I now refer to Ramesh Kini's murder case. The High Court has ordered a CBI inquiry into that murder case. I request that the Government should speed up the inquiry and give a statement in the House about the progress of that inquiry while replying to the debate ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, He is not speaking the truth telling a lie. He has no point to express.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri V.V. Raghavan. Shri Chavan, please conclude now and take your seat.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, I am just concluding.

There are hundreds of cases of atrocities on *Dalits* and women in Maharashtra. I have got a letter with me which says that a Scheduled Caste woman Mayor was trampled upon in Sholapur. I do not have the time. Otherwise, I would have read that letter. Everyday, there are atrocities committed on *Dalits* and women in Maharashtra....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY ANNAJI MUDE (Wardha) : He has mentioned only what has transpired during 40 years of your rule.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : There are cases of land grab, forced eviction and beating up of the Director of the Hofkins Institute in Mumbai....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, give some award to them for not-speaking the truth.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : May I thank you now? Please take your seat.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, I will now say what my demands are, and what the demands of the Congress Party are.

My first demand is that the police officials who ordered firing on the *Dalits* in Ambedkar Nagar should be charged under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code.

The Government should institute a CBI inquiry into the conspiracy to liquidate Shri Chhagan Bhujbal and the subsequent justification of the act by Shri Thackarey in *Saamna*.

The seniormost police officers who were present at Shri Chhagan Bhujbal's house should be suspended and the Shiv Sena activities who broke into Shri Chhagan Bhujbal's house must be charged under Section 307 of the Indian Penal Code.

The Home Minister must express regret about his totally uncalled for aspersions about Shri Bhujbal which was made in his statement in the Lok Sabha. These remarks have given succour to the fascists and encouraged them to continue framing of false affidavits.

Then, the CBI must take the false affidavit maker Shri Ramesh Gupta *alias* Aggarwal into custody and protect his life because somebody may do something to him and blame the Congress Party for it.

The Government should speed up the CBI inquiry into Ramesh Kini's murder.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri V.V. Raghavan.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Chavan, I have called the next speaker. You have to wind up now.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, I will now come to the concluding part of my speech.

The Government investigate the nexus between builders and contractors under the Government Slum Clearance Plan and the incident at Ramabai Nagar.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record now.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I have asked them not to record anything now. You have to say only the concluding sentence now.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I demand that the Government of Maharashtra should be dismissed immediately.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with wounded feelings I stand up to record our strong protest and concern upon the brutal atrocities committed on *Dalits* in Maharashtra. What happened in Mumbai on 11th of July is nothing but a daylight murder. From that day onwards, the *Dalits* were attacked in several parts of Maharashtra during their peaceful protests. It is quite evident from the happenings in Maharashtra recently that there is a deep rooted conspiracy to provoke and then suppress the emerging *Dalit* movement for social justice.

14.54 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO in the Chair]

Sir, when we look back in our ancient history, in the Hindu society the *Dalits* were driven out as *Panchamens*. They were out of the *Chaturvarna*. They were denied all human rights and from then onwards, so many mighty

* Not Recorded.

social reform movements were launched in our society by great men.

At last, Dr. Ambedkar, who we think is the architect of our Constitution, made several provision for the upliftment of the *dalit* masses. We are now going to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. But what is our attitude towards the *dalits* and the down-trodden even now?

Here, let me cite what has happened recently. Shri Arun Shourie published a book recently named 'Worshipping False Gods'. In that book, not incidentally, he has tried to damage the image of a great son of India, Dr. Ambedkar, by using filthy and bitter words. Thousand of Arun Shouries' may try to tarnish the image of Dr. Ambedkar, but they will not succeed. But I am pained to read one article written by the well-known columnist, Shri Khuswant Singh. It appeared in one of our Malayalam Dailies 'Deepika'. After referring to Shri Arun Shourie's book, Shri Khuswant Singh says, 'He is very much pained to see the articles and remarks in the text-books published by the present Maharashtra Government that greatly damage the image of Dr. Ambedkar.' The name of the text-book is not given. He only mentions that the remarks in the text-book published by the Maharashtra Government immensely damage the image of Dr. Ambedkar.

For the information of my learned friend, Shri Ram Naik, I may refer to one of the remarks in the text-book which says that 'it is not the Indians who wrote the Indian Constitution. The role played by Dr. Ambedkar or other Indians is very minor. The Indian Constitution was written by the Europeans.' All these things have been written in the text-book, and you are teaching those things to our younger generation. How can you justify it? I can give you a copy of this Malayalam Daily.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Please translate it and then given it to me.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : You can have the services of our friend, Shri O. Rajagopal, who is in the Upper House. If it is correct, then I urge upon the Government of India and my friends who are now governing the State of Maharashtra to withdraw this book. This is an insult to the whole nation.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE (Wardha) : Which text book? You name that.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Name has not been mentioned there. You can see that...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : In text book prescribed in Maharashtra, this has appeared...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : He is quoting Shri Khuswant Singh's article. How can you allow it?

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Shri Khuswant Singh is a very well-known person. I can give you the paper. I am just placing it here. It is not my own comment, but it was written by Shri Khuswant Singh...(Interruptions)

15.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Madhukar Sarpotdarji has raised an issue. Shri V.V. Raghavan is not quoting from any unauthorised source. He is quoting from the article of Shri Khuswant Singh. If any hon. Member wants the article, he will make it available to him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Ram Naik ji, you are Indian, and say Bharat Mata ki Jai but all this has been done by your Government...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Remendra ji, please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Let me explain.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not said in any derogatory manner.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am not saying that. I am trying to explain. The explanation is that Shri Khuswant Singh's articles are published in English and in Marathi also. I read his articles regularly. I do not know if that article has been given to a Tamil language newspaper. I can assure that the Maharashtra Government can never do like that...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member, Shri V.V. Raghavan made it very clear that if any hon. Member wants, he can make available a copy of the article written by Shri Khuswant Singh which he is holding. I have explained the position. Please accept the position and let the hon. Member continue.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : I would like to say for the information of Shri Ram Naik that Shri Khuswant Singh is regularly writing in the columns of Malayalam newspapers. Shri Ram Naik may just hand over this article to Shri O. Rajagopal. He can have a translation from him. This is an article written by Shri Khuswant Singh. He need not argue with me. He can argue with Shri Khuswant Singh.

My point is from the days of Manu till now, the Chaturvarna social fabric of our society is still prevailing and the atrocities and attacks are on continuing. The Government should examine it. If Shri Khuswant Singh is right, the textbook should be withdrawn.

I would like to draw your attention to what is happening in the Police force. The Police force which

[Shri V.V. Raghavan]

ought to protect the rights of the people are siding with antisocial elements and they are attacking the Dalit masses. As a proverb in Malayalam says, the fence eats the harvest. The Police are attacking and murdering the Dalits masses. Here too, I may quote from the veteran Police Officer of Maharashtra, Shri Julio Ribeiro. In the article, it is stated as follows :

"The message to the Police was clear: Its job was to blindly follow the orders of its political masters."

Shri Julio Ribeiro wrote in a local newspaper as follows :

"A politicised and subservient Police force is in no position to enforce the law as laid down in the statutes. It presently enforces the law selectively according to the wishes of the party in power.

These are the words of Shri Julio Ribeiro.

That is the root cause of these atrocities.

When we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence, how long will we allow these things to go on like this? From the very beginning of this discussion, I have been watching it here. Whenever we speak of Maharashtra some hon. members begin to shout. We have very high opinion of the Maharashtrian people. We keep in mind the great, historic role they have played, their cultural heritage etc. We admire the progress they have made both in industry and agriculture. All these things are there. But we must examine why such things happen. What is happening there is wounding the feelings of the entire people. This should not have happened in these days of our Golden Jubilee Celebrations. The Government of Maharashtra could have avoided it. It has control over the police. The garland of shoes should not have been there on the statue of the great Indian.

Even after that, what do we hear from Mumbai? Hours and hours went on even after seeing this tragedy. No responsible officer, either police officer or Government officer went there. At last, this brutal police shooting and murdering of innocent people took place there. When there was a peaceful protest, how can you resort to police firing? What a brutal repression was let loose on the people there! Is there really any justification for that? The way our friends from the *Shiv Sena* react to this criticism is very strange. Have you got no responsibility when such a thing has happened in your constitution? It is your city. It is your great State. With a heavy heart and hurt feeling, I say that the entire nation is very much hurt.

What is happening there now? The underworld mafia is operating there...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Come to my constituency and my submission to the House is that a delegation of five persons should be sent there...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Please have the patience to hear me. You come from a cultured State ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No more commentary, please. Take your seat, please. If the hon. Member is not yielding, do not interrupt him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : I appeal to the hon. Members to hear me. You come from a cultured State. You must have patience. How can you react to each and every word? If you go on reacting like this, it is a shame...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. Then, why do you try to speak?

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : You are a cultured people. You come from a cultured State. You come from India's cultured city. Do you not have patience to hear me? Why do you react to very point and shout like this. I can also shout I was sitting here keeping the silence. I never shout at anybody. I am learning from you, from the discussion. Have patience. Do not react on every point. You think about what is happening in Mumbai now after July 11th. Who is making profit out of it. Who is utilising the situation? It is the under-world people there. *Dalits* are being led...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Raghavan ji, please, address the Chair.

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : You cannot shirk the responsibility of the BJP-Shiv Sena Government in Maharashtra. You cannot wash away that responsibility. Shri Gawli is out to create more troubles. His own Sena is now formed. Shiv Sena and the other Senas are making life in Maharashtra miserable, not only miserable but they are creating a black chapter in the Indian history nowadays...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not take away his time.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get time.

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : I think, something is wrong with the hon. Members...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you not want anybody to speak?

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not going on record. Take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what are you talking, thousands of people are coming to Mumbai in the trains from Kerala and Bihar. It is not fair to disgrace a city in this manner ...(Interruptions) How many Keralites have left Mumbai. Tell me even if a single such case has occurred.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have a very strong opinion about cultures. It is very good that the House has the privilege to have your opinion. But it is not being heard. Why do you waste your time? Take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : You are defaming the city which is the business centre of the country...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have one request to make. Shri Raghavan is speaking. We have certain healthy conventions in this House. Any Member can raise any point. I am not objecting to that. But what are you trying to say without even listening to me? Any hon. Member who wants to speak, can do so by standing up if the person speaking is willing to yield. Otherwise, please do not try to do it. I will not allow it also.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : It does not mean that he should speak anything he likes or he can make any allegation. He should not speak anything but truth only.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This will not go on record. You are wasting your valuable time and energy. What you

* Not Recorded.

are saying is not going on record. Interruptions are not going on record.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Show me a single instance when a person has left the city...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sarpotdar, the next speaker is from you party. If they are going to behave like this, you may not get the time to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I am saying about the allegation...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you not understand that what you are telling now is not going on record? Then what is the purpose of your speaking now?

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the purpose of speaking in the House when it is not going on record?

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If any Member is trying to challenge another Member in this House, this is not the venue for that.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want your opinion to be heard by others, please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Raghavan, Shiv Sena is an approved political party. The Motion is on atrocities against the *Harijans*, the *dalits*. About that whatever happened in Mumbai, you can speak on that but please do not make a sweeping remark on a political party. That is what Shri Sarpotdar says. Please understand their sentiments.

Let us take an attitude by which the whole discussion becomes lively and useful to each other. It is an occasion to understand each other.

Shri Raghavan, please continue.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not want your advice, please. Shri Govindan, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanor) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, one hon. Member has made a very objectionable statement...(Interruptions) Is that the Government of BJP-Shiv Sena doing? ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not say that. That is not good for anybody.

(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not good for anybody.

Hon. Members, please understand. In the height of emotion, you may shout anything but it is not good for the party. Please do not say that.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request you not to say that. You are not understanding the implications of your own statement. Please do not make such references.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, we do not have any such intention at all and we will not do like that. But my humble request to the people is that they should not charge Maharashtra as a whole. On the Motion, Shri Raghavan can say anything but he should not make false allegations on us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : After I have given my ruling, why are you continuing?

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, that statement of the hon. Member should not form part of the record and it should be expunged.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, that will not form part of the record. The hon. Member, who has made these remarks, has agreed.

Hon. Members, the problem is that we may feel provoked when some sentences, some parts of the speech we hear. But please wait for some time and when your turn comes you are free to speak. If you go on retorting after every sentence, it becomes very difficult.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : We are not doing that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sarpotdar, I do not mean you. Some Members are doing that. So, please have patience to listen to others.

Now, Shri Raghavan, please continue.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was only mentioning that there was a new Sena which emerged quite recently. That was the only fact I was mentioning. Shiv Sena is there for so many years but *Gawali Sena* is a new *Sena*. That fact was mentioned here.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : If he is mentioning, I want to say that it is not *Gawali Sena* ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not against you. He is making a statement. Please do not try to reply on every sentence.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sarpotdar, you are a senior leader, leader of your party. Please cooperate with us. Without cooperation how can we run the House?

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me come to the main point. For thousands of years, the *dalits*, the downtrodden masses are living in a very, very pitiable condition. That is why they are easy targets of any unsocial element or any ruling section which is against their upliftment. So, at least in this golden jubilee year of our independence, we must ponder over how this unequal social fabric could be changed by some radical steps. If we are serious about social justice, mere reservation in Parliament, in Assemblies and in local bodies will not suffice. To free them from the inhuman, pathetic conditions of today, we must first of all give them land.

Radical land reform is the most important measure to free the downtrodden *dalit* masses from the present condition. They live without shelter, without job, without the minimum human amenities. So, there must be concerted efforts by State Governments and by the Central Government for the upliftment of the *dalit* masses. They are thirsty of land. They are the sons of the soil. They can get gold from the soil. If they are given land, our agricultural productivity will also go up because they are the sons of the soil. They are denied land. So, the agricultural masses, the *dalits*, the downtrodden should be given land. They should be given liberal help to cultivate and to have more job opportunities. That is the basic aspect about which we have to think over. Land reforms in the States, especially giving land to the *dalits*, the downtrodden agricultural workers is the main aspect which will be the first step for their upliftment.

Culturally also, even now-a-days, it will be surprising to note that in some places there are separate glass tumblers kept for *dalits* in open coffee houses. Even today, in July, 1997, in several parts of India separate cups are kept for *dalits* in coffee houses. To what extreme has our social fabric gone! That is the attitude the society has about the *dalit* masses.

There is a mighty movement emerging now-a-days. More and more people among the *dalit* masses are becoming aware of their rights; they are conscious of their rights and they are asserting their rights. There is emerging a mighty social justice movement by the *dalits*, together with the other toiling masses and that movement is the only guarantee that their rights will be achieved.

That movement is gaining strength day by day. What I see in this conspiracy is that they want to suppress the emerging mighty movement of the *dalit* masses. They

want to divide them. They want to provoke them. They are brutally murdered just to suppress the emerging mass movement for social justice. That is the conspiracy behind it. I would like to say that you cannot suppress a historically emerging movement with police firing and by attacking by the anti-social elements. That force is going to make a new India. When we fought against British for Independence, we had a dream of building a new India. That new India is going to emerge with this social justice movement of the downtrodden masses together with all of us. Without any sectarian outlook, I say this emerging mighty *dalit* movement is helping us. It will help build a new India. If the conscious sons of the soil, conscious masses of the downtrodden, the agricultural workers and the *dalit* masses march forward to build the nation, then the new India will emerge and our dream would be fulfilled. For that we have to help them. They are our brethren.

Mahatma Gandhi called them sons of God. We are not prepared to give them the right place in the society, in the ownership of the land, in job sector, in education sector and in different sectors of the society. Without their concerted efforts, our dream will not come true. We cannot build a new India. Those who try to divide them and those who try to provoke them suppress them will not succeed. We are all for a new India. We want to build a new India.

The most important thing is to change the historical mistakes of our social fabrics. The Hindu society has to be free from *chatur varnas*. Divisions *dalits* were driven to *panchamans*. They are not included in the four *varnas*. They are out of these *chatur varnas*. Hence, they do not have human rights. They were treated as untouchables. That approach and that set up of the Hindu society should be changed if we are to march forward.

Then, there would be no Arun Shouries to tarnish the image of the greatest son of India, Dr. Balasaheb Ambedkar. There will not be any attempt text books with damaging remarks about the greatest architect of our Constitution. So, there is a ray of hope throughout India. A new India will be built by the new emerging mighty mass movement where they would be given their rights. I hope the recent happenings give a lesson for all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you Shri Raghavan.

Before I call upon the next speaker, I may, for the information of the hon. Members, inform that the time allotted for this discussion is two hours and we have consumed six hours and fifty-two minutes. There are 21 more hon. Members to speak on this.

So, I seek your cooperation and with your permission I would like to restrict the time to five to

seven minutes for each hon. Member. Otherwise, it would become impossible for us to complete this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, why are you restricting the time for discussing the Maharashtra issue? We spent nearly ten hours to discuss the Bihar situation. We should be allowed to discuss it because the issues are more important in a sense.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : There should be a time limit but everyone should be given a chance to speak ... (Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMI : No, there is no question of time limit, as Nirmal Babu has stated that this discussion should be given one hour more than the time given for discussion on Bihar... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all right. You have made your point. I have only one request to make to the hon. Members Senior hon. Members' names are there in the list. The Chair would not restrict anybody. But if the House collectively decides something, we can go on accordingly. We have Private Members' Business tomorrow. If this discussion is not restricted, then every by tomorrow we may not be able to complete it. The logic of Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee and Shri Venkat Swamy is correct. But if we go by that logic, then there would be no end to it. So, kindly cooperate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : Sir, this discussion should continue till 11 p.m. on the 14th of August... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balai) (Bihar) : He is cutting a joke that the discussion should be continued till the night of 14th August... (Interruptions) Discuss an important issue seriously. It is highly objectionable that he speaks... (Interruptions)... while sitting... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : Sir, we also want to speak on this. Why are you restricting the junior Members like us?... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are all thinking and trying to save the time of the House.

In the Lobby, you can make certain comments in a lighter vein, but not inside the House. I do not appreciate the comments that you have made inside the House. This is not the way to do it.

15.33 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Thirteenth Report

[English]

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL (Godhra) : Sir, I beg to present the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals on the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Bill, 1997.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, you have very correctly permitted him to lay the Paper on the Table of the House. But we should criticise ourselves and say that we should be present at the right time to lay it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken more time than he has taken!

Now, we can continue our discussion on Maharashtra issue. Shri Ram Naik.

15.34 hrs.

MOTION RE: ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON DALITS IN MUMBAI, NAGPUR AND OTHER PLACES IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY-

Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is third day of discussion today on the atrocities committed on dalits in and outside Maharashtra. Earlier, he discussed Bihar too and that lasted for four days. The peculiarity of debate on Bihar was that political activities used to change there very fast. The situation of today used to change day after today and the situation of tomorrow used to change day after tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Naikji, how much time will you take?

SHRI RAM NAIK : I will take 25 minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all right.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I will take as much time as Shri Prithviraj Chavan has taken. That would be enough.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you compare? You tell me how much time you want to finish your speech.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I will conclude. As is my usual nature, I would not go outside the issue under discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you can, kindly complete your speech within fifteen minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : As the discussion on Bihar was taking a new turn each day and the situation was changing, it seems to me that some change, some turn the discussion on Maharashtra has also taken although with not that speed as it took in the case of Bihar. The discussion which took place in the Rajya Sabha yesterday, I have gone through the yesterday's proceedings of the Rajya Sabha today. One point was clear in that and that is policy of the Government atleast for yesterday was that it did not like to resort to Article 356 in Maharashtra. They do not like to proclaim President's rule in Maharashtra. This stood until yesterday. There has been a change in that backdrop. I want to submit that point before the House. Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan should have been present in the House. He has come now. Prithviraj D. Chavan ji said at the end of his speech that the Maharashtra Government should be dismissed and the leader of the same party, hon. S.B. Chavan who is not only a national leader but had also been a Home Minister and had earlier dismissed many State Governments using Article 356, also said yesterday that the case of Maharashtra did not deserve dismissal but there might have been some communication gap between Shri S.B. Chavan and Prithviraj D. Chavan. And such type of communication gap between old and new generation is but natural but this gap is discernible and in this backdrop I understand that the Congress should rethink on it. I will not confine my speech to Maharashtra only as the hon. Members did. We should also talk about other parts of the country. Therefore, I would like to talk something beyond Maharashtra.

Sharad Pawarji has special affection for dalits. We have heard about that. Therefore wording of his proposal is very good. It is well drafted. If it is put to vote, we should support it. But the views he has put forward, there seems to be no similarity between his views and drafting of the proposal. The point is not clear which is quite evident. There is an adage in Marathi "otha dekho, potha dekho" and in Hindi "munh mein Ram bagal mein chhuri" which means sweet tongue, honey gall. It is said so. It is like to create smoke screen.

[English]

Give a dog a bad name and shoot it.

[Translation]

These things have occurred to my mind out of this discussion. Raghavanji has also left the House after making his point. We have got a tradition. After completing one's speech, one should not leave the House until the speaker next to him completes his speech. Raghavanji told us many things about sympathy towards dalits. But it seems to me that how much we should be affectionate towards dalits and how should we behave with them, we need not learn that from either the Congress or the C.P.I. We are not able to understand where the public of Hindustan is heading for? If the largest number of dalit members in this Lok Sabha is with any party, that is the B.J.P. and the Shiv Sena combine...(Interruptions) You will have to count them to know that. In the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra also the maximum number of dalit members are of the B.J.P. and the Shiv Sena. Therefore, the manner in which we have translated our affection for dalits in action, you can know that by visiting Bihar. Therefore, your sermons about dalits do not have any significance for us since we know their genuine problems and grievances. They also know us since ages. That's why they are coming with us. They were earlier with the Congress, the CPI and the CPI (M), now the entire community is approaching us. So, we should ponder over all these things in this changed background, I think so. If we consider today on the point that who is the most vocal leader of the dalits, he is Ram Vilas Paswan ji. He is the leader of the House. By the way, he is a dalit too. When he visited his state as a Railway Minister, as a Leader of the House, how he was received in Bihar. He is not a dalit. The President of the Janata Dal who also accompanied him, they should feel a shamed of seeing the plight of dalits in Bihar. But we know that how justice is meted out to dalits in Bihar. Stones were pelted on Paswanji, Sharadji during their visit to Bihar. An attempt was also made to explode the bomb during their visit. Crimes are being committed on dalits. I am talking about the happenings outside Maharashtra. I want to ask the Home Minister. The Home Minister and Minister of State for Home Affairs are not present here. How we can carry on discussion, whom should we talk to...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai-South Central) : The Rajya Sabha was adjourned yesterday on this very account.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Naik is making the same point.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you not want Shri Ram Naik to make that point?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I want to know that did our Home Minister ask for information about the attack on our Leader of the House in Bihar and if he has received the same, it should be placed before the House as to how he was attacked, why he was attacked and the action taken by the State Government and the Union Government against those who attacked him. The Home Minister has informed some Shiv Sena workers have been arrested under Section 307, I would like to know whether any advice has been given to the state Government of Bihar to take necessary action ... (Interruptions)

Just now the discussion in regard to all the states of the country was held. I would like to ask the Home Minister as to what action has he taken in connection with the attack on the Dalit leader, Paswanji. From Bihar, now I am coming to Gujarat. Kashi Ram Rana ji has given some information about that state. In a firing incident, which took place in the state, four persons were killed. This incident occurred during Gujarat bandh, which was supported by the State Government. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Home Minister as to whether he has enquired from the Chief Minister the reasons for such an incident and killing of persons. Has he collected some information regarding this incident? Has the Governor of the state sent any information in this regard? I would also like to ask the Home Minister as to whether he has taken up this matter with the Chief Minister of the State since it is clear that the Chief Minister will not talk about any judicial enquiry because only we, who believe in lawful governance, believe in judicial enquiry too and not you...(Interruptions) Therefore, I would like to ask the Home Minister as to whether he has talked to the Chief Minister of the State and has given him some advice in this regard. The leaders of his party, CPI and CPM delivered their speeches here. You might have gathered some information of Kerala and Bengal also. Whether Chhaggan Bhujbal's house should have been attacked or not, this is altogether a different matter, but after attack, we did what we were supposed to. I will come to that point later. During a procession of youth Congress in Calcutta, 13 Congress workers were killed in firing on 23rd July, 93. I would like the Home Minister to reply in his capacity as the leader of CPI, as to what has been done in this regard.

We saw what did they do at that time. Only the workers of youth Congress were killed. The internal

[Shri Ram Naik]

bickering of Congress people may be one of the reasons. Mamata ji is not here but fortunately you are here. Mamata ji was a Minister and she visited Writers Building' to meet the Chief Minister in her capacity as a Minister. The Chief Minister refused to meet her and what transpired afterward? Mamataji, a Union Minister was removed from that place and when she came to this House, she was in a wheel chair. I would like to ask as to how her bones got fractured? How do you treat the political opponents, women and youth? We would like to know the reaction and opinion of the Home Minister on these two incidents.

Raghavanji belongs to Kerala. We want to know as to what has happened in Kerala during the last one year? We have listened his intellectual speech on our culture and the treatment given out to the people in Maharashtra. Some people are displeased with it. I have with me the whole account of the treatment meted out to the workers of Bhartiya Janat Party and Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh in Kerala. 15 workers of Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh and Bhartiya Janata Party have been killed in Kerala during 1996 and till June, 1997. The reasons for the killings that took place on 29th June, 97 was that the victim, the Head Master was elected the president of BJP, Kerala unit. The killers went to his house and killed him. I would like to tell you that even the Congress MLA's also protested the killing. It is evident from the incident as to what treatment is being meted out to our BJP workers in Kerala by the CPI and CPM Government. What sort of culture, what sort of behaviour is this? You kill those people with sticks, knives and bullets, who have different views. Therefore, it is not befitting for you to give sermons and to say such things. I would like to know as to whether you have called for a report from the State Government of Kerala or whether you have received the said report and whether you have asked the State Government to conduct a judicial enquiry into any of the incidents? Three innocent students abroad the boat were drowned. I would like to know as to whether you have got this information and what have you done in this regard? I am talking about only three states but it will give you the picture of other states too. Then, I would like to take up Maharashtra issue. Every member has reported about Maharashtra. But no body mentioned one point. Neither Prithvi Raj ji nor Sharad Pawarji has mentioned about it. You have mentioned about the episode of 11th July but did not mention the incident of 13th July. It was decided to take out funeral procession of those 11 victims on 13th July. Some persons were not in favour of the funeral procession. We convinced them that funeral procession should be taken out in the interests of the society. After it was finalised Ramdas Athole, Prakash

Ambekar, Gawaiji and some other leaders came there. In society people were so angry with him that they thrashed Shri Ramdas Athawle, so much that he was taken to hospital. You may see his photographs if you wish so. Shri Sarpotdarji showed some of his snaps as to how he was attacked and how the police took him away in their protection. However he did not tell as to why he was assaulted on 13th July, I do not discriminate between dalits and non-dalits. The whole society thought that these were the people, who incited the riots for drawing political mileage. Therefore, Shri Ramdas Athole was beaten up. When he was asked to tell the names of those who attacked him, he said that he was beaten blue and black by his own men. Therefore, he was not ready to disclose their names. I do not want that my people should be punished. Is it the way to cooperate with police and the Government? Whosoever has tried to derive political mileage out of the riots have all been dumped by the people of Mumbai. The city of Mumbai is capable of discriminating between right and wrong. When hundreds of people were killed in Mumbai serial blasts, the city returned to the normal routine within three days of riots. I am really proud of representing this city. The city also fast returned to normalcy on 15th after the Maharashtra Bandh of 14th. But how did it happen? People of this city know all this. They are quite smart people. They have got good political understanding. Therefore, the people of Mumbai did not elect any member of the Congress, C.P.I. and C.P.M.

I was a very ordinary political activist of Mumbai. I was elected from Mumbai with the largest margin. Shri Sarpotdarji also fought election for the first time and emerged victorious. In fact, the people of Mumbai have got a great political discretion to discriminate between right and wrong. They very well know that your tears are those of crocodile. As there goes a saying in Marathi- "Moole Ghatale Radaya" which means the disbursement of money for making one weep. You are to work in the same manner.

Did the Home Minister ask Shri Ramdas Athole as to why he did not lodge the complaint after being assaulted? What help you need? He had given an appointment to see him. The Union Home Minister visited Mumbai but did not go to all places. This was not good on his part. Hon'ble Speaker as well as Parliamentary Affairs Minister have also directed that whenever a Minister visits a city, he should meet the local M.Ps. But we were not given any information in this regard. Neither Shri Paswan nor Shri Indrajit Gupta provided any information to us. Had they met us, we would have told them everything. I would speak on the report later on. Don't you know that Shri Ram Naik and Shri Pramod Mahajan represent that area and

Shri Sarpotdarji has also been elected from the nearby constituency. Shri Gode who was the talking point, Mr. Rawale must be knowing about his constituency. You should have understood atleast that much. Somebody has made such a report which had also been taken as true report....(Interruptions) I am not getting angry. I am asking this question from him. You, too, can ask the same question from him as you also come from Maharashtra. You could have asked as to how all this happened? It would have not lowered your prestige. You never agree with us. It was a matter of mutual interaction but you never showed such a gesture. This makes me laugh. When Shri Sharad Pawarji and Hannan Mollahji were delevering their speeches and later on Shri Chavan was also expressing his views and I listened to all that very carefully. All the three praised the report. Shri Hannan Mollah's speech is there in this report, whose report it is?

[English]

It is a report by 'Lokshahi Hak Raksha Sangathan', '-Committee for protection of Democratic Rights'.

[Translation]

This is a staunch leftist organisation and has got no credibility in Mumbai and you people are relying on its report. You would be surprised to know what has been published in this report. I am quoting a portion of it wherein the use of cannons has been justified. I would like to ask you as to how the water cannons can come on the highway when the riots broke out suddenly?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : The Home Minister of Maharashtra has stated today itself that water cannons should be used.

SHRI RAM NAIK : This is O.K.. But how the water cannons arrive there, you come through highway.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Naikji, you can conclude now.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Let us listen to his very skilful defence of his party.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Therefore, it has been demanded in the report:

[English]

The last and important paragraph is :

"The people rose in anger against the desecration as Ambedkar is a symbol of their self-respect and their freedom from past oppression."

[Translation]

There is no dispute over it. Its next sentence mentions—

[English]

"Such desecrations are politically motivated and become the sight of political parties to gain mileage from the misery of the people who are oppressed."

[Translation]

Now, who is trying to gain mileage? You Congressmen are trying to gain mileage. They know that by doing so, they would be benefited. We can very well understand that BJP and Shiv Sena will taste defamation after the desecration of Dr. Ambedkar's statue by putting shoe-garland on it. Therefore, gaining the political mileage is related to a conspiracy. I think, you must admit that there is some sort of conspiracy.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Certainly, but who did it?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Had we hatched any conspiracy, we would have taken care of our political gain. Our Government is in power for the last two and half years and not only Mumbai but entire Maharashtra is being governed properly. You may do whatever you like but you will not be successful in defaming our Government. We appoint enquiry Commission on the slightest fault or trivial charge of corruption. Did any Congress Government do this? The Congress is supporting a Government of such people for whom the Supreme Court has issued order but neither they are being arrested nor resigning from their office. In Maharashtra, the two Ministers against whom the charges of corruption were levelled, were asked to resign from their office and a enquiry Commission was set up against them. Can the Congress party dare to do so? The Hon. Prime Minister has no courage to ask any one to tender his resignation. Therefore this report is not worth even the paper used for it. It has no relation with ground realities.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Naikji, you have already taken 24 minutes.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I will conclude in another ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You wanted only 25 minutes. You have to restrict now. There are many other Members to speak.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I will try to do it...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will leave it to Ram Naikji.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am very grateful to you, Sir. I will try to conclude as early as possible.

[Translation]

Sharadji stated everything with grief, pain and concern. He could not recall that Chavanji stood on his legs and stated that he had given amendment to Article 356 but Hon. Speaker did not accept it. But why did you give notice? The reason behind it is that the rumour is in the air in entire Maharashtra that they are going to demand the ouster of the Government and try to impose Article 356 but there is no coordination between the leaders of his party and his general secretary.

16.00 hrs.

[COL. RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

It would have been better if the notice before presenting had been discussed among the partymen. The rejection of Amendment notice tabled by a learned Parliamentarian like you, does not look nice but there is no coordination in Congress Party among partymen. I would like to state again that the forceful demand of Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan for the dismissal of the Government even after the statement of the Hon. Home Minister, in Rajya Sabha, yesterday was not right. There, too the Congress is supporting the Government. There should be atleast some co-ordination. I know you are not feeling well. Since you are out of power, you can be unwell but you should keep this thing in your mind.

One more important thing is that firing took place. The Maharashtra Assembly decided to appoint a Committee for the enquiry. I do not want to mention it again. Shri Pramod Mahajan and Sarpotdarji have already stated about it. A judge has been appointed to enquire into the incident but you do not believe in Judiciary at present. Therefore, you demanded CBI enquiry because, there you can twist and turn the CBI action politically.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : We demanded a CBI enquiry because judicial enquiry takes much time. I had suggested that the enquiry into the attack on Bhujbal should be entrusted to CBI.

SHRI RAM NAIK : You might have demanded CBI enquiry into any case but please check the record as to what you have stated...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : You did not listen because you were shouting at that time...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have listened to your speech attentively. Therefore, it came to my mind that you do not rely on the judge. When the hon. Home Minister told us to complete the enquiry expeditiously, then we had assured that it would be completed within two

months. We agreed to its terms of reference and the condition of appointing a sitting judge, still you are demanding a CBI enquiry...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I am not asking for that.

SHRI RAM NAIK : When you are not pressing for that, then you could have asked for the inclusion of attack on the house of Bhujbalji when the terms of reference was being decided.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : We expressed our doubt on the Judicial Inquiry Commission...(Interruptions) Otherwise, we have no objection...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not get into the discussion between each other.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly address the Chair. Do not get into direct discussion between each other.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just want to intervene for a minute...(Interruptions) Regarding Judicial Inquiry Commission, we have no objection. In Maharashtra, the Srikrishna Commission was appointed and subsequently defied by the same Government. Because of the grace of Shri Vajpayee, it was again raised today. Everytime there is a doubt as to what will happen to the fate of the Judicial Commission.

SHRI RAM NAIK : If Shri Vajpayee has intervened, you should have faith in Shri Vajpayee...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : At that time, Shri Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. Shri Thackerey will not listen to Shri Vajpayee. That is our fear...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : You have a wrong conception that Shri Thackerey is not agreeing with us. He is not a person like you

[Translation]

That once admitting certain thing he will not speak contrary to it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Naik, you kindly continue with your speech. Do not react to every interruption.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : I think, you are mistaken. CBI Inquiry is ordered by High Court...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Riots started there. Whether it was right or wrong whether tanker was there or not, it will only be confirmed after the investigation. Police officer opens fire to disperse the mob, certainly not to kill a person of certain caste. It is improper to say that they opened fire to kill Dalits. We must understand the situation...(Interruptions)

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : All the people living in that colony were Dalits.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is a Dalit colony, that is why such an incident took place there.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

you give reply later on. Do not interrupt now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Lastly, I would like to mention that the rioters attacked the House of the leader of the Legislative Council of Maharashtra, Shri Chhagga Bhujbal. I want to assert that such an attack was improper and action was initiated under the law.

[English]

The law will take its own course.

[Translation]

Prosecution will start only after conducting the enquiry into the incident. I have never heard so and I would like the hon'ble Home Minister to make it clear as to whether he will direct the police officers to make an inquiry under certain section or the concerned police officers, enquiring the case, will themselves decide the section to impose. It is shocking and it is contrary to the law and against morality. Prithvirajji, you know Shri Chhagga Bhujbalji very well. Mr. Sarpotdarji has also spoken about him. I know Shri Chhagga Bhujbalji for the last 30 years when he was elected Mayor. At that time the alliance between BJP and Shiv Sena was not there. We were elected as opposition parties but they were short of majority so we said that we would support them. After meeting Shri Bala Saheb Thackeray, Shri Chhagga Bhujbalji came to meet me only because I was the Mayor of Mumbai at that time. I, therefore, know Shri Chhagga Bhujbalji. In brief I would like to submit that*...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I strongly object to this. The Chief Whip of a responsible Party cannot cast aspersions

on the Leader of a party in another House, Leader of a Party in a State Legislature. I demand expunction of this...(Interruptions)

You see the rulings of the House. A leader of a Party in the other House of the State Legislature cannot be treated like this by the Chief Whip of one Party here. You see the rulings of the House...(Interruptions)

I am sorry, it cannot go on record; it should not go on record.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ram Naik ji, I would like to request you not to use abusive language against a person who is not present in the House. The words which Shri Ram Naikji has used about Shri Chhagga Bhujbal ji may be expunged from the record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, these words are not abusive. The words used against him are proper...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I accept your ruling. There will be nothing objectionable if I say that Shri Chhagga Bhujbal is an unreliable person. Therefore, I feel that a person whom I don't rely how Bombay's people can trust upon a person whom I don't. One has to understand this.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I will not sit down ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order Please. Give me a chance.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : This is not Bombay. This is Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Dasmunsi, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have said that the attack on his house was not proper but it does not mean that you may speak whatever you like...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Is it the reason to attack his House, to attempt to lynch him, to liquidate him...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The character of Mr. Bhujbal is not under discussion in the House.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is because the attack on his house is under discussion.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : There was a murderous attack at his house sponsored by State terrorism.

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have to only decide as to whether the word spoken is parliamentary or not? Only unparliamentary word can be expunged. The words, betrayal or distrust are not unparliamentary ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether it is Parliamentary or Unparliamentary, I don't think it is proper to discuss the character of anybody who is not present in the House.

SHRI RAM NAIK : We would not say anything unparliamentary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Most of you are more experienced in politics than I. But I can say that it is not proper to discuss the character of anybody.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am discussing his political activities here because on 21st May, 1991 he had asked to make effigies of Nathu Ram Godse instead of Mahatma Gandhi...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : This has been denied by him immediately...*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : You are objecting to everything. What is this?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please you do not interrupt. Why are you interrupting. When your leader is speaking.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ram Naik, you please conclude.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Just now, Mr. Prithviraj has talked about Ramayana...*(Interruptions)* on which there has been a big agitation in Maharashtra. At that time Mr. Chairman Bhujbal was the Mayor of Mumbai. There was a discussion on Dalits here. During his tenure there was an agitation of Dalits, and the agitators passed by the Hutatma Chauk, and when they had gone he sanctified the Chauk with Holy water as the Hutatma Chauk had become desecrated by coming of dalits. This is a political history which you can not deny...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : He also did not deny it.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Such things did not happen...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, Sir you will be surprised to know that three days before this incident when Mr. Bhujbal had visited a group of slum dwellers about which Mr. Prithviraj has also mentioned, he had said there in his speech and later on in the State Legislative Council also that they should occupy the Bungalows of the Ministers. Now you can imagine well, what a responsible statement he made.

The price of onion in Maharashtra was going down, farmers were getting low price for the same. Therefore, it was discussed in the State Legislative Assembly. Their leaders took an onion in his hand and threw it on the Chief Minister. You can understand very well that how much respect for Parliament they have, and how nice they are in their behaviour. Not only this, once, the Constitution drafted by Baba Saheb Ambedkar which has been kept here, had been removed from its place in the Legislative Council which later on created a big uproar. I do not want to go in the details, after that incident he apologised also and it is none but Shri Chhagan Bhujbal.

It has just been mentioned here by Sarpotdarji, but I think that he has not done justice with this subject. So I also want to mention here that they have insulted and humiliated the Legislators by performing the last rites of their effigies and that too in the Legislative Assembly itself. You can understand from it that how much regard they have for Parliamentary convention? The political prestige of Maharashtra has got a bigjolt due to the behaviour shown by leader of opposition in the Legislative Council for which we condemn him. Not only Ram Naik, B.J.P. or Shiv Sena are doing like that but Shri Prakash Ambedkar, the grand son of Baba Saheb Ambedkar has also demanded for the arrest of Shri Chhagan Bhujbal on 25th in Nagpur, which was published in Lokmat Times whose editor is Mr. Charla...*(Interruptions)*

The scene that some people have created in Maharashtra will not continue further, there has been enough of it.

The people of Mumbai became peaceful after two days. The people of Maharashtra have given us an opportunity to serve them for five years and we would try our best to do so. If we have committed any mistake, you can point out, this is the role of the opposition and you must carry out this responsibility but if you would create such a scene regarding any issue then the people of Mumbai and Maharashtra would not tolerate ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please conclude now.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Only two sentences are left now. We would protect the people of Maharashtra.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we provide protection to the people, it means protection to men, women old people, children, dalits, non dalits, Muslims and the people belonging to all religions. We have earned the trust of the people belonging to all religions and of all age groups. That's why our party has formed the Government. Otherwise, it was not so easy for us to defeat the Congress. We have done hardwork for 25 years. Because of which people of the state have expressed their faith in our party and have brought us to power. If we commit any mistake, certainly tell us but if you demand imposition of Article 356 only on the basis of this, then whatsoever ill intentions you may have, the people of Maharashtra will not tolerate.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell the Home Minister that he should be careful of his Congress friends because today they are not in power in Maharashtra, they are feeling, like a fish out of water. You should take note of it and act accordingly.

I would like to request this House that we agree with the spirit of the motion brought before the House but if the proposal for imposition of Article 356, is also brought in the same spirit then, I would like to request the Home Minister that while replying he should keep it in mind. I would like to request you in this House that this motion be withdrawn. This will maintain the dignity of the House and whatever dignity you have will remain intact.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY (Peddapalli) : Honourable Chairman, Sir, Shri Ram Naik has delivered his speech in a very balanced manner as a very seasoned politician, but he did not utter even a single word about the blood shed of unarmed dalits. I have heard his entire speech. I would like to make it very clear that every member of the House has a right to present his views before the House. Whenever Members of the House get an opportunity to present their views before the house about the people and condition of the country they should exercise the right conferred upon them and present their views before the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, even after 50 years of our Independence, the poor and miserable persons in the country are still trying to survive with the pangs of hunger and anguish. Opening fire on such suppressed people and not having any debate thereafter in that regard in the Parliament cannot be termed as proper. I feel disturbed when I see the members of Shivsena. Here both you and I are Members of Parliament. In this august House both you and I have equal right to speak. But no member has a right to disturb and interrupt when a member is speaking. If any member speaks against me then it is my duty to listen such criticism patiently, and

I should react only when I get my turn to speak. This is the proper procedure, but I am sorry to say that we forget our duties and start interrupting the speakers. It only amounts to lowering the dignity and decorum of the House with the Chairman being a mute spectator.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you react to every interruption?

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not tolerate any interruption during my speech...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not react everytime. You please express your views only.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was saying only this that you please control the members interrupting and disturbing me in my speech. You are here to control them only. Kindly stop any member who speaks wrong...(Interruptions) In view of the speeches made by other members I support the motion moved by Shri Sharad Pawar. As you know that after the firing incident took place on 11th and when the A.I.C.C. President, Shri Sitaram Kesri found this that nobody was allowed to go there and there was no leadership at all; thereafter he decided to send a delegation comprising some honourable members including Shri Priyaranjan Dasmuni and Shri Sibte Razvi of Rajya Sabha to visit the said site on behalf of the Congress. We visited the site and found that we were the first to reach there to enquire about the condition of victims. We got an opportunity to visit every affected house and saw every victim shedding tears. I would like to ask honourable members how such firing took place and whether its effects were limited to the border of Mumbai or they spread throughout the country. Thus, to gun down 12 Dalits altogether is the first instance after the fifty years of Independence ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding.

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE (Kopergaon) : During the Congress rule many incidents of firing took place and many dalits were killed. I can give ten such examples. Incidents of firing have not only taken place in Maharashtra but also throughout the country many a time and those too on dalits. The Congress regime has witnessed all these firings...(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I had already said that I would not speak if I was interrupted. If it continues I

[Shri G. Venkat Swamy]

will keep standing like this way be it 4 A.M. or 5 A.M. in the morning. I would like to request them if they want to speak, do speak in their turn, but they have no right to interrupt.

I would like to say that we are to condemn such firing at Dalits. B.J.P. and Shivsena Government have also condemned it. But when I am condemning it why do you have a problem? I said that whatever happened was not good at all. You please accept this. You are not conscious. Congress has brought you to consciousness in 50 years. Don't allow me to speak. You were not even born at that time. Whatever the Congress did just remember that...(Interruptions)

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : They have ruined the entire country and they allowed to prevail the corruption everywhere in the country.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Is there no corruption in Maharashtra now? Please do not try to get a certificate now by pointing out that there is corruption everywhere. If I start speaking on this issue I will speak all about the corrupt practices prevalent in Mumbai. Please do not talk on the issue of corruption and if you talk about it, then it is pervaded everywhere. What are you saying? I would speak out about each and every issue. What are you speaking? Shall I speak out? Go to the court and verify as to how many cases have been filed. How many cases of land grabbing are there?...(Interruptions) I would like to say that I will deliver a simple speech if I am not interrupted by these people. These people are used to interrupt. Hardly they have entered this house for the first time in the last 50 years...(Interruptions) They do not know how the business of the House is conducted and how to speak. I am sorry to say this and...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that those persons, who are giving false information should not misguide this House ... (Interruptions) I would like to point out that the incidents of firing during the Congress regime in which three persons were killed...(Interruptions) This incident took place on the 3rd of October, 1989. I can also mention the name of those three persons - Alka Yadav, Subhash Kambli and Navabare...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rawaleji, you speak all that out but whenever such issue is raised and your turn comes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : He says that nobody was killed when the Congress was in power. I respect him for that matter but he is misleading the House and I object to it...(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Neither any Harijan nor any dalit was killed among those 12 persons in the firing. I am speaking even today about the same point ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I have got the records with me...(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMI : I will sit down. But kindly tell me where the fire was opened, killing twelve persons?...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I also give you the date. On 10th of October, 1989, three persons were killed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rawale ji, when your turn comes then you may tell all this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldana) : There is no need for him to tell speak untruth. He is a senior member and he should tell the truth. We should train the people to tell truth. We expect such things. If you would speak untruth then we will have to intervene ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may please speak.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : No, Mr. Chairman, Sir, let him speak. Whatever I speak he is contradicting it and saying that I am telling wrong...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : He is commenting regarding new member, that is why we objected to it...(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a motion is moved today regarding firing in Mumbai. Everybody is participating, in discussion on this issue. Everybody should ponder over the atrocities meted out to Dalits in the country. We should support each other with contradiction and justify this firing ... (Interruptions) If we do not justify the firing then I shall be compelled to say why their Government resorted to firing?

After the independence for the first time Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had challenged that after firing in Kerala that Government should be dismissed. The present generation need to know history so that they could understand that democracy is not meant for firing on people. Under this democratic setup the poor of the poorest, i.e., Dalit persons were fired at without warning. Ram Naikji has also supported it. I also do not oppose it. But it was necessary to warn them before taking recourse to firing. At first, there should have been lathi-charge or firing of tear gas shells. They should have been driven out by giving them warning. In spite of all this such things happen at many places, I condemn the indiscriminate firing which took place on them. So that Dalits may know that the mistake was committed on the

part of the Government. You justify the firing, I have no objection. But violating all these procedure the firing took place without warning. I would like to ask whether they have been arrested and charge sheeted? I say that all those who have fired indiscriminately without any magisterial or official orders should be arrested and present before the Court. We visited every house. A mother of six children was sitting and weeping. How will she survive? Had that person gone to murder anyone? A mother of six girls is weeping because her husband has been killed, similarly what did a child of fourteen years commit? He was just passing from that area but he was also killed. I condemn this. This Parliament is not going to support the regime of bullets. Inside the Parliament ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : In Meerut also, hundreds were killed. Hundreds of mothers are still weeping ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : That was also not a good thing. You speak one thing at a time...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Why did not you say at that time in this House?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Today there is a different issue in the House. Don't you know that you are a Member of Parliament. We are discussing on this issue but you are bringing issue of Meerut in between ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Members interfere in between and change the subject matter of discussion. Therefore, I requested that whenever the hon. Members get an opportunity for speaking, they should reply to our points. I have no objection to it. I would like to say it categorically that I rise to condemn the killings of unarmed downtrodden persons. It is regrettable. Shri Naik has stated that crocodile tears are being shed. I am sorry to hear it. Who is shedding crocodile tears. We visited there. Shri Mahajan is the Member of Parliament from that place. It is incumbent on Shri Mahajan to ring us and welcome us in his constituency and lead us to that spot. He should accompany us to console the victims. You are shedding crocodile tears or anybody else? We said that we visited that place. We did not visit there to shed crocodile tears. We visited each and every house and enquired about their sufferings. I am extremely constrained to hear the speeches of the leader of the downtrodden. Yesterday he said that birds are urinating on the statue of Dr. Ambedkar and in this way he condemned the statue. I feel sorry for his remarks. Being a dalit leader, he speaks in such a manner. My head bows down out of shame ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : You are right. Whatever he said is wrong.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : They have used the statue and photograph of Dr. Ambedkar for votes. Had there been no statue or photograph of Dr. Ambedkar, there would have been no Government in Uttar Pradesh today. He has also stated that the statue and photograph of Dr. Ambedkar will not serve any purpose. In fact, pursuance and implementation of philosophy and policy of Dr. Ambedkar is required. They complained that they were not allowed to visit and speak there.

The leaders of the downtrodden there have justified the firing and it has been reported in newspapers.

I am constrained to hear that for how long this drama of the photo and the statue of Dr. Ambedkar will continue and this political trade go on? The oppressed people all over the country have understood this drama. If Shri Kanshi Ram, the leader of the downtrodden, has ever met Dr. Ambedkar and taken lessons from him I would certainly have been proud of it. Shri Kanshi Ram is not present here but he must be happy to hear that I had attended several meetings with Dr. Ambedkar. Shri Kanshi Ram might be a school going boy at that time. Therefore, he does not know about Dr. Ambedkar. The statue of Dr. Ambedkar has been desecrated but instead of condemning this act he is abusing leader of that area and that is why he is not being allowed to enter into Maharashtra. No bargaining was allowed in Maharashtra. I do not know about it but what he said yesterday about Dr. Ambedkar, the same I want to say to Shri Ram Naikji. Ram Naik ji, say something about those persons who shed crocodile tears and then take advantage of it. I have been with Dr. Ambedkar and know his philosophy. I follow his philosophy and march ahead with it...*(Interruptions)*

Come to Andhra Pradesh and you would know about the talks that took place between me and Dr. Ambedkar. You may read in the newspapers ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : The phrase 'crocodile tears' has not been used for you. Because I very well know your concerns for Dalits. Therefore, I have not used this word for you. I have said this about the mover of the motion. Mr. Sharad Pawar and not for you ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Yes, I know, you have not said about me but you have not said it about the person who deserved it...*(Interruptions)*

Even being a Congress man, I protested against every Chief Minister and received lathis and bullets as

[Shri G. Venkat Swamy]

this is what I had learnt from Dr. Ambedkar in all my life. Take an example of Andhra Pradesh and see how many times firing took place and Venkat Swamy had to face it. I was lathi charged, and had to go to prisons ...*(Interruptions)* I condemn whatever is being said about Dr. Ambedkar in this House today. To say that the birds piss on the statue of Dr. Ambedkar does not become good for a Dalit leader. This makes us feel ashamed. I know what would have happened in this House if such thing had been uttered about some temple or Mosque ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken 25 minutes, please conclude now.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I am talking about Dalits. You did not say anything. When Ram Naik spoke for 50 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may also speak for 50 minutes but then you take the time allotted for other members. You may take as much time as you like but please keep in mind the time allotted to other members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Now I would like to tell something to Shri Ram Naik and Shiv Sena leaders.

You must know how deep it had hurt the Dalits. We were in Mumbai when a Dalit poet died by hanging himself. None of you people raise any voice on this issue. Do you think that any Dalit will vote for you in the next election?

Whether it is Andhra, Kerala, Gujarat or even every district of Maharashtra, were agitation throughout the country. The agitation took place throughout the country because of the garland of shoes was put around the neck of the statue of B.R. Ambedkar. This point need to be brought home to the people. All the opposition parties made a demand to dismiss the Maharashtra State Government but at that time you said nothing. A demand was made to the Home Minister that the Government of Maharashtra should be dismissed because of firing on dalits. Anis Ahamad was beaten up so badly for taking out a procession in Jagpur that he is still unable to walk...*(Interruptions)* You should also speak about all these things...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : There was a quarrel with one another, he was not beaten up by the police ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if they go on interrupting I'll not be able to speak.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : You are a veteran leader. It does not behove you. Please speak the truth.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I want to speak truth. You should reply to that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete his speech.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : From firing to attacking the home of Bhujbal, all the points raised by Shri Prithvi Raj Chavan and Sharad Pawar ji are on record. I would not like to repeat them. The matter in which Dr. Ambedkar was maltreated, would you please try to find out the reasons for it? You must try to find out from which point the agitation against the upper classes started. Mr. Chairman, Dr. Ambedkar, who was born in Maharashtra is in the veins of Dalits.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Dr. Ambedkar was born at Mhow in M.P. What sort of follower of Dr. Ambedkar are you when you have no knowledge about his birth place...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : He says that I have no knowledge as to where he was born. I did not say Maharashtra, try to understand it. Who is a Maharashtrian? Whether he was born in Mhow or in Delhi, he was a Maharashtrian. You need not tell me in this regard. I said that he was a Maharashtrian.

He says that I am unaware of this fact that whether he was born in Maharashtra or somewhere else. He was born in Mhow. I know a little bit about it. Please don't tell me. Why this incident took place? Why is such thing happening in the various parts of the country? Different kinds of persons were born in the country. When Gandhiji was about to wage a freedom struggle, Dr. Ambedkar asked Gandhiji for whom this freedom was to be attained? Whether this freedom is meant for devils in disguise of human beings? Cats and dogs can enter a house but a Dalit cannot pass even in front of the house. First of all you decide it. Gandhiji admitted his folly and thereafter repented over it. He observed 21 day's silence and he acceded to every point of Dr. Ambedkar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : You say that Gandhiji accepted his views, but his everything was snatched away by the Britishers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt. Let him complete his speech.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Gandhiji launched this movement throughout the country. When the battle for freedom was going on Dr. Ambedkar was warned through telegrams from different places. They said that Dr. Ambedkar should be murdered because he was a traitor. Thereupon Dr. Ambedkarji said that I am ready

to sacrifice my life for the cause that I have undertaken. If you kill one Ambedkar, crores of Ambedkars would be born. But I'll stick to my principles. And would not budge even a bit from my strict principles. He stuck to his principles. Poona pact is the outcome of it. These poor fellows donot know about history ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : You do not talk about the history now. You have no knowledge of it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Is the hon. Member going to speak then? Why is he interrupting our speaker? Give him as much time as he wants to speak. But he should not interrupt our speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI NAKLI SINGH (Saharanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly explain to these people as to what the word bechara mean. In India Bechara means one who is weak, helpless and neglected. Why are you quoting it so often? Whether all the persons sitting here are bechara...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request you that whenever a member speaks nobody should be allowed to interrupt.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I agree with you. But please do not interrupt. Venkat Swamyji, you have taken 35 minutes now.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my 15 minutes were taken by these people. If they keep on interrupting like this, how can I finish my speech? I can finish my speech at the earliest if these people don't interrupt.

MR. CHAIRMAN : These people are complaining that you are provoking them by using the word 'Bechara' for them which they did not appreciate.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Sir, I was telling that Poona Pact was signed between Gandhiji and Dr. Ambedkar and a lot of discussion on the issue of reservation. If Dr. Ambedkar had not protested for the cause at that time...*(Interruptions)* I am not making an attack on anyone. This is the reason why Dalits of the country now worship Dr. Ambedkar. The youth of today is aware that had Dr. Ambedkar not raised his voice, they would not have got this reservation. Dalits had been suppressed for thousands of years, they were badly exploited and females of their community were treated badly but dalits are awakened now. Such a situation can be found in each and every corner of the country. You forget it. A freedom fighter of Gandhiji's stature made the grounds for protest in favour of the Dalits at that time. The youths today are able to go to

schools and colleges because of that Poona Pact only. These people today have come to know that they had a leader. What is happening today? They feel when they come out of schools, colleges after completing their education. I have been contesting elections since 1952. The Dalits then used to vote whomsoever they were asked to vote for and then in the second, third and fourth elections also the same thing happened but today when they come out after completing education with the help of reservation, they ask who you are to tell us as to whom should we vote, we ourselves will decide as to whom should we vote. Awareness has come amongst Dalits today. They can take decisions. The issues of political, social, educational and economic reservation were raised by Dr. Ambedkar only which are burning issues now a days. You should not forget that as per the data 40 per cent people are still below the poverty line. This means that 40 per cent people are still living with fire, hunger and anguish at their heart.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri G. Venkat Swamy, you have already taken forty minutes. There are still twenty more Members to speak. So, I request you to kindly wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, nobody interrupted the members who spoke before me. Sir, did anybody interrupt Shri Ram Naikji? You are witness to it that so many members are interrupting me...*(Interruptions)* Tell me Sir, what should I do? You please ask them to keep silence ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Well you are also provoking them. Nobody can be silenced.

[English]

I can only request the hon. Members not to interrupt him. I cannot close anybody's *zubaan*.

[Translation]

God only can silence them. I can not do so.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I am not asking you to silence them. I said that those who are interrupting should be asked not to do so...*(Interruptions)*

I wanted to say that the struggle for Dalits started by Dr. Ambedkar bore fruit and the Dalits of the country are now coming up. It has created some jealousy among people. Children in all villages are getting education, some are doing matriculations, intermediate and graduation. I want to cite an incident from Andhra Pradesh. Seven dalits who were from the village were

[Shri G. Venkat Swamy]

killed like game hunting. One more incident has taken place in Andhra Pradesh...(Interruptions) I will tell the right name. There are 217 educated people belonging to scheduled caste and two uneducated in Povlikuppam and Karamchedu villages near Guntur. This created jealousy among them only. Because of this jealousy they killed them one by one. Some 15-20 people were killed and thrown into the canal in bags.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Where did it take place?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : This happened at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Earlier you said that there were not so many killings of Dalits before. Now you yourself say that this happened...(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : That police firing is different and this killing of Dalits is different...(Interruptions)

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : No such incident took place before like the recent incident of firing in Maharashtra...(Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Ramtek) : People were shot dead in their homes. You should not support it...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please don't interrupt. Venkat Swamyji is speaking very well.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Megheji, you please sit down. Your senior leader is speaking.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruption please. Your senior leader is speaking. Kindly give him a chance.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Police dragged people out of their homes and killed them that's why I am protesting...(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : You are including all this time to my account...(Interruptions)

17.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Members, Mr. Venkat Swamy is a senior leader and he is raising good points. Please, listen to him patiently and the points to which you do not agree, you may respond to that later on. Please do not interrupt.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Now what should be the language?...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please donot interrupt.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Venkat Swamy is saying this in a general way.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : They should know one thing. He may be a Congress man but he is also a *Dalit*. Is this the way to treat him? This is very unfair. He is a respected leader. Listen to him. You can counter him later on.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, tell my friends if they want to condemn me they should do so in their speech. When you people talk I never intervene because I am well aware of the importance of Parliament. I never interfere. I do not wish anybody should interfere when I am speaking. This is why I am saying that Dr. Ambedkar is respected in the country. The previous day my friends were saying that Dr. Ambedkar was opposed by the Congress. Mr. Chairman, Dr. Ambedkar brought democracy; he drafted the Constitution. I have got all that what Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly told about Dr. Ambedkar. What Shri Jawahar Lal told about him, what Shri Rajagopalachari and Gandhiji said about him. Whatever they said about him. I would not like to waste the time of the House by reciting that. But I would like to tell hon'ble members that his prestige rests on the shoulders of all these people. Dr. Rajendra Prasad who was the Chairman of Constituent Assembly remarked, "had Dr. Ambedkar not been here, this constitution would not have come up in this form." Gandhiji said to Rajagopalachari that you and me even together cannot compete with Dr. Ambedkar. So great he was. Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru said that Dr. Ambedkar is the Cabinet Minister and he is a jewel. We cannot forget him. What he has contributed to the nation, is unforgettable. A book 'Worshipping false God' by Arun Shourie has been brought out. Mr. Chairman, if you go through this book you will be shocked. I don't know whether all these members sitting here are the members of his party. I don't know.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Venkat Swamy, I am already shocked with the situation.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : What Arun Shorie has written about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, I am going to put it on fire in the Press Conference tomorrow and now I am going to tear this book and throw it away in

this House itself. I am going to do this, because they have called him a traitor. This is why I am going to tear this book. I will put it on fire at 11 o'clock in front of the statue of Gandhiji in the Press Conference. I will do this because Arun Shorie has insulted Dr. Ambedkar, and has done great injustice. If all the Members feel sorry for such things, all of you should support my stand.

I hope whatever I have done here, you will support it and condemn Arun Shourie. I conclude with these words.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not speak much.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want to make a request. Shri G. Venkat Swamy took more time than Shri Ram Naik. He has spoken for 52 minutes. Therefore you please keep the time limit in mind because 20 members are yet to speak.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : I would take even less time than what you think of.

Hardly a month had passed after Shri Advaniji's Rath yara when an incident of firing on dalits took place. I have been a Member of the Parliament for the last eight years and discussions over the issue of dalits do necessarily take place at least once in every session. It is all the more surprising that the more we discuss over this issue here, the more we condemn the atrocities being perpetrated against the dalits, and members of all parties have been delivering similar speeches, but incidents of atrocities against the dalits have been increasing continuously. We should try to find out such a way in the right direction over the dalit issue that atrocities being perpetrated against them could be put to an end. I think that the Parliament should make determined efforts over this issue; mere discussion would not do. It should not be like this.

It is true that the composition of Parliament today is not the same as it was in 1952. Now there is more representation from the backward classes and dalits against the aristocratic representation of the earlier days. At least this much progress has been there that some common people have also come here, though in a small number. It is true that there are a lot of differences today. As to what way they should take so that their future is bright and the poor and dalits get their due rights and also attain their goals. This is why which the backward classes, dalits, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes or common people's representatives have not been united yet. We are celebrating the golden jubilee of our independence but we can see that communal tensions, caste related tensions and corruption too are prevalent everywhere. Though we have attained self

reliance in the field of production during the past fifty years, at the same time, corruption has also become major phenomena of the society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the conduct of the people holding higher posts has to be reviewed. I regret to say that the judge of Supreme Court had to be impeached. Higher officers - whether they are in police, CBI or in Research Analysis Wing (RAW) are also covered in it. If this is the conduct of people there is bound to be sectarian, ethnic and communal tensions.

17.10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the way to be adopted to eradicate such evils spread in the society, will be decided only by the House. The special session and the various programmes to be organised on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Independence will prove and decide the matter. However, while participating in the discussion on the matter being discussed here today, I would like to submit that all the hon. Members of the House should come out of their political affiliations and condemn this act. The entire House should be united in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was a reference to Mr. Arun Shourie in the newspaper with regard to the matter being discussed here today. Even a book was produced here and a number of objections were raised. My opinion is that such an act as committed by him would bring him bad name and establish him as a man of ill will. It is not proper to issue such statements. It would further complicate the matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to reiterate that this problem is not confined to only Maharashtra. Its fall out was felt in Gujarat. Similar acts of atrocities were committed in Uttar Pradesh too a few days back. The Government issued a statement describing it a matter of land dispute and not a matter of communal tension. My submission is that 90 per cent of the total disputes in the country are those of land disputes and that all these land disputes are also caste disputes. In Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat etc. there are several cases of land disputes and other disputes every year, and in all these cases the downtrodden people are most affected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do know that unless the downtrodden and the suffering farmers succeed to get their due right with regard to the land related matters, these problems would not be solved permanently. Everyone in the Parliament says that he is son of a

[Shri Tarit Baran Topdar]

farmer, educated in America. Such farmers are not required. farmers. They are land lords. Those who work hard to plough the land and produce crops, actually deserve the land. People pay respect to statue of Dr. Ambedkar, others do the same to gods and goddesses. But, there is nothing to reveal in this regard. In the prevailing circumstances, there is no need to say anything why is it being said. It is just to provoke people and spoil the entire matter. It is not true that the downtrodden do not have any capabilities. If the hard working farmers are made an organised unit and given opportunities to move ahead forcefully and successfully, it would be in the interest of the downtrodden people and give a direction to them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak something about the Motion.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : I am just concluding. My submission is that all the downtrodden people should join together to form a single unit. Perhaps it is because that they are not united in a single unit that firing took place. The way the house of the leader of opposition Shri Bhujbal was attacked is a blot on Parliamentary democracy. All the hon. Members of the House should unanimously condemn these two acts, Shri Mohan Rawale should also do the same...(Interruptions) we should join together in condemning this to avoid further recurrence of the act. I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that after having an elaborate discussion over the matter, if at all there is any recurrence of the act, the Government should take stringent action.

With these words I conclude and express my gratitude for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN (Sheohar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the day before yesterday, Shri Sharad Pawar introduced a resolution for a special discussion on the incidents of Maharashtra under the Rule 184.

He expressed his views elaborately on the incident that took place in Ramabai Nagar in Maharashtra on 11th July. We regretfully condemn the deed, whether it is an insult to the National leader and the framer of our constitution Shri Ambedkar or that of the incident of cruel firing on Dalits.

After the long speech of Shri Sharad Pawar, Shri Pramod Mahajan, Shri Pitambar Paswan, Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan, Shri Venkat Swamy and others expressed their views elaborately and participated in the discussion over the matter. Shri Pitamber referred to the acrimony borne by the downtrodden due to the excesses being

committed on them in the Indian society for the thousands of years. He cited an example of Dronacharya who demanded for the right hand thumb of his disciple as 'Guru Dakshina'. He also referred to the incident of desecration of the statue of Babu Jagjivan Ram in Banaras. He discussed all these things in detail. We do agree to his views.

It is a fact that we and our society did love animals and hate the human beings and called them untouchables. It is also true that we deprived the downtrodden from the mainstream of the society for thousands of years while they continued to be traded in the market like cheap commodity.

There has been a lot of hue and cry over the matter of reservation. However, it is also a fact that this is neither the creation of Ambedkar, nor Karpoori Thakur, or V.P. Singh. We created the system of reservation for our own benefit - to have better standard of living whereas the downtrodden, the lower classes were reserved to do such petty works as scavenging etc. We have made this arrangements according to our convenience. This is also true that Karpoori Thakur, V.P. Singh and Ambedkar are not responsible for reservation.

The rulers of our society had made arrangement of reservation thousands years ago and said that only a Brahmin could be Brahmarshi. Vishwamitra had opposed reservation and later on he was called Vishwamitra. Vishwamitra had opposed such type of reservation and declared that those who are capable, able, meritorious, will be Brahmarshi. Opposition to reservation began thousands of years ago. I disagree to some extent with Peetambarji, Venkatswamyji and a few other members.

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : sir, I am on a point of order. There is no Minister present in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is sitting at the back. He is coming.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : But that is not the place for him to sit. He can not remote control the House the way he controls outside.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I give you that information that Home Minister has gone with my permission. He has told that he is calling Maqbool Dar forward. Alright. Now he is no more a back bencher.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : I would like to tell honourable Members that I disagree with this onesided

thinking. The whole world is aware that the concept of equality was not a brain child of Marx and if you pardon me, this was also not created by even Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and Jai Prakash Narain. The first ever philosophy of equality, the origin point of socialism has come out from the war waged thousand years ago. Once upon a time religious fanatics were ready to pay thousand gold coins each for one head of Budhists. Shudras and Dalits were not the propagator of sermons of Mahatma Budha and thus we have sacrificed our lives for one thousand gold coins for the upliftment of Dalits and to integrate the Dalit society and general people with the mainstream of society to fight against the religious fanaticism. So, in the prevalence of Dalitism, non Dalits have also their own share. When Babuji was insulted at Banaras, after unveiling the statue of Sampooranand which was washed with Ganges water later on. Mr. Naik has given such an example of Bhujbalji, that to some extent he has used Ganges water for purification. But I shall tell you one more thing that nobody has pointed out that Vinoba Bhave, a noble Brahmin who himself was an orthodox pandit was manhandled by Brahmins and Pandits because he was favouring Dalits entry into the Kashi-Vishwanath temple. Hence, I would like to say hon'ble Members that this one line thinking spreads confrontation in the society. Similarly, Ram who is charged with the murder of Shambuk on some one's provocation. But he also befriended a fisherman and embraced him. He created a sense of confidence in Dalits who were exploited for thousands of years. The deprived people who were living in forests for thousand years were called 'Monkey' and they were respected, because they were the men living in the forests. But they were not monkeys, they were not bears. They were the inhabitant of forests. In our society they were very much respected. But we appended a tail to them. Ram made them manly and integrated them with the mainstream of society and thus filled them with self confidence. Rawana, who was the symbol of tyranny was eliminated, after constructing a bridge at Rameshwaram on the sea. This is also an example for society. When the practice of untouchability was prevalent, Ram ate the plums partly eaten by Shabri. We shall have to accept it. The writer of Ramayan, Valmiki also belonged to Dalit Society, though Tulsidas translated his original Sanskrit Ramayana and the whole country and whole world worships Valmiki Ramayan and are overwhelmed with the ideas of Valmiki. Who was Ved Vyas? He was a Shudra. Raidas was also a Dalit who is worshipped in this country. If we compare him with other hermits and saints, Raidas was equally honoured by this country. I would also like to say that Kabir also belonged to minority, although his caste could not be ascertained till last, but youth are and will continue to take inspiration from him. Gandhiji was a

Bania and the country called him a Maharathis. The great Pandits, Brahmins and people of higher caste Acharya J.B. Kriplani, Rajgopalachari or Motilal Nehru sat under Gandhiji's feet and took forward our war of independence. They took lessons from Gandhiji. It is also true. Ambedkar is a respectable leader of all of us. If we remove whatever he did for the country, for the nation, Constitution of India will remain incomplete. If the philosophy of Ambedkarji, the inspiration given by Ambedkarji is left out of Constitution or society, then it will look incomplete. Babu Jagjivan Ram was a scheduled caste, Venkat Swamyji and Prithvi Raj ji, all of you know that in the whole country if anyone is called Babuji, he is only Babu Jagjivan Ram. This one sided thought will encourage confrontation and tension. We are encouraging tension and confrontation for the politics of votes. We from all the parties are doing such things for only votes. If tension and confrontation increases and the way country is being driven, this country will tread the path of Sri Lanka. The way this country is being driven, this country will follow the suit of Somalia and Lebanon. Sri Lanka cannot save itself out of the confrontation of Tamils and Sinhalese. In Sri Lanka two ethnic groups are fighting with each other and in India there are six thousand castes and Sub-castes, and when the people in a society are divided on the religious and castiest lines they will come out on the roads against one other with daggers and country made pistols, then this country will be converted into a heap of dead bodies. It will be better not to talk about the confrontation for the sake of only political gains. I am a new Member. I am younger to all of you, but I put my views before you.

As I understand that there are two conspiracies behind it. Divided for and against, we are alleging each other on the uncerimonious manner of garlanding the Baba Saheb's statue. We should not allege each other in this biggest Panchayat of the country, but we should look for the solution. There may be two forces behind it. One is foreign power and America is number one in this regard in the world and it is trying to break India. The other country is Pakistan which was earlier our part and Kashmir is our part till today, but it is highly objectionable that the way Pakistan has waged war by spreading anti India feelings in the youth and supplying warms to them. Similarly, China, which is number two power of the world is hatching conspiracy to break away our seven sisters i.e. the areas of Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya etc. As a result of which Naga revolt and Bodo Movement have been started. China did not succeed in this tactics, I do not know under which circumstances Sindh Border was opened during the regime of Narsimha Rao Government. Today heroin worth billion of rupees, Charas, Ganja, Opium,

[Shri Anand Mohan]

Drugs, Syringes etc. are being smuggled through More border.

AIDS is being spread in India through the girls of Mangol origin. It has been published in newspaper that ten percent population of youths in the eastern region and Manipur is in the grip of this fatal disease. When these girls come here, they will spread AIDS here also;. They will spread this disease in Patna, Calcutta, and other parts of the Country wherever they will move. But nobody is concerned about it.

Burma has population of five crores and its army strength is 4.5 lakhs while the population of India is one hundred crores and its army strength is 12.5 crores. This army is not for liquidation of Aung San Suu Kyi and it is not for suppression of a Woman. China is hatching conspiracy through Burma. China has hatched the conspiracy to spread terrorism in India, they want to disintegrate it through Burma and if they do not get success in this evil design, it they are hatching conspiracy to spoil the young generation of India through drugs. The highest institution of the country has not paid its attention towards such serious matter. We level allegation and counter allegations against each other. Article 356 should be imposed here or there. We blame each other but do not find solutions for the problems being faced by us. Foreigners intend to disintegrate India. What will happen? Today we are very sensitive in the matter of caste, religion and community and hon'ble members sitting here are not checking this tendency. We think more about our seats as compared to the nation. Therefore, I would like to tell you that it is a conspiracy of anti national forces or politicians. A piece of meat or bones are thrown in a temple saying that some Muslim person living besides it has disturbed the sanctity of temple, beef is thrown in the temple and we are ready to fight. Innocent people are killed. The body of a killed pig is thrown in a mosque and we people are so fool that we bend upon to kill each other...(Interruptions) in this way today Ambedkar's statue is desecrated, tomorrow Rana Pratap's statue will be desecrated and day after tomorrow Shivaji Maharaj's statue will be desecrated and somewhere Kunwar Singh's Statue will be desecrated and thus communal riots will occur. Where these communal riots and religious conflict would lead us. A poet has said-

"Yah jati yuddha, Dharma Yuddha,
Roti yuddha kaise ban payega,
Apas Main bhukha bhkhe se lar jayega,
Shakuni ki badniyat ko samajh sake Donon Nahin,
Ghar ke chirag se ghar khud apna jal jayega."

Sharadji has mentioned the incident of Maharashtra in his motion which he has moved just now. Venkat

Swamy, Prithviraj ji, Sarpotdarji and Mahajanji have spoken on this incident in detail. I do not want to take more time but I would like to tell you one thing clearly that with the motion on Maharashtra incident Sharadji has exposed his intention. He has stated that Maharashtra Government should be dismissed under Article 356, it exposes his politics.

His intention is clear and his pro Dalit attitude has been exposed. Article 356 should be imposed in Maharashtra but support be provided to the Government of Bihar. I would like to tell you the story of Sharad Pawarji. He is not present otherwise we should advise him that he would be more popular as compared to Salim Javed in Mumbai and he would prove to be more able script writer as compared to Rahi Masum Raza. He can adopt this profession after retirement. He said that 10 Dalits have been killed. Entire country and the House should be ashamed of whatever has happened. The incidents of firing take place even after 50 years of Independence, there is no meaning of Independence. Shri Venkat Swami has given the example of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiaji. Undoubtedly he is freedom fighter but Nitishji and the people of Samajwadi Party consider Lohiaji as our descendant. We have read more about Lohiaji. In 1952, on the incident of firing in Kerala he had demanded that Bhanu Pillai Government should be dismissed and Chief Minister should resign. He raised slogan to encourage division in the party and he gave this slogan to Party "Ekla Chalo". At that time party was divided. If a party follows the example of Dr. Lohia, we would extend cooperation to that party. We should make our analysis. Today the word 'independence' has lost its meaning. Under any circumstances firing should not be resorted to when people are sitting on fast peacefully. We should seek alternative to it. We may use teargas, water canon, order lathi charge but firing should not be resorted to on the non-violent mob. This method should not be adopted. On the 50th anniversary of Independence we should decide that under any circumstances firing would not be resorted to. Pawar Saheb was demanding use of Article 356 because of the killing of 10 dalits in Maharashtra but 24 thousand dalits have been killed in Bihar. Venkat Swamyji was saying that 11 people have been killed, such incident has never occurred in the history. But an example has been set in Bihar that 80-80 people have been castrated, When the opposition leader, Bhujbal is attacked, hue and cry is being raised. But I would like to cite an example that Sushil Kumar Modi was insulted and beaten in the Assembly recently. Ram Vichar Rai, Cabinet Minister was involved in this incident and he was rewarded for it. I would like to appeal to the members of Congress that they should make their analysis and think about Bihar. The members of Laloo

Brigade not only insulted Congress M.L.A., Jyoti Devi in the Assembly but they tore her saree, blouse and petticoat. This was second incident which occurred in the highest institution of Bihar after Draupadi.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Anand Mohanji, listen for a minute. Sometimes passing reference is proper but now you speak on Maharashtra.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was simply making comparison.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I did not hear what ever he said. I have said that which I consider proper. If somebody else has said so, that is wrong. If passing reference is made, it is proper.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Attacks have been made on the House of a former Minister of State Assembly and the Dalit Member of Parliament. A Muslim named, Sarfaraj belonging to minority community was killed there in. Please try to find out a sto who killed him? The name of the Member of Legislative Assembly who was killed within three months of holding of reins of the Government by Lalooji was Triloki Harija. He was a dalit. I would like to urge upon Pawar sahib that he should visit Bihar to take stock of the situation himself. When Triloki was murdered none remembered Article 356. Mr. Kamakhya Narain Singh, the former Member and Minister was murdered in broad daylight in his house situated in Mahendru, even then nobody invoked Article 356. The former Member of Parliament and dalit leader belonging to the BJP, Mr. Ishwar Chowdhary was murdered during the elections. The hon. Chief Minister asked if he was the Passi Chowdhary or the Dalwar Chowdhary. Some-one said, sir, he belongs to the Passi community, who climbs up to rope. It was said publically that Sarwan would climb up the rope and breathe his last in the lap of Advaniji uttering Jai Shri Ram. Virtually fire was opened at the end of the meeting. One who murdered him is a Cabinet Minister today. You have asked not to mention the name. He is an M.L.A. from Gaya. His car was seized and his brother arrested. His name appeared in that but nothing happened to him.

The issue of assault on Bhujbal is raised. George Sahib and Nitishji were also attacked. I would not like to recite my story nor comment on the way the two and half year child of Lovely Anandji was snatched and thrown in the drain. The mother whose young son was an M.L.A. earlier and is an M.P. today and whose wife is at present an M.L.A. and was an M.P. at that time; whose husband and father were freedom fighters, that lady was beaten up black and blue by a woman constable and her house was fired. We have not earned money like Lalooji. Our family members had donated

four kilograms of gold to the freedom movement and had handed it over to Gandhiji. Bathons were lashed on that lady. The son of his friend was murdered. My crime was this much only that I had contested against his candidate. When there was silence in Bihar and eminent leaders and big parties were hovering around Lalooji, then Anand Mohan had raised voice against him. I had blown the bugle of revolt against him in the House and in the Janta Dal. The result is that I was attacked six times. Bombs were thrown in our meetings. I would not like to go into the details. I would like to know from Sharadji and Paswanji that they are the big leaders of the backwards and the dalits, how protection can be provided to the dalit society. The entire country wants to know from those who bear the torture and keep mum in the House as to what happened with them in Bihar. Today Paswanji is keeping mum. Sharadji is the leader of the backward. He went on visiting the country on the Mandal Rath. Today the backward class people are asking as to what is going on in Bihar with the backwards? Sharadji is keeping silence. Dinkarji had said :

'Samar Shesh Hai Nahi Paap Ka Bhagi Kewal Vyadh Jo 'Tata sath Hai, Samay ~~W~~hege Uska Bhi Apradh'

Gujaral Sahib comes in it. He is a Mauni Baba. Paswanji also comes in it. Pappu Yadav was attacked. Pappuji is not present here at present but he would say that he would have to repent. He used to use lathis but he had to bear one or two lathis.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these people raise issues related to the dalits. A dalit woman named Bhukli was paraded naked in the market of Samastipur. A muslim woman Razia was paraded naked in the market of Mahua. Veena Devi was paraded naked by the goonda elements of the Government of Bihar which talks about the social justice. Phuleshwari was paraded naked on stealing four mangoes in Darbhanga district. Had it been confined to this much only, it would have been better but now even Ravana might be feeling ashamed. I do not know if he is in heaven or hell. It may be the imagination. I am sorry to say that Phool Kumari*... Memunnisa was raped. So such sorts of incidents took place in Bihar.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : I am concluding. This is the story of Bihar. When this incident took place in Maharashtra you people said that the judicial enquiry should be conducted by a sitting judge and the Government of Maharashtra instead of four months announced go get the enquiry conducted within two months by the sitting judge. Shri Paswanji had talked about four months.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Anand Mohan]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Banatwallaji is not present here otherwise he would have asked as to in whose regime the riots took place in Bhagalpur? Whereas it is understood that one thousand persons died there but as per my guess around 3-4 thousand muslims died in the Bhagalpur riots. All this happened during the tenure of the Congress regime. Now, after passing away of around one decade, Lalooji has been holding the chair in Bihar for seven years, who is obviously guilty...*(Interruptions)** The accused was found at the residence of the Chief Minister but was not punished. Shri Maqbool Dar Sahib is present here. I would like to know that riots took place in Sitamarhi the persons behind it were from the former Janta Dal and now the Rabri Janta Dal, but they were not punished. The Government of Bihar is said to be a secular Government but I would like to submit that no riot took place during the tenure of one person but 17 riots took place before the demolition of the Babri Masjid and a riot took place after it. Alongwith these the details of the Sitamarhi the Bihar Shariff, Patna City, Hatia, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Araria riots are recorded in the Laloo raj...*(Interruptions)* I have told the entire Ramayan and now it is being asked as to whose wife Sita was? You have no moral right to ask any question. There are many such areas like Imamganj, Chatra etc. where 400 muslims were murdered. If any goonda of Laloo is killed, a helicopter lands in his locality ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mohanji please take your seat.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Two lakh rupees and employment for two persons are announced but in Chatra, Imamganj and Kothi areas more than 400 Muslims were murdered. There is none today to wipe their tears. Thousands of acres of land has been lying as wasteland. Tractors and houses were set on fire there, even then nothing happened. This is the condition in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE (Raiganj) : Perhaps who died in Gopalganj was also a dalit?

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : That took place during Laloo's regime. When you have raised the issue then I would like to make it clear. When the D.M. was killed in Muzaffarpur...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am asking him to conclude and you are asking him to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me clear the charges. The D.M. was murdered in Muzaffarpur, before that the Bihar People's party ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : This matter is sub-judice. Don't make disclosures about it, you would be in trouble...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Before speaking that the senior Member should have thought that the matter is sub-judice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am requesting him to conclude. But you are forcing him to speak further.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Charges have been levelled against me and my wife Lovely. Despite our being M.P. and M.L.A., we were kept in custody on complaint only, without filing charge sheets against us and these people say that only chargesheet has been framed but no punishment has been given so far, charge sheet is not the punishment. Lalooji had said he would get them resigned and later on it is not known whom, he will make his target to settle the accounts. To whom should I ask as to why I was detained for there twenty days? I was put into jail on complaint only. One D.S.P., and S.D.O., one Magistrate and 18 bayonetmen, 6 inspectors and Sub-Inspector were on duty. The D.M. of Muzaffarpur was not killed but the D.M. of Gopalganj was killed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What will happen to motion about Maharashtra in face of all these arguments?

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : I am coming on to that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : This motion does not relate to Maharashtra only. There is a specific mention of 'other parts of the country' in the motion. Therefore, to whatever length he speaks on the issue of Bihar, that is as per the motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Speak something about Maharashtra too.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : The D.M. was killed in Muzaffarpur. At the time when he was killed one D.S.P., and S.D.O. 18 policemen with guns with bayonet, 6 sub-inspectors and one Magistrate was on duty there. No other place was to be reached to give orders to shoot. Order would have been given on the spot. Allegations have been levelled against us that we said what were you looking at, kill them. This is a sort of trick being played by the Government. Lovely Anand took out the revolver and fired three rounds of bullets. I and Arun Kumar Sinha gave the orders. The Court observed that even if the D.G.P. and the Chief Minister himself came and say Lovely Anand gave the orders of firing

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

or fired at, they would not accept that. This was observed by the Court while granting bail. We were firing bullets and 28 gunmen were counting the bullets. As alleged three bullets were fired whereas only two bullets were found after postmortem. It is mentioned in the F.I.R. that at 15 minutes past 4'0 clock we gave order of firing. One D.M. and one S.P. arrested us at 28 and half minutes past 4 o'clock at Hajipur 52 kilometres away from there. India has not yet developed such a train which can cover a distance of 52 kilometres in such a less time. Either the F.I.R. lodged by the D.S.P. is not correct or the D.M. and S.S.P. of Vaishali are wrong. I would like to know what for the D.M. of Gopalganj came to Muzzafarpur that day? When the D.M. himself says that...(Interruptions) get him transferred from Gopalganj. He was feeling pressurised. Whose pressures were there?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Anand Mohanji, just conclude in half a minute.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make one more submission that while sending off the grieving wife of the D.M. on board a plane, the Chief Minister said that criminals would not be spared and would pay Rs. 10 lakh as compensation to the family of the D.M. and would construct a house at his native place with a cost of Rs. 10 lakh. The Bihar Government would provide free education to his children and his wife would be given a better job. His wife and mother said that the real culprit is not he who is in jail. But the real culprit is somebody else and the C.B.I., should inquire into that. And soon after that the lofty announcement of the Chief Minister disappeared in the air. Neither his wife has got any job, nor a house constructed at his native place nor any arrangement made for free education of his children. And what happened. I, and the leaders of the C.P.I., C.P.M., B.J.P., Bihar People's Party, Samata Party and the Congress demanded a C.B.I. inquiry into that incident but the Chief Minister of Bihar took to his heels.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Anand Mohan, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he was speaking on the motion. Evidently, one minister was sitting there, he prompted a Member and he took to speech. He did not know anything about it ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I leave this to you to decide. Whatever is told by Nitishji is totally

wrong and baseless. He is making irresponsible statements. This is clear to all people here. I will request you that ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Now his feelings have been hurt. I did not take his name. Alright you did not invite him, please sit down... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not prompt him. I was listening and he stood up unnecessarily. Now he is compelling me to stand and speak... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am talking about something different. It is his habit to stand in between. When he was interrupted, he started clarifying his own stand. This is not his fault and let him make his stand clear, you can interrupt him after that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is 6 o'clock. I have to take consent of the House. Please take your seat. The B.A.C. has decided that the House would continue till 7 o'clock. Do you agree with that?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now please take your seat. I am calling now next Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House has been extended.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am concluding my speech... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down. I have asked him many times to conclude his speech.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, it would be injustice. How can he finish abruptly. He will conclude in one minute.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : You had been in jail with us during emergency. Kindly have some pity on us.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, I was in jail with you but that does not mean that you should not listen to me.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Sir, I am concluding my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Sir, the name of the party I belong to, is the Samata Party. Where all the parties of India are based some where on caste, religion and creed and some have influence in the north and some have in the South whereas some others in the East or the West, our Samata Party has nothing like that. We are standing in the middle. We believe in this tenets of Lord Buddha that middle way should be followed.

We are moderates. The Samata Party neither belongs to any particular part of India, nor to Hindus or

[Shri Anand Mohan]

Muslims alone. In fact, the Samata Party is dedicated and committed to establishing of a harmonious and egalitarian society. We have set out to materialise the dreams conjured up by Shri Lohia, Dr. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi and Shri J.P. Nayaran for a harmonious and egalitarian society believing in peace of co-existence. We vehemently oppose the resolution moved by Shri Sharad Pawar ji. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Dasmunsi, please.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, we have not agreed to the extension...*(Interruptions)* Please bear with me. But I am told, Shri Dasmunsi may not be present tomorrow, so I request that the House should adjourn as soon as he finishes his speech.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time of the House has already been extended up to 7.00.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : But the House has not agreed to it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, we have agreed to sit up to 7 o'clock...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, we also have to go as he has to go. But we have our own speakers too and we can work up to 7 o'clock. Shri Dasmunsi can speak for 20-25 minutes and one more speaker from this side can also be adjusted. So we can work up to 7 o'clock and that time is sufficient.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I do not know how much time I will take. It depends on the points.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : But where have we agreed to it?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is a very important issue. I asked Shri Anand Mohan ji but he did not take his seat, due to which such things happened. Otherwise, whatever he said, and what is the condition of dalit of India, he also recited two, three Urdu couplets and I would also like convey my views about it through a couplet-

Gunahgaron Mein Shamil Hoon, Gunahon se Nahin Wakif

Saja to Janata Hoon Par Khuda Jane Khata Kya Hai.

What for we are being punished for centuries and centuries together we have never been told that.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I deliver my statement, I would like to thank you Sir. Shri Sharad Pawar ji has moved a Resolution in the House regarding events that occurred in Maharashtra on 11th July which has also been debated at length. I heard the speeches of hon. Members including Shri Pramod Mahajan, Shri Sarpotdar and Shri Ram Naik with rapt attention. I would like to emphasise that Dalits have not been targetted in Mumbai for the first time, and I am also not prepared to believe that any party while in power has ever ordered Police to open firing on people in state. I am not ready to admit that whatever atrocities have been committed on dalits are not being committed in any other state. This is also not an issue as to which party did what. I do not intend to derive political mileage here. However Maharashtra is the land which provides direction to the entire country and it will remain so in future as well. Being a political activist of the Congress party, Maharashtra is like a shrine for us as the Congress party was born in Mumbai. Apart from it, Gandhi ji's Vardha Ashram, Arbehda Jail where Shri Ravindra Nath Tagore had gone to break the fast of Gandhiji, all these places are in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra has always given direction to the entire nation right from freedom movement to industrial furtherance, culture, sports and art and literature. Therefore, anything said against the pious land of Maharashtra or a political party is an attempt to demean the honour and pride of whole country.

A lot has been said on Maharashtra happenings. It is not so that only some people of Maharashtra have debated over Shivaji Maharaj, his philosophy and ideals. In sixth standard I had read a poem of Guru Ravindra Nath Tagore on Shivaji Utsava. He introduced us to Guru Ramdas and Shivaji. I am afraid to say that there is world of difference between the ideology of Shiv Sena and that of Shivaji. This is a political party or a political group. Since the days I used to study in the school, college and university, I knew that there are three wings of forces in our country i.e. Army, Airforce and Navy as the force has its own concept.

[English]

"It is a concept of fighting and the ability to defend a nation; its a soldier's concept - the concept of fight and to preserve and defend the nation."

[Translation]

I have my view about the concept of forces.

[English]

It is not a proper concept in political terminology and political outfit.

[Translation]

There may be a political party, an institution, but the man who has adopted the word "Sena" must have his own ideology. I do not want to hurt his feelings. If the Shiv Sena has been constituted with an idea to spread the thoughts of Shivaji Maharaj, then I do not desire to disrespect him. He must have his own views. We have no objection if the ideas or sentiments of Shivaji Maharaj are spread in the whole country. I feel that the ideals and acts of Guru Ram Das and Shivaji Maharaj command our highest respect for them and we should not look at them from the angle of politics.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our hon. Home Minister have looked at the Mumbai city problem from the view point of law and order. I would like to mention that if we give any assurance and then do not fulfil it, we will be guilty to the Parliament as well as the nation. Our hon. Home Minister having toured Mumbai has made this statement in the House and the last he has mentioned that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has given them an assurance in this regard. He has not mentioned Shri Bal Thakre's name. We all know that Shri Bal Thakre is the Chief leader. We may have some conflict with their ideology. He must have his own ideology. I am not here to criticise them. I would like to state, that it was an issue of giving assurance to our Government. It was not only an issue of law and order.

[English]

Law and order is a regular matter of a state.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there may or may not be some problem. It is a technical thing whether the water canon reached there or not. The point is that we are supporting this Government at the Centre. The only concern was to save the country from the communal danger, to safeguard the unity of the country and we give them an unconditional support. On this point, they raised an allegation against our Government but we say that such allegation is false. There were other parties such as CPI, CPM. The allegation was that Shri Kalyan Singh gave an assurance to Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao and he waited till the last day. The point is that Shri Kalyan Singh gave an assurance to Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. Thereafter that assurance was not fulfilled. Because of this the leaders like Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had to regret and feel sorry in the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may mention here that this incident started from Ram Janam Bhoomi Andolan. We may have different views. The final outcome was the Masjid. The assurance was given but it was not fulfilled. When the motive is set then the assurance does not serve its purpose. The Government must study the design and the motive. It must see what is the design and what is the motive.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not treat Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in this House as the Leader of the BJP. We do criticise them from the political point of view. But today neither Mahatma Gandhi, nor Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Vallabha Bhai Patel, Lok Nayak Jaiprakash, Morarji Bhai, Indira Gandhi and nor our young Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi are any more with us. Today, we have hon. leaders like Gujralji, Devegowdaji, Sardar Surjit ji of CPI, Kesriji, Vajpayeeji with us whom we can look up to. They are our only source of inspiration today. We must seek their guidance and follow them. Vajpayeeji is not only the leader of the BJP. He is a true patriot. He has guided the country during the time of crisis. That day while discussing the situation of Bihar, Shri Vajpayeeji had said that the majority does not mean to run the Government. Morality is foremost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to repeat what the morality is? It is not desirable to doubt Mahatma Gandhi's integrity character since the BJP Government subscribe to his views, we also respect him and even Vajpayee ji and Ram Vilas Paswan ji and every leader of the country respect him and regard him as the Father of the Nation. We should not tolerate the criticism of such a man on the occasion of 50th anniversary of our Independence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to recount the couplet quoted by you. Rabindra Nath Tagore had said it into Bangla. Its English translation is :

[English]

One who does the wrong;
one who tolerates the wrong;
let your hatred burn like a straw

[Translation]

From where this story originated in Maharashtra. Is it necessary to scold the Congress, thousand times? I am to say that whatever has been done by the Congress, is not correct. If the Congress had not done anything wrong, our number of seats would not have decreased. We have definitely done something wrong and we are meeting at Calcutta to discuss this issue. We shall amend our mistake. We know that the public will not spare us

[Shri P.R. Dasmunsi]

for our mistake, even the history will not pardon us. We have to prepare the coming generation. But what has happened in Mumbai city?

[English]

About his integrity even Mahatma Gandhiji was not spared.

[Translation]

Shri P.L. Deshpande is a great artist, literary writer and we see his stage plays in Calcutta. We, the people of Bengal, respect him with great honour. His articles are well appreciated. The way his literature has been appreciated in Maharashtra, Shri Ram Naik knows it very well. Shri Ram Naikji is proud of Mumbai city. Are you not proud of Shri P.L. Deshpande? What has been said about other people?

Film Star Nana Patekar condemned that issue in the Nasik meeting. I feel sorry that such things are happening in my state.

I would like to draw Shri Ram Naik's attention towards it. My submission is that the ultimate outcome of Arun Shourie's writing. Shiv Sena's philosophy and alliance of BJP has been the oppression of Dalits. Shri Ram Naik may say anything. If BJP wins, it is good but victory should not go into their heads. If they have secured maximum number of votes in Maharashtra it is because of the support they received from the people and if they have got the mandate it does not mean that others are not important. A person who loses in election is also a political man. Raj Narayan had also won and Indira Gandhi also faced defeat in the election. Has Atalji never lost any election? Do all the candidates always win? In a democratic set up one will either win or lose but if victory gets into the head of winning candidate and the defeated candidate is condemned and abused then how can democracy function?

Shri Gopi Nath Munde is Home Minister of Maharashtra. With great humility I would like to add that I have great sympathy for him. Honestly speaking Gopi Nath Munde has not got opportunity to discharge his duties as a Home Minister, in a manner he wished to. Today, you may not relish my view but a day will come when you will admit that whatever Mr. Das Munsi said was correct. I am sure if he was given the opportunity to work in this political alliance in the manner he wished to and if he had taken care of the situation from the very first day such big incident might not have occurred. I have no links with BJP. When I went to visit the site in Mumbai, I saw Megha Patekar standing near the statue of Ambedkar ji. We do not have any political relation with Megha Patekar at all, but I know that she is a

social worker, I saw tears in her eyes. She asked us to accompany her. We then went to each and every house. I am not referring to the incident of shooting, because shootings do take place in any regime but just try to feel the madness or frenzy, terrorism which led a police constable, to shoot Mrs. Indira Gandhi, a person who was deputed to provide protection to her pumped 35 bullets in her body. She was shot dead by a terrorist, his only aim was to eliminate Indira Gandhi. But a Harijan, a dalit woman named Kaushalya was shot at seven times. Would you call it an ordinary incident and would you not think over it?

I do not live in Mumbai. But when I was the President of the Indian Youth Congress, I practically visited each and every ward of Mumbai for the purpose of setting up the office units of Youth Congress. It is an old Story. There were not so many buildings in those days. We visited Mumbai in 1971, 1972, 1973. The Corporators who were elected, half of them belonged to Youth Congress only.

As regards the story of Petrol tanker I don't know anything about it. But I had myself expressed a desire to visit that place. Shri Promod Mahajan knows about it, because that is his area. I reached the colony direct from the Port Trust area as I wanted to see the route which oil tankers follow on the High way. I saw the area where the people blocked the road. The tankers pass through that route, while going they follow this route for filling fuel and on way back they are used for other purposes. It may or may not be true. But that is a different matter. However I am just narrating what I was told. If somebody has said something wrong, then it is not fair. But it was the public who told me and not the police. Shri Promod Mahajan knows the area where shooting took place. The people were standing at a different place and no shooting could take place there in any case because that lane of the colony remains quite crowded with vegetables vendors, flower vendors, fruit sellers etc. alone with their carts and trollies. If shooting can take place, it can take place on highway only.

Ram Naik ji asked us why we did not contact them after reaching Mumbai. We admit that we made a mistake and apologies for the same. But we want to ask Ram Naik ji as to why he did not visit the homes of those who were hurt and asked them what happened. This was your responsibility because you got more votes, and the public elected you. Ram Naik ji, I would like to say this humbly that you are a senior colleague of ours. But when I visited each and every house on 15th, I found that no leader had gone there by then. No one except Megha Patekar had gone to them. Even you did not go to them. You went there later on. Nobody went there. We agree with you that the people were quite agitated and perhaps it would not have been proper to visit them at that time and had they treated you in the

same fashion as they treated Athawale, we would have never supported such a behaviour on their part.

You being a leader, did not bother to go there. Even the Chief Minister and the Home Minister did not visit the place. There was lot of resentment in the people, it was so much that even our own Congress leaders advised us not enter the colony and just visit the hospital only. But I decided to visit the colony, having experience of student agitations, fear of stone pelting could not deter me from my mission. I went there without taking help of the police. If you want to know what happened there, you better ask your Government and find out everything. I do not want to reiterate what has been narrated to me. I want to forget it. If ever I will get a change, I will write the story of a rickshawala who was killed in this incident. His only fault was that he wanted to take a person to hospital. This story is neither for Mumbai city nor for you. Perhaps this is the result of high motivation in the police, because such incident cannot take place without motivation. The police force was ordered to reach at the site immediately and they did not use water canons. How do they reach site. They reach there when they receive message through wireless. They can reach at the site in no time to control the riots, but riots did not take place at all. There was only a road blockade. Yesterday only the Home Minister in a detailed statement given in the Rajya Sabha mentioned that

[English]

It was a peaceful unprovoked mob

[Translation]

But how can peaceful mob turn violent?

I am not commenting upon the incident of firing. I do not want to talk of Chhagan Bhujbal either. In my opinion, if somebody becomes a Congress leader, he/she must be ready to die. If somebody hatches a conspiracy to eliminate him/her, it should not be publicised. Only dalits become victims in such cases. Why is such motivation taking place. The number of scheduled castes legislators and MPs which are supporting BJP have been mentioned here. It is good that they are supporting you. May be, there is some shortcoming in us that is why you are getting their support.

That does not mean that you will support this issue. Ram Naik ji has said but perhaps you secular people have not seen how this motivation took place. Shri Indrajeet Gupta has said that there was no collapse as such but you must understand that law and order has not collapsed by firing. See, how motivation was built up. Those are four pillars of democracy,

[English]

"First is the Legislature, Second is the Judiciary, Third is the Media and Fourth, finally, is the people who decide."

[Translation]

To divide the people, to separate them and talking of separatism is against the spirit of Constitution. Is attack on Newspaper, attack on Mahanagar in accordance with Constitution? Is threatening the Judiciary is the spirit of the Constitution? Are the things like instigating people for agitation, casting slur on the great writers, dashing the respected leader to the ground is in conformity with the country's traditions? How does the country become secular this way? I would not speak much:

[English]

I will quote it with all responsibility. I can place it before the House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : You have quoted judiciary, press, etc. Are you aware what has happened in Maharashtra Assembly?...*(Interruptions)*. They were not even allowed to function...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Ram Naik ji I am coming to that

[Translation]

Mr. Ram Naik ji must be aware what strategy the opposition party adopts in the State Legislative Assembly and whether it is against the parliamentary tradition or not. He can find thousands examples here and there. I am not speaking in support of any party. If somebody says that the democracy here is going to meet its dooms day and it is possible that one may interpret it differently. But I am not defending that. Had we defended, we would not have pleaded yesterday that the Home Minister was not present and it is wrong that our Home Minister should not be present to listen to the reply of Shri Vajpayee because Mr. Vajpayee is the leader of opposition party. I said so because I do not support it. But you are not aware of it. If you want to see what has been going on in the Government, you must see the Government order from 23th July, 1995 to till date. This order was issued on 15 September, 1995 and pertained about how the motivation was building up.

[English]

This is an order dated 15th September, 1995. It says :

"The State Government changed the total policy of recruiting and promoting the SCs/STs and other Backward Classes. It

[Shri P.R. Dasmunsi]

cancelled 100-point recruitment roster and 50-point promotion roster directed by the Government of India and imposed its own 200-point roster wherein the first vacancy/promotion was dereserved from Scheduled Caste to General Category."

This notification of 15th September, 1995 started boiling the minds.

[Translation]

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA (Kheri) : This is a formula, some times it is 50%, sometimes it is 100% and sometimes even 200%. It is 3 years back.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : We are quoting 1995. The circular was issued again on 12th July, 1996.

[English]

This circular said:

"The Government excluded all isolated posts from the rule of reservation. By this, the Government can notify any superior post as isolated and appoint a person of his choice without reservation."

After that, there was another circular dated 2nd November, 1996. It said :

"Government warned the concerned Head of Department again that all isolated posts or out of the reservation posts should be filled immediately."

After that, on 29th March, there was another circular. It said :

"Government had to issue 100-point roster and cancel the 200-point roster. But still it refused to reconsider appointments made under that, which is spreading unrest in SC/ST employees at present."

[Translation]

To deny the rights to the Dalits and backward classes, Government Notifications were issued one by one. What is being cooked up within bureaucracy? What is its outcome one does not know...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will you please elaborate what is wrong in these notifications because you are reading some note given to you by your party colleague?

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : No, it is yours.

SHRI PROMOD MAHAJAN : That I know. I am not objecting to that. Just tell us what is wrong in these circulars.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : A Wrong thing has been done.

[Translation]

What was reserved for them, why was it dereserved? This is wrong. This was a mistake and they had this apprehension whether they will have any protection or not.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Is it not an improvement upon the previous system ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will you please read out the first one again?

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I shall quote it again :

"The State Government changed the total policy of recruiting and promoting SCs/STs and other Backward Classes. It cancelled 100-point recruitment roster and fifty-point promotion roster directed by the Government of India and imposed its own roster of 200 points, wherein the first vacancy/promotion was dereserved from Scheduled Caste to General Category."

This is what I am quoting.

SHRI RAM NAIK : We are not arguing on this point. Probably the interpretation is wrong. I would only suggest that you give us those statements and we shall definitely verify them because we do not feel that our Government will do it.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I agree with you. If my translations are wrong and if you correct me. I shall be too grateful to you and withdraw my comments.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Why have you not brought the copy of that notification here?

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Here is this notification and this is in Marathi language.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is in Marathi, so he may not be able to read it.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : I will read it out.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : We will not ask you to be an interpreter. We will ask for it when required.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Then why do you read it wrong?

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I have said that if this is wrong, I shall withdraw my comments...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is why I said that our Government will never do it. But we shall see it and then decide. Actually, the complaint is that we are more favourable to Scheduled Castes.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ram Naik ji, one minute please. I would like to tell an incident that bureaucracy can do what it wants.

Once I visited Karnataka as a Member of Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There was a question that how Scheduled Tribes could be brought into the main stream? And a reply was, which is still on the record in the Parliament, that SCs eat the meat of dead animals and no question arise to make them equal to others. This was the reply of bureaucracy, when I asked them if some of them were non-vegetarian. Just tell me how many of you eat meat of live animal? Then you say that they are eating meat of dead animals. But who eats meat of live animal? They said sorry. It will take much time to change the mentality of this kind.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I am also saying the same thing.

[English]

Sir, I am saying the same thing. Unless these are checked, unless these are corrected and unless these are uncontrolled, the whole feeling goes wrong. That is what I say.

[Translation]

I personally did not say anything to you. I want to say only that...(Interruption)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : It is not right to say that its happening just because of BJP and Shiv Sena in power, it is not so...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : If the Government of Maharashtra issued a wrong notification in 1995, did the people who were in opposition not receive the copy of notification in time? Could they not bring it under the Central Government, nor could create uproar on his issue? Why do they take advantage of that issue today.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I am not talking about any benefit...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : If there is roaster with 100 marks it should be made of 200 marks. The reservation and opportunities created for them should

be given to them. A new system should be evolved with the intention that the people may be benefited and should be interpreted properly. If the bureaucracy and the Government want to do something good for the people that requires motivation and that could be achieved through it.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : We will examine it...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY (Amalapuram) : Sir, there are Government of India rules on it. There is a principle of reservation by the Government of India. This is being followed by all the States uniformly. If Maharashtra is not following that, if they have not improved on that, I think they need to be charged...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Notification issued by bureaucracy under any Government we can extend that. But accountability for the same lies with the Government...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The Government must own up the responsibility for any notification. But the only question is: what is the interpretation of these notifications citing only one aspect? The reserving and de-reserving of seats happen in all States regularly in many cases. Do not pick up one notification and go by it. I will show you notifications of all States where seats are reserved and deserved. These things happen...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : I do not like to argue with you...(Interruptions)

DR. B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) : But he is not interpreting. He is only quoting it...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : It does not happen like that. It does not affect all the States. For your information, in our State, West Bengal, we can say that...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : West Bengal is an exception...(Interruptions) I am talking of the rest of the country, except West Bengal.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : It cannot happen by notification.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, Kerala is a model State in respect of reservation. In Kerala there is reservation for all sections of the society, all backward classes including those of different communities...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have been to all the states of India but today is not the occasion to talk about that.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Shri Pramod Mahajan has said that he will clarify it. That is alright.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : We will improve on it...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The Government formed in Maharashtra after the election and the people who have got the opportunity to form it should have the credit. The people who did not get the opportunity to form the Government they should not feel sorry for it. I am ready to accept that Congress lost in Maharashtra this time but had Shiv Sena, BJP and other parties not come together it would have been very difficult to form the Government there. So you should be proud, as you have formed the Government there. But the Government have a responsibility. And that responsibility is not only to see every morning and evening whether everything is going on right. But to see whether the Government is able to tackle the situation and challenges facing the society...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Whatever the hon'ble member is saying I would like to add something to it. As Das Munsi ji is saying that the responsibility is of the Government. I want to request him that it is only his Government. I want to request him that it is only his Government and they only have the majority...(Interruptions) Please do listen to me. Being a member of this House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is over.

AN HON'ABLE MEMBER : What is the point of order?

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : I am speaking about the point of order only. My point is what Mr. Dasmunsi wants to say...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no point of order. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Even after being a member of this House for the last six months, still the responsibility is being put on Maharashtra Government...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no point of order. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Maharashtra Government is being accused...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are provoking to repeat the same. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : This firing took place because of the defilement of Dr. Ambedkar's statue. All have condemned it. I was listening the speech of Ram Naikji. He made a comprehensive speech, containing break-up of SC/ST support. I was expecting that Shri Ram Naik will very strongly and effectively condemn this disgusting role of the police.

[English]

I am sorry that it is not in the record. If you do it, I will be happy.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Even now, I say that I condemn the police attack and the deaths. The only thing is whether the firing was proper or not. That is to be found out.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I am not saying that.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am expressing all the regrets.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Shri P.R. Dasmunsi, this is your special quality to pick and choose. Suppose Shri Ram Naik might have forgotten it in his speech, I had initiated it and said it. There were several Press Conferences where we condemned it. Suppose one person might have forgotten one sentence, you are picking up whatever you want to...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : You develop your skill and I know my skill. What in there is it? You picked up Shri R.R. Patil's speech from the proceedings of the Assembly. What he says *Shashanki*...(Interruptions). I did not pick it up; I picked up something else. What is wrong in it?

SHRI RAM NAIK : I say that I am associating myself with what Shri Pramod Mahajan and Shri Madhukar

* Not Recorded.

Sarpotdar have said. I am going out of the State. That is what I have said.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : After this incident the Home Minister said that it has been assured that such incidents would not recur. It will take very long if I go on repeating description of such incidents. I am just reading out the list of such incidents from Nasik to Yawatmal, from Yawatmal again to Sangli - what has not taken place! I have the complete list. The most people talk about respecting the women, protecting their virtue and especially the virtue of Dalit women. After this incident on 29th of July a Dalit mayor from our Sholapur, Mr. Sawanti Rao Pawar, whom Antuleji knows, was called on the stage and then she was not allowed to come on the stage; instead she was trampled badly. The letter that has been written by her, I am reading it out to you. It says:

[English]

The lady wrote a letter to us. It was done by the Shiv Sena activists and the BJP activists. It was written by her.

[Translation]

I am saying that these people are members of the party. When a situation is created even wrong people get in. Shiv Sena and BJP people called the meeting and did not allow her to get on to the stage and trampled her.

[English]

She was unconscious for one hour with profused bleeding and taken out by the reporters and the police later on. The Mayor of Sholapur is also a Scheduled Caste lady.

[Translation]

This happened on the 29th of July. Is the assurance of the Home Minister, being complied with? And after this the attack on the newspaper 'Desh-Unnati' is also not known to you. After this attack the Chief Minister was compelled to make a statement that he is conducting an investigation in the matter and if the charges are found true, action would be taken against the Minister responsible. I was happy to see this.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You don't know this that an ardent leader of the district was attacked the same day in which a Congress legislator was arrested. Do you also have that information?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Pramod Mahajan, your party has further got the encouragement. You may do anything to come to the power in the country, we don't have any grudge...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL (Beed) : Whatever Mr. Pramod Mahajanji has just discussed, I would like to tell you, as I belong to that district. The day when Mr. Sharad Pawar delivered a speech there and referred to the attacks on journalists, the son of an ex-Congress Member of Parliament of our district Mrs. Kshrisagar was arrested. He is still in Police custody, you don't over look it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : You know a lot about the Congress family, I know it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Yes, I know very well...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I know, how many of our party men have been arrested by the Police. ...*(Interruptions)* Under our present regime some Congress people are still free and not behind the bars, it is but your mercy only. You can fabricate charges daily, it has been your practice. But I am sorry to say to Shri Pramod Mahajan that he himself can guess as to what is the future of democracy there where a leader is attacked every day and what is the intention of the Government whose Police implicate the leaders issuingailable, non-ailable warrants in murder conspiracy cases. This I can say honestly...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : All of them have got bail in the Court. You are distorting the facts. Everybody went to the court and the court gave them bail.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Pramodji, whatever you will speak in the House, I am ready to listen, but I regret to say that the firing took place in your area and you are the most revered person for them, why could not you reach there on 15th of the month...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Please listen, I tell you, the day on which this firing took place, I was in Kanpur. When I came to know about it, on the same night I reached here and left for Mumbai the next morning. On that day Mumbai Bandh was observed, it was very difficult to move out. I stayed at the airport for eight hours. Honourable Home Minister came to receive me and said that there was a mob and I would have to go out of the airport in police protection. I said it is not appropriate to make the situation worse by using police force for my protection. I kept sitting in the chair for eight hours at the airport. Therefore, there is no question why I did not go there.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I agree with whatever you said. This proves how serious the situation was ...*(Interruptions)*. Pramod Mahajanji you are a member

[Shri P.R. Dasmunsi]

of Parliament and our friend and I would never wish you to become the victim of any accident. I pray the God to...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I was not worried about myself, but I was worried that the police may not resort to firing on the way for my protection...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Police could have resorted to the firing. But since you did not have faith in the police it could have fired on the mob, and hence whatever you said is correct...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You are totally distorting it.

[Transiation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Whatever you said is correct.. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The fact is that we were in power. Home Minister was ours. I could have used the police force, I could have gone to my constituency or my home from airport by trampling the people, but I did not do so. I stayed there for eight hours so that if the next day my dear Dasmunsi asks me as to whether I had gone there or not I could tell him that I had gone there and for that I should not use the police force. If you are taking it otherwise, I am sorry for that.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to repeat it. Ram Naikji said that after the firing incident, Mumbai was so peaceful that life was absolutely normal there. The firing incident took place on 11th and I reached there on 15th. Mumbai bandh was on 12th but you did not reach there till 18th. When I reached there I asked the people, had Pramodji been there, they replied in negative. Ram Naik ji told that situation was normal during those three days and you should have visited them. But situation was not normal, so you did not reach there. That is what I am telling, and I am not speaking untruth.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Das Munshi ji, 45 minutes have passed.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Whatever the Hon. Minister has said, I would have said the same thing had I been the Minister. I am not commenting on his statement. What I am saying is that on the assurance of Kalyan Singh, Narsimha Rao had been cheated and the country had to pay its price by shedding the blood. The Home Minister should look into the assurance given by Bal Thakray. If it would have been the assurance of Vajpayeeji or Ram Naikji I could have accepted it but

for the Home Minister to take the statement of Bal Thakray that the situation was normal, as correct was wrong. You will be cheated again and then you should not hold the Congress responsible for that. With this warning and supporting this motion, I would request the Government to take right steps and keep constant monitoring on the functions of the Government of Maharashtra so that it runs constitutionally. The Government of Maharashtra should not function on anybody's whims and fancies or on the Fascist ideology.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not able to comprehend the version of Das Munsi. He has distorted the facts of the incident. Everybody has expressed his sympathy on death of some people at Ghatkoper in Maharashtra on the 11th of July. The payment of compensation to anyone cannot bring back the deceased because life's cost is not merely one lakh or two lakh rupees. Whosoever has lost his life can only take it. The Maharashtra Government has ordered a judicial enquiry into this incident and a sitting judge will investigate this case and find out the facts. The subject of this discussion is the mentality of those people who instigate people to desecrate the statues of Dr. Ambedkar, Shivaji Maharaj or some other revered person. The people who try to divide the society by such means are the enemies of society. They do not want to see the society united and attack on its unity. The people who desecrated statues and the people who provoked them both are in no way helping the scheduled castes. The statue which was desecrated was that of Mr. Ambedkar and the people who were killed also belonged to the scheduled castes. It is a shame on those politicians who are not in power now, and are trying to come into power by playing politics and getting the scheduled caste people killed. We are anguished over this incident but whosoever has tried to give it, a political shade to strengthen the stand of Congress, has done no good. Only the judicial enquiry will reveal the facts as to what was behind all this. The information regarding the incidents of Maharashtra and the incidents of Gujarat, which were consequential to the incidents of Maharashtra, and about the support being given to the Governments is not correct. He said that he had been there. I also had gone there. I talked to the people there. I visited Ramabai Nagar. The entire colony inhabited by scheduled castes people. The people living there are hardworking, labour class. They earn their livelihood by hard work. They do not have pucca houses. It does not matter that colony of that place was good or developed one. It was labourers colony. The distance between the statue and highway was also not too much. The developments speak volume of the police atrocities. If the invocation of Article 356 and thereby dismissal of the Government and return to power again has been effected under a conspiracy, it

is certainly injustice to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes. You talk about justice. You will have to wait without fail because work regarding administration of justice has already been initiated. In spite of all this spurt of resentment pervaded in Maharashtra and Gujarat and gradually the same spread in the rest of the country. Who are the people running the Government in Gujarat? Who are the people supporting the Government there? Such incident also took place there. The problem that has engulfed the entire nation is unlikely to be resolved. The manner you have discussed is not a proper way. The leaders of the downtrodden are deprecating it, but have they forgotten the misdeeds of their own regime? Those who ruled for a long period, such incidents often took place very frequently during their regime.

Na Idhar Udhar Kee bat kar,
Bata ki kafila kyon luta,
Mujhe rahjanon sei gila nahin,
Teri Rahbari ka sawal hai,
Main bataun Kafila Kyon luta
Tera rahjanon se tha vasta.

Those who provoke anti-social elements by mixing with them in order to grab power are certainly doing injustice to the suppressed people. But those who were denied justice for thousands of years could not come in power because they were never given such opportunity to rule and even in your regime you could not administer justice to them. They were meant for serving people and they were born to serve. In India caste is determined on the basis of birth. One who continues serving the higher caste for years does he not deserve honour? Service rendered by them must be rewarded. But they are getting bullets instead. It is strange to note. Who are the people to provoke them? What force is operating behind it? However, they are very shrewd and dangerous powers. Therefore, they should be exposed. We are extremely constrained for it. Whenever atrocities increase, people lose their well nurtured patience and they resort to agitation and resolution. Therefore, you should not try to aggravate their condition anymore because injustice has already been meted out to them. You should express sympathy to those who have been suppressed for centuries. Those who have exploited them to serve their own interest, cannot understand their miseries and pains. This won't work any more.

So many things are said regarding Mumbai. The Government has changed there recently. It has succeeded the Congress Government. I am giving the data to clarify the position. I have the data of riots which took place in Greater Mumbai. The number of riot incidents in 1992 was 491 and this number was 642 in 1993 and it came down to 201 in 1994, 129 in 1995

and 118 in 1996. There were 451 riots during the Congress regime and have now come down to 118 during the BJP-Shiv Sena regime. The number of atrocity cases registered under I.P.C. was 40929 in 1992 and it reduced to 32484 in 1996. The data are indicating correct number of such incidents. Similarly, the number of atrocity cases against the scheduled castes was 13529 in 1987, 15207 in 1988, 15799 in 1989 and 17733 in 1990. Who was in power at that time? The number of such incidents in Madhya Pradesh is the largest. In Maharashtra the number of such incidents is 452 in 1988, 363 in 1989, 499 in 1990 and in Karnataka it is 393 in 1988, 480 in 1989 and 690 in 1990. Similarly Kerala also has such data. You have become great well-wishers today. You want to do good for people. Is there any need to kill the people for their wellbeing? Is this the only way to come to power by perpetrating injustice to the poor? Today we are talking all this, whether our status would increase due to this, whether we will have our superiority over the scheduled castes people and whether we will find out ways to come to power by suppressing and by provoking them and devising means to come to power? Nothing has happened during these years. The Shiv Sena-BJP Government is in power there for the last two and half years and nothing has happened during this period. Every time on the eve of Assembly sessions such frenzy is being created there and grounds are being framed. Will you come to power with this vile, disgusting tendency? You also know along with us that power comes with service. Everything becomes clear when you get exposed this way. So I want to say that whatever is happening is not correct. We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our independence. What do you feel after seeing the Central Government all these years? 17 percent of the country's population consists of the Scheduled Caste people who have always been misused. We felt sorry that you went there to put up a show. It was said that a large congregation marched and lacs of people came there. But who organised the congregation? Who were all those people? All this is known to the world and the people and the country. I say that if you had to put up a show or express sympathy with them then why did you provoke them? There was nothing like this in Gujarat, yet why did an incident take place there with the approval of the Government. Houses were looted and great dissatisfaction was spread amongst the people and all this was being done. What does the Gujarat incident show? By creating such an atmosphere you were to come to power by invoking Article 356 in Maharashtra. But Hon'ble Home Minister went there and saw that it was a colony of the Scheduled Castes and 80 percent people were those belonging to the Scheduled Castes. The question was—who opened

[Dr. Satyanarayan Jatia]

fire there, but there was no answer to it. How many incidents have taken place in the country on account of all these? Why are they associated with people belonging to the Scheduled Castes? After independence of the country should the incidents like those of Belchi, Sarhupur, Behuli and Panvarhi continue to take place? These are the measures taken to provoke the people to come to power. If it is so, then it will not do the country any good.

Sir, insults of women, their stripping and what not is happening here in this country. If I read all this out, it will go on without any finish. But on January 2, 1994, when Dr. Ambedkar's statue was thrown into the pond, it was not the BJP Government there, and the people who did it all are in the Government at present. There was a communal holocaust in a village where sleeping people were burnt by throwing petrol on them and then setting them fire.

Five people were killed on the spot and forty people were injured seriously in this incident. It was reported in 'Jansatta' of 26th January 1994 that fifty houses were set on fire in Kajrana Dera village of Fatehpur district and a news was published in Jansatta of 30th January, 1994 that two harijan women were paraded naked in Dona village. It was published in 'The Punjab Kesri' of December, 1993 that a bride room was forced to get down from the mare. In Baragaon under Nawabganj police station in Bareilly district, Sumer was beaten up and they urinated into his mouth. What type of mentality does it show? In addition to this, on 19-1-94 Shivpati incident took place where a woman belonging to scheduled caste who was bringing fodder for the cattle was beaten up and her clothes were torn.

19.00 hrs.

What type of mentality does it show? Who was in power at that time? Shri Paswanji speaks about it and today he is in the power. All these incidents took place ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, time is over now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is why I am asking to please conclude.

SHRI RAM NAIK : He will conclude within five minutes, as he has to go out of station.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : There is Raigarh district in Madhya Pradesh under which there is a Development Block-Baramkela having Grampanchayat. Shrimati Dropadi Bai who is the sarpanch of the said Gram Panchayat, was stripped and paraded at chaupal.

Who is in power there?...*(Interruptions)* The women legislators have reported all this. No action has been taken in this regard so far. Recently on 21st July, 1997, an incident took place under Bagicha Police station in Raigarh district. This is adjacent to Sarguja district. There a girl belonging to scheduled caste was paraded naked. Who is responsible for this act? These are not good indications for an independent nation. Therefore, I would like to say in the fiftieth year of independence :-

"Bandi jeevan Ke Bandhan Badle hain,
Karagar wahi hai"

Badli man Ki Aasha lekin jeevan ka
Vishwas Na Badla.

Kyon Badli Jab Manavata Ki Peeda ka
Itihas Na badla.

Badal gaya hai kuch logon ka jeevan,
lekin, Aansu peene wale pariwar wahi hai".

Therefore, I am saying if bonds of humanity are the same, prisons are the same, then what has changed. The country got its independence fifty years ago, but in this year of Golden Jubilee of independence, people are still living under slavery. The people criticise other but they do not think about getting them freed from slavery. I would like to ask how many persons think in such terms.

Misconception still prevails in the country about untouchables. Dr. Ambedkar had said that a saying was prevalent in the country that untouchables cannot construct their own house. If they construct their own houses, they will have to construct them in the south of the village. He cannot have wealth. He will not touch any holy thing. He will not put on good clothes, he will not give good names to his children. An untouchable will not dare to sit on a chair or cot in presence of a person belonging to upper caste. All these things are going on since long. Upto what extent these have been lessened? In villages, people are still leading such type of life that an untouchable will not ride a horse, he will not organise a procession, he will not enter the village during the festive seasons. An untouchable will not use the wells and ponds used by other people. An untouchable will not enter any temple, though he will make idols and construct temples. In whose regime does all this take place?...*(Interruptions)* There will be a separate crematorium for untouchables. Therefore, I say that such mentality which is prevailing in our society, will have to be changed. To resort to any gimmicks and incite such incidents will not help in any manner. That is why I say to all those friends :

"Vyarth hai Karana Khusamad Raston Ki,
Kam apne paon hi ate safar main"

The persons belonging to scheduled castes have now awakened and they want a change. I want to know what contribution the members of this august House would make in this transitional period? When atrocities are there :

"Yeh Julm bhi karate hain to charche nahin hote,
Ham aah bhi bharate hain to ho jate hain badnam."

Therefore, all these things should be considered. The Poona pact is there.

[English]

In the Poona Act, it is mentioned :

"In the Central Legislation, 18 per cent of the seats allotted to the general electorate for British India in the said legislature shall be reserved for the depressed classes."

[Translation]

This pact was of 24.9.1925. It was for 18 per cent. What is the percentage of reservation at present in the country? The percentage of the people of scheduled castes has gone up to 17 percent. If this is also done, this also create bitterness. In view of all these things, I would like to say that the said change is necessary.

Yesterday an article was published in 'Dainik Jagaran'. It has reported perpetual series of injustice upon dalits. It has been reported therein that there are many people who spread hatred for their own personal, egoistic, emotional, political ends and they have disturbed the normal life in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

They would also like to make disturbances in rest of the country as well. It has been reported therein that those people want to prove their supremacy in the society. Instead of recognising the services of Dr. Ambedkar, they want to dismantle the system of the state. It should be found out that who are these people.

In the end, I would like to say that employment should be provided to the families or heirs of the persons killed in Rambai Nagar.

Measures should be taken for their rehabilitation and opportunities of employment should be provided to the dependents of the deceased as per their abilities and work should be done for development of their locality.

In the end, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I want to conclude my speech with this couplet.

"Buland wadon ki Bastian lekar ham kya karenge.
Hamen hamari zamin de do ham asman
lekar kay karenge."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER . The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 1st August, 1997 at 11.00 a.m.

19.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Friday, August 1, 1997/Shravana 10,
1919 (Saka)*
