

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

**Fourth Session
(Part-I)
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)**



(Vol. X contains Nos. 11 to 20)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

Price : Rs. 50.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

Shri S. Gopalan
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Shri Surendra Mishra
Additional Secretary
Lok Sabha Secretariat

Shri P. C. Bhatt
Chief Editor
Lok Sabha Secretariat

Shri Y. K. Abrol
Senior Editor

Shrimati Kamla Sharma
Editor

Shri Balram Suri
Assistant Editor

Shri S. C. Kala
Assistant Editor

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Thursday, March 13, 1997/Phalguna 22, 1918(Saka)
...

Col./line	For	Read
(iii)/9 & 12	Shri Indarjit Gupta Gupta	Shri Indrajit Gupta
64/18 (from below)	DR. RAMESH CHAND KUMAR	DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR
67/16	SHRI JANG BAHADUR SHING PATEL	SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL
70/7	SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHAKHIALIA	SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHIALIA
140/3	SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI	SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI
184/2	SHRI GEORGE PERNANDES	SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES
186/9	SHRI SATYAJITSINH DILIPSINH GAEKWAD	SHRI SATYAJIT SINH DULIP SINH GAEKWAD
275/6 (from below)	SHRI SYED MASUDAL HUSSAIN	SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN
318/11 (from below)	SHRI INDRIJIT GUPTA	SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA

CONTENTS

(Eleventh Series, Vol. X, Fourth Session, Part-I, 1997/1918 (Saka)

No. 15, Thursday, March 13, 1997/Phalguna 22, 1918 (Saka)

SUBJECT

COLUMNS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
*Starred Question Nos. 261 - 266	1-25
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
Starred Question Nos. 267 - 280	25-39
Unstarred Question Nos. 2875 - 3104	39-220
STATEMENTS CORRECTING THE REPLY TO USQ NO. 1942 DATED 5th DECEMBER, 1996 REGARDING FLIGHT FROM DELHI TO RAJKOT AND AHMEDABAD AND STARRED QUESTION NOS. 34 DATED 21st NOVEMBER, 1996 REGARDING LONG RANGE AIRCRAFT	220-221
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	221-224
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA	224
COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE	224
Second Report	
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS	225
Fortieth, Forty-First and Forty-Second Reports	
MOTION RE : ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	226-235
Motion to Consider - <i>Adopted</i>	
BILLS INTRODUCED :	
(i) Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill	248
(ii) Income-Tax (Amendment) Bill	249
STATEMENT RE : ELECTRICITY LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE - <i>Laid</i>	249
STATEMENT RE : INCOME TAX (SECOND AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE - <i>Laid</i>	249
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to restore access of inhabitants of Uttaranchal, U.P. to the nearby forest for domestic use	250
Shri Bachi Singh Rawat "Bachda"	

SUBJECT

COLUMNS

(ii) Need for early completion of work on bypass at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh 250-251

Shri Manoj Kumar Sinha

(iii) Need to take up the issue of sharing the Sindhu river water with Pakistan 251

Shri P. S. Gadhavi

(iv) Need to allocate adequate LPG to Mavelikara in Kerela to clear the backlog 251

Prof. P. J. Kurien

(v) Need to set up rubber based industries in backward district of Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu 251-252

Shri N. Dennis

(vi) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Maharashtra for rehabilitation and Improvement of slums in Mumbai 252

Shri Narayan Athawalay

(vii) Need to stop the proposed sale of land belonging to Azam Zahi Mills at Warangal, Andhra Pradesh 252-253

Shri A. Chandulal

RAILWAY BUDGET - GENERAL DISCUSSION - 1997-98 253-287

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (RAILWAYS) 1997-98

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS - (RAILWAYS) 1994-95

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS - (RAILWAYS) 1996-97 - *Contd.*

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan 253-267

Demands for Grants on Account (Railways)

Demands for Excess Grants (Railways)

Demands for Supplementary Grants (Railways)

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) VOTE ON ACCOUNT BILL - *Introduced*

Motion to Consider 287

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan 287

Shri Nitish Kumar 288-289

Clauses 2, 3 and 1 289

Motion to pass 289

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) BILL - *Introduced*

Motion to Consider 290

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan 290

Motion to Pass 291

SUBJECT

COLUMNS

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) No. 2 BILL - *Introduced*

Motion to Consider	291
Shri Ram Vilas Paswan	291
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	292
Motion to Pass	292

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Incidents/Issues relating to Uttar Pradesh	293-295
--	---------

Shri Indarjit Gupta

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : APPROVAL OF CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT IN RESPECT OF THE STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH	295-318
---	---------

Shri Indarjit Gupta

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 13, 1997 / Phalguna 22, 1918 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met one minute past Eleven of the Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Mr Speaker, Sir today, in front of the police station, Chhatra Sangathan Sangharsh Morcha (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may raise it after Question Hour. Raise this matter in Zero Hour. You will get a chance during that hour.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Three students have been killed in the election of Kashi Hindu Vishwavidyalaya (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will get a chance during Zero Hour.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Today, they are sitting on dharna (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am aware of it.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : A high level Committee, a Judicial Committee (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will get a chance in Zero Hour. Otherwise you would lose a chance in zero Hour also.

[English]

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Child Labour

*261. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WAIYAR :

Will the Minister or LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of child labour is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring forward a bill ensuring minimum wages for them;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce compulsory education for these children;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of the districts in Karnataka and other States where special schools for child labourers have so far been sanctioned; and

(f) total number of child labourers proposed to be admitted in these special schools?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The census figures show that the number of working children has come down from 13.64 million in 1981 to 11.28 million in 1991. Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms and making free and compulsory elementary education a fundamental right. However, priority is being given to eradication of child labour in hazardous occupations for which 76 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned so far. Minimum wages for working children are fixed as per provisions of Section 3(3) of the Minimum Wages Act., 1948. The names of the districts in Karnataka and the districts of other States which have been sanctioned National Child Labour Projects for opening special schools for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations are giving in the Annexure. A total of 1.50 lakh children are proposed to be rehabilitated through the 76 National Child Labour Projects sanctioned so far, including three projects in the State of Karnataka.

Annexure

Districts Sanctioned Child Labour Projects

ANDHRA PRADESH : Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, East Godawari, Guntur, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Kurnool, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam (Markapur), Ranga Reddy, Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram, Visakhapatnam, Warangal, West Godavari (20)

BIHAR : Dumka, Garhwa, Jamui, Nalanda, Pakur, Sahibganj, Saharsa, West Singhbhum (8)

GUJARAT : Panchmahals, Surat (2)

KARNATAKA : Bijapur, Dharwad, Gulbarga (3)

MADHYA PRADESH : Bilaspur, Durg, Mandsaur, Rajnandgoan, Surguja (5)

MAHARASHTRA : Selapur, Thane (2)

ORISSA : Angul, Bargarh, Bolangri, Deogarh, Gajapathi (Udaigiri), Ganjam Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangapur, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Sonapur (16)

RAJASTHAN : Jaipur, Udaipur (2)

TAMIL NADU : Coimbatore, Chidambarnar, Dharmapuri, Kamrajar, Salem, Pudukottai, Tiruchirapalli, North Arcot (8)

UTTAR PRADESH : Aligarh, Ferozabad, Varanasi (Mirzapur-Bhadohi), Moradabad (4)

WEST BENGAL : North 24-Pargana, South 24-Pargana, Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur, Midnapur, Burdwan (6)

(76)

MR. SPEAKER : No Supplementary.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : It is a very important supplementary. But I seek your projection. I have some documents. The reply of the hon. Minister is :

"The census figures show that the number of working children has come down from 13.64 million in 1981 to 11.28 million in 1991."

Sir, it is a very serious matter which I am raising today on the floor of the House.

[Translation]

The problem of child labour is very serious. It must be debated. I have three different official documents (Interruptions) Please tell the Hon'ble Speaker. He is saying that I should speak slowly as I have undergone angioplasty.

[English]

Thank you very much for reminding me.

[Translation]

There are three documents. On 9th December the Hon. Minister had said in reply to the same question.

[English]

According to 1981 census, the total number of working children in India was 13.6 million. According to the forty-third round of National Sample Survey conducted in 1987-88, the total number of working children increased to 17.2 million. The data regarding working children, as per 1991 census, are yet to be released. The answer given by the same Minister is :

"It is estimated that presently there would be about 20 million working children."

[Translation]

The hon. Minister had stated three months back that there were 20 million child labourers. I have official

documents. I have current status. It has been said that 43rd Report was yet to be submitted. However the figure may touch around two crore. The report of Suresh Bargava, a representative of UNICEF in the home State of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, is available with me. It has been stated therein that :

[English]

"There are 3.5 crore child labourers in India".

First of all, I would like to have a clarification from the hon. Minister, What is true and which figure is correct. The hon. Minister has said that it is decreasing; that in 1981 it was 13.64 million and that in 1991 it has decreased to 11.28 million. Here are the three documents of the Central Government and the UNICEF. I would like to know what is the true picture and what is the actual status.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no contradiction. What the hon. Minister has stated is the correct position. If you analyse it properly, you will not find any contradiction. You ask the next question. I know the figures very well than anybody else. There is no contradiction in what the hon. Minister has stated. In 1981, Census is 13 million. Is it all right?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Yes Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : The National Sample Survey in 1987, that is after five years, is 17 million. In 1996, there will be some increase, so estimated figure is 20 million. Now the final figure of 1991 Census is 11 million. Where is the contradiction? I rule out that there is any contradiction.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You ask the question.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am very familiar with the subject.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I am reading out the reply given by him on December 9th. It has been indicated there in that there were 17 million working children.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, the hon. Member got a reply from the ex-Labour Minister, now he should put the question to the present Labour Minister.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : That figure goes down because of the skilfulness and efficient working of the ex-Labour Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : No You should understand what is Census and what is the National Sample Survey.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I know that.

MR. SPEAKER : You should understand what is the difference between these two and what is the estimate. There are three differences.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, are former Ministers allowed to answer questions?

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry, I withdraw.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, let the hon. Minister clarify

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, the hon. Minister replied on the floor of the House that it has increased on 9th December, four months back. Now, again all these figures have changed. How one can believe?

MR. SPEAKER : No, it is because, by December 1996 the 1991 Census was not available.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I will clarify the position. The hon. Member is correct in saying that on 9th December, I had given the figure that according to 1981 Census, it was 13.64 million. The Census Report of 1991 was available only at the end of December. Therefore, the answer given on 9th December is correct (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : He is repeating the reply given on 11th December (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : When did you receive that Report?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I read the report on 9th December 1996 (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, through you I would like to know whether the Government is serious in implementing the National Labour Project, which has been announced by it, in letter and spirit. My specific question is whether the Government is serious to implement this policy and this Act Minimum Wages Act.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, the Government is very serious to eliminate child labour in the country. If the hon. Member is aware, even in advanced countries this is persisting. In the Common Minimum Programme we have clearly stated that child labour in all forms will be eliminated and it has been reflected in the President's Address also.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I feel that the House has not understood my sentiments. I have been a teacher for twenty years. The number of child labourers has been increasing day by day in the country. It is a matter of concern.

[English]

It is a question which has to be nationally debated.

[Translation]

It should be replied this way. I don't want to go into its discussion. As my friend, Shri Sanat Mehta has reminded.

[English]

Recently, last month, I had undergone angioplasty surgery.

[Translation]

I have undergone surgery. But, I would like to tell all honourable Members that there are 60-70 per cent drop outs among the children of primary schools and middle schools. It is a matter of serious concern.

[English]

Education is the backbone of the nation.

[Translation]

The children of this country do not get education and they work on roads, in hotels and in tea stalls of villages. They are engaged in works forcibly.

[English]

The Government should be serious about it. That is the only suggestion.

I have asked, what are the minimum wages. The hon. Minister has replied that it is as per the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Section 3(3). I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the minimum wages as per Section 3(3) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Please tell me how much money has been given. Are you going to increase the minimum wages? What are the minimum wages for the working children?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, the hon. Member has not studied the Minimum Wages Act ... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir , I am sorry. I have not studied it! I have got the figures with me and I am ready to debate everything.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I will give you the provision of the Act. (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHK : I have the papers. I have studied it for seven hour yesterday night. You have not even been able to give me the correct answer ... (Interruptions)

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : For the knowledge of the hon. Member, I will give you the provision of the Act (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : It is only because of the hon. Speaker who has supported you. Otherwise, you have no words to express it. This is the answer which you have given me in three months' time (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the hon. Minister know how to handle his questions.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Once he has accepted. It is 17.2 millions. It is not an estimated figure. It is the correct figure (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Harin Pathak, please do not underestimate the hon. Minister. He knows how handle his questions.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : The correct figure is 17.2 millions (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member's question is this. Yes, you have a provision for fixing the minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act. But, what is the amount that you have fixed? That is what he wants to know.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: The amount of minimum wages has to be fixed by the appropriate Government with regard to the industry.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have information from them.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He has saved his skin. But please ask him to carry out study constantly.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think , you can get the information from the State Governments.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I have studied everything. No State Government has fixed the minimum wages for the children. That is the position. I am very clear on that (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is not correct.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, if the State Governments have not fixed the minimum wages, then this is very serious (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has said that the State Governments have not fixed the minimum wages for children.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : What subsequent steps the Government of India is talking? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, this is a very serious question. There must be some responsibility (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me put a supplementary. I know your concern. I myself will put a supplementary. There was a proposal that the Minimum Wages Act should be amended to bring the wages of the children at par with the adults. What is the position?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : That is under circulation. We are still expecting the reply from the State Governments. After getting the reply, we will give.

MR. SPEAKER : Good. I think, I have helped you something. Now, Shri Sudhir Giri.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the Central Government scheme, in the rural areas some boys and girls working as labourers have been taken away from their places of work and they have been admitted into schools for the purpose of serving their interests and some money was paid to them. They were paid money for a year or two. But, what will be the fate of those boys and girls after a year or two?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : What is that question? I could not follow the question.

MR. SPEAKER : I could not also follow the question. Will you please repeat?

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : As per the Central Government scheme, the boys and girls who are working in different factories or in the households are getting admitted into schools and during that period of their schooling, they are paid some amount as per the Government's decision and norms. After their period of schooling, what will be the fate of those boys and girls?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: The child labour who is taken out of the hazardous industries is being put in special

schools where we are giving vocational training and we are also paying stipends to the parents of the child. It is about Rs. 100 per month. After vocational training, the child has to find a way out.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Where are the vocational schools? There is no vocational training school being set up. That is a different question.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: We have about 1,800 schools in the country.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: That is different. But he asked a different question.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: There are 1,800 schools and in these schools, the children who have been taken out from the hazardous industries are being given midday meal, vocational training and special training.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: After schooling, what will they do?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: After schooling, I have said that they have to find out their own means (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: It is stated that many schools have been opened. Please provide the details of amount of money provided to each school (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Last week, there was a question about this. All the information was already furnished. I remember it.

[Translation]

Pay Scale to MTNL Employees

+
*262. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have not been given the pay scale as per rules prevalent in the Nigam even after a period of ten years of its inception;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the number of such employees;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted by the Government to provide pay-scale as per the rules of the Nigam;

(d) if so, the salient features and composition thereof;

(e) the number of meetings held by the committee during the last two years and the decision taken in these meetings; and

(f) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its final report?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MTNL Employees consist of following two categories:

(i) Directly recruited 62 employees;

(ii) The Government employees on deemed deputation, approximately 62,500.

Out of directly recruited employees of MTNL, 48 employees have already been given the industrial DA pay scales. The pay scales of remaining 14 employees who are in executive category is under consideration of the Management:

The Government employees who are on deemed deputation are drawing Government pay scales because the case of their absorption in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has not been yet decided.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Question does not arise in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Mr Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that 62 employees have been recruited directly. Out of them 48 employees have already been given industrial DA pay scales. I would like to know the category of these employees and the time since when they are being paid dearness allowance. Whether the Government is contemplating to give industrial DA pay scales to remaining 14 employees? For how many years, they have been working in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.?

[English]

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : The entire issue is *sub judice*. This Staff Union of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have gone before the Central Administrative

Tribunal. I would request the hon. Member to have some patience. The hearing on this matter would be held on 14th March, 1997. So, whatever reply that has to be given would be available as soon as this issue is decided.

MR. SPEAKER : The hearing is tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, some employees have joined Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. on deputation. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether these employees are also being considered for inclusion in this category? If so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard and the reasons therefor? Will this decision not cause loss to the employees of the Nigam?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Mr. Speaker, Sir, those employees have moved the court. This matter will come up before the Central Administrative Tribunal on 18th June this year.

[English]

I would request the hon. Member to be patient till this issue is decided. But then I would also inform the House that this entire issue has become a very complicated issue now, because the telecommunication services in India have undergone a rapid change.

We are modernising. Our services are being opened for foreign companies. Investments are coming in. Basic telephone services have already been put up for offers from different investors and a new look is required to be taken at the entire structure of the Department of Telecommunication.

[Translation]

DR. BALIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought you would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister that M.T.N.L. was set up in 1986 and it was initially set up for five years, but today it is going to complete about 12 years. The Hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that there are two categories but the nature of work is same. For example, some stenographers are working in corporate whereas others are working in M.T.N.L. Those working M.T.N.L. draw a salary of Rs 3823/- whereas others working in corporate draw a salary of Rs. 5171/- So there is such discrimination despite same nature of work. Why is there discrimination? Whether the Hon'ble Minister is going to make such arrangement so that both categories of employees get same salary? If so the time by which such a decision is likely to be taken?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I have already given a reply in this regard. The Government has no intention to create such kind of discrimination between two categories of employees. We are for rationalisation of pay structure of M.T.N.L. employees and directly appointed employees. In

this connection, petitions have been filed in CAT. These petitions will be heard on 14th March and 18th June. I had even stated that there was need of thinking by our Department the other way in this regard. There have been a lot of improvement in our services.

[English]

A total opening has taken place and probably in a years time, the entire structure of the Department of Telecommunication will have to undergo a change.

World Trade Organisation

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned " 68 nations sign multibillion Telecom pact" appearing in the *Times of India* dated February 17, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether India has signed this pact;

(d) if so, the profits/gains likely to be accrued to the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) That discussions for opening up of basic telecommunication service market which were continuing since April, 1994 were concluded on 15.02.1997. A total of 54 members consisting of 68 countries submitted their schedules to WTO containing various subsectors of basic telecommunication services which they will open to competition with limitations to market access. India also submitted its schedule of commitments on basic telecommunication services. The agreement shall come into force w.e.f. 1st January, 1998.

(d) and (e) The deal, apart from attracting foreign investment in telecom sector, would phase out monopolies and restrictions on competition, to the extent committed by India. This will ultimately result in improvement of telecommunication services in the country.

In future, Indian telecommunication service providers can also explore foreign markets for providing these services.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government is planning to have a common programme with other countries which might be affected by the US move to drastically reduce international

call rates over the next three years. Even Japan has been asked to implement the same reduced rates even faster. I would like to know whether the Ministry of External Affairs has also been approached for an effective coordination with the developing countries. If so, what steps have been taken by the Ministry in view of the FCC directive to the developing countries to reduce the International call rates by approximately five times and has called for comments by the middle of March, 1997? To what extent the Indian Government has been able to get its support from the developing countries and what are the other measures being considered?

MR. SPEAKER : It seems you are giving notice of a new question.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, the hon. Member has put many questions. It is difficult to keep track of every question that he has asked. However, I would like to say that these matters are of bilateral nature. So far as tariff is concerned, there are bilateral discussions between India and other countries and the rates are accordingly decided. So far as involvement of External Affairs Ministry is concerned, I would like to say that we are having close discussion on this issue.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I would specifically like to ask the hon. Minister as to whether we are also going to match the international call rates on par with other countries. Our prices are five times more than the other countries.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : It depends on the final cost. The actual expenses where the call terminates have to be taken into consideration. Our cost may not be the same as that of other countries.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I would like to know whether it has been reported that India failed to move forward in Telecom talks and India has made highly restrictive draft offer on basic telecommunications to the World Organisation indicating that India has yet to look upon telecom as an enabling infrastructure in a developing country. If so, I would like to know whether any concrete telecom policy has been worked out or is being considered so that India could move forward with other developing countries.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : The hon. Member is absolutely correct. Our country is interested in moving forward. Every step that we take is in the interest of the country. Even the rates which we are talking about depends in what our interests are. Therefore, the hon. Member may rest assured that whatever we do, it shall be in the best interest of our country.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : I am very happy to know from the hon. Minister that this pact is in the interest of our country. For the first time when it was contemplated that general agreement on trade and services should also be introduced as part of GATT, for the first time when services were considered to be brought under the purview of the multilateral pact, India had opposed it. India had thought

that it would not be in the interest of the country to get services also into that fold. The interest in the trade and services is so large that probably India having very small portion would stand to lose in it.

I would like to know from the Minister as to how we are going to benefit by signing a multilateral pact and how it is in the interest of the country now, when only a few years ago we thought otherwise and our delegation had consistently opposed GATT. The General Agreement on Trade and Services was almost opposed. What are the areas in which we are going to benefit and what were the reservations then, which have now been dispelled?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : In fact, this reply is there. If you read the answer to (b) and (d) and (e) part of the question, the question was:

"What are the profits/gains likely to be accrued to the country and if there are no gains, what are the reasons?"

and I have stated that, "The deal apart from attracting foreign investment in telecom sector..." This has happened now because already foreign investments are coming in the telecom services. Then I have said, "This would also phase out monopolies and restructructions on competition..." This is also taking place. Then I have said that there is an overall improvement in the telecommunication services. We have seen that the general improvement is taking place. And the greatest benefit that we foresee is, our own telecommunication service providers are competing in the world.

AN HON. MEMBER : Where?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Today, they may not have gone but in future they are likely to go because this agreement which has now been raised at the international level also provides opportunity to our own companies.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : So far we were giving them access bilaterally but now we are forced to give multilaterally because you have signed an agreement. How is it going to benefit us?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : It is very simple. You may look at the telecommunication services today in our country. We are getting the best of the services.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Not best of the services.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Yes, we are getting it. Please take it as a relative term; what we had yesterday, what we had sometime back and what we are having now.

Everywhere there is improvement in the services. You will see this. The number of lines has increased. The types of services have increased. This is the advantage that we are getting.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Before this pact came into operation, you have already opened our telecom to the private investors. Is it not a fact that the private investors are mainly going for pagers and not for village telephones? What is the basic service - pager or village telephone?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir the hon. Member may know that pager is also an important service. But that is not the only answer or a complete answer. In fact, on account of this new policy, on account of this multilateral agreement that has taken place, the entire country is benefiting. We have divided this country into various circles. Each circle is being opened up for our own people as well as for foreign investment and the benefit is there for everybody to see.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, the hon. Minister has not answered my question (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, as has been asked earlier, one of the fears which we had was that since this service is a strategic one, opening up of this sector may cause some difficult situation as far as our strategies, our secrets and their leakages are concerned. So, do you think that our fears in this sector also have been dispelled and, if so, in what way. If not, is there anything which we should be beware of as far as opening up of this sector is concerned?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, we are moving in an international sector today. What we are doing, the other countries are also doing. Whatever benefits that we get, similar benefits are available to other countries also. In this competitive world, we cannot think of gaining something at the cost of others something else. If the hon. Member is more specific and explains to us as to how exactly we may lose our secrets and things like that, perhaps, I will be able to react in a better way.

MR. SPEAKER : You can do it outside the floor of the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir the MTNL is sending inflated and incorrect telephone bills to hon. Members of Parliament. They do not follow any rule or regulation in preparing the bills and send uncalculated and fake bills. When we are getting such erroneous bills, how much inflated bills will the public be getting ? All the telephones of Lok Sabha are always out of order.

[*English*]

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, it is not part of W.T.O Agreement (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I think Shri Paswan has done such a service to you that I do not think we need to go for another question.

... (*Interruptions*)

Committee on Air Safety

+

*264. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee set up to review the air safety arrangements at Delhi and Mumbai has submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made along with the shortcomings in the above airport noticed by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A summary of the recommendations made by the Seth Committee are given below:

(i) *Delhi Airport*: As the new Control Tower is situated quite far away from the runways it poses only a very nominal safety hazard. Due to considerations of practicality there is no objection to its continuing at its present location.

(ii) *Mumbai Airport*: The new Control Tower and Technical Building pose a safety hazard wherever runway 14/32 is in use. They should be re-built in full compliance of ICAO's standards and Recommended Practices pertaining to Obstacle Height Restriction. The use of runway 14/32 should be suspended except in cases of an emergency.

(iii) *Madras Airport*: The location and height of the new Control Tower and Technical Building, which are under construction should be reviewed.

(c) A Task Force has been set up under the Chairmanship of Member (Operations), Airport Authority of India to act on the recommendations of the Committee and pose alternatives where necessary. Meanwhile, the use of secondary runway (14/32) at Mumbai has been suspended.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Mr Speaker, Sir, there is criticism that the air safety measures in Delhi and Mumbai are not up to international standards. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Committee has taken this factor into consideration and what steps have

been taken to modernise and instal the latest radar equipment at least in the airports of four metropolitan cities.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir in my reply I have told clearly about this. Already the modernisation process at Delhi and Mumbai is going on. I think by March the work in Delhi, and by June the work in Mumbai, will be over.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : What about Calcutta and Chennai?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: I think, he would have gone through my reply. We appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Seth to evolve and give a report as to whether the system what India's airports are having today, as far as air traffic control is concerned, is up to the mark or not. We have to study this. I think that the committee is going through this process.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Why have you not included Calcutta?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: It is being installed in Calcutta and Chennai this year.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you have got what you wanted.

..... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, Calcutta is also the gateway of the North-Eastern States.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I am allowing him second question.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Last year, the crash of a plane took place in Haryana resulting in hundreds of casualties. I would like to know what steps have been taken to prevent crash of planes.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Sir, this is a separate question
..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTAMEGHE: You do not pay attention to me.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need of providing you an opportunity every day. You have got enough opportunity.

[English]

I cannot allow every Member every day. There are 545 MPs.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Hon. Speaker, Sir, to avoid air traffic, certain airports are not served by Indian Airlines and the routes of the flights are changed. For that matter, there is no traffic at Salem airport. I would like to know

whether the Minister has got any idea to start airline service there. Also, at Anna International Airport in Chennai, about 10 days back, one flight from Bangalore reached the ground two minutes earlier due to lack of modernisation. Some problem was there. Then, the pilot luckily took off and all the 360 passengers were saved. Could the hon. Minister tell as to when the modernisation would be done instead of telling that he would do it in one year or this financial year? This is very essential. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it would start within 10 or 12 days at Chennai, Mumbai and Madras.

MR. SPEAKER: It is nice to hear Dr. K.P. Ramalingam himself making a mistake by calling Chennai as Madras.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: As far as air traffic is concerned, this work cannot be done in one or two months or in one year. It consists of the whole process. We have to construct towers, bring the equipments and adjust with this technical work. So, it will definitely take time. But as I have already said that the work had been started for MSSR in Calcutta and Chennai long back. I will see that it is completed by the end of this year.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has stated that as per the report regarding the airport of Mumbai, a big tower and a building was constructed near runway No. 14. Since the planes land there with the help of instrumental landing system, they have to take round of the building because it may cause obstacle in landing. The committee has recommended that either this building may be remand from here or it may be rebuilt. Crores of rupees have been spent on the construction of those building and the construction of runway also involves an expenditure of crores of rupees. I would like to know whether technical aspects are not kept in mind while constructing such building or tower near runway since this will result into loss of crores of rupees? I would like to ask two or three things. Will the Government conduct a full enquiry on the loss of Rs. one crore who will be responsible for such a loss? Secondly, he has said that landing has been suspended. I do not know about it. The date from which the aeroplanes (Interruptions). It is very important from safety point of view.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot ask questions on behalf of the entire opposition.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is motherly feeling behind it because my son is a pilot. Some trivial complaints are made from safety point of view. Temporary passes are issued to the employees of Mumbai Airport. Since no decision has been taken in this regard for several months. It is not proper from security point of view. When a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, this is not the way. You cannot ask like this. You must follow certain rules.

[Translation]

SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : You have asked about Mumbai first. I thought that a doctor changes his opinion about the patient. I have felt it for the first time that engineers also change their opinion. When I received the report of General Sheikh Committee. I asked on which Technical basis that was constructed? The former Chairman who was also a technical member had said that the construction of Tower would not harm anything because that was built on international specifications. Therefore, I stated on the day when General Sheikh Committee Report was presented that 1432 runways should be suspended. Most of the landings have 0.05 per cent danger. There is no danger in take off. I stated that I had appointed a task force to monitor all this aspect as to whether danger is there or not and will find out the ways as to how this problem can be solved. I am glad to know that your son is a pilot. You can see the report of either Singapore or of any other place. A tower of the height of 150 ft. was needed at Anstedam but the present tower is 330 ft. high. It means that it is 180 ft. excess than the required height. Likewise, a tower of 150 ft. in height was needed in Paris but the present tower is of 260 ft. height. I am looking into the matter. Technicians have opined differently. One engineer has said that to be right. The Second says that it should not be there. I am considering both the opinions and trying to find out a solution. So far as leading is concerned, landing has been suspended in runway No. 1432.

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while on the question of air safety, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that most of the airlines operating in India including the national carrier, namely, Air India and the domestic airline, the Indian Airlines have not yet fully complied with the Director-General Civil Aviation's directive to have S-mode transponders installed on all the aircrafts? The need for such air traffic control was acutely felt after the mid-air collision over Charkhi Dadri in November, 1996.

And even after that, more than once, mid-air collisions were averted at the last moment. Will the hon. Minister assure us a firm deadline by which time the equipment would be installed in all the aircraft, thus not exposing the lives of the passengers to danger?

SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : Sir, after this collision, I have order that S-mode facilities should be incorporated in all the flights if the Indian Airlines by December, 1997 and in the Air India by June 1997.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : What about the Alliance Airlines and Boeings?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : It will be in all the airlines and the Alliance is a part of that.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Are the lives of the passengers going to be in danger till then?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Please do not have notion. All safety measures are there. S-mode's function is different. Inside the flight, you can sit and come to know as to which flight is coming in what direction, at what height and how many miles it is away. All other systems are there, and this is an extra precautionary measure. We are going to have this system because even if the ground system fails, this system works.

Formulation of New Tourism Policy

+
* 265. SHRI VIJAY PATEL :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated new tourism policy to ensure integrated development of tourism and hotels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to include tourism in the infrastructure sector and view it as an industry to attract investment for rapid development and employment;

(d) if so, whether the gross out put of tourism is likely to be increased by 50 percent and is likely to create 80 lakh jobs directly by the end of next decade;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the new tourist circuit added under the Tourism policy;

(g) whether the Government of Gujarat has prepared a master plan for the infrastructural development of Kutch Distt. for promotion of tourism in the area; and

(h) if so, the funds provided by the Union Government during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and proposed to be provided during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) & (b) The Department of Tourism has prepared a National Strategy for the development of tourism identifying the specific activities to be taken up by different agencies including the State Governments, financial institutions and the private sector for the development of tourism during Ninth Plan period.

(c) Tourism has been accorded the status of an industry and various incentives are being made available both by the Central Government and State Governments.

(d) and (e) The Department of Tourism has not made any projections of gross output. However, projections of employment has been made for the year 2000-2001 as 14.17 million based on a foreign tourist arrival target of 5 million by that year

(f) The Department of Tourism has identified 18 circuits and 8 destinations for intensive development of tourism infrastructure.

(g) and (h) The Government of Gujarat has prepared a Master Plan and Area Development Plan for Tourism in the State which has identified Kutch as one of the areas for infrastructural development. During 95-96, Rs. 7.98 lakhs was sanctioned to Government of Gujarat. In 96-97 eight projects amounting to Rs. 91.08 lakhs have been identified in consultation with the State Governments. Proposals for 1997-98 have not yet been finalised.

SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Sir the hon. Minister has said that the Government of Gujarat has prepared an Area Development Plan for Tourism in the State, like Kutch, coastal areas of Saurashtra and other prominent pilgrim centres. The State Government has also submitted proposals to the Central Government amounting to Rs. 150 lakh. The Central component is Rs. 126 lakh. I would like to know whether the Central Government has released the said amount to the State Government; if yes, when and how much, and if not, why.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, in consultation with the State Government, we have identified projects amounting to Rs. 91.08 lakh. I am not in a position to give the exact amount that has been released so far. But I can give that information later because money will be released upto 31st March.

SHRI VIJAY PATEL : It is learnt that tourism is the second largest foreign exchange earning industry and it has the capacity to double its earnings. So, what incentive is being provided by the Government to achieve the same?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The hon. Member is correct that tourism is the second largest foreign exchange earner in the country. During 1996, Rs 10,061 crore was the foreign exchange earning from this sector. Various incentives are being made available both by the Central Government and the State Governments. The State Governments have different tourism policies, and the Central Government also gives certain incentives. As per these incentives, the industry, tour operators and the hoteliers used to get those benefits.

It is a long one. I can give the incentive package that has already been given to this sector itself. But the new policy is being formulated. I am sure, the draft of new policy of the tourism sector is now ready. It can be circulated soon

to all the hon. Members. The hon. Members can suggest what improvement can be made in the new policy itself (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is very good. The new draft policy will be circulated to all the Members of Parliament. Then, you can give suggestion. That is what the hon. Minister has said. What else can you get out of this question?

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is on policy. There cannot be a different one.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my constituency, Junagarh has great significance from religious and historical view point when Mahashivratri festival is organised seven or eight lakh people gather there. Likewise, Nili parikrama Dev, which has its own significance is organised on Diwali day and on that occasion also five or seven lakh people assemble there. It has been stated that tourism now enjoy the status of industry and foreign exchange would be earned and moreover better facilities would be provided to the foreign tourists. I want to know the Government are contemplating to telecast live the fair and Nili parikrama organised in Junagadh so as to provide greater importance to tourism as you have stated that it should be discussed separately. It has been stated in part (b) of the question that Gujarat has the largest number of buildings with architectural beauty be it Damodar Kund, Girnar Mountain or Asiatic Lions. When Scindia ji was tourism minister, I had suggested him to develop Junagadh as tourist resort to attract more tourists and to earn foreign exchange. Whether Rs. 82 crore would be sanctioned for the project of Junagadh submitted by Gujarat Government?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : So far as the matter of Junagadh is concerned, it has been identified by State Government to declare it as a state level fair. If state Government submits proposal to this effect, the Union Government would consider over it certainly.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has offered to circulate the draft policy. He cannot do better than that. He is soliciting your opinions on that. I only want to know by what time you will be able to circulate the new policy.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The draft policy is almost ready. To give a final touch, it will take another 7-8 days' time. After that, I will circulate it(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, the time at their disposal is very short(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has said that the draft policy will be circulated in seven days' time. Please go

through the policy very carefully and give your valuable suggestions.

Norms for rating Sponsored Programmes of Doordarshan

*266. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for rating the sponsored programmes of Doordarshan;

(b) whether complaints have been received regarding violation of the criteria; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The tariff structure of sponsored programmes is determined by a combination of factors including time and day of telecast, contents and popularity of the programme, demands of the sponsoring agency and reach of the channel/network.

(b) and (c) As per information available in Doordarshan, while no complaints as such have been received regarding violation of the criteria for ratings of the sponsored programmes, the Comptroller & Auditor General has raised certain objections over the fixation of sponsorship fee, grant of Free Commercial Time and Spot-buy rates in case of a few programmes. In all such cases, deviation in one or more of these three factors was made by Doordarshan so as to make sponsorship of the said programmes attractive and viable, which also enabled Doordarshan to earn higher revenues.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : Sir, the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament has asked Doordarshan to explain the criterion for rating its sponsored programmes following complaints that it has been twisting its own rules to favour certain private producers like the NDTV which telecast the "News This Weeks" Programme incurring huge losses in the process. In his reply, the hon. Minister has said that the tariff structure of sponsored programmes is determined by a combination of factors including time and day of telecast, contents and popularity of the programme, demands of the sponsoring agency and reach of the channel/network.

The Doordarshan itself has said that the categorisation of NDTV is 'A' category which required 'B' category. Due to this, a loss of Rs. 352 lakh was incurred by the Doordarshan. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what was the specific reason for not giving 'B' categorisation to NDTV. Why was the NDTV given 'A' category?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Sir, the Public Accounts Committee is making an inquiry about it. Once the report comes, whatever the Committee gives its opinion, the Ministry definitely will look into it.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : But there was a loss of Rs. 352 lakh to the Doordarshan. The sponsored programmes should be profit-oriented.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : The hon. Member, in his Question itself, has said that the Public Accounts Committee is looking into it. I have not still received the report. Once the report comes then I can comment on that.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that there were some objections in the CAG's report. So, I would like to know what were the objections from the CAG. In his reply, the hon. Minister has said that the programme is to enable the Doordarshan to earn higher revenue, etc. But the reverse has happened in this case. The Doordarshan is incurring a loss of Rs. 352 lakh. Instead of earning higher revenue, it has caused a loss of Rs. 352 lakh. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what action the Information and Broadcasting Ministry proposes to take against those who have flouted the rules.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, the Doordarshan is a huge Department. The hon. Member has asked whether any complaint has been received. The number of minor complaints is more.

He has referred to the Auditor General's report.

[Translation]

The Accountant General of India has expressed his views on certain programmes being aired presently, such as Bible ki Kahaniyan, Surkhiyan, Chitrahah, Sri Krishna, Nazare, Ajnabi, would lines world lines week, Chandrakanta.

Detailed enquiry is being conducted in this regard and after the completion of this enquiry we would look into it.

[English]

We are looking into this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I would like to say that though so much attention has been given to Doordarshan in the country, the All India Radio has been overlooked completely particularly the remote areas such as dry area, Leh or some tribal areas. I would like to know from hon'ble minister specifically whether any steps have been taken for popularising these stations and ensure that culture and language of these areas can be flourished and people are made aware about their style of living. At present programmes being telecast are worthless. Able officers do

not want to go there while inefficient officers are working there for many years. I would like to know whether able officers would be sent in these areas in place of these inefficient officers.

SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : So far as the matter of inefficiency is concerned. If any specific complaint regarding the functioning is received, enquiry would be conducted. The cases related to the working period and transfer of the individuals would be considered at the time of general transfer. As regards your complaint that T.V. has eroded the popularity of radio, in this regard I would like to state that it is not correct rather its popularity is increasing. People do listen to radio as well as watch television.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking only one question. Due to the popularity of Doordarshan big film producers are producing Doordarshan Serials. Whether Ministry is considering to provide some concession in levelling fee and time limit to these serial producers who are competing with these producers?

SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : It is not a question of new and old. Whoever produces a good programme, time would be allotted to him (Interruptions) it is but natural. Money will have to be paid (Interruptions)

Sponsored rate would be charged as per norms. It is not a question of producer being new or old. Everything is decided on the basis of the quality of the programme.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Committee on Restructuring of the Airlines

*267. **SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee set up by the Government to look into the restructuring of the country's airlines has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the recommendations made by the Committee and reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to make the two state owned airlines profit oriented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) A Committee of experts was set up to examine the reasons for losses in Indian Airlines and to formulate a turn around strategy. The Committee has since submitted its report. It has recommended a turn around

strategy and made the following important recommendations:

- (i) Financial restructuring, which includes capital injection of Rs. 922 crores in the form of compensation, subordinated loan, equity and contribution by Indian Airlines and its employees.
- (ii) Fleet Planning.
- (iii) Route Rationalisation.
- (iv) Organisational Restructuring.
- (v) Human Resource Management.

The recommendations are being examined.

(c) Air India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and to increase revenue.

Child Labour

*268. **SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :**
SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent Supreme Court judgement ordering ban on employment of Child Labour in hazardous industries and mines only postulates the pious directions of the framers of the Constitution of India articulated in Article 24 and the wishes of the Parliament as embodied in the Child Labour (Prevention and Regulation) Act, 1986;

(b) if not, the further directions given by the Apex Court in this judgement to effectively enforce the ban; and

(c) the steps being taken to carry out the directions of Supreme Court to ban child labour in hazardous jobs?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India in their judgement dates 10.12.96, apart from referring to Article 24 of the Constitution of India and the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986, has given certain directions regarding the manner in which the children working in the hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn from working and rehabilitated as also the manner in which the working conditions of the children working in non-hazardous occupations are to be regulated and improved upon. The directions given in the judgement include payment of compensation amounting to Rs. 20,000/- by the offending employers for every child employed in hazardous occupations in contravention of the provisions of the Act, giving alternative employment to an adult member of the family in place of the child withdrawn from such hazardous occupations, provision of education in a suitable institution for the children so withdrawn, creation of Child Labour Rehabilitation-cum-Welfare Fund etc.

(c) As a follow up of the directions of the Supreme Court, all the State/UT Governments have been sent detailed guidelines on 26th December 1996 indicating the manner in which the directions of Supreme Court could be given effect to. A conference of States/UTs Labour Ministers was also convened on 22.1.97 to formulate an action plan for the implementation of the directions of Supreme Court on withdrawal and rehabilitation of working children. Based on these deliberations guidelines along with model child labour survey form for carrying out survey as per the directions of the Supreme Court have been sent to the State Governments/UTs. Guidelines also provide for simultaneous action for recovery of the compensation from offending employers.

Multi-purpose Counters in Post Offices

*269. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the activities undertaken by multi-purpose counters in Post Offices:

(b) the number of multi-purpose counters opened in post offices in the country and particularly in Gujarat during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up more multi purpose counters during 1997; and

(d) if so, the locations thereof State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The PC based multipurpose counter machines in post office provide a range of counter services, both domestic and international, on a "single window" principle.

The services provided through the counter machines are:

Booking of :

(i) Speed Post Articles.

(ii) Registered Articles.

(iii) Parcels.

(iv) Money Orders.

(v) Value payable articles - letters and parcels.

- Acceptance of premia for Postal Life Insurance.

- Issue of Unclassified receipts.

- Receipt for collection of telephone revenue.

The Department has installed 1654 computer based counter machines in the country during the years 1994-95

and 1995-96 and out of these 86 counter machines have been installed in Gujarat.

The programme of computerising counter services with multi purpose counter machines is being continued in the Department's Annual Plan 1996-97 and it is proposed to be continued in the Annual Plan 1997-98 also. The number of multi purpose counter machines planned for installation in 1996-97 is 1500 and in 1997-98 is 1000.

Joint Plant Committee

*270. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ministry has constituted an expert group to evaluate the present constitution and role and functions of Joint Plant Committee;

(b) if so, whether the group has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of suggestions made;

(d) whether the Government propose to make Iron and Steel Joint Plant Panel broad-based; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Steel had constituted a Committee on 10.1.1996 under the Chairmanship of Shri Moosa Raza, Former Secretary, Ministry of Steel to go into the question of redefining the organization and functions of the joint Plant Committee (JPC) in the liberalised economic scenario. The Committee has presented its report to the Government on 26.2.1997.

(c) to (e) The major recommendations of the Committee include broad basing of the JPC by including a representative each of the iron and steel plants both in the public and private sector which have a minimum installed capacity of 0.5 million tonnes per annum; co-opting five members at a time in JPC out of the various associations of iron and steel with each of the member association being represented by one member and including representatives from the Ministries of Railways, Surface Transport, Coal and Steel in the JPC.

As regards the functions of the JPC, the Committee recommends that the JPC should be a body to make suitable recommendation to the Government on matters relating to growth and development of steel industry; monitor, evaluate and recommend remedial measures to alleviate infrastructure bottlenecks coming in the way of development of iron and steel, identify areas of fiscal and other policies of different State Government affecting the industry and to make appropriate recommendations thereon; suggest market development strategies; act as an agency for collecting, collating and analysing the data

relating to all aspects of manufacturing and marketing of steel like production, consumption, marketing, sales, imports and exports, infrastructural facilities like rail transport, ports, coal, power, and trade information about the international market; service the information needs of the industry and the Govt. through continuous interaction with the various steel consumers/consumer associations and steel producers/associations and traders; act as the secretariat for the management of Steel Development Fund; receive and evaluate the annual tariff proposals from the industry by interacting with them and make suitable recommendations in this regard to Ministry of Steel, etc. The Committee has also made recommendations about the redefining of role and redesigning of activities of the Economic Research Unit of the JPC with a view to utilise the available human resource and expertise.

The recommendations made by the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

Running Cost of Diesel and Electric Engines

*271. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the comparative per kilometre running cost of a diesel rail engine and electric rail engine at present;

(b) the length of total railway route electrified in the country during each of the last three years and upto December 31, 1996; and

(c) the length of railway route proposed to be electrified during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The comparative cost of running per 1000 Gross Tonne Kilometre of Diesel and Electric traction on Broad Gauge for the year 1994-95 (latest available) is :

(Figs. in Rs)

	Passenger	Freight
Diesel	99.58	65.51
Electric	94.33	52.37

NATIONALITY	1994	1995	1996*	Percentage 1995/94	Change 1996/95
1	2	3	4	5	6
U.K.	300696	334827	364964	11.4	9.0
Bangladesh	282271	318474	322355	12.8	1.2
U.S.A.	176482	203343	224772	15.2	10.5
Sri Lanka	89009	114157	107722	28.3	-5.6
Germany	85352	89040	99593	4.3	11.9
Japan	63398	76042	95412	19.9	25.5
France	73088	82349	94581	12.7	14.9
Canada	56441	63821	72299	13.1	13.3

(b) Route Kilometres electrified during the last 3 year as under:

1993-94	505 Kms.
1994-95	473 Kms.
1995-96	609 Kms.

Total route kilometre electrified up to 31st December, 1996 is 13085.

(c) The Ninth Five Year Plan for the railways is under finalisation by the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Foreign Tourists

*272. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the names of those countries from which the number of tourists have increased;

(b) the names of countries from where tourists visit the country in less number;

(c) whether any special steps have been taken to encourage the tourism with those countries from where tourists visit in less number; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The tourist arrivals from each of the countries in the descending order of magnitude are given below:

(c) and (d) In view of limited resources available, overseas publicity and promotion is mainly confined to markets with high potential. However, efforts are being made to tap new and emerging markets by relocating some of the field officers of the Department of Tourism.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Italy	43510	53015	50299	21.8	-5.1
Malaysia	40762	50039	50033	22.8	0.0
Singapore	44157	48632	49719	10.1	2.2
Australia	33142	36150	46931	9.1	29.8
CIS	56387	40665	42643	-27.9	4.9
Netherlands	35094	40147	41941	14.4	4.5
Pakistan	42146	42981	41810	2.0	-2.7
Switzerland	30102	29388	35821	-2.4	21.9
Spain	21436	24411	25506	13.9	4.5
Belgium	13931	18732	22604	34.5	20.7
Sweden	13872	19013	21838	37.1	14.9
U.A.E.	30503	19749	20729	-35.3	5.0
Kenya	14404	17389	19236	20.7	10.6
Israel	129098	14806	189218	22.4	27.8
Oman	14511	17060	17352	17.6	1.7
Saudi Arabia	15524	16252	17271	4.7	6.3
Thailand	16313	14462	16480	-11.3	14.0
Austria	12083	13114	16330	8.5	24.5
Finland	6438	10659	16504	65.6	54.8
Afghanistan	4223	10942	15653	159.1	43.1
Korea (South)	7227	9831	15571	36.0	58.4
Yemen Arab Rep.	11696	16777	14294	43.4	-14.8
Denmark	9418	14128	13128	50.0	-7.1
Bahrain	11166	12343	11716	10.5	-5.1
Iran	14775	12337	11662	-16.5	-5.5
Newzealand	8078	10700	11087	32.5	3.6
Mauritius	10348	11353	9977	9.7	-12.1
Hong Kong	8147	9590	9388	17.7	-2.1
Norway	5105	6803	7805	33.3	14.7
Indonesia	6125	7795	7614	27.3	-2.3
China (Taiwan)	2680	3516	7312	31.2	108.0
Portugal	5366	6679	7251	24.5	8.6
Poland	4492	5470	6121	21.8	11.9
Greece	4345	4872	6090	12.1	25.0
Ireland	3790	5666	5793	49.5	2.2
Philippines	4297	5580	5234	29.9	-6.2
Brazil	3184	4201	4822	31.9	14.8
Egypt	2819	3090	3284	9.6	6.3
Kuwait	6638	3600	2719	-45.8	-24.5
Czechoslovakia	1980	2314	2645	16.9	14.3
Argentina	1823	2072	2613	13.7	26.1
Qatar	3594	3668	2346	2.1	-36.0
Mexico	1615	2142	2157	32.6	0.7
Jordan	2219	3335	2135	50.3	-36.0

1	2	3	4	5	6
Hungary	1496	1548	2038	3.5	31.7
Turkey	1409	1835	1940	30.2	5.7
Yugoslavia	647	1154	1725	78.4	49.5
Fiji	1781	2094	1710	17.6	-18.3
Romania	653	1457	1698	123.1	16.5
Lebanon	1024	1422	1468	38.9	3.2
Syria	2702	1823	1254	-32.5	-31.2
Iraq	540	1359	1184	151.7	-12.9
Bulgaria	405	667	733	64.7	9.9
Luxembourg	447	543	457	21.5	-15.8
Cyprus	348	582	433	67.2	-25.6
Iceland	59	96	112	62.7	16.7
Others	106622	121582	131028	14.0	7.8
Total	1886433	2123683	2287860	12.6	7.7

* Estimated.

[English]

Extraction of Gold from Hutti Gold Mines, Karnataka

*273. SHRI K.C.KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any survey about the availability of gold deposits in Hutti Gold Mines in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of gold deposits in that area; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to fully extract the gold available in the above gold mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified 55.13 million tonnes of gold ore in Hutti Block besides 3.014 million tonnes in seven blocks adjoining Hutti Block. In five other blocks low grade ore and impersistent ore zone had been identified.

(c) The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited is engaged in an expansion and modernisation project to improve the output per man shift (productivity) from 0.20 to 0.65 gms. and thereby achieve reduction in cost of mining and gold production. This will permit it to mine lower grade ore deposits.

[Translation]

Sharp increase in Air Traffic

*274. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR':
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased

to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the sharp increase in air traffic without any infrastructural development has increased the chances of air accidents;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any scheme for infrastructural development to prevent air accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Development of airport infrastructure and augmentation of communication/navigational aids is a continuous process. To meet the demand of increasing air traffic, the Airports Authority of India has drawn up plans for:

(i) Modernisation of Air Traffic Control System at Delhi/ Bombay airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 423.89 crores. This project will be commissioned by June, 1997.

(ii) Installation of Secondary Surveillance Radars at Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Madras and Guwahati will be completed in 1997.

(iii) Secondary Surveillance Radars have already been commissioned at Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram airports.

[English]

Tourism Industry in J & K

*275. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the country's tourism industry has suffered due to prevalence of unstable conditions in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) steps being taken to revive this industry so as to restore it to its original status and importance?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Tourism industry in the Kashmir Valley suffered a set back due to prevalence of unstable conditions in the area. However, there has been no adverse impact on other areas and tourism industry of the country as a whole.

(b) With a view to revive the tourism industry in the States, tourism has been declared as an industry by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir. The Central Government has announced writing off of outstanding loans and interests of all borrowers in tourism industry who have been affected due to militancy and whose original borrowing was less than Rs. 50,000/- The Government has also taken steps to undertake a feasibility study for the establishment of a Convention/Conference Centre at Leh.

[Translation]

Indian Steel Industry

*276. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned " India unlikely to have cutting edge in steel market study" appearing in daily '*Business Standard*' dated December 27, 1996;

(b) if so, whether international Finance Corporation related to World Bank has presented a pitiable condition of Indian Steel Industry in its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have looked into the shortcomings pointed out in the report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to remove them?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "India Unlikely to have cutting edge in the steel market study" published in *Business Standard* from Delhi on December 27, 1996.

A paper entitled "The Challenge of Financing Indian Iron and Steel Expansion in the 1990s and Beyond" prepared by two experts of International Finance Corporation, Washington, in their individual capacity, have

expressed concern on cost of capital and lack of infrastructure spending and opined that with protection being lowered, Indian steel makers will be forced into a more competitive environment.

(d) and (e) Government are aware of the issues raised in the paper. Infrastructure related issues like power, road, railway, ports are already engaging the attention of the Government.

[English]

Strength of Locomotives

*277. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total numerical strength of locomotives by standard classification, Division/Zone-wise vis-a-vis the project of requirement of additional locomotives to meet increasing passenger and goods traffic for the next five years;

(b) the details of programme finalised to phase out Engines/extending longevity of old engines through appropriate technological upgradation for the next five years;

(c) the extent of fund requirement for the purpose and strategy worked out to mobilise such a huge requirement of funds;

(d) whether international cooperation has also been sought in import/upgradation of Indian locomotives and modernisation of units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and present status of the projects cleared for implementation under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The total electric, diesel and steam locomotives on Indian Railways as on 31.3.96 were 2387, 4313 and 209 respectively. The railway-wise details are as under:

Railway	Electric Locomotives	Diesel Locomotives	Steam Locomotives	Total Locomotives
1	2	3	4	5
Central Rly.	596	660	3	1259
Eastern Rly.	381	524	—	905
Northern Rly.	253	654	4	911
North-Eastern Rly.	—	221	55	276
N.F. Rly.	—	226	54	280
Southern Rly.	150	434	10	594
South Central Rly.	208	441	—	649

1	2	3	4	5
South-Eastern Rly. 491	619	4	1114	
Western Rly	308	534	79	921
Total	2387	4313	209	6909

The requirements of locomotives are assessed for the Indian Railways as a whole. The requirement of locomotives to meet increasing passenger and goods traffic in the next five years (1997-2002) would be 900 diesel locomotives and 1050 electric locomotives. Out of these 400 diesel locos and 200 electric locos would be on replacement account and 100 locos each be released by induction of DMUs/MEMUs.

(b) It has been planned to procure 400 diesel locomotives and 200 electric locomotives on replacement account during the IX Plan as the longevity of these locomotives cannot be extended by technological upgradation as these locos are of 1950s/1960s vintage.

(c) The total funds for procurement of diesel and electric locomotives in the IX Five Year Plan has been assessed to be Rs 8,629 crores. The above funds are proposed to be mobilised through internal generation, budgetary support, BOLT (Build, Own Lease and Transfer) scheme and market borrowings by IRFC (Indian Railways Financial Corporation).

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) 33 Nos. (including 3 locos in lieu of spares) three-phase drive state-of-the-art '6,000 HP' A.C. electric locos have been procured from M/s. ABB, Switzerland, under Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan and EXIM Bank, Japan loan along with transfer of technology. It is proposed to upgrade and modernise the loco manufacturing capacity at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, for manufacture of these types of electric locos. So also 21 Nos. (including 1 loco in lieu of spares) '4,000 HP' state-of-the-art diesel locos are being procured from M/s. General Motors, U.S.A along with transfer of technology. A proposal to upgrade/modernise manufacturing capacity at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi is under examination.

Corruption in Telephone Department

*278. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of large-scale corruption prevailing in the telephone department resulting in colossal loss of revenue to the department and large-scale cheating of telephone subscribers and other consumers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to remedy the situation;

(c) whether the Government propose to consider the cooperation of the Trade Unions to deal with this problem; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, complaints are received from time to time alleging irregularities of various types. These are investigated by Departmental Vigilance machinery and by the CBI, wherever necessary and suitable action is taken against departmental officials, if any involved, in such an irregularity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Investigation of complaints is a confidential process in which association of the Trade Unions is not considered proper.

Broadcasting Bill

* 279. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether the sub-committee constituted to examine the Broadcasting Bill, has since submitted its report;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) No sub-committee has been constituted on Broadcasting Bill. However, various issues pertaining to Broadcasting Bill are under examination at various levels of the Government.

• Introduction of Private Airlines

*280. SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the introduction of private airlines the quantum of air traffic carried by national airlines has declined;

(b) if so, the measures being proposed by the Government to attract passengers towards national airlines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines has taken various steps to face the competition and attract the passengers through

product improvement, commercial initiatives, passenger's facilitation and media campaign.

ESI Scheme for Cashew Labourer

2875. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are reconsidering the decision of the E.S.I. Corporation abolishing the E.S.I (cashew workers) Scheme with effect from October 1, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The Cashew workers working in cashew factories covered under the ESI Act are entitled to ESI benefits as provided under the Scheme. However, a section of cashew workers are not able to derive sickness benefit because of non-fulfilment of contributory conditions prescribed under the Scheme. The problem of such cashew workers is under examination of the ESI Corporation. Meanwhile these workers continue to receive other benefits namely, medical benefit, disablement benefit, dependant benefit and maternity benefit under the ESI Scheme.

Doubling and Electrification of Andal-Sainthia Section

2876. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4121 dated December 19, 1996 and state :

(a) the reasons for not taking up electrification and doubling work of Andal-Sainthia section of Eastern Railway;

(b) the utilisation capacity of above section;

(c) whether the above section is deserving for doubling and electrification now; and

(d) if so, the time by which the doubling and electrification work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Due to constraint of resources and relative priority for electrification of other high density routes, there is, at present no proposal to electrify Andal-Sainthia section of Eastern Railway. The traffic level on this section has not yet reached a level to justify its doubling.

(b) Capacity utilisation of the section is as under :

Sub-Section	RKM	%Utilisation
(i) Andal-Ukhra	12.01	98.4%
(ii) Ukhra-Pandabeswar	8.33	63.4%
(iii) Pandabeswar-Sainthia	53.06	70%

(c) and (d) Electrification projects are capital intensive and as such only those broad gauge routes over which the traffic density is high and the return on investment is not less than the minimum prescribed are considered for electrification. Doubling is taken up when the carrying capacity of the section gets saturated. Andal-Sainthia section does not qualify for doubling or electrification at present.

Exchanges without STD facilities

2877. SHRI CHINATAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges which are still not connected with STD facilities in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) the time by which STD facilities are likely to be provided; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to connect them with STD facilities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 1103 numbers of telephone exchanges are not connected with STD facility in Maharashtra. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) All exchanges are likely to be provided with STD facility by the year 2000 subject to availability of resources.

(c) In order to provide STD to all telephone exchanges, annual action plans are prepared for upgradation of Telephone Exchanges and provision of transmission media.

The plans for 1997-98 have already been prepared and action initiated to provide the infrastructure and equipment required for the same.

Statement

District-wise details of Telephone Exchanges which are not connected with STD facility as on 31.1.97

Sl.No.	District	No. of Telephone Exchanges without S.T.D. facility
1	2	3
1.	Raigad	1
2.	Jalgaon	4
3.	Nasik	98
4.	Dhule	57
5.	Kolhapur	27

1	2	3
6.	Solapur	95
7.	Satara	75
8.	Sangli	13
9.	Ratnagiri	65
10.	Sindhudurg	—
11.	Ahmednagar	119
12.	Aurangabad	59
13.	Jalna	33
14.	Latur	50
15.	Osmanabad	33
16.	Nanded	51
17.	Parbhani	24
18.	Beed	45
19.	Pune	22
20.	Nagpur	30
21.	Kalyan	14
22.	Akola	9
23.	Amaravati	18
24.	Bhandara	27
25.	Buldhana	57
26.	Chandrapur	25
27.	Gadchiroli	4
28.	Wardha	21
29.	Yeotmal	27
Total		1103

Investment of P.F.

2878. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bajaj Electricals Limited, Mumbai has been diverting the employees provident fund account towards the company's own investments without any sanction of the concerned authorities;

(b) whether the company is also not releasing the provident funds to its erstwhile employees despite demands;

(c) whether the company has not yet taken any action to enforce pensionary rules for its employees; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) No such irregularity on part of this company has come to notice.

(d) Does not arise.

Expansion of Railway Stations in Kerala

2879. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some representations for modernisation/expansion of the Kayamkulam, Mavelika Chengannur and Therubali Railways stations in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan proposed by the Government for the development of these Railway Stations during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Representation from the Honourable member has been received for the modernisation of Kayamkulam, Mavelikara, Chengannur and Tiruvalla stations.

(c) The works of raising of platform No 1, extension of shelter on platform 2/3, remodelling of station building and improvements and facelifting of the station building and provision of waiting hall facilities have been taken up at Kayamkulam at a cost of Rs. 54.75 lakh and are expected to be completed during 1997-98. Works of raising of platform No. 2 and extension of shelter on platform No. 2 has been taken up at Mavelikara at a cost of Rs 21.63 lakh and are expected to be completed during 1997-98. Work of extension of shelter on platform No 2 at cost of Rs. 4.45 lakh has been taken up at Chengannur and is expected for completion during 1997-98. There are no works at Tiruvalla at present.

Increase in Quota of Higher Class and Sleeper Class

2880. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the quota of higher class and sleeper class in all the trains at Bardhaman, Panagarh, Raniganj, Durgapur, Asansol to accommodate more rail users from these stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if nor, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Raniganj, Durgapur and Asansol Stations have been provided with the Computerised Reservation facilities. As such, at these

stations reserved accommodation can be booked not only against the station quota but also from the originating station quota after their quota is exhausted. At Bardhaman, the computerised reservation facility is likely to be provided shortly and with the commissioning of this facility, the station will have the same facility as are available at Raniganj, Durgapur and Asansol stations. At Panagarh, the existing quota is not being fully utilised and as such, the same is considered adequate.

Konkan Railway

2881. SHRI A.C. JOS :
SHRI A.G.C. RAM BABU :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the work of Konkan Railway Project;

(b) the details of unfinished tunnel work;

(c) the sections which have been opened or proposed to be opened for passengers/goods traffic;

(d) the reasons for the delay in starting the passengers traffic; and

(e) the time by which the full project of Konkan Railway is likely to be completed and the States which are the main beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The weighted Physical Progress of work till end of 28th February 1997 is 98.20%

(b) The present status of unfinished tunnels is as under:

	Length (Mtrs.)	Balance Heading (Mtrs)	Works Benching (Mtrs.)	Target date for completion
Byndoor	1960	3.0	15.0	31.3.97
Padi	1915	-	60.0	30.4.97
Old Goa	542	-	144.0	31.5.96
Pernem	1534	282.0	539.0	31.6.97

(c) and (e) Roha-Sawantwadi (364 Kms.) and Mangalore-Kundapura (100Kms) have already been commissioned. Kundapura-Canacona section is expected to be commissioned by 30.4.97. The entire length of Konkan Railways is expected to be opened for goods traffic by June '97 and for passenger traffic immediately

thereafter, subject to the Pernem Tunnel being completed as per the targets mentioned at (b) above.

The main beneficiary States are Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala.

(d) The main reasons for delay is constraints of resources and adverse geological conditions in softsoil tunnels in Goa and Karnataka area.

Winding up of ITDC

2882. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to wind up the India Tourism Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether new hotels will be constructed at Calcutta and any other places of West Bengal under this organisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) ITDC's Annual Plan for 1997-98 does not include any scheme/provision to set-up new hotels in the state of West Bengal, including Calcutta.

Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal

2883. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for opening of more Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) The commissioning programme for 1997-98 has yet not been finalised.

Air Services to Jalpaiguri

2884. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to connect Jalpaiguri with air service;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) There is no airport/airstrip available at Jalpaiguri. However, the needs of the air traffic are being met by the Bangdogra airport which is nearest to Jalpaiguri.

Running of Rajdhani Express with less number of Passengers

2885. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 2309/2310 Rajdhani Express in running with less number of passengers;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there are less number of passengers on Lucknow-New Delhi Route;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the demand of people for running the Patna passenger train via Mugal Sarai-Allahabad instead of Varanasi-Lucknow;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government are also considering the demand to run this train from Patna on Thursday and Sunday and from New Delhi on Monday and Friday;

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fulfil this demand; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The occupation of the 2309/2310 Patna-New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Express trains in different classes on both directions ranges from 50% to 70%. The utilisation of quota allotted to Lucknow by 2309 Patna-New Delhi Rajdhani Express in AC 2-tier & AC 3-tier is 62.5% and 53%, respectively.

(d) and (e) Some representations have been received for running of 2309/2310 New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Express via Allahabad-Mugalsarai.

(f) There is no such proposal at present.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Due to operational constraints. Moreover, Rajdhani service is available from Patna on Thursdays and Sundays and from New Delhi for Patna on Mondays and Fridays.

Construction of Foot Overbridge at Bandel Railway Station

2886. SHRI RUP CHAND PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has been made in respect of construction of foot over-bridge connecting all platforms of Bandel Railways Station under Howrah Division of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no proposal for construction of a foot over bridge at Bandel station at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Maintenance Facility

2887. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide maintenance facility for air-brake and air conditioning coaches at Guwahati and New Jalpaiguri Railway stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, Guwahati coaching Depot has been provided with maintenance facilities for air brake and air conditioning, coaching stock. New Jalpaiguri Coaching Depot facilities will be modified in the near future.

Opening of STD/ISD Booth at Howrah Railway Station

2888. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open a STD/ISD Booth on platform No.9 at Howrah Railway station;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay to open such a booth at this platform; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to open this booth at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Introduction of Superfast Train between Howrah and Haldia

2889. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to provide fast train services between Howrah and Haldia;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Presently two pairs of EMU locals are running between Howrah and Haldia. Introduction of additional fast train services between Howrah and Haldia has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Construction of Underpass near Ultadanga Railway Station

2890. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has decided to construct an underpass near the Ultadanga Railway Station in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the Government of West Bengal has been contributed their share of cost and made land available to the railways in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in starting the above work; and

(d) the time by which the above work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes Sir, on deposit terms.

(b) Rs. 1 crore have been made available by State Government out of an estimated cost of Rs.3.59 crore. State Government has agreed to hand over required road area (land) by 15.03.97

(c) State Government could make available details of the alignment and junction arrangements of the 3 metre diameter sewer pipe at the site in April, 1996 and required land (area of 267 sq.m.) is still to be handed over to Railway by them.

(d) In view of State Government commitment to hand over requisite land to Railways, the work is targeted to complete by 31.3.98.

Radio Station, Karimganj

2891. SHRI DWARAKANATH DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1083 on November 28, 1996 regarding installation of a Radio Station, Karimganj, Assam and state :

(a) whether the construction work at the said radio station has since been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for non-implementation of the same so far; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) A scheme has been drawn up to a radio station with 20 KW MW Transmitter at Karimganj in Assam subject to availability of funds and other infrastructural facilities. The lead time involved in implementation of such scheme is three to four years after the approval of the scheme.

Automatic Exchanges

2892. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of automatic telephone exchanges in the country and the percentage of faults reported from each of the circle;

(b) the number of non-automatic telephone exchanges and the period required to convert them into automatic exchanges; and

(c) the capability of the country in developing and producing its own automatic exchanges and the annual production of automatic exchanges and expenditure involved for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 22,302 automatic telephone exchanges in the country as on 31.1.97. Percentage of faults reported from each of the Circle is enclosed as Statement.

(b) All the telephone exchanges in the country are automatic.

(c) The capability of developing and producing the latest state-of-the-art Digital Automatic Exchanges is available in the country.

The premier research unit of Department of Telecom viz., C-DOT has designed and developed Digital Electronic Exchanges of different capacities for their application in rural and urban areas.

There are 32 manufacturers producing C-DOT Digital Exchanges in the country. The total production capacity available for manufacture of Automatic Exchanges on C-DOT technology is 2.87 million lines per annum. The annual production depends upon the availability of orders. The total investment made by C-DOT manufacturers is about Rs. 115 crores.

In addition, a capacity of about 4 million lines per annum exists in the country for manufacture of automatic exchanges based on other technologies.

Statements

Number of Faults/100 Stations/Months for the Year 1995-96

Sl.No.	Circle/Metro/Distt.	No.
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	19.9
2.	Andhra Pradesh	12.4
3.	Assam	15.4
4.	Bihar	12.8
5.	Gujarat	22.1
6.	Haryana	15.4
7.	Himachal Pradesh	16.0
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	15.8
9.	Karnataka	13.8
10.	Kerala	14.1
11.	Madhya Pradesh	11.9
12.	Maharashtra	14.6
13.	North-East	8.9
14.	Orissa	11.7
15.	Punjab	17.0
16.	Rajasthan	20.1
17.	Tamil Nadu	10.3
18.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	15.4
19.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	19.0
20.	West Bengal	14.9
21.	Mumbai	14.8
22.	Calcutta	20.6
23.	Delhi	24.0
24.	Chennai	20.7

Daily running of Train

2893. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4158 on December 19, 1996 and state:

(a) whether it is not possible to remove hinderance of operational constraints to run 2815/2816 New Delhi-Puri Express daily;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps are being taken to remove technical difficulties by converting the train into air-brake so that AC 3-tier coaches are attached with it;

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

(e) the time by which it is likely to be converted into air-brake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Daily running of 2815/2816 New Delhi-Puri Express is not feasible at present owing to path constraints and terminal constraints as on the other three days 8475/8476 Neelachal Express runs on the same path.

(c) to (e) Conversion of long distance trains into Air Brake and provision of AC 3-tier coach is being done in a phased manner. Purshottam Express between New Delhi and Puri has been provided with Air Brake coaches and AC 3-tier during 1996-97. Conversion of 2815/2816 Puri Express will also be considered alongwith other similar demands in later years.

Budge-Budge to Falta Rail Line

2894. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to construct new Railway line from Budge-Budge to Falta in West Bengal;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The survey has been included in the year 1997-98 and would be taken up after the budget has been passed.

Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[Translation]

Trains running between Delhi and Jind via Bahadurgarh and Rohtak

2895. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of trains running at present from Delhi to Jind via Bahadurgarh and Rohtak;

(b) whether it is a fact that no new passenger train has been introduced on this route from the last fifteen years whereas the number of passengers on this route has increased manifold;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce any new passenger train keeping in view the increasing number of passengers on this route;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) 18 pairs of trains are running between Delhi/New Delhi & Jind via Bahadurgarh, Rohtak, at present.

(b) No, Sir. Following trains introduced on Delhi/New Delhi Rohtak-Jind section during last 15 years :

1. 6031/6032 Jammu Tawi-Chennai Express (tri-weekly)

2. 6687/6688 Jammu Tawi-Mangalore Navyug Express (weekly)

3. 4721/4722 New Delhi-Sri Ganganagar Express

4. 3413/3483-3414/3484 Farakka Express extended from Delhi to Bhiwani via Rohtak.

(c) Introduction of trains is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification and resource availability. However, there is no proposal at present to run additional train on Delhi-Rohtak-Jind section.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Operational and resource constraints.

Modernisation of Telegraph service in Bihar

2896. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any step for the modernisation to telegraphic services in Bihar;

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

(c) whether any budgetary allocation has been made for this purpose during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) by when the telegraphic services are likely to be modernised in Bihar?

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

(b) Under the modernisation programme of the Telegraph Network microprocessor based Store & Forward Message Switching Systems (SFMS) have been installed at Patna and Ranchi with ports in 40 districts. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Due to mid course correction of the Modernisation Plan the remaining 13 districts which were to be covered for modernisation, the programme has been delayed.

(c) and (d) No separate budgetary allocation has been earmarked.

(e) The modernisation is an on-going process and as such 3 more Store and Forward systems are likely to be installed at Gaya, Jamshedpur and Chhapra in 1997-98 which will cover remaining 13 districts.

Statement

Sl. No	Name of District	Equipment/Ports
1	2	3
1.	Patna	12 SFMS Ports, 15 EKB & 12 FT
2.	Bhojpur	1
3.	Bhabhua	1
4.	Buxar	1
5.	Rohtas	*
6.	Nawada	1
7.	Jahanabad	1
8.	Gaya	1
9.	Aurangabad	1
10.	Katihar	2
11.	Kishanganj	1
12.	Araria	*
13.	Supal	*
14.	Saharsa	1
15.	Madhepura	*
16.	Purnea	1
17.	Khagaria	1

1	2	3
18.	Begusarai	2
19.	Bhagalpur	2
20.	Pakaur	*
21.	Munghyr	2
22.	Banka	1
23.	Jauri	*
24.	Lakhisarai	*
25.	Sahibganj	1
26.	Dumka	*
27.	Godda	1
28.	B. Deoghar	1
29.	Nalanda	1
30.	Dhanbad	3
31.	Bokaro Steel City	2
32.	Giridih	1
33.	Kodarma	*
34.	Ranchi	5 SFMS Ports, 15 EKB, 6 FT
35.	Lehardaga	1
36.	Gumla	1
37.	Hazaribagh	1
38.	Palamau	1
39.	Garhwa	*
40.	Chapra	2 SFMS Ports, 3 EKB, 2 FT
41.	Chatra	*
42.	East Singhbhum	2
43.	West Singhbhum	*
44.	East Champaran	1 SFMS Ports, EKB, 1 FT
45.	West Champaran	2
46.	Muzaffarpur	2 SFMS Ports, 2 EKB, 5 FT
47.	Samastipur	1
48.	Vaishali	1
49.	Madhubani	1
50.	Darbhanga	*
51.	Siwan	1
52.	Gopalganj	1
53.	Sitamarhi	1

* Ports shall be provided by the end of 1997-98

FT = Formatted Terminal

EKB = Electronic.

Stoppage of Shipra Express

2897. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "Shipra Express" stops at several small stations on Beena-Katni section;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the above train does not stop at "Ganjbasauda" railway station of the central railway; and

(c) the time by which the stoppage of train is likely to be provided at "Ganjbasauda" in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. 9305/9306 Indore-Howrah Shipra Express is stopping at Khurai, Saugor and Damoh on Bina-Katni section.

(b) Stoppage of 9305/9306 Indore-Howrah Express at Ganj-Basoda station has been examined but not found commercially justified.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Air Links to Bhopal

2898. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which air-bus service is likely to be started linking Bhopal to other cities in India keeping in view its capability of landing the air bus; and

(b) the present air-services catering to the needs of Bhopal and the additional air links likely to be introduced during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) At present, Indian Airlines has no plans to start airbus services to Bhopal.

(b) Alliance Air operates 3 days a week service each on the sectors Delhi-Bhopal-Indore-Mumbai and back and Delhi-Gwalior-Bhopal-Indore-Mumbai and back. Indian Airlines/Alliance Air, however, do not have immediate plans to introduce more services to/from Bhopal during the year 1997-98.

Promotion of Tea Tourism In Assam

2899. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Assam with regard to promotion of tea tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, an amount of Rs. 5.00 lakhs during 1995-96 and Rs. 1.00 lakh during 1996-97 was sanctioned as Central Financial assistance for the Tea and Tourism Festival to the Government of Assam.

Introduction of Superfast Train between Darbhanga and Delhi/New Delhi

2900. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that there is no Superfast train from Darbhanga Junction to Delhi/New Delhi Junction;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to run a Superfast train on the said route;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started;

(d) whether the Government propose to modernise Darbhanga Railway Station;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be modernised;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have any proposal to further increase the quota of the station to accommodate more rail users from the station; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic has been provided at Darbhanga station. Therefore, no modernisation is proposed at present.

(g) and (h) Computerised reservation facility is available at Darbhanga linked to the main reservation system of Delhi. One terminal of the Calcutta reservation system is also available there. As such, it is not desirable to allot any separate quota to Darbhanga station.

Second Class Reserved Sleeper Coaches for Short Distance Travellers

2901. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have opened the second class reserved sleeper coaches for short distance travellers and declared it as an unreserved second class compartment;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the matter of safety of passengers especially in the case of women travelling in these coaches from the incidents of hooliganism on trains; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken for the safety of passengers of reserved coaches from the short distance travellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Keeping in view the requirement of short distance second class passengers travelling during day time, the Zonal Railways have already been empowered to declare, wherever it is feasible, sleeper class coaches as unreserved second class for specific sections of journey of the concerned train.

(b) and (c) Second class unreserved passengers are not permitted to travel in sleeper class coaches which are fully reserved. Hence, the safety of passengers of reserved coaches does not get affected.

Air Bus-320 Service between Delhi and Cochin

2902. SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a new Air bus-320 service between Delhi and Cochin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The runway available at Cochin Airport is 6000 feet but it is a unidirectional runway and the available landing distance is only 5,645 feet. A Committee was set up to assess whether airbus A-320 operations to/from Cochin airport could be carried out safely. This Committee had representatives from Indian Airlines, DGCA, CTE Hyderabad and AAI. The Committee concluded that in view of the limited runway length, unidirectional operations weather conditions, Airbus A-320 operation to/from Cochin can be permitted provided certain conditions are met. The matter has been taken up by this Ministry with Indian Airlines, Airports Authority of India, Naval Authorities and Secretary, Transport Authorities, Kerala for providing requisite ground facilities at Cochin Airport.

Zonal and Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee

2903. SHRI K. P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for selection of members of the Zonal and Divisional railway users consultative committee; and

(b) whether the Government propose to include local representatives like M.L.As, MPs., etc. in all such Committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) To secure better representation of Railway Users and provide a forum for frequent interaction between Railways and Railway Users on matters relating to the services provided by Railways, Railway Users' Consultative Committees at Zonal & Divisional levels are formed. In these Committees, representation is given to local Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Trade Associations, Passenger Associations, Agricultural Interests, Consumer Forums, Representatives of State Government, State Legislatures, Members of Parliament etc. In addition some members are also nominated by the Minister of Railways under the category of 'Special Interest' to represent the interest of those users who have not been otherwise given representation.

Stoppage of Coromandal Express Train

2904. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations for stoppage of Coromandal Express train at Nellore railway station;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking final decision in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the stoppage is likely to be provided to the said train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This demand has been examined in detail. Provision of stoppage of 2841/2842 Coromandal Express at Nellore has not been found justified due to the availability of alternative services and the special characteristics of this train.

[Translation]

Demand to set up Sub-Post Office in Gujarat

2905. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the residents and the people's

representatives have been continuously demanding to set up a sub-post office in Kaprada, Taluka Gharampur in district Balsad of Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Government have so far decided to set up the sub-post office there;

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) There is no demand for a Sub Post Office in Kaprada village of Dharampur in Valsad District where an Extra Departmental Branch Post Office already exists. The case for upgradation of Kaprada Branch Post Office into a Departmental Sub Post Office was examined but the proposal was not found justified on the norm for workload since there was a workload of 3.06 hours as against the minimum requirement of 5 hours.

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

[English]

Construction of Overbridge

2906. SHRI N. K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the unmanned level crossings are a big traffic hazard in Kerala;

(b) whether a new proposal pending with the Railways for converting any of the existing level crossings in Kerala into either overbridge or underbridge; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Proposals given below though sponsored by State Government of Kerala for provision of bridges, are awaiting fulfilment of certain pre-requisite formalities to enable finalisation thereof:

1. Venbalam gate between Elathur and Quilandy.
2. Varkala - Road Under Bridge at km 179/13-14.
3. Meenchanoha Gate (Level Crossing No. 177) between Feroke and Kallayi Stations.
4. Kalamassery, Edappally (Level Crossing No. 67 at km 95/7-8) Shoranur - Ernakulam Section.
5. Trippunithura - Cochin refinery at km 8/17-18 between Ernakulam - Trippunithura.
6. Mulagunnathukavh - Thrissur (Level Crossing No. 15 at km 30/14-15).

[Translation]

Modernisation of Railway Stations in Gujarat

2907. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations modernised in Gujarat during the last two years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to modernise railway stations in Gujarat in near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up any new railway station in the State;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Modernisation of railway stations is undertaken on need based programme so warranted by growth in passenger traffic depending upon the availability of funds. During 1995-96 and 1996-97 allocation of Rs. 9.30 crore and Rs. 13.90 crore respectively were made for undertaking such works to Western Railway which includes the state of Gujarat. However, no state-wise details are maintained by the Railways. Modernisation works are included in the Railway's Annual Works Programmes depending on the overall availability of funds.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Adequate number of stations are already available.

[English]

Salaries and Foreign Allowances of Cabin Crew

2908. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) when the salaries and foreign allowances of Cabin Crew of Air India, were last revised;

(b) whether subsequently salaries and foreign allowances of all other categories of Air India employees have been revised;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the salaries and foreign allowances of Cabin Crew and other employees of Air India are proposed to be revised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The salaries of Cabin Crew were last revised in 1990 for the period 1985-90.

(b) to (d) The Management of Air India have signed wage agreements with Air India Employees' Guild and Air India Aircraft Engineers' Association and also issued instructions for revision of pay scales and allowances in respect of Air India Officers' Association and Air India Engineers' Association. Negotiations with the remaining Unions/ Associations/ Guild are still continuing. No settlement has been arrived at so far.

[Translation]

Location of Headquarters of Newly created Railway Zones

2909. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any expert/technical committee was constituted to take the decision regarding the location of Headquarters for the newly created railway Zones in Karnataka and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the committee;

(c) whether the South-West Railway Zone at Bangalore has been inaugurated without issuing any Government Notification; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The matter of setting up of new Zones (including those in Karnataka at Bangalore and in Bihar at Hajipur) was examined in the Ministry of Railways following recommendations for reorganisation made by the Railway Reforms Committee in 1984 and by an Advisors Committee of Railway Board in 1994.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The inaugural function of the South-Western Zonal office at Bangalore was held after the approval for its setting up was received from the Cabinet.

[English]

Improvement of Railway Network in North Karnataka

2910. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand of the people of North Karnataka for the improvement of the railway network in this region;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to introduce new trains for Ahmedabad, Mumbai, New Delhi and Bangalore from Hubli after the gauge conversion;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which these demands are likely to be accomplished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following projects for the improvement of Railway Network in North Karnataka have been undertaken :

Name of Project	Current Status/ Target Date for Completion
1. Gauge conversion of Solapur (Hotgi)-Gadag	The work undertaken in phases, is currently in full swing on Hotgi-Bijapur section, which is targetted for completion by 30.9.97. The remaining section from Bijapur-Bagalkot-Gadag, will be taken up for conversion thereafter and is likely to be completed by 31.12.98.
2. Doubling for Guntakal-Hospet section	The work has recently been cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. Preliminary arrangements for taking up the work are on hand.
3. New line from Munirabad to Mēhboobnagar	This is a new work, which has been included in Budget, 1997-98 and will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

(c) to (e) Introduction of new trains, including on Gauge converted sections, is an ongoing process on Indian Railways, subject to resource availability, operational feasibility and traffic justification.

Hubli is already connected with Mumbai by 1017/1018 Bangalore-Kurla Express (4 days in a week). Besides, Hubli is also well connected with Bangalore by adequate number of train services. Moreover, it has also been decided to introduce a weekly service from Bangalore to Delohi via Hubli during 1997-98. There is at present, however, no proposal to introduce a train for Ahmedabad from Hubli.

[Translation]

Electrification of Railway Routes

2911. SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway lines electrified during 1995-96 in the country;

(b) the details of railway lines in Uttar Pradesh likely to be electrified in near future; and

(c) the details of expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) During 1995-96, 609 route Kms. have been electrified, the details of which are given below :

Sl. No	Section	Route Kms.
1	2	3
1.	Dhatrigram-Katwa (ER) (Part of Bandel-Katwa)	53

1	2	3
2.	Karanjali-Nishchintapur (ER)	08
3.	Satbahini-Untari Road (ER) Part of Sonnagar-Patratu)	04
4.	Chittranjan-Jamtara (ER) (Part of Sitarampur-Mughalsarai)	16
5.	Karnal-Mandigovind Garh including Panipat-Khukrana and Asan sidings (Part of Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana) (NR)	146
6.	Erode-Irugar-Walayar including (SR) Coimbatore-Podanur (Part of Erode-Ernakulam)	132
7.	(a) Mustabada-Bhimadolu (SCR)	66
	(b) Rajhamundry-Samalkot-Kakinada (SCR)	69
	(c) Visakhapatnam-Anakapli (SCR)	27
	(d) Simhachalam (North)-Gopalpatnam (SER) (Part of Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam)	12
8.	Dumetra-Lathikata (SER) (Part of Bokaro-Barsuan)	03
9.	Mohuda-Karkend (SER) (Part of Jamadoba-Mohuda)	14
10.	Manikgarh-Godchandur and Dorankal-Singareni Branch lines of South Central Railway	59
Total		609

(b) In Uttar Pradesh Sarsawa-Khanalampura section of Northern Railways is likely to be electrified by March '98.

(c) Expenditure on electrification of Sarsawa-Khanalampura section is estimated to be Rs. 11.66 crores approximately.

[English]

Development of Railway in Kerala

2912. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the projects to be completed in Kerala during 1997-98;
- (b) the projects to be taken up in this year;
- (c) the total amount allocated for various projects in Kerala during 1997-98; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Doubling of 4 block sections between Mangalore and Calicut will be completed during 97-98 in Kerala.

(b) No new projects have been taken up in Kerala in 1996-97. However the following new projects have been included in 1997-98 budget :

1. Angamali-Sabarimala new line.
 2. Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar gauge conversion.
- (c) 61.14 crores.
- (d) A Statement is attached.

Statement

Project	Outlay for 1997-98 (Rs. in crores)
1. Angamali-Sabarimala new line	0.01
2. Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar gauge conversion	0.01
3. Calicut-Mangalore doubling	17.78*
4. Kuttipuram-Calicut doubling	1.00
5. Kuttipuram-Guruvayoor doubling	0.01
6. Quilon-Trivandrum doubling	12.33**
7. Railway Electrification-Erode-Palghat-Ernakulam including Cochi, Harbour terminus.	30.00
Total	61.14

* Being increased to Rs. 50 crores by reappropriation.

** Being increased to Rs. 15 crores by reappropriation.

Vacancies Galore at IA's West Zone Office

2913. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report in the 'Observers' dated February 4, 1997 under the caption "Vacancies galore at IA's West Zone Office";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) details of action taken/proposed to ensure filling up the vacancies; and

(d) how soon the vacancies will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) A ban on outside recruitment has been imposed in Indian Airlines since 23rd July, 1992 pending, review of the staff requirement keeping in view the workload and productivity linked incentive agreements signed with various Unions/Associations. However, this situation is constantly reviewed and recruitment is permitted to fill critical posts as well as those reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes.

[Translation]

Live telecast of Birth Centenary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

2914. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND KUMAR :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH "NIDAR" :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

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

(a) whether the birth centenary function of Subhash Chandra Bose was telecast live on Doordarshan from Red Fort;

(b) if so, whether there was interruption during the speech of a former Prime Minister during the telecast;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Due to sudden power supply failure, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Losses of Files

2915. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government drawn towards the news item under the caption " *Filein gayab hone ki C.B.I. janch ki mang*" appearing in 'Amar Ujjala' dated February 3, 1997;

(b) if so whether the Government propose to get this matter investigated by the C.B.I.;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether guilty officers are proposed to be transferred from there before starting investigation so that they may not create any hurdle during investigation; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have reported that the matter is being investigated and necessary action will be taken on the basis of investigation findings.

[English]

Industrial Training to Women

2916. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance provided for imparting industrial training to women, institution-wise in Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any monitoring is also done by the Union Government to ensure proper utilisation of the financial assistance;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The details of financial assistance provided for imparting industrial training to women institution-wise in Bihar during the last three years, is enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) To ensure proper utilisation of financial

assistance, monitoring is done by State Project Implementation Unit at State Level and the Central Project Implementation Unit at the Central level. Quarterly Progress Reports, Utilisation Certificates and Audit Certificates are furnished by the State. The progress is reviewed in review meetings held at regular intervals.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of the financial assistance provided during the last three year

State : BIHAR

Scheme : Establishment of New I.T.Is for Women under the World Bank assisted vocational Training Project.

Sl. No.	Name of I.T.I. (Women)	Financial assistance (Rs in Lakh)		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Upto 31.12.96)
1.	Siwan	4.779	5.036	3.909
2.	Ara	5.554	5.581	4.158
3.	Muzaffarpur	3.515	3.107	10.357
4.	Darbhanga	-	-	10.225
5.	Chaibasa	-	-	6.050
6.	Hazaribagh	-	-	12.645
7.	Motihari	-	-	10.435
8.	Gaya	-	-	10.224

[Translation]

Corruption in Steel Authority

2917. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the corruption prevalent in the transportation of lime stone in Steel Authority in Babupur under Satana district in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on transportation of lime stone during the period from 1993-94 to 1996-97 and the names of the contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) No specific complaint regarding corruption in the transportation of limestone at Ispat Limestone Quarry of SAIL at Babupur, Satna has come to notice.

(c) The total expenditure incurred on Transportation of Limestone during the period 1993-94 to 1996-97 along with the name of the contractor is given below :

S.No.	Name of the Party	For the year (Rs. in Lakhs)			
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Prov.)
1.	M/s Kamal Transport	45.78	40.10	64.70	68.16
2.	M/s Diamond Mineral	38.57	41.89	38.79	95.16

[English]

Departmental Enquiries against ITDC Officials

2918. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SHING PATEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned 'Naina Sahni murder case: CBI for probe against 5 ITDC official' appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated February 7, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The CBI has since submitted its report to the Government. CBI has recommended Regular Departmental Action for major penalty proceedings against the following 5 officers of ITDC :

1. Shri K.K. Tuli,
Dy. General Manager
2. Shri C.S. Jain,
General Manager
(Hotel Finance)
3. Shri L.M. Batra,
Resident Manager
4. Capt. R.R. Arora,
Manager
5. Shri Vijay Kumar,
Senior Manager.

In accordance with the recommendations of CBI, the ITDC has initiated Regular Departmental Action for major penalty proceedings against the aforesaid officers and Charge Sheets have been issued to them.

Lufthansa Boeing 747 Jumbo

2919. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent incident of a near collision involving a Lufthansa Boeing 747 Jumbo over the Indo-Pak border;

(b) whether the incident was due to the sudden intrusion into Indian airspace by a remote controlled pilotless vehicle from Pakistan;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the details of incidents of such intrusions into Indian airspace in the above area during the last three years;

(e) whether such intrusions pose serious danger for the movement of civilian aircrafts along the commercial air corridor which is one of the busiest in the world;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The Pilot of Lufthansa aircraft LHA 761 had reported an incident of air-miss with an unknown aircraft on 10.1.97 near Asari (Indo-Pak Border).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) There have been occasional stray violations of Indian airspace across the border which are reported to the neighbouring country concerned.

(g) Indian Air Force is taking all necessary precautions to prevent such intrusions into Indian air space.

Sansadiya Chetna

2920. SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI :
SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast the issues raised by the Member of Parliament relating to different Ministries under the title 'Sansadiya Chetna' through Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir. At present, Government has no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Attachment of special Bogie with Patna-New Delhi Bound Superfast Train

2921. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received suggestions about attaching a special bogie with Patna-New Delhi bound Superfast train for the purpose of going to Surat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Some representations have been received including from Shri S.D Singh, President, Bihar Vikas Parishad, Surat regarding provision of bogies for Patna from Surat. No separate bogies are proposed. However, it has been decided to introduce a weekly Express between Surat and Patna in 1997-98.

Gauge Conversion

2922. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI

CHAKHALIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to extend Rajkot-Veraval railway line proposed for conversion into broad gauge line, upto Kodinar, for conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj metre gauge line into broad gauge line and for conversion of Surendranagar-Bhavnagar metre gauge line into broad gauge line and its extension upto Pipavav via Alamy;

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

(c) the funds allocated for each of these projects during 1997-98;

(d) whether the conversion work of Rajkot-Veraval rail line is running behind the schedule;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to accelerate the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The project-wise details are as under :

	Project	Cost (in crs.)	Proposed Funds for 97-98	Status
1.	Rajkot-Veraval and its extension upto Kodinar (185 km.)	100.00	13.00	Work is in progress and is targetted to be completed by 31.12.99
2.	Gandhidham-Bhuj (58 Km.)	42.30	02.12	Work is in progress and is targetted to be completed by 31.12.98
3.	Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva and its extension upto Pipavav (385 Km.)	337.00	0.01	Work would be started shortly and would be completed during IXth Plan period.

(d) Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

(e) Main reasons for delay are constraints of resources and relatively low operational priority of the line.

(f) In 1997-98 adequate funds have been provided for accelerating the work of this project.

Local Call Facilities

2923. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria under which neighbouring cities of Delhi

such as Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bahadurgarh, Ghaziabad etc. are linked with Delhi through the local call;

(b) whether these norms are not applicable for Sharsa-Madhepura and Saharsa-Supaul in Bihar;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The interdialling call facility at 180 seconds pulse between Delhi-Gurgaon, Delhi-Faridabad, Delhi-Bahadurgarh, Delhi-Ghaziabad etc. have been extended as telephone systems of Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bahadurgarh and Ghaziabad share common boundary with Delhi Telephone system.

(b) to (d) No Sir. The criteria as at (a) above is not applicable because Telephone systems of Madhepura and Supaul do not share common boundary with Saharsa Telephone system.

[English]

Infrastructural facilities on Kurla and Bandra Railway Terminus

2924. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no infrastructural facilities have been provided at Kurla Railway Terminus and Bandra Railway Terminus in Central and Western Railways respectively, for travelling public; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide above mentioned facilities including proper approach roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction of Over Bridges

2925. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foundation stones laid for construction of railways flyover, the status of work on each of such flyovers and the flyovers which have been inaugurated by the Railway Minister during 1994-95, State-wise; and

(b) whether it is compulsory to invite the local MLAs and MPs in such inauguration programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Foundation

Stone of only one Road Over Bridge at Fatuah on 16.2.97 in Bihar was laid by Railway Minister where State Govt. has yet to acquire land to start construction.

(b) Railway have instructions to invite local MLAs & MPs during such functions.

[Translation]

Provision of both sides exit at Old Delhi Railway Station

2926. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "*Pata nahin Purani Delhi Station ka Doosra Nikas Dwar Kab Banega*" appearing in the daily "*Dainik Jagran*", New Delhi edition, dated December 29, 1996;

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

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof including its estimated cost; and

(e) if not, the step taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The work of 2nd entry to Delhi Jn. Railway Station was sanctioned in 1995-96 at a cost of Rs. 1.24 cr. The work is in full swing and is likely to be completed by 30.06.1997.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Permit of Vehicles to come up to Tarmac of Airports

2927. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has approached the Union Government or the National Airport Authority to permit its certain categories of vehicles to come the tarmac of the airports;

(b) if so, details of the proposal received;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(d) the present rules regarding the categories of vehicles allowed upto the tarmac?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra had requested for permission for entry of vehicles of the Chief Minister and officials of the State Government in the operational area of the airport for protocol purposes.

(c) The request of Maharashtra Government for issuing permanent permits was not accepted.

(d) Permission for vehicles in respect of VVIPs and other dignitaries in the operational areas of the airports is granted after due considerations of security as well as protocol.

Booking of Goods

2928. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the value of goods booked with the Railway Godowns during 1995-96, zone-wise;

(b) the goods stolen out of that and the value thereof;

(c) the value of goods recovered out of the goods stolen and the loss suffered by Railways on account of the theft; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to check such thefts from the Railway Godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The value of goods booked by Railways is not quantifiable as it is not obligatory for the consignor to declare its value;

(b) and (c) The value of goods stolen/recovered out of the goods booked with the Railways during the year 1995-96, zone-wise is as under :

Railways	No. of Cases	Value of property in Rs.	
		Stolen	Recovered
C. Rly.	394	3493812	1027534
E. Rly.	2383	10821990	878559
N. Rly.	887	4977524	2126688
N.E. Rly.	558	2269136	365111
NF. Rly.	1117	5670115	143301
S. Rly.	611	2773436	396653
S.C. Rly.	205	560215	44228
S.E. Rly.	846	4290041	45526
W. Rly.	660	3049025	424555
Total	7661	37905294	5452155

(d) The following preventive measures are taken to check such thefts :

1. Escorting of trains carrying booked items and other valuable consignments over vulnerable sections as far as possible.
2. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/sections.
3. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the conditions of wagons/seals, carrying consignments.
4. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in vulnerable sections as far as possible.
5. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down the criminals.
6. Based on criminal intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of criminals/receivers of stolen property in order to bring them to book.
7. Dogs squads are deployed for patrolling vulnerable yards and areas.
8. Close co-ordination between RPF, GRP and local police is maintained at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.

Postal Employees

2929. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of Postal employees together with their increased strength during each of the last four years, group-wise;

(b) the establishment cost of postal services during the above period as against the postal services;

(c) whether the Government have quantified and assessed the increase and strain in postal services;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether the present strength of staff is adequate to meet the demand of postal services in the country; and

(f) if not, the steps taken to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The sanctioned strength of postal employees working in Postal side in various cadres from 1991 and for the last four years, group-wise, is as under:

Year	Gr. 'A'	Gr. 'B'	Gr. 'C'	Gr. 'D'
1991-92	705	1047	234387	52469
1992-93	705	1063	232748	51834
1993-94	701	1065	232082	52144
1994-95	701	1086	232376	52328

5318 posts of Gr. 'C' were created in the year 1991-92. Thus, the increased strength in 91-92 as compared to 90-91 is 5318. There has been no increase in staff strength after 91-92 in respect of Gr. 'C' & 'D' cadres and there has been total increase of 39 posts in Gr. 'B' in 94-95.

(b) Year	Postal Revenue in Rs.	Cost of Establishment in Rupees		
		Gross Expenditure	Recoveries	Net Expenditure
1991-92	9478692	15067497	3445943	11621554
1992-93	10738962	16491822	4834677	11657145
1993-94	11051712	18665570	5545320	13120250
1994-95	11704136	21300215	6084788	15215427

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A review of the establishment is conducted by the Department on year to year basis. However, it is a fact that in view of the ban on creation of post imposed by the Govt. of India, it is not possible to create posts. But the Department in 1991-92 had created a large number of operationally essential posts for smooth running of the delivery system. The Department has again taken up a consolidated proposal in 1996-97 for creation of justified posts of Postmen and Sorting Postmen. However, a final decision on creation of these proposed posts of Postmen rests with the Govt. of India. Besides, this, in order to ensure smooth running of the delivery system, the Department has delegated powers to redeploy surplus posts of Group 'C' & 'D' to the Heads of Circles. By this delegated powers they can deploy the surplus posts of Group 'C' & 'D' staff after conducting a review to units where there is a shortage and justification for these posts.

(e) The present strength of postal employees is being optimally utilised. Further work is also being got done on OTA, honorarium and by payment of incentive to ensure that there is no dilution in the quality of Postal services.

(f) Same as indicated against (d) above.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Outer Delhi

2930. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for telephone connections received from the outer Delhi during the last two years, the number of applicants to whom telephone connections have since been provided out of them;

(b) the number of persons enrolled in the waiting list upto January, 1997 and time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provided them;

(c) whether it is a fact that the process of allotting telephone connections in outer Delhi is very slow and unsatisfactory;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive policy to provide telephone connections to the maximum applicants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 45701 applications were received for telephone connections from outer Delhi area during the last two years.

33471 telephone connections have since been provided out of them.

(b) 7488 applicants were on waiting list as on 31.1.97. Most of the applicants on the waiting list as on 31.1.97, except those in Badli and Tuglakabad areas, are likely to be provided telephone connection by July 1997 except a few technically non-feasible connections.

(c) to (e) All the waiting applicants are being provided with telephone connections turn by turn without any distinction amongst the applicants from inner Delhi or outer Delhi.

It is proposed to improve the provision of telephone connections during the Ninth Five Year Plan beginning with 1997-98.

[English]

Criteria to Upgrade Telecom System

2931. SHRI K. S. RAYADU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria followed in upgrading the telecom system in the country; and

(b) the reasons for choosing Hassan for this purpose on a priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Upgradation with expansion of telephones system is based on demand for telephone connections and waiting list. Upgradation is also done for obsolescence of existing technology and life expiry of existing system.

(b) The above criteria is applicable for all the places in the country including Hassan.

[Translation]

Development of Tourist Spots

2932. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the tourism spots in the country which the Union Government propose to develop during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether there is any scheme to develop any place in Morena/Bhind districts of Madhya Pradesh and Betla and Natarhaj located in Palamau in Bihar as tourist spots; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Development of tourist spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory Administrations. However, the department of Tourism, Govt. of India extends Central financial assistance for specific tourism projects submitted during the duration of five year plans by the State Government/Union Territory Administration based on their merits, *inter se* priority and availability of funds.

(b) and (c) The Department of Tourism has not received any proposal for financial assistance from Government of Madhya Pradesh for Morena/Bhind district and from Government of Bihar for Betla. However, the Department of Tourism has identified wayside facilities between Netrahat and Ranchi for central financial assistance during 1996-97.

Closure of Mines in Rajasthan

2933. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousands mines of marble and soapstone have been closed down in tribal district of Udaipur in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) Marble is a minor mineral as per the provisions of section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and grant of mineral concessions is regulated by Rules framed by the concerned State Governments. For soapstone, State Governments have the powers for grant of mineral concessions and approval of the Central Government is not required.

As per information available, a number of marble and soapstone mines of the tribal district of Udaipur in Rajasthan have been closed down in compliance of the interim order dated 12.12.96 of the Supreme Court in the writ petition (Civil) No.202 of 1995 with writ petition (Civil) No. 171/96 under which the Apex Court had directed that in accordance with section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, all on-going activity within any forest in any State, throughout the Country, without the prior approval of the Central Government, must cease forthwith. Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed further orders on 4.3.97 directing time bound clearance of pending cases requiring approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State Government have to take further action as per directions of the Supreme Court contained in the above orders.

Jobless Workers in Beedi Industry

2934. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a memorandum from Beedi producers has been given to the Government to the effect that thousands of beedi workers have been rendered jobless with the coming of "mini cigarette" in the market; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The Govt. had received representations from Beedi Workers and Manufacturers' Unions apprehending adverse impact on employment in beedi industry due to marketing of mini cigarettes. The rate of excise duty on mini cigarettes of length not exceeding 60mm has been increased by 25% from 1996-97.

Foreign Assistance for Exploration of Mine in M.P. and U.P.

2935. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked for any foreign assistance in regard to the exploration and development of minerals in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Exploration of mineral wealth and development of mineral resources are *inter-alia* basic objectives of National Mineral Policy, 1993. The Policy envisages induction of foreign technology and foreign participation in exploration and mining for high value and scarce minerals to be pursued. Further foreign equity investment in joint ventures in mining promoted by Indian companies would be encouraged. While foreign

investment in equity would be normally limited to 50%, enhanced equity holding could be cleared on case to case basis.

Amendments to the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 have also been effected to facilitate foreign equity participation. The application for grant of Mineral Concessions have to be made before the State Governments only. The Central Government does not monitor receipt of such application by the State Governments.

Telephone Connections in Metro Cities

2936. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the difference between demand and supply of new telephone connections in the four metropolitan cities of the country; and

(b) the scheme formulated by the Government for providing telephone connections to the person in the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The difference between demand and supply of new telephone connections (i.e. waiting list) in the four metropolitan cities of the country as on 31-01-97 are as given below:

Name of Metro City	Difference between Demand and Supply
1. Mumbai	55626
2. Delhi	38941
3. Calcutta	77961
4. Chennai	95452

(b) For providing telephone connections to the persons in the waiting list, the following targets are proposed during 1996-97

Name of Metro City	Targets for 1996-97
1. Mumbai	2,50,000
2. Delhi	2,50,000
3. Calcutta	55,000
4. Chennai	75,000

Further, the targets are proposed to be fixed for 1997-98 such that the waiting list as on 31-03-97 is likely to be covered progressively during 1997-98.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

2937. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA :
SHRI THOMAS HANSDA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total existing length of narrow gauge lines, zone-wise; and

(b) the length out of that proposed to be converted into broad gauge during the current year and next three years, zone-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total length (Route Kilometres) of narrow gauge lines zone-wise is as follows:

Railway	Length of narrow gauge line (Route Kilometres) (as on 31.3.96)
Central	996
Eastern	132
Northern	260
North Eastern	-
Northeast Frontier	87
Southern	102
South Central	-
South Eastern	1,340
Western	877
	3,794

(b) In the current year 46 kilometres of narrow gauge line would be converted to broad gauge, 28 kilometres on South Eastern Railway in Maharashtra and 18 kilometres on Southern Railway in Karnataka. In 1997-98, 111 kilometres are targetted for completion on South Eastern Railway in Maharashtra. The lines to be converted in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 have not yet been decided.

Conversion of Bitragunta Steam Loco Shed

2938. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some representations regarding conversion of major steam loco shed at Bitragunta under South Central Railway into electric loco shed or workshop;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to convert above steam loco shed into the electric loco shed or workshop;

(c) if so, the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not utilising the present infrastructure of above steam loco shed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir. Railway workshop/ Electric Loco Sheds are set up keeping in view the Railways' requirement of rolling stock and their maintenance in specific region. The existing facilities in the region are considered adequate to meet the Railways' requirement and as such there is no plan to convert steam loco shed at Bitragunta into a workshop/ electric loco shed.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Space available in the loco shed is being utilised for other operational activities.

Construction of Balurghat-Eklakhi Railway Line

2939. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target date for completion of construction of Balurghat-Eklakhi railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Completion of the project would depend upon the availability of resources. In view of the throwforward of about Rs. 12000 crs. for new line projects and the need to accord priority to projects required on urgent strategic/operational considerations and those projects nearing completion, it is not possible to determine the funds which can be allocated to this project over the coming years, in view of the very limited allotment of funds for new lines by the Planning Commission each year.

Expenditure Incurred on Advertisements

2940. LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on advertisements during 1996-97

in newspapers for informing the public about opening ceremonies with regard to newly opened zones or like functions;

(b) whether it has lead to an increase in freight traffic and profit to the Railways; and

(c) if so, the details, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) An amount of Rs. 3,68,37,676/- approx. has been spent by Railways on advertisements during 1996-97 for publicity of opening ceremonies through the newspapers.

(b) and (c) Publicity through the print media on inaugural functions/opening ceremonies, etc. serves the purpose of informing the public about the new facilities for realising the goal of optimum use of the facilities/ opportunities so that the benefits to the users and consequently to the Railways is accrued. The quantification of the advantages is, however, not possible.

Train Drivers on Strike

2941. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Train Drivers of Samastipur Division of North Eastern Railway had gone on an indefinite strike recently due to which train services were paralysed;

(b) if so, the reasons for the said strike;

(c) the amount of loss suffered by the Railways due to said strike; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to end the strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) No, Sir.

However, due to resentment of some Drivers of Samastipur Division over the issue of new crew link, some inconvenience took place in running the trains. The matter was, however, sorted out immediately and normal running of trains restored.

Establishment of Coaching Complex

2942. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposal to establish a coaching complex in the Southern Railway; and

(b) if so, whether the long standing demand of the people of Nagarcoil in this regard is likely to be considered by establishing the same there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration to set up a new coaching complex in the Southern Railway, at present.

(b) A coaching complex is already existing and functioning at Nagarcoil.

[Transiation]

International Airport at Ayodhya

2943. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up an international airport at Ayodhya;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Construction of a new airport is taken up keeping in view traffic potential and economic viability. Since Ayodhya is located very near to Lucknow, such an airport, if developed, would not be economically viable.

Telephone Connections in Madhya Pradesh

2944. DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants for telephone connections on the waiting list as on January 31, 1997 in Madhya Pradesh, District-wise;

(b) the time by which waiting list is likely to be cleared, district-wise;

(c) the number of applicants on waiting list for Ujjain city, Tarana, Mahidpur, Khachrod, Badnagar, Nagda and Alot (Ratlam Distt.);

(d) the time by which the waiting lists of above cities are likely to be cleared;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in these cities;

(f) if so, the details alongwith their capacities; and

(g) the measures taken to streamline the rural telecommunication services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI

PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The required information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The waiting list is likely to be cleared progressively by March 1998 in all the districts of Madhya Pradesh except Vidisha district which is likely to be cleared by March 1999.

(c) The information is given below :

Sl.No.	Station	Waiting List
1.	Ujjain	1340
2.	Tarana	0
3.	Mahidpur	5
4.	Khachrod	32
5.	Badnagar	224
6.	Nagda	172
7.	Alot (Ratlam Distt.)	9

(d) The waiting list is likely to be cleared progressively by March 1998.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to set up new telephone exchanges in these cities. However, there is proposal to expand the capacity of the existing exchanges at Ujjain and Tarana during 1996-97.

(g) The following measures are being taken to streamline the rural telecommunication services:

1. Replacemnt of old and worn out electro-mechanical exchanges by teletronic exchanges.
2. Reduction of overhead alignments by underground cables.

Statement

District-wise Waiting List of M.P. Telecom Circle as on 31.01.1997

Sl.No.	District	Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Balaghat	214
2.	Betul	1260
3.	Bhind	775
4.	Bhopa	9149
5.	Bilaspur	5059
6.	Chhatarpur	553
7.	Chhindwara	694

1	2	3
8.	Damoh	336
9.	Datia	496
10.	Dewas	1057
11.	Dhar	886
12.	Durg	6158
13.	Guna	470
14.	Gwalior	2753
15.	Hoshangabad	2150
16.	Indore	3037
17.	Janalpur	4198
18.	Jagdapur	1462
19.	Jhabua	345
20.	Khandwa	1960
21.	Khargone	866
22.	Mandla	201
23.	Mandsaur	1098
24.	Morena	580
25.	Narsinghpur	759
26.	Panna	227
27.	Raigarh	672
28.	Raipur	3121
29.	Raisen	496
30.	Rajgarh	417
31.	Rajnandgaon	1076
32.	Ratlam	1854
33.	Rewa	774
34.	Sagar	940
35.	Sarguja	1213
36.	Satna	1754
37.	Sehore	366
38.	Seoni	185
39.	Shahdol	1216
40.	Shajapur	278
41.	Shivpuri	621
42.	Sidhi	483

1	2	3
43.	Tikamgarh	270
44.	Ujjain	2290
45.	Vidisha	526

[English]

Basic Telephone Services

2945. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the performance of the basic telephone services across the country has been deteriorating day by day;

(b) if so, whether the Government have reviewed the performances of basic telephone services;

(c) if so, the results thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to set right the basic telephone services throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. The performance of the basic telephone services has not been deteriorating.

(b) and (c) The operational performance of the telephone services is being reviewed periodically at the top management levels. There has been an improvement in performance during the last few months.

(d) To improve the basic services in the country, the following steps have been taken :

Replacement of all old and life expired electromechanical exchanges by State-of-the-Art digital electronic exchanges.

Replacement of fault prone underground cables by jelly filled cables.

Upgradation of the outdoor plant network by laying of cables inducts.

Introduction of modern tools and testing aids.

Training of operational staff in modern technology systems being inducted in the DOT network.

Customer service centres have been opened in large number of places.

Satyajit Ray Film Institute

2946. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1019 on July 18, 1996 regarding Satyajit Ray Film Institute, Calcutta and state:

- (a) the progress made so far on the said institute;
- (b) the expected cost for its completion;
- (c) the estimated number of students and teachers therein separately; and
- (d) the time by which the courses are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The major part of the civil works of the project is expected to be completed by the end of 1996-97. The balance works would be completed in 1997-98. The first phase of the project is expected to be completed at a cost of Rs. 29.50 crores.

(c) The number of students admitted for the academic session beginning in September, 1996 was 32. However, after completion of hostel block, the annual intake of students is likely to go upto 40. At present, 10 posts of faculty have been sanctioned for the institute. Out of these 10 posts, 6 posts (Dean-1, Assistant Professor-2, Lecturer-3) have been filled in. In addition, the institute invites guest faculty to take classes, depending upon the Institute's requirements.

(d) Diploma courses in 4 disciplines, namely, Direction, Motion Picture Photography, Editing and Sound Recording have already started with effect from 2nd September, 1996.

Shortage of Wagon in Kerala

2947. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the inadequacy of Railway Wagons affect the smooth movement of foodgrains to the godown in Kerala;

(b) whether the Railways consider to provide sufficient rakes/wagons to Kerala for carrying commodities for public distribution; and

(c) if so, the time by which the rakes/wagons are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Public Distribution System requirement of Kerala is met by the Railways for foodgrains.

Indo-Japanese Cooperation for Safety of Indian Rail Network

2948. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the annual general meeting of the Indo-Japanese working group held in January, 1996, Japan has agreed to extend its cooperation to improve safety of Indian Rail network;

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

(c) the aid proposed to be given by Japan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There was no annual general meeting of the Indo-Japanese working group held in 1996.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

V.R.S. in Public Sector

2949. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "New V.R.S. likely in new year" appearing in 'Financial Express' dated December 27, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated new Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees employed in Public Sector industries;

(c) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(d) the number of employees targetted to be given retirement under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Deptt. of Public Enterprises which is the administrative department for the formulation of policy for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Undertakings, and the department cited in the newspaper item mentioned, have not submitted/proposed any liberalisation in the Voluntary Retirement Scheme other than the scheme already in vogue.

(c) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Off Loading of Passengers by International Airlines

2950. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether International airlines operating out of India have been off loading passengers owing to a over booking situation causing great inconvenience to the passengers;

(b) if so, the names of such Airlines which off loaded passengers and the number of such passengers during the year 1996, (month-wise) and so far in 1997;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken so that the passengers are not put to any inconvenience and also are paid due compensation; and

(d) what has been the position of Air India and other Indian Airlines operating out of India during the year 1996, and so far in 1997?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Air India is one of the airlines which has off loaded passengers. Indian Airlines has not off loaded any passengers in 1997 so far. Foreign airlines are not required to report such off loadings to the Indian Authorities.

(c) Overbooking is a practice prevalent in the airline industry all over the world and Air India and Indian Airlines constantly monitor and change over-booking profiles on the basis of experience loads to minimise off-loadings. Air India on most occasions tries to accommodate off-loaded passengers in the next available flight besides providing hotel accommodation, meals, transportation etc.

(d) During 1996, the average off-loading by Air-India was 496 passengers per month and during January - March, 1997 about 1000 passengers were off-loaded every month.

Companies Involved in Communication Sector

2951. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic and foreign private companies are working in the communication sector;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) the likely effect of such companies on the national security;

(d) the target fixed for setting up the Telecommunication centres, keeping in view the increasing demand of telecommunications in rural areas; and

(e) the time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provided to the persons in waiting list till date?

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

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Enough safeguards in respect of National security have been provided in the Licences for operation of Telecom Services.

(d) No targets has been fixed for setting up of Telecommunication centres in the rural areas for the year 1997-98. However, target in the Perspective Plan tentatively fixed for Village Public Telephone programme is to cover entire villages during the IXth Plan period.

(e) The telephone connections are likely to be provided to the persons in the waiting list, till date, during 1997-98 in most of the telecom circles and in some telecom circles progressively during the first half of the Ninth Five Year Plan period with the exception of technically non-feasible cases.

Statement

List of Companies in Telecom Centre

A.K Electronics

Aarkey Electronics

ABC Communications (India) Pvt. Ltd.

Accord Commn. (P) Ltd.

Accumulative Manufacturers Com.

Adino Telecom Limited

Advanced Fibre Communications

AE Telelink System Limited

Aeon Electronics Private Ltd.

Aerotech Pvt. Ltd.

AFC Harris Multimedia Communication (P) Limited.

AFCO Industrial & Chemicals Ltd.

AFRO Asian Satellite Communications Ltd.

AGT Electronics Ltd.

Aircel Digilink India Ltd.

Ajanta Transistor Clock Manufacturing Co.

AKG India Ltd.

AKSH India Ltd.

Alcated Modi Network Systems Ltd.

Alltel Information Services Inc.

Alltron Electronics India Ltd.

Amadeus Investments & Finance Pvt. Ltd.
 Analog & Digital Systems Pvt. Ltd.
 ANCO Communications Ltd.
 Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.
 Anjaleem Telematics Pvt. Ltd.
 Apcom Powermatic System Pvt. Ltd.
 Apel Radio Communication Systems Ltd.
 Applied Electronics Ltd.
 Arlem Electronics Ltd.
 ARM Celcom Ltd.
 ARIM Limited
 Arvind Mills Ltd.
 Arya Communications & Electronics Services
 Ascom Telematics Ltd.
 Asian Communication (P) Ltd.
 Asian Infrastructure Fund Ltd.
 Astra Microwave Products Limited
 AT & T Finolex Fibre Optic Cables Ltd.
 AT & T India Private Limited
 AT & T Switching Systems(India) Pvt. Ltd.
 Beltron Telecommunication Ltd.
 Bhagyanagar Metals Ltd.
 Bharti Cellular Ltd.
 Bharti Dura-line Private Ltd.
 Bharti La Francaise Ltd.
 Bharti Telecom Ltd
 Bharti Televentures Ltd.
 Bhatra Power Systems Pvt Ltd
 Bhilai Wires Ltd.
 Bhilwara Cellular Ltd.
 Bhilwara Telenet Service Ltd.
 Bionics Engineering Company
 Birla 3M Ltd.
 Birla Communications Ltd.
 Birla Erlesson Optical Ltd
 Birla Telecom Ltd.
 Blades of Grass Communication Systems Pvt. Ltd.
 Bloomberg LP
 Blue Star Ltd.

BMG Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
 BPL Cellular Holdings Ltd
 Calcom Exports Pvt. Ltd.
 Carlton Communications Plc.
 Catvision Products Limited
 Cegelec India Ltd.
 Cellular Communication India Ltd.
 Century Sheet Metals (I) Ltd.
 CG Communication Ltd.
 CG Fax Broadcast (P) Ltd.
 CG Graphnet Private Limited
 CG Telenetwork Systems Pvt. Ltd.
 CG Teletec Ltd.
 Citizen Elecot (India) Ltd.
 Citronics
 City Wide Communication & Computers India Ltd.
 CMI Ltd.
 Comecon Overseas Pvt. Ltd.
 Commet Systems And Services Ltd.
 Computech International Ltd.
 Computech System Ltd.
 Computer Peripheral Devices Ltd.
 Comsat Max Private Ltd.
 Conic Electronics Private Limited.
 Continental Device India Ltd.
 Controls & Drives Corporation
 Cosmic Mobitel Pvt. Ltd.
 Cosmo Communications Pvt. Ltd.
 Covered Wires Ltd.
 CPRM Marconi (India) Pvt. Ltd.
 Creative Electronics Pvt. Ltd.
 Crinotib Greaves Ltd. (Rural)
 Crompton Greaves Ltd.
 Crystal Cable Industries Ltd.
 D.I Telecommunications Pvt. Ltd.
 Dalmia Communication Pvt. Ltd.
 Databyte Equipment Pvt. Ltd.
 Datapro information Technology Ltd.
 Debikay Information Technology Ltd.

Delta Hamlin (P) Ltd.
Deltel System Pvt. Ltd.
Delton Cables Limited.
Dexon Utilities Exports Ltd.
Dhar Industries Limited
Digicom Systems Ltd.
Digital Microwav Corporation
Degital Telecom Ltd.
Dixon Utilities & Exports Ltd.
Doon Air Products Ltd.
DSS Elektronik India Ltd.
Doorvain Cables Private Ltd.
Eastern Telecom And Technology Ltd.
Easycall Cellular India Ltd.
Easycall Communications (India) Pvt. Ltd.
Eider Cables (India) Ltd.
Eider Electronics Industries Ltd.
Eider Pwi Communication Ltd.
Eider Pwi Paging Ltd.
Eider Telecom Ltd.
Eknath Communications Ltd.
Elco Communications Systems Ltd.
Elcot Power Control Ltd.
Elecom Exports Pvt. Ltd.
Electronic Research Limited.
Elico Pvt. Ltd.
Elite Infotronics (P) Ltd.
English Electric Co. of India Ltd.
Equipment Conductors Cables Ltd.
ERI Engineers Private Ltd.
Ericsson India Ltd.
Ericsson Telcon (P) Ltd
Escorts Communication Ltd.
Esquire Distributing & Services (P) Ltd.
Essar Commvision Ltd.
Essar Telecom Ltd.
Essen Communication (P) Ltd.
Essen Telecom. (P) Ltd.
Essjay Telecom Services Pvt. Ltd.

Euro Tel India Ltd.
Falcon International Communication L.P.
Fascel Ltd.
Fibcom India Ltd.
Filcom India Ltd.
Finmac Systems Ltd.
Finolex Cables Limited
Finolex Telecommunication Pvt. Ltd.
Forbes Gokak Ltd.
Fort Gloster Industries Ltd.
Freedomtel Technologies Ltd., UK.
Fujitsu India Ltd.
Fujitsu Limited
Fujitsu Optel Ltd.
G.P. Tronics
G V K Telecom Ltd.
G.R. Cables Limited
Garg Telecom Corporation
GE Capital Services India
GEC Alsthom India Ltd.
Geekay Exim (I) Ltd.
General Instrument Corporation
General Signals
GenesisTelecom (P) Ltd.
Gilco Satellite Communications (P) Ltd.
Gilldata Tech Ltd.
Glenayre Electronics Pvt. Ltd.
Global Technology Ltd.
Global Telecom Service Ltd.
Global Telesystems
Global Telesystems Ltd.
Global Wireless Technology Limited
Globalstar India Satellite Services (P) Ltd.
Goa Electronics Ltd.
Goa Telecommn. & Systems Limited
Goa Telecommunications & Systems Limited
Godrej Telecom Ltd.
Goid Men Agent Pvt. Ltd.
GP On Line Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

Grapco Telecom Ltd.
 Grunding Electronics India Ltd.
 GTCL Mobilecom Technology Limited
 Gtech Corporation, USA.
 Guddu Electronics Pvt. Ltd.
 Gujarat Investment Ltd.
 Gujarat Optical Communication Ltd.
 Gujarat Telephone Cable Limited.
 Gujarat Telephone Cables Ltd.
 Gujarat Optical Communication Ltd.
 Gujarat Poly AVX Elect. Ltd.
 Gujarat Poly-AVX Electronics Ltd.
 Gujarat Telephone Cables Ltd.
 Gurat Optical Communication Ltd.
 Gurat Poly AVX Elect. Ltd.
 H.B. Telecommunications Ltd.
 Hamilton Electronics Pvt. Ltd.
 Hartron Net Works Ltd.
 Hartron Networks Ltd.
 Haryana telecom Ltd.
 HCL Cellstar Ltd. (HCL Group)
 HCL Cornet Systems and Services Ltd.
 HCL Ltd. (Telecommunication Division)
 Headline India Communication Ltd.
 Heg Ltd.
 Helios Antennas & Electronics
 Hemang N Budhdeo
 Hemant Electronics
 Hendex Electronics Ltd.
 Heritae Impex Pvt. Ltd.
 Hewlett Packard India Ltd.
 Hexacom India Ltd.
 HFCL
 HFCL Bozeq Telecom Ltd.
 HFCL Dacom Infocheck Ltd.
 HFCL Kongsung Telecom Ltd.
 HFCL Mobile Radio Ltd.
 HFCL Satellite Communications Ltd.
 Hi-Tech Tele Access Services Ltd.

Himachal Exicom Commn. Ltd.
 Himachal Telematics Ltd.
 Himachal Wireless Ltd.
 Hinduja HCL Singtel Communication Ltd.
 Hindustan Paging Ltd.
 Hindustan Times Ltd.
 Hindustan Wires Limited
 Hitech Coltronix Ltd.
 Hofintel Ltd.
 Heneycomb Telecom Systems Pvt. Ltd.
 Huges Escorts Communications Ltd.
 Hughes Ispat Ltd.
 Hughes Network System
 Hutchison Max Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
 Ian Cables & Industries Ltd.
 Impala Phones India
 Impel Petro Pvt. Ltd.
 Impel-Pep Thermo Shrinks Pvt. Ltd.
 Impsat India Pvt. Ltd.
 Incab Industries Ltd.
 Indchem Communications Ltd.
 Indchem Electronics Ltd.
 Indchem Global Communications Pvt. Ltd.
 Inchem Nera Ltd.
 India Information Technology Ltd.
 India Tele-Comp Limited
 India Telecomp Ltd.
 Indian Telcom Pvt. Ltd.
 Indo Pacific Trade Corporation
 Indo Power Cables Limited
 Indocom Industries Ltd.
 Indore Composite Pvt. Ltd.
 Indusind Enterprise & Finance Ltd.
 Infocom Digital Systems (P) Ltd.
 Innovation Communication Systems Pvt. Ltd.
 Integrated Equipments Pvt. Ltd.
 Intel Exports Corporation
 Intercity Cable Systems (P) Ltd.
 Internet Securities

ION Electricals
 Iridium India Telecom Limited
 Ispat Communication Pvt. Ltd.
 IXL Communications & Services Ltd.
 J.T. Mobile Ltd.
 J.K. Corporation.
 J.K. Tele Cronix Ltd.
 Jaisingh Wires (P) Ltd.
 Jalex Connectors Systems Ltd.
 Jasmine Telecom India Ltd.
 Jayanti Business Machines Ltd.
 JEC Devices P.Ltd.
 Jerath Electronics
 Jital Commn. Ltd.
 JMS North America Inc.
 JT Telecom Ltd.
 Kajriwala Auto Electric & Engineering Works Ltd.
 Kalindi Rail Nirman (Engrs.) Ltd.
 Kalyani Sharp India Ltd.
 Kanazia Digital Systems Pvt. Ltd.
 Kaneria Industries Ltd.
 Karnataka Telecom Ltd.
 Kavari India Ltd.
 Kaveri Telecom Ltd.
 Kejriwal Auto & Electronics
 Key Electro Industries
 Kinetic Engg. Ltd.
 Kinetic Engineers Ltd.
 Kirti Telecom Ltd.
 KLG Systel Ltd.
 KLG Ucom Telecom Ltd.
 Klippon Electronics Private Ltd
 Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
 Kriti Telecom Ltd.
 Krone Communication Ltd.
 Krugg Engineers Pvt. Ltd.
 L & T Ltd.
 Lakshmi Machine Works Ltd.
 Larson & Toubro Ltd.

Linkage Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
 Lacent Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.
 Mahindra Network Services Ltd.
 Manipal Telephones & Telecom Ltd.
 Marcsat Communication Pvt. Ltd.
 Matrix Paging (India) Pvt. Ltd.
 Max India Ltd.
 MCE Products Sales Service Ltd.
 Measurement Systems Private Ltd.
 Megatee Advance Toch Pvt. Ltd.
 Mek Video Private Ltd.
 Mekaster J&K Transmissions Pvt. Ltd.
 Makaster Telematics Limited
 MEL Systems & Services Ltd.
 Microtech Industries Ltd.
 Microwave Communications Ltd.
 Microwin Electronix Limited
 Mirgauk Investment (P) Ltd.
 MIS Electronics (P) Ltd.
 Mitgart India Ltd.
 Mobile Communications Holdings Inc.
 Modi Communication Services Ltd.
 Modi Infotech Pvt. Ltd.
 Modi Korea Telecommunications Ltd.
 Modi Telecommunication Ltd.
 Modi Telematics Ltd.
 Modi Telstra Pvt. Ltd.
 Modicom Network Pvt. Ltd.
 Motorola Private Ltd.
 Myco Telecom Limited.
 Namtech Systems Pvt. Ltd.
 National Radio & Electronics Co. Ltd. (NELCO)
 National Telecom of India Ltd.
 NEC Corporation.
 Nera (India) Limited.
 Network Ltd.
 Network Systems Ltd.
 New Horizons Pvt. Ltd.
 Next Age Networks Pvt. Ltd.

Nicco Corporation Ltd.
 Niholt Telecommunication BV.
 Nipon Acoustic Devices (I) P. Ltd.
 Novel Electronics & Communications Systems
 Onida Enkay Communications Ltd.
 Orient Aster Communications Pvt. Ltd.
 Oscar International Ltd.
 Pacific Telecommunication and Instruments Ltd.
 Page Point Services (I) Pvt. Ltd.
 Paramount Communication Ltd.
 Pasupati Tubes Ltd.
 Peach Computers Ltd.
 Pekon Electronics Ltd.
 Penguin Enterprises Pvt Ltd.
 Penner Electronics
 Pertech Computers Ltd.
 Philips India Limited
 Philips Telecommunication Industries Ltd.
 Phillips Carbon Black Ltd.
 Pinnacle Exports Pvt. Limited.
 Pirelli Cavi SPA Porta Systems India Pvt. Ltd.
 Pouyet Communication India Pvt. Ltd.
 Powertel Boca Private Ltd.
 Precision Electronics Ltd.
 Precission Electronics (P) Ltd.
 Priyaraj Electronics Pvt. Ltd.
 Procall Pvt. Ltd.
 Protel India Pvt Ltd.
 PTC Telephone Service (I) Pvt. Ltd.
 Pulsar Electronics Ltd.
 Pusetone Communication System Pvt. Ltd.
 Punjab Communication Ltd.
 Punjab Power Packs Ltd.
 Punjab Wireless Systems Ltd.
 Punwire Paging Services Ltd.
 Punwire System Limited
 Purwire Telesystem Cellular Ltd,
 Q-Flex Cables Limited
 Qualcomm Incorporated

Quick Calls Private Ltd.
 R.K. Engineering Works Ltd.
 Radiant Electronics Ltd.
 Radiant Telesystems Ltd.
 Rajasthan Communications Ltd
 Rajasthan Telematics (P) Ltd.
 Rajasthan Telephone Industries Ltd.
 Rajshi Storing Pvt. Ltd.
 Ravobh Electronics Limited
 Rama Associates Ltd.
 Ramaiya Electronics Limited
 Ramco Industries Ltd.
 Ramsan Communication Limited
 Ramson Communications Limited
 Ramtron Engineering Services.
 Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
 REPL Enginering Ltd.
 Risingsum Engineers Limited
 Rolta India Ltd.
 Rossoll Telecommunication Pvt. Ltd.
 RPG Collular Services Ltd.
 RPG Communications Holding Ltd.
 RPG Industries Private Limited
 RPG Paging Services Ltd.
 RPG Ricoh Limited
 RPG Satellite Commn Ltd.
 RPG Telecables Ltd.
 RPG Telephone Ltd.
 Ruchi Telesystems Ltd.
 S.M Creative Electronics Private Ltd.
 S.G.S. Technnics
 SAB Electronics Ltd.
 Samir Paging Systems Ltd.
 Savita Chemicals Ltd.
 Scantel Private Limited
 SDT Enterprise Pvt. Ltd.
 Selvel Advertising (P) Ltd
 Semiconductor Complex Ltd.
 Servo Electronics

Sesa Seat Information Systems Ltd.
 Set Telecommunication Pvt. Ltd.
 Seven Hills Commn. Pvt. Ltd.
 Sayam Telecom Ltd.
 Siemens Ltd.
 Siemens Telecom Ltd.
 Signal Telecom India Pvt. Ltd.
 Silkee Electronics Pvt. Ltd.
 Simoco International Ltd.
 Sinclair Communications (P) Ltd.
 SM Electronics Pvt. Ltd.
 SM Energy Toknik & Elektroniks Ltd.
 Solidaire India Ltd.
 Sony Corporation
 Speed-n-Tele Controls
 Sperry Telecom
 Spic Ozemil Internet (P) Ltd.
 Spic Telstra Telecom Ltd.
 Sprint RPG India Ltd.
 Srinivas Cellcom. Ltd.
 Stone India Limited.
 Straw Products Limited
 Supreme Telecommunications Pvt. Ltd.
 Suraua Telecom Ltd.
 Swati Industries
 Swede India Ltd.
 TATA Cellular Pvt. Ltd.
 TATA Communications Pvt. Ltd.
 TATA Information Systems Ltd.
 TATA Keltron Ltd.
 TATA Telecom Limited
 Teamcall Pvt. Ltd.
 Technicom Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd.
 Telecom Consultants India Ltd.
 Telecom Informatics (India) Pvt. Ltd.
 Teledata Electronics Pvt. Ltd.
 Telefonaktienolatget L.M.
 Telelink Cellular Ltd.
 Telelink Nicco Ltd.

Telematics Systems Ltd.
 Telephone Cables Ltd.
 Telephone Information Services India Ltd.
 Telerec Comm. India Ltd.
 Telesistem (India) Pvt. Ltd.
 Televista Electronics Ltd.
 Texla Plastics and Metals Pvt. Ltd.
 Texton Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
 Traco Cables Ltd.
 Tractors and Farms Equipment Limited
 Trans Image Corporation
 Trans India Network Systems Pvt. Ltd.
 Transmatic Systems Limited
 Trident Industries Ltd.
 Uicorp Industries Ltd.
 United Communications Ind. Public Co. Ltd.
 United International Holdings Inc.
 United Systems Engineers (P) Ltd.
 United Telecoms Ltd.
 United Communications Ltd.
 Universal ABB Power Cables Limited
 Universal Cables Ltd.
 Universal Electronics & Communication (P) Ltd.
 UPCON Cables Limited
 Uptron India Ltd.
 Uraco Technologies (India) Pvt. Ltd.
 US West BPL Telephone Services Pvt. Ltd.
 Usha Beltron Ltd.
 Usha Computers & Peripherals Ltd.
 Usha Martin Telematics Ltd.
 Usha Rectifier Corporation India Limited
 V.P. Polycon Limited
 Valiant Communications Pvt. Ltd.
 Vam Organic Chemicals Ltd.
 Vamsa Electronics Pvt. Ltd.
 Vasu Entrepreneurs Pvt. Ltd.
 Venkateshwara Telecom Ltd.
 VHEL Industries Ltd.
 Videocon Cellular Pvt. Ltd.

Vikas Cellular Ltd.
 Vikas Telecom Limited
 Vindhya Telelinks Ltd.
 Vintek RF Products Pvt. Ltd.
 Vintron Industries Ltd.
 Vistra Telecommunication Pvt. Ltd.
 Voice Information Systems (India) Ltd.
 VS Dempo & Co. Ltd.
 VXL Engineers Ltd.
 VXL India Ltd.
 W.S. Telesystems Ltd.
 Wandel & Goltermann
 Wbcide Ltd.
 Webel Communication Ltd.
 Webel Electronic Communications Systems Ltd.
 Webel Mediatronics Ltd.
 Webel Telecommunication Industries Ltd.
 Webel Telematics Ltd.
 Weston Pagers Private Ltd.
 Wide Fax (I) Ltd.
 Wipro Infotech Ltd.
 Wipro Ltd.
 World Phone Inida Pvt. Ltd.
 Worldwide Technologies (Elec) Pvt. Ltd.
 WS Telesystems Ltd.
 XEDD Telecom Ltd.
 XL Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
 ZEDD Telecom Ltd.
 Zimag India Ltd (PSEDC).

[English]

Insufficient Funds

2952. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not provided sufficient funds in the budget due to pressure from International Monetary Fund which has impressed upon the Government to leave Tourism to Private sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government have opposed this move on the plea that the annual growth rate of 17.6% was enough to show that Tourism Industry is not at loss making;

(c) whether his Ministry fetched Rs. 9186 crores of foreign exchange with a paltry budget outlay of Rs. 119.14 crore in 1995-95;

(d) if so, whether instead of raising the figure of 1995-96 the Ministry has allocated Rs. 109 crores in 1996-97 budget;

(e) whether the Government have not provided sufficient funds for 1997-98 budget; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) No Sir, Does not arise.

(c) Rs. 9185.88 crores was the foreign exchange earnings during 1995-96 on a budget outlay of Rs. 92.00 crores.

(d) The Budget allocation is Rs. 90 crores for 1996-97.

(e) and (f) The Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 110.35 crores for 1997-98 to the Department of Tourism.

Central Manpower Export Promotion Council

2953. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up Central Manpower Export Promotion Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its objectives;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) A proposal to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council to render promotional and advisory services is under examination of Government. Question of setting a time schedule for this purpose will arise only if a decision to set up the proposed council is taken dependent upon other concerned Ministries/Departments of Government agreeing to it.

Judicial Inquiry into Deaths in HINDALCO

2954. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that P.U.D.R. (Peoples' Union for Democratic Rights) had demanded a judicial inquiry into the deaths of labourers in HINDALCO Renukut of Hindustan Aluminium Co. of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether out of twenty two thousand workers/labourers of the above firm, 16,000 are contract and shift workers who are low paid or under paid as compared to the type of work/job; and

(d) the steps being proposed by the Government to improve the situation of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Development of Railways

2955. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new scheme for the development of Railways and to provide more facilities to the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the number of passengers likely to be benefited under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Development of Railway stations to provide more facilities to the passengers is a continuous process. Facilities at stations are upgraded depending on the growth and requirement of passenger traffic handled at that station. At present there is no new scheme.

Availability of Rail Engines

2956. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are sufficient rail engines in the country which are in good condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new electric engines are being used in place of old coal engines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of coal engines replaced by the electric engines so far during this year along with the number of new engines built during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 1.4.96, there were 2387 electric locos, 4313 diesel locos & 209 steam locos on Indian Railways.

(c) and (d) The electric engines are used in the sections which are electrified.

(e) No electric loco has replaced steam loco during this year. For 1996-97, 195 electric locos and 150 diesel electric locos have been planned for production/procurement.

Sponge Iron Units

2957. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Tough time ahead for sponge iron units" appearing in 'Tribune' dated December 27, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the manufactures of sponge iron of the country have to face the problem due to the shortage of good quality coal and increase in the price of coal;

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the representatives of the industry have drawn the Government attention to it; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Tough time ahead for sponge iron units" appearing in "Tribune" dated December 27, 1996. Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association have also expressed their concern about inadequate availability of required grades of non coking coal and increase in the price of coal.

(e) To increase the availability of coal, the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973 has been amended w.e.f. 9.6.1993 to allow development of captive mines by iron & steel manufacturers. This amendment also allows setting up of washeries for washing coal obtained from a mine. Further, the Government have proposed reduction of the basic custom duty on non coking coal from 20% to 10% in the Budget for 1997-98.

[English]

Selling of Scrap

2958. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of scrap sold by Railways during the current year so far; and

(b) The income earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The quantum of scrap sold by the Railways during the current financial year upto January '97 is given below:

(1) Rails & Ferrous Scrap (MTs).	5,54,173
(2) Non-Ferrous Scrap (MTs)	5,222
(3) Coaches (Units)	1,671
(4) Locos (Units)	98
(5) Wagons (Units)	13,979
(6) Miscellaneous Scrap (MTs)	8,133

(b) The amount earned therefrom was Rs. 606.68 crore.

Setting up of Alumina Plant in Orissa

2959. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Alumina plants during the year 1997-98 in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) whether any company has show interest in this work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The Government has no proposal to set up Alumina Plants in the Public Sector in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the year 1997-98.

(c) and (d) To encourage Private Sector investment in the Aluminium Sector, Aluminium Metal and its downstream products have been exempted from the provision of compulsory licencing.

[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephones

2960. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for providing telephone connections in the country during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, State-wise; and

(b) the number of telephone connections provided as against the above targets by January 31, 1997, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The details are given the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
		Target	Telephone Connections Provided	Target	Telephone Connections Provided	Target	Telephone Connections Provided (as on 31-1-97)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	82000	138278	148500	150021	123000	107494
2.	Assam	10000	13103	14600	20295	18000	10963
3.	Bihar	35000	44068	69300	33115	47000	25094
4.	Gujarat (including Dadar, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli)	80500	122507	163100	134832	188000	93187
5.	Haryana	22000	47008	64900	52486	64000	27765
6.	H.P.	12000	21349	35300	30212	27000	22745
7.	J & K	4000	4983	9300	15988	23000	8459
8.	Karnataka	79000	136008	168200	139694	133000	90051
9.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep(UT)	79000	90460	326300	154033	228000	106094

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	M.P.	57000	88619	173800	81275	45000	30536
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa and Mumbai)	247000	360807	437900	418131	453000	203595
12.	North East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	8000	8689	16100	16433	18000	8882
13.	Orissa	8000	18638	45500	31014	27000	24629
14.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	70500	101059	182500	143569	153000	63056
15.	Rajasthan	67000	84623	147500	100672	123000	54172
16.	Tamilnadu (including Chennai and Pondicherry (UT))	152000	149899	326900	207452	263000	124503
17.	U.P.	82000	116290	195200	151336	155000	104705
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Calcutta)	71000	70240	128700	112463	112000	71392
19.	Delhi	260000	153090	272700	200070	250000	102576
Total		1426000*	1769718	29263000*	2183091	2450000	1279894

*The total target for circles represents internal target which is kept higher than the approved targets of 14 lakhs and 20 lakhs for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

[English]

Wages Fixed for Agricultural Labour

2961. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the minimum wages Act covering the unorganised labour in industrial sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the thrust of the proposed amendments;

(c) whether the amendments also provide penalty for violation of wage payment and work hour norms by the employers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the amendments also discourage the employment of the child labour in the unorganised sector;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether trade union leaders have demanded for the fixation of national minimum wages for the agricultural and unorganised labour at Rs. 60/- per day, free compulsory education for children and setting up of a national labour commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The thrust of the proposed amendments is to improve the functioning of the redressal mechanism under the Act and also to enhance penal provisions of the Act. It is also proposed to provide more frequent revision of the minimum wages.

(e) and (f) The proposed amendment to the Act also aims at doing away with the existing provision of fixation different rates of wages in respect of child workers so as to discourage employment of children.

(g) and (h) Demands for fixing national minimum wages for agricultural and unorganised workers have been received from time to time. While it has not been possible to fix a uniform national minimum wage due to diversity in economy and geographical conditions within the country, in its last meeting the Indian Labour Conference has decided that while fixing the minimum wages the appropriate Government should ensure that no minimum wage is fixed below an agreed floor level wage.

[Translation]

Refund of Tickets

2962. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Consumer Court of Delhi have ordered the Railways that if the refund of rail passenger ticket is not made within two weeks time then the Railways will have to pay the refund with interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the States in which this order the being implemented; and

(d) the State-wise details thereof and the number of cases in which refunds have been made by the Railways with interest upto December, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The cases in which Railways have paid refund on the orders of the Consumer Forums of the respective states are as follows :

Orissa	-	7
Maharashtra	-	1
Kerala	-	1
Punjab	-	1

All India Radio Malayalam Unit

2963. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some staff of Malayalam unit of News Service Division, All India Radio, New Delhi are also doing private works;

(b) whether they have taken any permission for doing such works; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No such case has come to the notice of Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Demand for increase in the Indian Airlines Flights

2964. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have demanded for increase in the Indian Airlines Flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have considered some of these demands; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) Requests are constantly being received from various State Governments for introduction of flights/increase in frequency of flights etc. in their respective States. Action is initiated to meet their demand keeping in view the traffic potential. Private operators are also being encouraged to operate flights in sectors which are not covered by Indian Airlines, keeping in view the infrastructural facilities available at various airports and the traffic potential.

Unauthorised Construction

2965. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigation have been made by the Government to check unauthorised construction/alteration and subletting of P&T quarters in Delhi;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the persons found guilty; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop such activities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) *Department of Post* :

No investigation in respect of unauthorised construction/alteration in the staff quarters have been done so far. However, investigations have been carried out in respect of subletting of the quarters.

(a) *Department of Telecom* :

Yes, Sir.

(b) *Department of Post* :

Details of subletting of Postal Pool quarters in Delhi locality-wise during the years 1995 and 1996 in given in the Statement attached.

(b) *Department of Telecom* :

Unauthorised constructions and subletting exist in the following localities:

(i) R.K. Puram Sector -VI

(ii) Kali Bari Marg

(c) *Department of Post* :

Details of action taken in respect of cases of subletting of quarters is indicated against each proved case is given in the Statement attached.

(c) *Department of Telecom* :

Notices have been issued to all allottees found having unauthorised construction/alteration and subletting of quarters in R.K. Puram, Sector-VI. Notices are also being issued to the allottees having unauthorised construction and subletting in Kali Bari Marg. Further action will be taken after expiry of time limit of notices issued.

(d) *Department of Post* :

Departmental Enquiries have been instructed to report cases of subletting/unauthorised construction/alterations, if any, in the staff quarters and frequent checking is also undertaken by constituting Special Checking Squads.

(d) *Department of Telecom* :

Action for removing unauthorised constructions and subletting will be initiated after completing legal formalities. Moreover, all the allottees are being informed in writing the action which is liable to be taken against the unauthorised construction/alteration and subletting etc. in the quarters.

Statement

Department of Post

Details of subletting of postal pool quarters in Delhi locality-wise during the years '95 & '96 and action taken against the guilty persons.

Sl. No	Quarter No.	Action Taken
1	2	3
RAM KRISHNA PURAM		
1. No. 272, Sector-VI		Allotment of quarters was cancelled, market rent imposed and quarter was got vacated.
2. No. 202, Sector-VI		Allotment of quarter was cancelled and market rent imposed. However, the allottee went to C.A.T. and the case is still under consideration of Hon'ble C.A.T.
3. No. 512, Sector-VI		Allotment of quarter was cancelled, market rent imposed and quarter has been got vacated.
4. No. 779, Sector-VI		Allotment was cancelled, market rent has been imposed and quarter was got vacated.
5. No. 620, Sector-VI		Allotment was cancelled, market rent imposed and eviction proceedings are at final stage.
6. No. 566, Sector-VI		Allotment was cancelled, market rent imposed, disciplinary action taken and quarter has been got vacated.
7. No. 136, Sector-VI		Same as above
8. No. 617, Sector-VI		Allotment was cancelled, market rent imposed and quarter has been vacated.
9. No. 12, Sector-VI		Same as above
10. No. 10, Sector-VI		Case was not proved and hence, no action was taken.
SAROJINI NAGAR		
1. No. LPT-322		Allotment cancelled, market rent imposed and quarter was got vacated.
2. No. MPT-407		Same as above
3. No. MPT-435		Same as above

1	2	3
---	---	---

TELECOM COLONY, JANAKPURI

1. No. A-2/A-44 Allotment cancelled, market rent imposed and eviction proceedings are under process.

PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI

1. No. B-14/13 Allotment was cancelled, market rent imposed, disciplinary action proposed and quarter was vacated.

2. No. B-7/10 Allotment was cancelled, market rent imposed, disciplinary action proposed and quarter was vacated.

DELHI CANTT.

1. No. D-4, P.O. compound Same as above

DEV NAGAR

1. No. 09, Type-II No action was taken as the subletting case was not proved.
2. No. 05, (Minal Type) Allotment was cancelled, market rent imposed. Quarter has been got vacated.
3. No. 06 (Minal Type) Same as above

KALI BARI MARG

1. No. 17/3-A Allotment was cancelled and market rent was imposed.

*[Translation]***Construction of Overbridges at Usapur Railway Station**

2966. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to construct an overbridge at Bilaspur main railway station in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also proposed to construct an overbridge at Usapur Railway Station in Bilaspur district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Road overbridge at Chuchiapara (Bilaspur) has been approved in 1996-97 at a total cost of Rs. 935.51 Crore (Rly. share Rs. 330.81 crore & State Govt. share Rs. 604.70 crore).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of New Rail Line from Chatra to Gaya

2967. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct the rail line from Chatra to Gaya in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Survey has been taken up. Further consideration will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Telephone Exchanges In Uttar Pradesh

2968. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of new telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98;

(b) the name of the places where STD facility is proposed to be provided along with the new telephone exchanges; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The programme for 1997-98 has not yet been finalised.

*[English]***Supply of Optical Fibre Cables**

2969. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has initiated action against 13 companies accused of cartelisation in the tender floated last year for the supply of Optical Fibre Cables which resulted in all of them quoting very high prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) now propose to suspend these companies from carrying out any business activities with the DoT; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Show cause notices have been served on all the private companies who are accused of cartelisation in the Tender.

(c) and (d) A decision will be taken in this regard after examination of the replies received from the companies, to whom the show cause notices have been issued by the Department.

Posting of Employees

2970. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government employees of Department of Telecommunications and Posts have a tenure posting of only one year in Ladakh division of Jammu and Kashmir and some North Eastern States of the country;

(b) whether newly recruited employees with no practical experiences are being posted to men the vacant posts and to handle sophisticated equipments causing damages to the costly machines;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the tenure of one year posting in the places mentioned above is likely to be extended to two years;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) (i) The employees of Department of Telecommunications are posted for one year tenure in Ladakh division of Jammu and Kashmir other than the staff recruited exclusively for Leh Secondary Switching Area. As regards North Eastern States, there is no tenure of one year for employees of Department of Telecommunications.

(ii) The officers of Department of Posts are posted for a tenure of one year in the State of Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh division. As regards North Eastern States, there is no tenure of one year for the employees of Department of Posts.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

(f) (i) Department of Telecommunications: Most of the employees other than those recruited for Leh Secondary Switching Area are from outside Ladakh region and because of severe climatic conditions, a tenure of one year has been fixed. But if some employee wants to stay for longer period, the same is agreed to.

(ii) The one year tenure in Jammu and Kashmir for officers of the Department of Posts has been fixed so that willing personnel are available.

[Translation]

Scheme for Special air Package Toura

2971. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme relating to special air package tours for famous pilgrimages of Rajasthan is under consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the names of the places likely to be included in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Sorting Office at Namakkal

2972. SHRI K. KANDASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start a Sorting Office at District Headquarters Namakkal in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the time by when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Head Post Office in Bhuj

2973. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Bhuj Head Post Office district Kutch of Gujarat has been completed;

(b) if so, the estimated cost and the actual expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the expenditure incurred in the renovation and modernisation of the Bhuj Head Post Office on its completion?

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

(b) Estimated cost Rs. 366265/-

Actual Expenditure Rs. 359090.-

(c) Expenditure on modernisation by way of installation of entergrated computer system etc. has been Rs. 449076.00.

Expenditure on maintenance and repairs has been Rs. 264571.00

Out of Order Satellite Centres

2974. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some satellite Centres in rural areas are lying out of order;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) One MCPC terminal in Tuting in Arunachal Pradesh in lying faulty since 10th Feb., 1997. As the place is only approachable by helicopter the maintenance staff is waiting in readiness at Dibrugarh and will reach the site as soon as the local authorities make the helicopter available.

Development of Railway in Orissa

2975. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Orissa has recently submitted a memorandum to him for development and expansion of railways in the State;

(b) whether the Union Government are aware of the inadequate railway infrastructure in Orissa in Comparison with the neighbouring States in the South-Eastern railway; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to consider the request of the Government of Orissa in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Memorandum has been received on 6.3.97 and all the demands contained in it are receiving the attention of

the Government. Action to be taken on each of the demands would be decided shortly.

[Translation]

Air Services

2976. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to introduce air services from Patna to Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and vice-versa daily;

(b) the places from which Patna is connected with daily, weekly flights at present and the future programme for linking it with other airports;

(c) whether there is any scheme to upgrade the Patna airport to an International Airport; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines/Alliance Air are operating daily flights between Delhi-Patna - Ranch and thrice a week flights between Calcutta - Ranchi - Patna - Mumbai and Calcutta - Patna - Lucknow - Delhi. Druk Air is operating a twice a week flights between Patna - Calcutta and a weekly flight between Patna - Delhi and Sahara India Airlines is operating from Patna Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai & Mumbai. NEPC indicated its intention to connect Patna with Calcutta by a twice a week flight in the summer schedule. At present, Indian Airlines has no plans to link other cities with Patna.

(c) and (d) Presently there is no scheme to upgrade Patna Airport to international status due to lack of adequate international passenger traffic and limited length of runway. However, being a model airport, it can handle limited international traffic.

[English]

Air Service from Bangalore to Dubai and Muscat

2977. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air Service from Bangalore to Dubai and Muscat has started recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is great demand for providing air links to many other important cities of the world from Bangalore; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Air India has introduced a once weekly service between Bangalore and Dubai/Muscat effective from 30th October, 1996. Indian Airlines has also introduced a twice weekly service on Bangalore - Muscat - Sharjah route effective from 2nd December, 1996.

(c) Requests are received from time to time to airlink Bangalore with important cities in the world.

(d) Air India already operates three flights a week to London/New York from Bangalore via Bombay and two flights a week directly from Bangalore to Singapore. Indian Airlines also plans to introduce a thrice weekly service from Bangalore to Singapore. Connections to other important destinations are provided over Bombay.

Airport at Raichur

2978. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a Survey Team visited the Raichur airport project on February 3, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the survey report has been received by the Government; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure speedy sanctioning of airport at Raichur?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) Raichur Airfield belongs to the State Government of Karnataka. There is a fair weather strip and no other infrastructural facilities are available. A team of Officers surveyed the airfield and their report is being examined by the Airports Authority of India.

Linking of Tribal Areas with State Capital by double Rail Line

2979. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Gujarat particularly in tribal areas which are linked with the state capital by double railway line till date;

(b) the names of those districts which are not linked by rail with the state capital;

(c) whether the Government propose to link these districts by rail with the State Capital;

(d) if so, the detail thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Godhra, Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat and Valsad.

(b) to (d) All districts have railway lines which are linked with the state capital.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Amount Spent on Advertisements

2980. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the announcement made by the Government regarding the new works and their inauguration is advertised on full page or half page in the newspapers;

(b) if so, the number of such advertisements given during the last six months and the amount spent thereon; and

(c) the steps being contemplated by the Government to check such wasteful expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Publicity through the newspaper advertisement is being done depending upon the importance the works/projects for the benefit of rail users.

(b) About 73 advertisements were published in the newspapers by the Railways and an amount of Rs 2,62,68,223/- has been spent for the same by them.

(c) Railway Advertisements are normally released at DAVP rates which are comparably lower than the commercial rates of the newspapers. Such advts. in the newspapers are normally restricted to only major events/projects having national relevance and in such cases proper care is taken to restrict the number of papers so as to keep the expenditure within the available funds.

Introduction of Train Between Delhi and Abu Road

2981. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the importance of tourist and religious centre Mount Abu and due to the heavy rush of religious people to visit this place, the Government propose to introduce a fast train like 'Shatabdi Express' or Inter city Express between Delhi and Abu Road;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Considering the distance between Delhi and Abu Road of over 740 Kms., single line section & speed, it would not be operationally feasible to run a Shatabdi Express/Intercity between the two points.

[English]

Cancellation of Contracts for Maintenance of Railway Station

2982. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken decision to cancel all contracts for maintenance of major railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the alternative measures the Government propose to take for maintenance of major railway stations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) In 1993, a scheme for beautification-cum-maintenance in lieu of sole advertisement rights had been introduced at a few important stations on Indian Railways. The scheme has been discontinued as it had been decided that petty maintenance work will be done departmentally.

Village Public Telephone Project

2983. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Communications is thinking of placing additional equipment orders to a few vendors in an attempt to meet the target for its Village Public Telephone Project for 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of the project;

(c) whether the target for VPT for 1996-97 was set at 75000;

(d) if so, whether the target has been achieved;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the shortfall noticed; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the target for Village Telephone Project?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The actual achievement of the target will be known after 31.3.1997.

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

(f) All efforts are being made to meet the targets for Village Public Telephone Project within the scheduled time.

[Translation]

Shortage of Worker in P.F. Office

2984. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the official work of Employment Provident Fund Office, Surat is being adversely affected due to shortage of class III and IV employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of class III and IV employees working at present in the said office and the number of those required; and

(d) the steps taken to appoint requisite number of employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) All the 21 Group 'D' posts sanctioned for the Sub-Regional Provident Fund Office at Surat and filled. Of the 216 Group 'C' posts sanctioned for the office (including 68 posts sanctioned during 1996-97), 126 are presently filled. While shortage of staff affects normal functioning of the office, the organisation has been trying to ensure that the work relating to service to the subscribers continues satisfactorily. The Employees, Provident Fund Organisation has initiated necessary action to fill the vacant posts according to the prescribed procedure.

T.V. Studio, Patna

2985. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :
PROF. RITA VERMA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred question No. 3467 on August 29, 1996 regarding TV Studio, Patna and state:

(a) whether all the formalities regarding commissioning of said TV studio have since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is likely to be started;

(d) the loss incurred by the Government due to closure of the above studio;

(e) whether the Government propose to regularise the staff of the said studio for smooth functioning of the Kendra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) Though the new permanent studio set up at DDK Patna was commissioned on 15.3.1996, the power supply available was not found adequate for the smooth functioning of the new studio set up. Besides, staff sanction for the permanent studio set up is yet to be accorded by the competent authority. While some units of the kendra have already started functioning from the new studio, normal operations of the permanent studio set up would depend upon availability of uninterrupted power supply and sanction of full complement of staff.

(e) and (f) A scheme for regularisation of casual artists working in various Doordarshan Kendras was formulated in 1992 and subsequently modified in 1994. The casual artists, who are eligible under the scheme, are placed on a panel as per seniority and are regularised as and when vacancies become available.

Demand of Air Traffic and Extension

2986. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding increasing demand of air traffic and need of its extension in domestic and international market;

(b) whether there is vast scope of training as a result of extension in the field of aviation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether necessary measures are being taken by the Government to start the pilot and other related training at division level in the country with private and international assistance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Trends in air traffic are regularly monitored and analysed. Additional aircraft capacity is inducted for increasing air traffic and personnel are imparted necessary training by the airlines concerned.

(d) and (e) No Sir, presently training is being imparted wherever approved facilities are available.

Post and Telegraph Facilities in Haryana

2987. CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Haryana where proper post and telegraph facilities have been provided so far;

(b) the number of post offices out of them where STD facilities have been provided;

(c) the number of post and telegraph offices proposed to be opened by the Government during 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(d) the details of the time bound scheme of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of Gram Panchayats in Haryana where proper post and telegraph facilities have been provided is 2280 and 64 respectively.

(b) There is no Post Office where STD facilities have been provided.

(c) and (d) 9 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 7 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been opened during 1996-97. Targets for opening of Post Offices are allocated Postal Circle-wise under Annual Plan Scheme on year to year basis. These have not been finalised for 1997-98.

No target for providing Telegraph facility is fixed as it is provided on demand and justification of traffic.

[English]

Allocation of Amount to Karnataka

2988. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the allocation made by the Union Government for development of tourist spots in Karnataka during each of the last three years, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Department of Tourism, Government of India during the last three years has sanctioned central financial assistance to the State of Karnataka amounting to Rs. 636.76 lakhs. The details are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Projects/Schemes sanctioned during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96

Sl.No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
KARNATAKA		
1993-94		
1.	Public Conveniences at Tourist Centres in Karnataka	25.68

1	2	3
	(i) Biidar	(ii) Bijapur
	(iii) Badami	(iv) Pattadakal
	(v) Sondatti	(vi) Aihole
	(vii) Subramaya	(viii) Gokarna
2.	Construction of Sulabh Souchalaya complex at Basavkalayan	3.21
3.	Yatrika at Hanumanthanagar in Mandya distt.	24.70
4.	Upgradation of Golf course of KGA at Bangalore	39.00
5.	Upgradation of Jaya Chamarajendra Wodeyar Golf course at Mysore	37.30
6.	Floodlighting of St. Philomena's Church, Mysore	20.00
7.	Coorg festival	2.85
8.	Mahamastakbhisheka festival	10.61
9.	Pattadakal festival	4.44
10.	Publicity support	9.65
1994-95		
11.	Tourist Complex at Aihole	23.32
12.	Tourist Complex at Basavkalayan	37.12
13.	Yatri Niwas at Dharwad	50.20
14.	Yatri Niwas at Gulberga	49.06
15.	Tourist Complex at Karwar	24.60
16.	Tourist Complex at Kudremukh	21.14
17.	Tourist Complex at Pattadakal	24.52
1995-96		
18.	Addl. accommodation facilities at Halebid, Hassan, Distt.	27.16
19.	Addl. accommodation facilities at Melkhamanahalli in Mysore Distt.	24.90
20.	Tourist Reception Centre at Shimoga	18.20
21.	Tourist Reception Centre at Hubli	18.20
22.	Yatri Niwas at Bijapur	35.00
23.	Yatrika at Saundatti	28.10

1	2	3
24.	Construction of public conveniences at Hiriyur Junction, Chitradurga	3.50
25.	Const. of public conveniences at Mandya dairy	3.89
26.	Const. of public conveniences at Ullal near Mangalore	4.41
27.	Const. of Wayside facilities at Thorangal between Bellary-Hospet	26.00
28.	Yatrika at Kudalasagama	20.00
29.	Yatrika at Adichunchuanagiri	20.00
Total		636.76

Fire in BSP

2989. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated loss suffered, item-wise due to bursting of gas pipeline and fire incident on July 4, 1996 in Coke Oven Plant of Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) the causes of the above incident;

(c) whether this incident could have been averted;

(d) the extent to and the manner in which the production of Bokaro Steel Plant has been affected due to this incident; and

(e) the details of productions during June, 1996 and July, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES
SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : (a) The estimated loss suffered, item-wise due to bursting of gas pipeline and fire incident on 4th July, 1996 in Bokaro Steel Plant is as follows:

S.No	Item	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Civil, Structural Pipings	337.21
2.	Mechanical Work	214.37
3.	Electrical Work	37.36
4.	Instrumentation Work	73.23
5.	Changing of Glass Panes	5.65
Total		667.82

(b) The cause of the above incident was rupture of Gas Pipe Line in the Ammonium Sulphate Plant.

(c) The Coke Oven Gas Pipe Line leading to Ammonium Sulphate Plant was regularly being checked up in a planned

way. During inspection on leakage of the gas was detected. Hence the above incident could not have been foreseen.

(d) Due to this incident oven pushing at Coke Oven was restricted and subsequent units suffered on account of shortage of Coke oven Gas. Production normalised on 15/07/1996.

(e) The details of oven pushing, production of saleable steel and primary bye-products during June, 1996 and July, 1996 are as under :

Item	Unit	June, 1996	July, 1996
Oven Pushing	No.	15629	13369
Saleable Steel	,000 Tonnes	215	245
Amm. Sulphate	Tonnes	2606	256
Crude Tar	Tonnes	7308	6374
Crude Benzole	Kilo Litres	1100	50

Catering Service to Private Contractors

2990. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have envisaged a plan to hand over the railway services to private contractors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of trains running to and fro in Gujarat and likely to be provided with such facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The present catering policy provides that new catering/vending services including those in Gujarat will be managed through licencees in the private sector.

[Translation]

Development of Railway Stations in Madhya Pradesh

2991. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for selection of Railway Station for developing them as Model Railway Station;

(b) whether the Government have selected some Railway Stations in Madhya Pradesh for developing them as Model Railway Stations; and

(c) if so, the names of those stations the amount allocated for each station and the extent of work completed thereon, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no such scheme in vogue at present

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Post Offices in Bihar

2992. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages without Post Offices in Bihar; and

(b) the number of Post Offices likely to be opened in Bihar during the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of villages without Post Offices in Bihar is 66696.

(b) Post Offices are opened as a Plan activity subject to availability of resources and fulfilment of norms. The target for opening of Post Offices are allocated Circle-wise under Annual Plans on year to year basis. These have not been finalised yet.

Upgradation of Doordarshan Kendra Nagpur Maharashtra

2993. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to commercialise-upgrade/modernise Nagpur Doordarshan Kendra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the details of the projects under implementation in the State, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The existing Studio Centre at Nagpur is being upgradad with the setting up of a Studio of the size of 150 sq. mts. alongwith asociated equipment. Building for the new Studio has been constructed and installation of equipment is in progress. The Studio set up is expected to be completed during 1997-98.

(d) The requisite details are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Location wise details of T.V. Projects under Implementation in the State of Maharashtra (as on 1.3.1997)

TV Projects	Location
1	2
Programme Production Centres	(PPCs):
	Bombay (Expansion)
	Nagpur (Augmentation)
	Pune

1	2
---	---

Low power Transmitters (LPTs) :

Shirpur
Navapur
Mangaon
Khopoli
Umarkhed
Satana
Sironcha
Chandur
Aheri
Chikoli
Ambet
Mahad

Very low Power Transmitters (VLPTs):

Malwan
Malkapur
Bhokar
Badlapur
Wai
Koregaon

[Translation]

Less number of Passengers/Goods Trains

2994. SHRI NAKLI SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Saharanpur and Muzaffarnagar are important districts of Uttar Pradesh and agriculture and trade are flourishing there;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also aware of the fact that the number of passengers and goods trains running between New Delhi/ Delhi and Saharanpur are less than the requisite number;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Delhi-Muradnagar rail route has double line while Delhi Saharanpur route has single line;

(e) if so, whether the Government contemplate to lay double line on Delhi-Saharanpur railway line in near future;

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Between Delhi / New Delhi & Saharanpur, 25 trains via Meerut and 8 trains via Shamli are available for passengers. These are by and large adequate to cater to the requirement of the passengers travelling between the two places. Sufficient goods trains are run as per requirement.

(d) and (e) Double/multiple lines exist between Delhi and Muradnagar. Work for doubling of Muradnagar-Meerut City has been taken up. A survey for doubling of Meerut City-Saharanpur has been taken up by the Railway. Further consideration of the project will be possible, once the survey report becomes available.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

[English]

Bauxite Mines, Orissa

2995. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Bauxite mines in Orissa Location-wise;

(b) whether some new bauxite mines have been discovered by the Geological Survey of India or the State Directorate of Mines in Orissa;

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

(d) the extent of bauxite deposits discovered in the new areas?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Details of Bauxite mines in Orissa are given in the attached Statement.

(b) to (d) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has not discovered and new deposit of bauxite during the last three years. However, the State Directorate of Mines, Orissa has discovered a bauxite deposit with an area of 1.10 sq. km. in Rukuni, Cuttackplateau in Phulbani district with approximate reserves of 11 million tonnes.

Statement

Bauxite Mines in Orissa

S.No	Location of Mines	Lease area in Hect.	Date of execution	Working or Not
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Panchpatmali (North) M/s. NALCO	4692.050	17.11.82	Working
2.	Panchpatmali (South) M/s. NALCO	2512.678	20.7.79	Non-Working
3.	Kusumdihi M/s. Orissa Industries	102.996	1.8.77	Working
4.	Tentra M/s. Orissa Industries	106.138	8.11.82	Working
5.	Kamando Shri U.C. Mishra	43.067	26.2.85	Working

1	2	3	4	5
6. Jaldihi Sri S.N. Mohanty	333.275	20.1.87	Working	
7. San-Indupur M/s. Rungts Sons (P) Ltd.	147.100	6.9.85	Working	
8. Kusumdihi M/s. Bonai Industrial Co.	52.176	14.1.81	Working	

[Translation]

Bokaro Steel Plant

2996. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up the galvanising unit of Bokaro Steel Plant in Kamasya district of Assam;

(b) whether the Bokaro Steel Plant has capacity to produce the galvanised steel; and

(c) if so, the justification of setting-up of the above unit in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has planned to set up a Galvanising Unit at Dagaon, District Kamrup of Assam.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposed Galvanising Unit with a production capacity of 40,000 tonnes per annum of corrugated/ plain sheets with an investment of around Rs. 42.85 crores has been planned to cater to the demand for these sheets in the North-Eastern Region of the country. This has been found techno-economically viable on the basis of market survey conducted by the consultants.

[English]

Introduction of Express Train between Mayurbhunj and Delhi

2997. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand of the people of Mayurbhunj, Orissa to introduce express trains from Mayurbhunj to Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have considered the demand;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No such demand for introduction of a direct train from Mayurbhunj area to Delhi is reported to have been received.

(c) to (e) The proposal has been examined but not found feasible due to operational reasons including lack of a Broad Gauge passenger terminal in Mayurbhunj area.

Creation of Scholarship

2998. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to consider creation of scholarships for Flight Pursers, Aircrew, Flight Despatchers and Air-hostesses in near future;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Government does not have any scheme for providing such scholarships.

Irregularities in Local EMU Trains

2999. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of irregularities in local (EMU) trains in Howrah and Sealdah sections of Eastern and South Eastern Railways, causing serious unrest among daily commuters;

(b) if so, the main cause of late running of trains; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for timely running the local trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The punctuality performance of local EMU is satisfactory. However, the trains do run late sometimes due to equipment failure like unit and other signal failures, Alarm Chain Pulling, miscreant activity and agitation (law and order problem). There are frequent public demonstrations leading to obstruction of tracks or deliberate interference with overhead equipment for non-railway causes.

(c) Punctuality of EMU locals are monitored both at the Divisional and Headquarters level. Instructions have once again been issued to ensure punctual running of trains.

TV Transmitter/AIR Stations, Andhra Pradesh

3000. SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

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

(a) the number of proposals received from Andhra

Pradesh for setting up, expansion and upgradation of TV transmitter/AIR Stations during 1996-97. till date;

(b) the number of proposals cleared/ pending so far;

(c) whether the Government have also received representation for setting up of an F.M. Radio Station and High Power TV transmitter at District Anantapur and Malabon in district Kannur;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the time by which these projects are likely to be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Requests from various quarters, for setting up, expansion and upgradation of TV and Radio services have been received from time to time. Such request are kept in view, along with other factors such as availability of location, infrastructural facilities, resultant coverage and *inter-se* priorities, while finalising the All India Radio/Doordarshan Projects which is a continuous activity.

(c) to (f) Whereas a local radio station already exists in Anantapur, a High Power TV Transmitter at Anantapur is also functional. Besides, a HPT at Kanpur (Cannanore in Malabar area of Kerala) has been envisaged in replacement of the existing Low Power Transmitter. Lead time involved for execution of such a project is about three to four years after the scheme is sanctioned by the competent authority subject to availability of infrastructural facilities and *inter-se* priorities.

Opening of Divisional Office at Gaya

3001. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have seen press reports that appeared in the Hindi '*Hindustan*' from Patna dated January 8, 1997 under the heading "Gaya Men Railway Ka Diveejanal Karyalay Kholne Kee Mang" and in the Hindi '*Aaj*' from Patna dated January 16, 1997 under the heading "Khyati Prapt Shahar Gaya Kee Upechha Ko Mantri Ne Sweekara";

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from Bhartiya Railway Upbhokta Sangh of Gaya as well as State Government during the last two years in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item appeared in Hindi '*Hindustan*' from Patna dated 8.1.97 contains demands for additional trains from Gaya, completion of Line to Bodh Gaya and a Railway Division at Gaya communicated in a petition by Bhartiya Railway Upbhokta Sangh to the Hon'ble Minister for Railways.

The news item in '*Aaj*' from Patna dated 16.1.97 reports the same news with reported agreement of Hon'ble Minister of Veterinary and Dairy Development, Shri Raghubans Prasad Singh with the demands.

(c) The Government has recently received representation regarding, amongst others, setting up of a Divisional Office at Gaya.

(d) New Divisions are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency. Taking the various factors into account, the Government has decided to set up eight new divisions at Agra, Pune, Singrauli, Rangiya, Ranchi, Raipur, Guntur and Ahmedabad.

TV Tower, Hargaon, Uttar Pradesh

3002. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work on High Power TV transmitter, Hargaon, District Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh has since been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the construction work for setting up TV tower at many other places in the country where foundation stones were laid is in progress;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(e) the time by which the construction work at Hargaon TV tower is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) implementation of some of the TV transmitter projects for which foundation stones have been laid could not be taken up due to resource constraints.

(e) Since a High Power TV transmitter (HPT) is envisaged to be set up at Lakhimpur, located at an aerial distance of about 25 kms. from Hargaon, setting up of a separate HPT

at Hargaoon has not been considered practicable on technical considerations.

Engineering Facilities

3003. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has decided to market its engineering facilities world-wide and convert it into a profit centre; and

(b) if so, the modalities involved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) A multi disciplinary Market Cell has been set up to explore the possibilities of taking up jobs of maintenance, overhaul of airframes and engines etc. of domestic as well as international airlines.

Construction of Overbridge/Underbridge at Karnal Kachhwa

3004. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a heavy traffic at the level crossing on Karnal - Kachhwa Road due to frequency of the crossing remaining closed, much hardship and inconvenience is being caused to the people;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ever studied the situation prevailing at the said railway crossing and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct either an overbridge or an underbridge at the above crossing to ease the congestion and for free and smooth flow of traffic; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government has observed that Road Over Bridge/Road under Bridge is justified.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for construction of Road Under Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 71-B on Karnal - Kachhwa Road.

(d) Does not arise.

Running of Train on Newly Constructed Koraput-Rayagada Line

3005. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to run any Express/Mail passenger train on the newly constructed Koraput-Rayagada line in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the new Express/Mail/Passenger train is proposed to be introduced during 1997-98; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) It is proposed to run a Koraput-Rayagada Link Express to Bhubaneswar and extend 8005/8006 Howrah-Rayagada Express to Koraput in addition to a passenger shuttle on Koraput-Rayagada section during 1997-98.

Uplinking Facilities

3006. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to grant permission for uplinking facilities to foreign and domestic private satellite channels from India;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken;

(d) whether the Government also propose to seek the help of any other agency to popularise the Doordarshan International Channel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) The issue of premitting uplinking facilities to foreign and domestic private satellite channels is related to the question of premitting private broadcasting from within the country. This issue would be addressed to in the proposed broadcasting bill which is likely to be introduced during the current session of Parliament.

(d) and (e) To popularise the Doordarshan International channel the help of such agencies is being sought on an experimental basis, who can downlink the signals of DD-International over the footprint countries of Pan - Am - Sat - 4 and PAS-1. So far, no objection certificates have been issued to three companies namely, ATN (Canada), ASIANET (U.K. & U.S.A.), APNA TV (UK, Europe & USA).

Electronic Exchanges in Tamil Nadu

3007. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of electronic exchanges as on date in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of obsolete exchanges still in operation, district-wise;

(c) the steps being taken to complete the conversion of all exchanges into electronic exchanges in the State; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As on 24.2.1997, 1397 electronic exchanges are working in Tamil Nadu.

(b) As on 24.2.1997, 31 non electronic exchanges are in operation in Tamil Nadu. District-wise list is given in the attached Statement.

(c) In Tamil Nadu, all non-electronic exchanges are planned for conversion into electronic exchanges during 9th five year plan period.

(d) Rs. 74.87 cores (approximately) have been allocated for Tamil Nadu for replacement of non-electronic exchanges into electronic exchanges during the current financial year 1996-97.

Statement

District-wise List of non electronic exchanges in Tamil Nadu

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of non-electronic exchanges
1.	Chennai	8
2.	Periyar	2
3.	Kumbakonam	1
4.	Madurai	3
5.	Kanyakumari	1
6.	Salem	3
7.	Thanjavur	1
8.	Nellai Kattabomman	3
9.	Trichy	2
10.	Ambetkar	1
11.	Villupuram SSR	1
12.	Coimbatore	1
13.	Nilgiris	1
14.	Kamaraj	2
15.	Dindugal Anna	1
Total		31

[Translation]

Cancellation of Contracts

3008. SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have noticed that irregularities were committed by the previous Govt. while awarding the contracts in Railway-sector;

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

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry/ investigation in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government have taken any decision to cancel these contracts; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the firms or persons to whom the contracts were awarded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No irregularities in award of contracts at the Ministry's level have been found. However, certain irregularities in award of contracts at Zonal Railways' level have been noticed.

(b) The contracts pertain to various Railways and various departments and construction projects as well as maintenance works and not confined to any particular project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 154 cases have been investigated and 16 cases are still under investigation. As a result of this, 99 Gazetted staff and 121 Non-gazetted staff have been punished.

(e) Yes, Sir. 5 contracts have been cancelled.

(f) (i) Contract for painting of bridge girders on Hubli Division on M/s V.G. Gokhale, Hubli;

(ii) Contract for removal of workshop refuse in Madras on M/s Zahir Steel Trading Corporation;

(iii) Contract for supply of mineral water for Rajdhani Express on M/s Sudhanjali Corporation Calcutta;

(iv) Catering contract for Jodhpur Express on M/s ABC Enterprise;

(v) Contract for dismantling of steel structures on M/s Union Sales Corporation.

Departmental Enquiries

3009. SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of officers and other employees facing departmental enquiries for committing irregularities; and

(b) the number of officials against whom the challans have been filed in the courts during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the field units and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Efforts for the Education of Labourers

3010. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to educate the labourers in unorganised sector about the provisions made under Labour Laws;

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the last three years; and

(c) the success achieved by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The Central Board for Workers' Education has been constituted by the Government for educating of workers, including those in the unorganised sector, about their rights and obligations through periodic training programmes, seminars, camps etc. The number of workers trained by the Board during the last three years is given below:

Year	Total number of workers trained
1993-94	128264
1994-95	156424
1995-96	140121

Closure of Mines

3011. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the mines of raw material division of Bihar and Orissa proposed to be closed down by the SAIL;

(b) the details of mining of various mines of dolomite and limestone under the SAIL in Bihar during each of the last three years;

(c) the annual loss being incurred by the dolomite and limestone mines located at Bhavnathpur of Bihar; and

(d) the measures taken by the SAIL to reduce the loss of the aforesaid mine alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINSTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The limestone produced in the Purnapani mine in Orissa and Bhawanathpur mine in Bihar are having high silica and alkali and are unfavourable to techno-economic norms of iron making. At present SAIL has not taken any decision to close down these mines.

(b) Despatches of Limestone and Dolomite from Bhawanathpur group of mines in Bihar during the last three years were as under:

Unit : 000T

Year	Bhawanathpur Group of Mines
1993-94	586
1994-95	655
1995-96	583
1996-97 (Upto February' 97)	453

(c) and (d) Raw Materials Division of SAIL is a cost centre. The actual expenditure is transferred to the SAIL plants at the actual cost of production. Hence no profit and loss is accounted for these mines.

[English]

Completion of Kumarghat-Agartala Rail Line

3012. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the budgetary allocation during 1996-97 for extension of Railway line from Kumarghat to Agartala;

(b) the amount out of that spent so far;

(c) whether the Prime Minister has declared that extension of the above Railway line is likely to be completed within five years; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Rs. 1 cr. has been allocated in Budget 96-97.

(b) Rs. 5 lakhs upto 31.12.96.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The work will be progressed rapidly once the land becomes available. Adequate funds would be provided accordingly.

[Translation]

Encroachment of Railway Land

3013. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of plots belonging to Railways have been illegally occupied in Delhi with the connivance of officers of Railways working on high posts;

(b) if so, the acreage of the land occupied;

(c) whether the Government propose to take action to get the said land vacated and initiate action against the officers found involved in it after conducting inquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the action proposed to be taken in this regard and the time by which the said Railway land is likely to be got vacated from the illegal occupation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Media Distribution System

3014. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any system to show various TV Channels, without the cable network with the help of 'Media Distribution System';

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the above is likely to be started;

(c) whether these facilities will also be made available in small cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Wirelese Cable System, otherwise known as MMDS (Multichannel Multipoint Distribution System) is one of the various options being envisaged by the Government to improve the reach of its channels.

(b) to (d) The scheme is likely to be started during Ninth Plan subject to availability of resources. A detailed scheme is being worked out on an experimental basis at Bombay and Delhi.

[English]

Electrification Programme

3015. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed electrification programme implemented during the last three years in relation to the targets set therefor;

(b) if so, the details of achievement/performance recorded with percentage of shortfall in relation to the target set and back-log of electrification Zone-wise; and

(c) the details of the programme proposed to be executed during the current year Zone-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Review of Railway Electrification works is a continuous exercise. During VIII Five Year Plan a target of 2700 Route Kilometre for electrification was fixed. In the first four years of the Plan 2066 route kilometre have been electrified and electrification of 634 route kilometre is planned during 1996-97. The targets and achievements of electrification under Railway Electrification-Plan Head during last three years are as under :

Year	Target (RKM)	Achievement (RKM)	Shortfall/ Excess%age
1993-94	600	505	- 15.8%
1994-95	500	473	- 5.4%
1995-96	600	609	+ 1.5%

Zone-wise details of Route Kilometre electrified during last 3 years are indicated below:

Zone	Route Kilometre electrified		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
C.R.	136	89	-
E.R.	69	188	81
N,R	34	82	146
S.R.	13	-	132
S.C.R.	11	40	221
S.E.R.	219	74	29
W.R.	23	-	-
Total	505	473	609

Details of the electrification programme during 1996-97 Zone-wise are as under:

Zone	RKM
C.R.	-
E.R.	247
N.R.	46
S.E.R.	90
S.C.R.	179
S.R.	72
W.R.	-
	634

In the State of Maharashtra, electrification programme during 1996-97 is Nil. On completion of 634 Route Kilometre in 1996-97 there would be no backlog of the VIII Plan target.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Sambhal, U.P.

3016. SHRI D. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who have applied for telephone connections in Sambhal Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) the number of persons provided with telephone connections so far;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government for the persons in the waiting list; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of persons applied for telephone connections in Sambhal Parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years in as given below :

1994-95	-	378
1995-96	-	732

(b) The number of persons provided with telephone connections so far is 934.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Waiting list is current except in Sambhal, Behjoi, Sirsi and Raja Ka Majhola. Expansion of exchange capacity has been planned at Sambhal by March, 97 and for other places mentioned above during 1997-98, to clear the waiting list.

[English]

Air Bus in Cochin Airport

3017. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether provision has been made for landing aircraft A-320 at Cochin Airport;

(b) if not, the time by which such provision is likely to be made; and

(c) the details of development made at Cochin and Calicut airports in Kerala during each of the last three years and the current year, so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The runway available at Cochin Airport is 6000 feet but it is a unidirectional runway and the available landing distance is only 5,645 feet. A Committee was set up to assess whether airbus A-320 operation to/from Cochin airport could be carried out safely. This Committee has representatives from Director General of Civil Aviation, Indian Airlines, CTE Hyderabad and Airports Authority of India. The Committee concluded that in view of the limited runway length, unidirectional operation, weather conditions, Airbus A-320 operation to/from Cochin can be permitted provided certain conditions are met. The matter had been taken up by this Ministry with Indian Airlines, Airports Authority of India, Naval Authorities and Secretary, Transport Authorities, Kerala for providing requisite ground facilities at Cochin Airport.

(c) The details of the development made at Cochin and Calicut Airports in Kerala during the last three years and current year are as under:

Cochin

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has extended the existing apron at an estimated cost of Rs. 88.40 lakhs and the existing car parking area has been extended to cater to 100 cars at a time at an estimated cost of Rs. 23.25 lakhs.

Calicut

AAI has constructed a new International Terminal Building with 400 passengers capacity at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.01 crores. The extension of runway from 6000 ft to 9000 ft is in progress and is expected to complete by January, 2000. The extension of apron to accommodate one AB-300 and 3 AB-320 class of aircraft at an estimated cost of about Rs. 89.88 crores is in progress and is expected to complete by November, 1997.

AAI has constructed temporary cargo complex at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.86 lakhs. AAI has also identified a site for the construction of a permanent cargo complex.

Formed Alliance Air as an Associate Company

3018. SHRI ISWAR PRASNNA HAZARIKA :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formed Alliance Air as an associate company of Indian Airlines;

(b) whether it is proposed to hand over the entire fleet of Boeing 737 aircrafts for operation by Alliance Air;

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

(d) whether operations of Alliance Air are proposed to be largely concentrated on the North Eastern region;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to develop a Hub or operational base for Boeing 737s at Guwahati; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Alliance Air is the brand name of airline operated by Airline Allied Services Limited (AASL), a wholly owned subsidiary set up by Indian Airlines Limited in 1983. Alliance Air commenced airline operations w.e.f. 15th of April, 1996.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Alliance Air was set up to increase the utilisation of Boeing 737 aircraft fleet by increased availability of Commanders. Indian Airlines service offered with the Boeing 737 aircraft have been transferred to Alliance Air from the 10th of February, 1997.

(d) No, Sir. Alliance Air operates in all parts of the country including the North Eastern Region.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Air Accidents Involving Private Air Services

3019. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of air accidents involving private air services during the past two years;

(b) the number of casualties suffered in such accidents;

(c) whether these airlines generally are not maintaining the safety norms; and

(d) if so, the action being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) During past two years from 1st March, 1995,

to 28th February, 1997, there have been 5 accidents involving private air services.

(b) 10 persons were killed in these accidents.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Steps such as conducting safety audit of operators, monitoring of flight recorders, conducting safety seminars/meetings, carrying out spot checks on ground and in-flight checks, implementation of recommendations emanating from investigation of aircraft accidents and hazardous incidents, appropriate action against the defaulters, etc. are continuously taken to enhance the level of air safety.

Disparity in Postal Facilities

3020. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a wide disparity in postal facilities between urban and rural areas and also among States;

(b) if so, the comparison of population covered by the post offices in rural and urban areas as on 1.4.1996, State-wise;

(c) the number of additional rural and urban post offices sanctioned for 1996-97, State-wise;

(d) the estimated population likely to be covered by post offices in rural and urban areas as on 1.4.1997; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in reducing this disparity?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Post Offices are opened on norm based justification. There is some disparity in population served per Post Office in urban and rural areas which is due to the density of population in urban areas.

The position of population served per Post Office in urban and rural areas, State-wise is given in the attached Statement.

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

Statement

Comparison of Population Covered by the post offices in Rural and Urban Areas as on 1.4.1996 State-Wise

S.No	Name of the States	Population served per Post Office in urban Areas	Population served per Post in rural Areas
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13009	3275
2.	Assam	8266	5680

1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar	15698	6972
4.	Delhi	188244	92136
5.	Gujarat	17399	3328
6.	Haryana	12889	5462
7.	Himachal Pradesh	39386	18078
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	6410	3352
9.	Karnataka	10289	3667
10.	Kerala	10593	496
11.	Madhya Pradesh	13491	5038
12.	Maharashtra	20072	4386
13.	North East	6077	2233
14.	Orissa	6711	3611
15.	Punjab	12683	4223
16.	Rajasthan	12515	3577
17.	Tamil Nadu	7972	3757
18.	Uttar Pradesh	13269	6209
19.	West Bengal	16637	6456

Sambalpur-Talcher Rail Line

3021. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made in Sambalpur-Talcher rail line so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Talcher to Angul (18 kms.) and Sambalpur to Maneswar (16 kms.) sections have already been commissioned. The overall progress in 77%. The work is expected to be completed during 1997-98.

Electrification of Erode to Ernakulam Rail Route

3022. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to Electrify railway routes from Erode to Ernakulam Junction;

(b) if so, the total estimated cost and total distance in kilometre thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total estimated cost of electrification of Erode-Ernakulam section is Rs. 150.97 crores and total distance is 324 route kilometres.

(c) The section is targetted for completion by March' 2000.

Delhi Telephone Directory

3023. DR. Y. S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for inordinate delay in releasing the Delhi Telephone Directory and when it is likely to be issued to the public;

(b) whether it is a fact that telephone number of local telephone services are not at all available when required;

(c) whether the telephone numbers of various area Officers, right from the G.M are not available during office hours; and

(d) if so, the efforts proposed to be made to improve the efficiency of MTN Limited?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) After supply of 1994 issue of Directory, the Contractor failed to supply the subsequent issues. The contract has therefore to be cancelled and fresh tenders were floated in 1996. A single offer received was not found viable after avaluation. Therefore the tenders were floated again which have been opened on 4.3.97 and are under evaluation. The directory will be supplied within 6 to 9 months of finalisation of tender.

(b) No, Sir. The Directory enquiry service (No.197) is available round the clock.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Officers are available during office hours except when they go out for field visits, meetings and inspections. In their absence, their personal staff attached to these officers attend the telephone calls.

Sickness of Neelachal -Ashok Hotel

3024. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Hotel Neelachal-Ashok, Puri has fallen sick;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps are being taken to rescue the Hotel from sickness; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and

(b) The Neelachal Ashok Hotel is a joint venture between India Tourism Development Corporation and Orissa Tourism Development Corporation in the ratio of 51:49 respectively.

The hotel has been incurring losses since inception. The reasons attributed to the unsatisfactory performance *inter-alia* are: severe competition from private sector hotels; low occupancy; heavy incidence of interest burden and non-contribution of additional funds by Co-promoter required for improvement and repayment of loan.

(c) and (d) In order to improve the performance of the hotel ITDC has signed a supplementary promoters agreement with the co-promoter i.e. OTDC whereby OTDC will of load 38% of its share holding and thus ITDC will hold 89% of equity capital. This will enable ITDC to take complete control of the management and make further investment for improvement and upgradation of the property.

[Translation]

TV Transmitters/AIR Stations, Bihar

3025. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS
PAPPU YADAV :
SHRI THOMAS HANSDA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up LPT in Bihar particularly in District Purnia;

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

(c) the details of proposals received from Bihar for setting up, expansion and upgradation of TV transmitters/AIR stations during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise, location-wise;

(d) the details of the proposals cleared so far, location-wise and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(e) the time which the remaining proposals are likely to be cleared alongwith expenditure likely to be incurred thereon in each case?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Details of Doordarshan service in Bihar is given in the enclosed Statement-I. However, there is no approved scheme to set up LPT in Purnia district as the entire Purnia district lies in the coverage range of HPT, Katihar.

(d) and (e) Statement-II is enclosed.

Statement - I

TV Projects as on 31.01.97

State	Under Implementation	Approx. Cap. cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Proposed (scheme to be sanctioned)
BIHAR	PPC		
	Ranchi (Aug.)	921.79	HPT
			Motihari
			Jamshedpur
			Deoghar
	LPT		LPT
	Noamundy	100.70	Gasba Rosera
	Kodarma	100.70	Bodh Gaya
	Saraikeela	100.70	Jhumri Tilaiya
	Lakhisarai	105.00	
	Ramnagar	105.00	
	Chatra	97.00	
	Doudnagar	105.00	
	Simri Bakhtiarapur	97.00	
VLPT	Mushabani	97.00	
	Barharwa	105.00	
	Sikandra	97.00	
	Simdega	77.65	
	Garhwa	83.00	

Statement - II

Requests are received from various quarters, including the State Governments, for augmentation of TV/Radio service in the States. Such requests are kept in view, alongwith other factors such as technical suitability of location, availability of infrastructural facilities, extent of resultant coverage and *inter-se* priorities, while finalising locations for projects which is a continuous activity. The names and locations of the projects commissioned upto January, 1997 and under implementation in Bihar during the 8th Five Year Plan and the capital costs involved on them are given in the Annexure. The lead time for various transmitters/ studio projects varies from one to four years after the sanction of the project. This is a continuous process and it is the endeavour of the Doordarshan and All India Radio to complete the projects as expeditiously as possible.

Annexure

Doordarshan and All India Radio projects commissioned and under implementation in Bihar during VIII Plan

Projects Commissioned		Capital Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
All India Radio		
1.	Patna Station - 3 KW FM Tr. (VB)	143.32
2.	Purnea Station - 6 KW FM Tr.	292.00

1	2	3
3.	Chaibasa Station - 6 KW FM Tr.	290.00
4.	Hazaribagh Station - 6. KW FM Tr.	351.00
5.	Daltonganj Station - 10 KW FM Tr.	287.50
6.	Bhagalpur Station - 20 KW MM Tr.	286.52

Projects under implementation

1.	Ranchi Station - 50 KW SW Tr.	549.30
2.	Ranch Station - 6 KW FM Tr.	257.20
3.	Jamshedpur - CBS - 6 KW FM Tr.	485.53

Doordarshan

PGF	Daltonganj	686.00
PGF	Muzaffarpur	230.65
Studio	Patna	2453.86
LPT	Aurangabad	101.34
LPT	Phoolparas	11.27
LPT	Supaul	111.27
LPT	Raxaul	101.34
LPT	Gumla	85.07
LPT	Patna (DD.II)	34.30
LPT	Sheikhpura	97.00
LPT	Godda	101.34
LPT	Nawada	85.07
LPT	Lohardaga	101.34
LPT	Hazaribagh	101.34
		4401.19

Doordarshan Projects Under Implementation

Studio	Ranchi	921.79
LPT	Noamundy	100.70
	Kodarma	100.70
	Saraikela	100.70
	Ramnagar	105.00
	Chetra	97.00
	Dandnagar	105.00
	Simri Bakhtiarpur	97.00
	Mushabari	97.00
	Barharwa	105.00
	Sikandra	97.00
	Lakhisarai	105.00
VLPT	Simdega	77.65
	Garhwa	83.00

*[English]***PCOs in Kashmir**

3026. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of PCO booths allotted in Kashmir both in urban and rural areas, separately;

(b) the details of the post offices in rural areas which do not have PCOs and target time to instal PCOs in every village Post Offices, District-wise;

(c) whether SCs/STs are given preferential treatment in allotment of PCO booths; and

(d) if so, the number of PCO booths have been allotted to SCs/STs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Total number of PCOs allotted in urban and rural areas in Kashmir is as under:

Urban : 294

Rural: 92

(b) The details of post offices which do not have PCOs are as under:

S.No.	Name of District	No. of post offices without PCOs
1.	Anantnag	162
2.	Pulwama	89
3.	Badgam	82
4.	Srinagar	68
5.	Kupwara	72
6.	Baramulla	80

Department of Telecom has set a target to provide public telephone in every village by the end of 9th five year plan. However, this target is not post office specific. Village Public Telephones are installed at places depending upon suitability and availability of franchisee.

(c) and (d) Sir, preference in allotment is given to SC/ST applicants by the STD, PCO allotment committee. However, no separate data is maintained in this regard.

Telephones in Rural Areas in the Country

3027. SHRI SUKH COMMUNICATIONS be pl

(a) the target fixed for areas in the country during 1995-96;

(b) whether the target

(c) if so, the details t

(d) the reasons for target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The year-wise details are :

1992-93	-	36,509
1993-94	-	46,820
1994-95	-	50,000
1995-96	-	105,000

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The targets were reduced for 1994-95 from 1,05,883 set in July, 1994 to downward 50,000 set in September, 1994.

(d) The targets could not be fully achieved due to non-supply of equipment in time by the manufacturers.

[Translation]

Doordarshan/ AIR Kendras in Madhya Pradesh

3028. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of A.I.R. and Doordarshan Kendras in Madhya Pradesh alongwith their locations and coverage;

(b) the population being covered by these kendras; and

(c) the number of Akashvani Kendras broadcasting 'Vividh Bharati' programmes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) As given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Vividh Bharati programmes are being broadcast/ relayed from 10 kendras including local radio stations.

Statement

Location-wise All India Radio and Doordarshan service alongwith their coverage in the State of Madhya Pradesh

S.No.	Stations/Transmitter	Expected Coverage	
		Area (Thousand Sq. Kms.)	Population (Lakhs)
1	2	3	4

I. All India Radio

1.	Ambikapur 20 KW MW	26.8	28.9
2.	Bhopal 10 KW MW	9.0	22.2
	1 KW MW	8.4	21.3
	3 KW FM	1.9	12.5
3.	Chhattarpur 20 KW MW	52.7	119.4
4.	Gwalior 20 KW MW	25.4	60.2

1	2	3	4
5.	Indore 100 KW MW	222.8	415.8
	1 KW MW	6.0	22.6
	3 KW FM	1.9	14.6
6.	Jabalpur 200 KW MW	113.5	171.7
7.	Jagdalpur 20 KW MW	26.0	22.5
8.	Raipur 100 KW MW	92.7	156.2
9.	Rewa 20 KW MW	43.0	107.0
10.	Khandwa 2x3 KW FM	6.3	9.2
11.	Betul 2x3 KW FM	6.3	7.6
12.	Bilaspur 2x3 KW FM	6.3	13.1
13.	Shivpuri 2x3 KW FM	6.3	7.5
14.	Chhindwara 2x3 KW FM	6.3	8.7
15.	Raigarh 2x3 KW FM	6.3	9.0
16.	Shahdol 2x3 KW FM	6.3	7.7
17.	Balaghat 2x3 KW FM	6.3	9.6
18.	Guna 2x3 KW FM	6.3	7.7
19.	Sagar 2x3 KW FM	6.3	10.7

State Existing Coverage Range (in Kms.)

1 2 3

Doordarshan

PPC

Madhya Pradesh Bhopal Raipur

HPT

Bhopal	120
Gwalior	120
Indore	120
Jabalpur	120
Jagdalpur	60
Raipur	120

LPT

Alirajpur	25
Ashoknagar	25
Ambikapur	25
Bailadilla	25
Balaghat	15
Betul	15
Bhander	25
Bhind	15
Bijaipur	25
Bilaspur	25
Burhanpur	25
Chanderi	25
Chhatarpur	15
Chhindwara	15
Damoh	25
Datia	25

1	2	3
	Dungargarh	25
	Guna	25
	Harda	15
	Itarsi	25
	Jaora	25
	Jhabua	15
	Kanker	25
	Khandwa	25
	Khargaon	15
	Khurai	25
	Korba	25
	Kudeshwar	25
	Kurasia	15
	Kurwai	15
	Lahar	25
	Maihar	25
	Malanjkhanda	15
	Mandla	15
	Mandsaur	15
	Manindergarh	15
	Murwara	25
	Nagda	25
	Narsimhapur	15
	Neemuch	15
	Panchmarhi	25
	Panna	15
	Raghogarh	25
	Raigarh	15
	Rajgarh	15
	Rajhara Jharandili	25
	Ratlam	25
	Rewa	25
	Sagar	25
	Satna	15
	Seoni	15
	Shahol	25
	Shajapur	15
	Sheopur	25
	Shivpuri	15
	Sidhi	15
	Singrauli	25
	Sironj	25
	Tikamgarh	15
	Ujjain	25
	Bhopal (DD II)	25
	VLPT	
	Budhni	8
	Jashpurnagar	8
	Kondagaon	8
	Parasia	8
	Pakhanjore	8
	Transposer	
	Singrauli	8

- ★ (1) Coverage range is inclusive of fringe areas where elevated antennae & boosters are required for obtaining reception, subject to local terrain conditions.

- (2) The population coverage is not monitored Transmitter-wise. The total terrestrial TV coverage in terms of area and population in the state is 66% and 71.37 respectively.

Legend: PPC - Programme Production Centre
HPT - High Power Transmitter
LPT - Low Power Transmitter
VLPT - Very Low Power Transmitter.

[English]

Survey for Construction of Jammu - Poonch Railway Line

3029. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for construction of Rail line between Jammu and Poonch via Akhnoor and Rajouri; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) A survey for a new BG line from Jammu to Poonch via Akhnoor - Rajouri (160 km) has been taken up by the Railway at a cost of Rs. 15 lacs.

[Translation]

Amendment in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and Trade Unions Act, 1926

3030. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and Trade Unions Act, 1926 in view of new industrial policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) On the recommendations of the 33rd session of the Indian Labour Conference held on 24th and 25th Oct., 1996, the Government has set up a Bipartite Committee on 6th November, 1996 to formulate specific proposals for a comprehensive Industrial Relations Bill and to consider the issue of recognition of Trade Unions through secret ballot. The Bipartite Committee is expected to submit its report by 31st May, 1997.

[English]

PCO/STD/ISD Booths in Tamil Nadu

3031. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for allotment of PCO/STD/ISD booths;

(b) the number of applications sanctioned during the last three years, till date in Tamil Nadu;

(c) the number of applications pending for sanction of such booths in the State, district-wise; and

(d) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) STD, PCOs are allotted by the STD PCO allotment committee constituted one for each SSA consisting of 2 official members and non-official members one each nominated by sitting members of Parliament representing the SSA Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/High School pass for urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons:

1. Handicapped including blind persons.
2. SC/ST applicants.
3. Ex-Servicemen & War Widows.
4. Retired DoT employees or their dependents.
5. Dependents of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(b) Number of applications sanctioned during the last three years in Tamil Nadu Circle are as under:

1993-94	-	1070
1994-95	-	1001
1995-96	-	1297

During 1996-97, 944 STD PCOs have been provided in Tamil Nadu Circle till 31.1.1997.

(c) The number of applications pending in Tamil Nadu Circle are as under:

S.No	Name of Telecom District	Applications pending
1.	Madurai	1709
2.	Salem	2391
3.	Thanjavur	509
4.	Cuddalore	3115
5.	Dharmapuri	792
6.	Chengalpattu	874
7.	Other Districts	NIL

(d) STD PCO allotment committees have been reconstituted recently. Applicants cleared by the Committees are expected to be provided STD PCO by the end of March, 1997.

[Translation]

Licence for Use of Dish Antenna

3032. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently given directions regarding licence for the use of the use of Dish Antenna;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to give concession in far flung rural areas and village Panchayats for the use of Dish Antenna;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details of the liberalisation policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) No licence is required for the reception of present satellite channels. However, to prevent unregulated growth of direct-to-home services which are yet to start in the country, a notification has been issued under which reception of direct-to-home services requires a licence.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Low Budget Hotels

3033. SHRI HARADHAN ROY :
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up low budget hotels near important Railway Stations and important tourist places;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to set up such hotels at Darjeeling, Kurseong, Kalimpong, Siliguri, Guwahati, Agartala, Imphal, Shillong and other tourist places of North Bengal, Eastern and N.E. States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The proposal is in a conceptual stage.

Construction of New Railway Line between Dahanu Road and Nasik Road

3034. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received demands for construction of new Railway line between Dahanu Road station and Nasik Road station;

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

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Service of Calcutta Telephones

3035. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone subscribers of Chetla & Mahesh Dutt Lane areas under "479" exchange of Calcutta telephones are not getting proper service of their telephones due to overhead lines through poles or electric poles;

(b) whether some telephone lines in the above areas have been drawn through the existing electric poles confronting the subscribers to various risks;

(c) whether complaints of disruption of services have been on the rise from the subscribers;

(d) whether the Government propose to direct the authorities to take immediate action in the matter; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some telephone lines have been supported on electric poles as the footpaths in the area are very narrow and it is difficult to erect new poles or lay underground cables there. Many a times the local residents also object to the digging of the lane for laying cables or for planting poles. However, the telephone wires which are duly insulated are drawn at a safe margin of distance from electric lines and with proper safety protections. Thus avoiding any risk to the users.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) For upgrading the network in the area a total of 1500 conductor Kilometer (CKM) cables have already been laid and it is planned to further lay 2000 CKM cables in the near future, to minimise overhead telephone lines in the area.

Medical Facilities at Howrah and Sealdah Railway Stations

3036. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to improve medical facilities at Howrah and Sealdah Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Adequate provision exists on all Railway Stations to provide first aid medical facilities. For this purpose first aid boxes with prescribed medicines and dressing materials and a stretcher have been provided with station masters. Apart from this a list of doctors and Hospitals both Railway and Non-Railway situated near the station along with their telephone numbers and addresses is available with the Station Masters who can requisition their services in emergency.

Mobile Licence to Andhra Pradesh

3037. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the new item captioned "Bell Canada may turn deaf ear to Andhra Pradesh" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated February 15, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined its contents;

(c) whether Department of Telecommunication has not given any extension of the order notification date;

(d) if so, the main reasons for not granting the extension after January 29, 1997; and

(e) the time by when final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The extension was not granted due to the following reasons:

- (1) The tariff for fixed to Mobile calls in Telecom Circles was fixed on 29.1.97 after detailed examination of all the issues involved.
- (2) This tariff was fixed for the first time and was a necessity for making the service available. Any extension would have resulted in postponement of the service.

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

Computerised Passenger Reservation Terminals

3038. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether capitals of all the N.E. States have been provided with computer reservation system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all these centres are linked up with all major cities of the country for getting return reservation facilities;

(d) whether there is any plan to provide computer reservation system in some more places of North-East States;

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

(f) the time by which the above system is likely to be provided; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Computerised reservation facilities have been provided at five capitals in N.E. Region viz. Guwahati, Gangtok, Shillong, Imphal and Agartala.

Provision of these facilities has been approved for Itanagar, Kohima and Aizawl and these will become operational very shortly.

(c) Bookings for onward and return Journey reservations can be made from these locations only for those trains originating from the stations linked to the main reservation System at Calcutta.

The facility of onward and return journey reservations from stations linked to the other four reservation Systems can become available at all reservation offices, including these locations only when networking of the five reservation Systems is established. For this purpose, networking software is in the development and testing phase.

(d) to (g) Besides the State Capitals, these facilities are also available at Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Silchar in Assam and at Dimapur in Nagaland. Reservation workload at other places is lesser than the criterion of reservation related transactions per day and does not presently justify the provision of such facilities. Introduction of computerised reservation at the other stations will be considered as and when the reservation workload increases adequately

Post Offices in West Bengal

3039. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices to be opened in West Bengal during the 1997-98;

(b) names of those places selected therefor; and

(c) the time by which post offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Targets for opening of Post Offices are allocated Postal Circle-wise under Annual Plans on year to year basis. These have not yet been finalised.

Recommendations of Expert Group on Royalty on Minerals

3040. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an expert group on royalty on minerals other than coal has suggested significant hikes in royalties;

(b) if so, the hike in various types of minerals recommended by this group; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) The Government constituted a Study Group on 30.1.95 for carrying out detailed review of rates of royalty and dead rent applicable to major minerals (other than Coal, lignite and sand for stowing). The Study Group submitted its report in Nov. 1995. Report of the Study Group has been examined and the revision of royalty rates is under consideration of the Government.

Facilities in Mines Sector

3041. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a lack of infrastructure facilities in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to galvanise and streamline the system to exploit great potential of Indian Mineral Industries;

(d) the value of minerals and ore imported and exported during each of the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken to boost up export of these products and allow foreign investment for mineral exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) Mineral deposits generally occur in remote and backward areas with poor infrastructural facilities which often inhibit their optimum development. As per the National Mineral Policy, 1993, a major thrust is to be given for development of infrastructural facilities in mineral bearing areas. The development strategy of the Govt. attaches high priority to development of efficient infrastructure and towards creating an enabling environment for private participation in the infrastructure sector. To promote infrastructural projects, the Government has incorporated the infrastructural Development Finance Company besides allowing five year tax holiday for certain categories of infrastructural projects. The National Highway Authority of India is also now geared to implement the new policy on roads and highways. With a view to promote investment in the mineral sector, under the National Mineral Policy of 1993, 13 minerals which were reserved for exclusive exploitation by the public sector were thrown open for private investment both domestic and foreign. Subsequent amendments to the MMRD Act have also been made with a view to give effect to the policy changes in order to promote investment in the mining sector.

(d) The value of imports and exports of minerals and ores during each of the last three years is given below :

Value - Rs. Million

<u>Year</u>	<u>Import</u>	<u>Export</u>
1993-94	214601	142664
1994-95	193659	158318
1995-96	236599	198198

(e) With a view to facilitate foreign direct investment in the mineral sector, the Govt. has recently allowed (in January, 1997) automatic route for foreign equity participation upto 50% in case of mining of iron ore, manganese ore, bauxite, copper, lead and zinc ores etc. Further, the Government has also allowed automatic approval route for foreign equity participation upto 74% for services incidental to mining excluding serviced related to gold, silver and precious/semi precious stones.

Accommodation Racket Thriving

3042. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Accommodation racket

thriving in Railway Colony' appearing in the 'Deccan Chronicle', Hyderabad dated October 17, 1995;

(b) if so, whether South Central Railway employees have given 60% out of 1500 railway quarters on rent;

(c) whether the Vigilance Department of the Railways have found a number of such cases; and

(d) if so, the steps have been taken by the Government to apprehend the culprits in view of checking up the misuse of railway quarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Out of 125 quarters checked by Railway Vigilance/ CBI from January 1996 to November 1996 in Hyderabad/ Secunderabad areas, subletting of quarters was noticed on 27 cases.

(d) Action under D&AR has been initiated against the delinquent officials besides cancellation of their allotments. Further checks are continuing and action as deemed fit will continue to be taken against delinquent officials. The concerned authorities have also been instructed to ensure that the Colony Committees constituted for the purpose also investigate the cases and take necessary action to avoid recurrence of such cases.

Modernisation of Railway Stations

3043. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan for the modernisation/development of Railway Stations at Cannanore and Calicut in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost and allocation made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Transmission Capacity of Bhopal Doordarshan/AIR

3044. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the transmission capacity of radio and Doordarshan stations of Bhopal at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to augment the capacity of these stations;

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

(d) the number of artists employed or sponsored at these stations who belong to Madhya Pradesh and number out of them who are from outside the State;

(e) whether the programmes telecast are being prepared at the television station, Bhopal; and

(f) if so, the achievement made during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Bhopal has four radio Transmitters having 50 KW SW, 10 KW MW, 3 KW FM and 1 KW MW powers, respectively, and two TV Transmitters, one HPT (10 KW) for primary channel and one LPT for the metro channel. In addition, DDK Bhopal has also a studio centre and an Earth Station for satellite uplinking.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No regular artist is being employed at DDK Bhopal. However, casual artists are engaged from time to time depending upon programme requirements. The number of local artists booked is 1770 and that from outside the State is 37.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The programmes cater to a large and extensive target audience including Rural/Urban, Women, Children, Industrial Workers, Tribals, etc. and have received widespread appreciation during the last three years.

Survey for New Rail Line in Assam

3045. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to conduct a survey for railway line on the south bank of the Brahmaputra from Goalpara via Dudhnoi to Guwahati for which the people of Assam are agitating;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The line on the south bank of Brahmaputra from Jogighopa to Guwahati via Goalpara and Dudhnoi is already at an advanced stage of construction and is expected to be completed and opened for traffic by Dec' 98.

Post Offices in Kerala

3046. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices in Kerala, district-wise;

(b) the number of Post Offices are working in rented buildings in Kerala, district-wise; and

(c) the details of the action taken by the Government to construct own building against the rented buildings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The district-wise number of Post Offices in Kerala as on 31.3.1996 has been shown in the attached Statement-I.

(b) The number of departmental Post Offices functioning in rented buildings in Kerala Postal Circle, district-wise, is given in the attached Statement-II.

(c) The department constructs buildings for accommodating departmental Post Offices as per the availability of funds, land and other resources.

Statement I

Details of number of post offices in Kerala - District-wise

S.No.	Name of District	Number of Post Offices		
		Urban	Rural	Total
1.	Trivandrum	87	330	417
2.	Quilon	44	315	359
3.	Pathanamthitta	23	288	311
4.	Alleppey	48	242	290
5.	Kottayam	50	359	409
6.	Idukki	10	290	300
7.	Ernakulam	98	283	381
8.	Trichur	90	398	488
9.	Palghat	54	396	450
10.	Malappuram	32	399	431
11.	Calicut	78	340	418
12.	Wynad	2	159	161
13.	Cannanore	91	287	378
14.	Kasaragod	19	215	234
Total		726	4301	5027
15.	Lakshadweep	-	10	10
16.	Mahe of Pondicherry	4	-	4
Grand Total		730	4311	5041

Statement II

Number of departmental post offices functioning in rented buildings in Kerala, district-wise

S.No.	Name of District	Post Offices functioning in rented buildings	
		Head Offices	Sub-Offices
1.	Trivandrum	2	122
2.	Quilon	-	90
3.	Pathanamthitta	-	90
4.	Alleppey	1	100
5.	Kottayam	-	111
6.	Idukki	1	39
7.	Ernakulam	-	120
8.	Trichur	2	149
9.	Palghat	1	127
10.	Malappuram	4	90
11.	Calicut	1	81
12.	Wynad	1	13
13.	Cannanore	-	92
14.	Kasaragod	-	27
Total		31	1256
15.	Lakshadweep	-	5
16.	Mahe of Pondicherry	-	-
Grand Total		13	1261

* Two sub post offices, one in Quilon District and the other in Pathanamthitta district are functioning in rent-free accommodation.

Height of Air Traffic Control Tower

3047. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the maximum permissible height of Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower is 24 ft. according to the International Civil Aviation organisation's (ICAO) norms;

(b) whether it is a fact that Air-Port Authority of India (AAI) cleared the plans for 190 ft. tower;

(c) if so, the reasons for violation of norms of ICAO;

(d) whether he is also aware that plan with the 190 ft. height of ATC Air Traffic Control tower was cleared despite

the objections of some of members of the Committee set up to modernise ATCs at Mumbai and Delhi; and

(e) the circumstances under which the said ATC project with 190 ft height was cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) stipulate that the Air Traffic Control (ATC) Tower is constructed at a selected place to a height sufficient enough to ensure around unobstructed view of the airfield including take-off and approach path of the aircraft in order to exercise total control over the operation area. The Control Tower at the present location was cleared under special dispensation by the Airports Authority of India (then NAA) in 1991.

(d) and (e) The matter is under investigation.

[Translation]

Halt to Karnavati Train at Balsad Railway Station

3048. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide a halt to Karnavati Train at Balsad railway station;

(b) if so, the time by which the halt is likely to be provided to the train; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Neither justified nor operationally feasible.

National Postal Policy

3049. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of preparing at National Postal Policy started in 1992, has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) A formal document incorporating the National Postal Policy is yet to be finalised. However, the Department of Post has been following consistent policy in

the matter of development and operation of postal services in the country. The salient features of the policy of the department are indicated below :

In the matter of expansion of postal network in the rural areas, the department's policy provides for substantial subsidy in respect of new post offices - 66% of anticipated cost in normal rural area and 85% of the anticipated cost in hilly, tribal and inaccessible area as well as allows the maximum permissible annual loss to the extent of Rs 2400/- in normal rural area and Rs.4800/- in tribal and hilly areas in the matter of upgradation of rural Branch Post Office into a Departmental Sub Post Office. 8041 villages including Gram Panchayats in the country, where opening of a post office is justified according to population and distance parameters are still without postal counter facilities and the focus of department's policy now is to provide new post offices in these villages. In extending postal facilities in the urban area financial viability is given greater importance in the department's policy and a newly opened post office is required to be self-supporting by the end of its first year of existence. Parameter in respect of distance from existing post office is also appropriately related to urban conditions where the density of population is much higher than in the rural area.

As regards delivery service in rural area, the norm is to deliver articles from Branch Post Office on the same day when these are received unless there are constraints of transmission arrangements. In the urban area, all departmental delivery office provide atleast one delivery per day for both ordinary and accountable articles, which are supplemented by more than one delivery in a large number of urban post offices, having regard to the volume of articles and the time of their receipt.

In the matter of all mail transmission, the department's policy is to gradually introduce automated systems in the large nodal centres for speedy and effective mail processing. The first step in this direction has been taken with the setting up of the automated mail processing centres at Mumbai and Chennai respectively.

The department is also pursuing the policy of optimising the benefits of the post office as an outlet of social distribution system by performing a variety of agency functions like small savings schemes of the Government, payment of pension for Railway Pensioners and Coal Miners, as also operation of the Postal Life Insurance Organisation.

The department's policy of modernising the postal service lays emphasis on counter services where application of computer-based technology is aimed at achieving greater customer satisfaction through more efficient and responsive counter service and enhancing employee motivation through improved work-environment. Provision of new value-added services for the business/professional segment of customers is also in focus for optimising the upgraded retailing capacity of modernised postal counters. Computer based technologies are also being introduced in other areas of activity like financial services, PLI, inventory control and speed post Service.

The department's policy of modernisation through induction of new technology is being achieved on the basis of an extensive training programme aimed at upgrading the skills of its employees.

The department is also seeking to segment its areas of activities catering for business and commercial sector and those for meeting universal service obligation with a view to improving quality of service and generation of revenue.

[English]

Sliding of Sales and Profit In Steel Sector

3050. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sales and profit of steel sector have been sliding;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the targets fixed by the Government for earning profit from the public sector steel plants during 1996-97.

(d) the actual profit earned by each of the steel plants during the said period;

(e) whether the steel plant under SAIL has not earned profit as it was expected at the beginning of the year; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Among the main steel producers, 'sales' and 'profits before tax' of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Tata Iron & Steel Company Limited (TISCO) have been steadily increasing for the last three years. As regards Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), the 'sales' have been increasing and the losses incurred by it have been decreasing for the last three years.

(c) Target of Profit in SAIL, for the year 1996-97, is Rs. 825 crores. While the net loss in RINL, for the year 1996-97 is targeted to be brought down to Rs. 272.69 crores.

(d) The actual profit earned by the steel plants during 1996-97 will be known only after the close of the current financial year.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of (d) above.

Facilities to Passengers at Chunar Railway Station

3051. SHRI S. P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received

representations for providing facilities to passengers at Chunar Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that some social organisations staged Dharana and demonstrations in 1995 and 1996 demanding halt for some important trains at the said station to provide reservation quota in these trains and to construct a rail overbridge there;

(d) if so, the details of action taken in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the passenger facilities as demanded are likely to be made available at the said railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A memorandum was received from Nagrik Upbhokta Samiti Chunar, regarding stoppage of Magadh, Katihar, Neelachal Expresses and Kalka Mail at Chunar Railway station.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Neelachal Express does not touch Chunar Railway station. However, the feasibility of providing stoppage of additional trains, including Magadh Express, Mahananda Express and Kalka Mail at Chunar has been examined, but not found commercially justified. In the absence of stoppage of these trains, no quota can be allotted at this station. Construction of Road-over bridge is not feasible at the site, however, a Foot-over bridge can be considered if the State Govt. sponsor proposal on deposit terms.

Loading of Loaded Trucks on Rail Wagons

3052. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow loaded trucks on rail wagons; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of implementation will arise only after various aspects of the proposal have been examined.

Rail Link with Bangladesh

3053. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to increase trade with Bangladesh from different parts of West Bengal;

(b) whether the Government are aware that from North Bengal to Bangladesh, Traffic movement is possible by

constructing rail link with Chilahati (Bangladesh) to Raninagar via Haldibari;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to take up this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Rail Link with Kabithirtha Churulia

3054. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to connect Kabithirtha Churulia in district Bardhaman, West Bengal, birth place of revolutionary poet Nazrul Islam, with rail;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct any survey for this propose;

(c) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Churulia Station was in existence on Ikhra-Gaurandi Section in Asansol Division on Eastern Railway. On account of rampant theft of railway track it was not found feasible to run trains on this section, and the section was closed in 1985. Churulia is connected by road to Asansol.

On-going Construction of Over-Bridges in Orissa

3055. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some road over-bridges are under construction in Orissa;

(b) if so, the location of these bridges;

(c) the estimated cost likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the progress of work made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Statement is attached.

Statement

S.No.	Location of Road over bridges	Estimated cost in Crores Rs.	Progress made so far
1.	Road over bridge at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road	2.29	88% completed.
2.	Road over bridge at Rayagada	5.45	Rly's portion completed. Approaches to be constructed by State Govt.
3.	Road over bridge at Km. 55.4 on Talcher-Sambalpur new line project.	3.70	10% completed. State Govt. Nil.
4.	Road over bridge at Bargarh	4.13	15% completed. State Govt. Nil
5.	Road over bridge at Km. 57.27 on Talcher-Sambalpur Project.	1.58	80% completed. State Govt. Nil
6.	Road over bridge at Km. 65.28 on Talcher-Sambalpur Project.	0.35	60% completed. State Govt. Nil
7.	At. Km. 106.56 on Talcher-Sambalpur Project.	0.77	30% completed. State Govt. Nil
8.	At. Km. 157.83 on Talcher-Sambalpur new Project.	0.39	60% completed. State Govt. Nil
9.	At Km. 1.08 from Banspani Rly. Stn. on Daitari-Banspani new line project.	2.00 (Approx.)	Rly's portion completed. State Govt.'s 25%
10.	ROB at Km. 10.34 from Banspani Rly.Stn. on Daitari-Banspani new line project.	2.00 (Approx.)	Rly's portion completed. 20% State Govt. completed.

Direct Plane Services In between Trivandrum and New Delhi

3056. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce direct plane services between Trivandrum and New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be introduced;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce the high landing facility in the Trivandrum Airport; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines is operating daily direct A320 service between Trivandrum and Delhi via Mumbai.

(c) and (d) Night Landing facility already exists at Trivandrum Airport.

Development and Expansion of Platforms

3057. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any programme for the development, expansion and construction of new platforms in Madurai

Railway Station keeping in view the inadequacy of amenities and more passenger traffic there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Amenities at stations are provided as per norms based on the volume of traffic, depending on the availability of funds. Accordingly, considering the growth in traffic at Madurai station extension of platforms No 4, 5 and 6 have been taken up and Rs. 2186 lakh has been provided for 1996-97. In addition, raising of platform No. 1 and provision of shed on island platform No. 6 and 7 have also been taken up at a cost of Rs. 28.80 lakh.

Tourist Lodging for Foreign Tourists

3058. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any arrangement for tourist lodging at Buddhist pilgrimage Sankisa, situated in Farrukhabad district in Uttar Pradesh for the foreign tourists visiting there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have utilised the priceless idols of Lord Buddha presented by the tourists from Taiwan and Thailand for placing it in Sankisa;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any scheme to develop Sankisa as a tourist place; and

(f) if so, the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) Making the lodging arrangement for tourists is primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory. However, the Deptt. of Tourism provide funds for construction of tourist complexes, wayside amenities, tourist reception centres etc. to the State Govts. based on the merits of the project *inter-se* priority and availability of funds. The Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has not submitted any proposal to the Deptt. of Tourism for construction of tourist facilities at Sankisa.

(c) and (d) According to the information received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the idols of Lord Buddha are in the safe custody of the State Government.

(e) and (f) For the integrated development of Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh the Department of Tourism has identified a circuit which includes Sankisa.

ISD Call Charges

3059. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce International Subscribers Dial (ISD) call charges during holidays;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign telecom companies have also offered concessional ISD calls; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Foreign telecom companies cannot offer outgoing ISD calls at present as VSNL is the monopoly service provider of basic International telecommunication services.

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

[Translation]

Flights at Mridgulla Airport, Surat

3060. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the efforts made by the Government for the development and revival of the operation of the flights at Mridgulla Airport, Surat by handing it over to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : Surat airport can sustain operation of 30-seater aircraft. Since it belongs to the State Government of Gujarat, it is upto them to hand it over to the private sector for development. Airlines are free to operate on any route in their commercial judgement.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

3061. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gauge conversion work of Ahmedabad-Delhi railway is likely to be completed as per schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal for electrification of Ahmedabad-Delhi line is under consideration of the Government;

(d) if so, the time by which the above line is likely to be electrified;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the said line is proposed to be connected with Gandhinagar to facilitate the commuters of the State capital;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether there is any proposal to introduce Rajdhani Express train on Ahmedabad-Delhi route after its conversion into broad gauge; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work has already been completed and the line would be commissioned before the target of 31.03.97.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Due to constraint of resources and relative priority for electrification of the high density routes, there is at present, no proposal to take up electrification of Delhi - Ahmedabad section.

(f) There is no proposal at present.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) It is proposed to introduce a weekly Rajdhani Express between Delhi and Ahmedabad via Jaipur during 1997-98 on availability of higher speed on the converted section.

Gauge Conversion

3062. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI N. J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some proposals from the Government of Gujarat for conversion of metre gauge/narrow gauge lines into broad gauge lines during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) the details of the metre gauge/narrow gauge lines proposed to be taken up for conversion during the next three years;

(e) the budgetary allocation made for these conversion during the current financial year;

(f) whether the Government have any plan to take up conversion projects in Gujarat through private funding; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (g) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Child Labour

3063. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether child labour in India contributes more than 20% of the country's GNP;

(b) the percentage of GNP contributed by child labour during Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans;

(c) the specific steps taken during the above period to eliminate child labour atleast in hazardous jobs and industries; and

(d) the countries where child labour contributes over 10% of GNP?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The estimates of National Product are derived from the estimates of Domestic Product, which are compiled by kind of economic activity and by broad institutional categories, like organized and unorganized and public sectors. These estimates are not made by age-group.

(c) Government have taken a series of steps for the elimination of child labour working in hazardous occupations. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in parts A and B of the schedule to the Act. There are also legal provisions in various other labour laws safeguarding the interest of working children. Apart from legal measures, government have taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations. 76 child labour projects have been set up for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. A major activity undertaken under the child labour project is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc. to children withdrawn from employment. As per the available information, around 1.05 lakh children are already enrolled in the special schools. Besides opening of child labour projects, funds have been sanctioned for carrying out survey on child labour in 123 districts and for awareness generation against the evils of child labour in 133 districts.

(d) No such information is available.

[Translation]

Passenger Amenities at Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh

3064. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI D.P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway stations in Uttar Pradesh particularly at Sambhal railway station where no waiting rooms, rest houses, potable water and platform with roof are available;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the number of cases referred to the Railway Advisory Board; and

(d) the time by which the above mentioned facilities are likely to be provided at all railway stations in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Facilities such as drinking water and waiting halls are provided at all stations. Amenities like sheds on platforms and waiting rooms etc. are provided based on the importance of the station, the volume of traffic handled at the station and the number of long distance trains stopping, originating or terminating at the station. Therefore, the availability of amenities at all stations will not be uniform. Important stations and stations with a large volume of traffic are provided with all amenities whereas smaller stations, with a relatively meagre volume of traffic, are not provided with the same quantum of amenities.

Sambhal Hatim Sarai station is provided with waiting room, waiting hall, drinking water arrangements and shed on platform and the same are adequate for the present volume of traffic handled at the station.

Serial on Birth Centenary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

3065. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to produce a Doordarshan serial on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to commemorate his birth centenary year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. It may, however, be stated that a documentary on the life of Netaji has already been shown on DD-1 on 23rd January, 1997.

Safety Norms in Mines

3066. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mines in the country which have reached their optimum exploitation;

(b) whether the safety norms in these mines are being observed scrupulously;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether amount of compensation has recently been increased; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) Safety norms in mines that have been prescribed are not dependent on the degree of exploitation of any

individual mine. Therefore information on number of mines that have reached optimum exploitation level is not maintained and is not available.

(d) and (e) The Government have amended the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in the year 1995 *inter-alia* to enhance the minimum amount of compensation payable under the Act for death and permanent total disablement from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- and from Rs. 24,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- respectively. The monthly wage limit for determining the maximum amount of compensation has also been enhanced from Rs. 1,000/- to Rs. 2,000/-. In addition, a provision for payment of Rs. 1,000/- towards funeral expenses of the deceased workmen has also been made.

Arbitrary Termination of Workers in Industrial Houses

3067. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that large industrial houses resorted to contract labour in various fields so as to make it convenient for the managements to drive them out;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interest of workers;

(c) whether any legal protection is being considered to help the workers in case of arbitrary termination; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) Employment of contract labour and other related matters are regulated as per the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 and the rules framed thereunder. Section 10 of this Act empowers the appropriate to prohibit employment of contract labour in any process, operation or other work in any establishment. Enforcement of these provisions is done by the concerned appropriate Government and violations of the same are punishable as per provisions of the Act. Provisions of this Act are considered adequate for meeting all bonafide concerns with respect to contract workers.

Employment in Urban and Rural Areas

3068. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched many schemes to provide employment to the unemployed persons;

(b) if so, the schemes launched in rural and urban areas and the time when these schemes were launched, separately;

(c) whether the Government have estimated the number of unemployed persons who are proposed to be provided employment under the each scheme; and

(d) if so, number thereof and the amount spent by the Government on each scheme upto March, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Government have launched schemes to provide employment/self-employment to unemployed persons both in rural as well as urban areas. The details of the important schemes as per information made available by concerned Ministries/Departments are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Government schemes launched in Rural and Urban Areas to provide employment to the unemployed persons

Name of the Scheme	Launching Month/Year	Target for Providing employment upto March, 1996 (in lakhs)	Amount Spent by the Govt. upto March, 1996 (Rs in cr)
--------------------	----------------------	---	---

Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment

1. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) (Mandays of employment generated).	1.4.1989	36266.71*	23033.36
2. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) (Families assisted)	2.10.1980	423.23	10294.78
3. Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) (Mandays of Employment generated)	2.10.1993	**	3139.81

Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment

4. Nehru Rozgar Yojana (JRY) (Mandays of employment generated)	October, 1989	***	636.80
5. Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP)	November, 1995	10 (Per Year)	105.80

Ministry of Industry DC (SSI)

6. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY).	2.10.1993	7@	273.05
---	-----------	----	--------

* Information for last four years.

** No Targets are fixed as it is need based.

@ During 8th Plan.

*** Targets not specified.

Employment through Contractors

3069. SHRI GEORGE PERNANDES : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of workers employed through contractors is on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take steps to prevent employment of workers through contractors; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Change in the Route of Kanchanjunga Express

3070. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to change the route of Kanchanjunga Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend the route of Kanchanjunga Express upto Cooch Behar; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be extended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) 5657/5658 Sealdah-Guwahati Kanchanjunga Express has been curtailed upto New Jalpaiguri w.e.f. 4.1.97 due to suspension of night running of trains in Assam area.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Closure of Level Crossings

3071. SHRI A.C. JOS :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the level crossings to be closed down in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : There are 24 level crossings in Kerala proposed to be closed down to improve safety standards as detailed below:

S.No.	Level crossing No	Location KM	Between Stations	Manned/ Unmanned
1	2	3	4	5
1.	4	6/10-11	Ernakulam-Tripunittura	M

1	2	3	4	5
2.	26	45/10-11	Kuruppam Tara-Ettumanur	M
3.	143	95/11-12	Chinchpada- Kayakulam	UM
4.	544	157/89	Quilon Jn.- Mayyanad	M
5.	550	163/12-13	Quilon Jn- Mayyanad	M
6.	40	118/1-2	Kayankulam- Ochira	M
7.	43	120/10-11	Ochira-YARD	M
8.	45	121/11-12	Ochira- Karunagapalli	UM
9.	62	133/3-4	Karunagapalli- Sasthankotta	M
10.	75	149/15-16	Perinad- Quilon Jn.	M
11.	3	221/14-15	Trivandrum Central-NYY	M
12.	278	826/6-7	Pilknani- Kotikulam	UM
13.	39	72/9-10	Chingavanam- Changanacheri	M
14.	40	72/15-73/1	Chingavanam- Changanacheri	UM
15.	93	69/18-19	AMPA-THZI	UM
16.	550	155/14-15	Quilon-Mayyanad	M
17.	577A	211/8-9	Kazhakuttam- Kochuveli	M
18.	578	217/4-5	Kazhakuttam- Kochuveli	M
19.	20	99/14-15	Chengannur- Mavelikara	UM
20.	26	104/14-15	Chengannur- Mavelikara	UM
21.	37	115/13-14	Kayankulam- Ochira	UM

1	2	3	4	5
22.	58	130/12-13	Karunagapalli- Sasthankotta	UM
23.	2	221/6-7	Trivandrum Central-NYY	M
24.	8	234/6-7	Trivandrum Central-NYY	UM

Adult Channel

3072. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DILIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to start the first adult Channel on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for censoring and screening programmes and advertisements on this channel?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Tourism in Delhi

3073. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the important areas of National Capital Territory of Delhi are being neglected from the tourism point of view and are not being maintained properly;

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

(c) the expenditure proposed to be incurred for the development of Tourism in the National Capital Territory of Delhi during the current financial year; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to attract National/International tourists?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) Development and Maintenance of important areas of tourist importance and primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administration.

(c) Rs. 85.00 lakhs for two projects as Central Financial assistance is proposed by the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi for 1996-97 :

1. Flood lighting of Parliament House, North and South Block, Rajpath and India Gate.
2. Tourist Complex at Nandprayag.

(d) The importance of promotion of tourism to attract National/International tourists is well recognised by the Government, and is a continuous, concerted and on-going activity, of the Government.

[English]

Losses by AI

3074. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL[†] : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the losses incurred by Air India on account of leasing of aircraft;

(b) whether any enquiry/investigation has been ordered into the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the proposed follow up action against those who have been responsible for the loss?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Losses incurred by Air India on operations (passenger) undertaken with aircraft taken on wet lease are:

(Rs. in crores)

1995-96 (Provisional)	1996-97 (Estimated) (Upto September '96)
96.54	88.75

These losses were incurred on account of the strategy of growth and expansion of Air India's operations and disruptions due to industrial unrest.

(b) to (d) Allegation of kickbacks in the wet leasing agreements is under verification of Central Bureau of Investigation.

Residential Units in Almora

3075. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had acquired the land in Almora during 1984 for the construction of residential units for postal employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of house constructed so far/proposed to be constructed therein;

(c) the time by which the remaining houses are likely to be constructed; and

(d) the financial allocation made during each of the last three years for the purpose and the proposed allocation for the year 1997-98?

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

(b) Land measuring 8556.69 sq. metres was acquired by the Department at Thapalia (Almora) in 1984 for the construction of 46 Nos. of staff quarters. So far 6 Nos. type-II staff quarters have been constructed.

(c) Construction of the remaining staff quarters would depend upon the availability of funds.

(d) Following funds were allocated for this purpose in the last three years:

1994-95	Rs. 1.50 lakh
1995-96	Rs. 6.11 lakh
1996-97	Rs. 1.00 lakh

The allocation of funds for the years 1997-98 is yet to be finalized.

[Translation]

Small Charter Aeroplanes Service in Rajasthan

3076. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce small charter aeroplane services in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the cities proposed to be covered under the said service; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has no plans to introduce Small Charter aeroplane service in Rajasthan Golden Hill Aviation and Rajputana Aviation Academy, however, have the proposal to provide charter services in Rajasthan. The cities proposed to be covered under this scheme will depend upon the requirements of charterers.

Labour Commission

3077. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a 'Labour Commission' in the perspective of new economic policies;

(b) the date on which this Commission was constituted in the past;

(c) whether a proposal for constituting a second Labour Commission has already been sent to the Cabinet; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The first National Commission on Labour was constituted under the Government of India Resolution dated 24.12.1966 and the report was submitted in August, 1969. Government has not taken the final decision on constituting the Second Labour Commission.

Proposal to open Casino in Khajuraho

3078. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open 'Casino' in Khajuraho on the pattern of Nepal and Singapore to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations against opening of Casino; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Air India Fares In Gulf Sector

3079. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fare charged by the Air India in the Gulf sector is more than its charges for equal distance in other sectors;

(b) if so, the details of the fares being charged by Air India in different sectors;

(c) whether there have been demands from the Gulf sector to reduce the fare and bring it down to the level of fares in other sectors; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) It is not possible to compare fares on different sectors because of the difference in the cost of operations, traffic flow, availability of capacity, competition element etc. Based on these criteria, the existing fares on Gulf sectors are considered reasonable.

Increase in Criminal Activities in Trains

3080. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2067 dated December 5, 1996 and state:

(a) whether the criminal activities are on increase now-a-days in Orissa, New Delhi bound trains due to slackness of the concerned personnels; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, train-wise during 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Setting up of IRCC

3081. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to shelve the plan for setting up the Indian Railway Catering Corporation (IRCC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Processing of the proposal has been taken up in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments.

Air Services at Tuticorin, Salem and Pondicherry

3082. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to operate air services through the already constructed airports at places like Tuticorin, Salem and Pondicherry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) At present, Indian Airlines has no plans to operate services from these airports due to inadequate traffic potential and small runways. However, private operators, with suitable aircraft, are being encouraged to add more services in their network including Tuticorin, Salem and Pondicherry.

[Translation]

Amount given for Advertisement to Regional Language

3083. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR :
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

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

(a) the criteria for giving advertisement to newspapers;

(b) amount paid by the Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity for advertisement to newspaper, language-wise and year-wise during each of the last three years, upto December 31, 1996;

(c) the cumulative arrears to be paid by the DAVP as on December 31, 1996, to the newspapers, language-wise;

(d) the revised advertisement budget of DAVP for 1996-97;

(e) the average time taken to make payment of advertisement bills; and

(f) the steps taken to make the payment expeditiously particularly to small newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The criteria governing release of Government advertisements are to secure widest possible coverage. Advertisements are released to newspapers/periodicals, empanelled with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), keeping in view the publicity requirements, target readership and area and budgetary provisions.

(b) Amount paid by DAVP for advertisements to newspapers/periodicals during the last three years, upto 31st December 1996, is as follows :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount (Rs. in crores)</u>
1994-95	27.77
1995-96	37.35
1996-97 (upto 31st December 1996)	20.02

Payments are not segregated language-wise by DAVP.

(c) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The advertisements budget of DAVP for the year 1996-97 is Rs. 2633.90 lakhs.

(e) Six to eight weeks, provided the bill is in order and funds are available.

(f) In order to make expeditious payment of advertisement bills of newspapers, including those of small newspapers, bills are being processed on computer on seriatim basis.

Statement

Language-wise statement showing arrears of pending bills to be paid by DAVP to newspapers as on 31st December 1996

<u>Sl.No.</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Amount (Rs.)</u>
1.	English	25814186.25
2.	Hindi	29921314.53
3.	Urdu	3784833.35
4.	Punjabi	3774298.84
5.	Marathi	2823849.99
6.	Gujarati	1675876.31
7.	Sindhi	94990.43
8.	Assamese	709805.59
9.	Bengali	3383265.07
10.	Oriya	1905072.75
11.	Tamil	1285704.88
12.	Telugu	722347.34
13.	Malayalam	2950213.58
14.	Kannada	1076196.16
15.	Nepali	2166.40
16.	Sanskrit	3065.40
17.	Mizo	31606.00
18.	Khasi	2763.50
19.	Konkani	1077.12
20.	Manipuri	861.00
21.	Multi-editions	14273516.62

[English]

Survey for New Rail line from Krishnanagar to Karimpur

3084. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to conduct a survey for construction of a new railway line from

Krishnanagar to Karimpur in West Bengal as demanded by the people of the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the survey work is likely to be taken up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey has been sanctioned on 10.03.97 at a cost of Rs. 3.69 lakhs.

(c) In the coming months.

(d) Does not arise.

Reservation of Quota in Trains

3085. SHRIBANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for the reservation of quota in a particular train from a particular station;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the quota of reservation in various trains from Nagpur;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of quota of reservation in trains from Nagpur and since when it was fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Reservation quota is allotted on the basis of demand pattern

at the stations and the overall availability of accommodation in the trains. Periodical review of quota is undertaken twice a year based on which suitable adjustments are made keeping in view the utilisation figures. Based on review, the following additional quotas were allotted to Nagpur station in various trains from the dates mentioned against each:

Train No.	Class	Quota	With effect from
1. 9767 Madras-Jaipur Express	Sleeper	14	4.10.1996
2. 9768 Jaipur-Madras Express	AC Sleeper Sleeper	2 22	1.10.1996
3. 8404 Ahmedabad-Puri Express	AC Sleeper Sleeper	4 64	3.10.1996
4. 8403 Puri-Ahmedabad Express	AC Sleeper Sleeper	2 10	1.10.1996
5. 5092 Gorakhpur-Bangalore Exp.	Sleeper	8	7.10.1996
6. 2634 Chennai Rajdhani Exp.	AC Chair Car	2	14.12.1996

In addition, Nagpur Reservation Office is computerised and linked with Mumbai Passenger Reservation System (PRS). Further, terminals of Howrah, Chennai, Delhi and Secunderabad PRSs have also been provided at Nagpur through which booking on trains available on these PRSs may also be made. As such, adequate reservation facilities are available at Nagpur.

(e) The details of reservation quota available at Nagpur which has been fixed from time to time is given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Train No. & Name	Class	Reservation Quota
1	2	3	4
1.	8403 Puri-Ahmedabad Express	AC 2-Tier Sleeper	2 10
2.	8034 Howrah-Ahmedabad Express	AC 2-Tier	5
	Upto Ahmedabad	Sleeper	34
	Upto Gandhidham	Sleeper	34
	Upto Porbandhar	Sleeper	44
3.	7081 Ahilyanagari Express	First Sleeper	2 35

1	2	3	4
4.	1006 Vidarbha Express	AC-I	8
		AC 2-Tier	38
		AC 3-Tier	30
		Sleeper	343
5.	8002 Mumbai Mail	AC-I	6
		AC 2-Tier	8
		First	3
		Sleeper	56
6.	1440 Sewagram Express	AC 2-Tier	40
		Sleeper	498
7.	8030 Howrah-Kurla Express	Sleeper	38
8.	1030 Azad Hind Express	Sleeper	68
9.	7384 Maharashtra Express (upto Pune)	Sleeper	72
	Upto Solapur	Sleeper	32
	Upto Kolhapur	AC 2-Tier	25
		Sleeper	200
10.	2430 Bangalore Rajdhani Express	AC 2-Tier	2
		AC 3-Tier	20
11.	5092 Gorakhpur-Bangalore Express	Sleeper	8
12.	2618 Manglore Express	AC 2-Tier	4
		First	2
		Sleeper	14
13.	6688 Navyug Express	AC 2-Tier	2
		Sleeper	12
14.	7058 Cochin Express (Upto Mangalore)	Sleeper	5
15.	5012 Rapti Sagar Express	AC 2-Tier	4
		Sleeper	16
16.	7058 Cochin Express (Upto Cochin)	AC 2-Tier	2
		Sleeper	19
17.	7490 Cochin Express	Sleeper	12
18.	2860 Gitanjali Express	AC 2-Tier	12
		AC 3-Tier	8
		Sleeper	36
19.	2634 Chennai Rajdhani Express	AC 2-Tier	2
		AC 3-Tier	4
		AC Chair Car	2

1	2	3	4
20.	9768 Jaipur-Chennai Express	AC 2-Tier Sleeper	2 22
21.	2432 Trivandrum Rajdhani Express (Upton Chennai)	AC 2-Tier AC 3-Tier	4 4
22.	2616 G.T. Express	AC-I AC 2-Tier AC 3-Tier Sleeper	2 4 2 37
23.	2622 Tamil Nadu Express	AC 2-Tier AC 3-Tier Sleeper	2 2 26
24.	6032 Chennai Express	Sleeper	4
25.	6040 Ganga-Kaveri Express	Sleeper	6
26.	6044 Chennai Express	Sleeper	8
27.	6094 Chennai Express	Sleeper	14
28.	6318 Himsagar Express	Sleeper	4
29.	2432 Trivandrum Rajdhani Express (Upto Trivandrum)	AC 2-Tier AC 3-Tier	2 4
30.	2626 Kerala Express	AC 2-Tier First Class Sleeper	4 4 26
31.	7490 Cochin Express (Upto Tirupati)	Sleeper	2
32.	7492 Tirupati Express	Sleeper	4
33.	2724 A.P Express	AC 2-Tier AC 3-Tier Sleeper	4 4 66
34.	7022 Dakshin Express (Upto Hyderabad)	AC 2-Tier Sleeper	6 10
35.	7492 Tirupati Express (Upto Hyderabad)	Sleeper	2
36.	7022 Dakshin Express (Upto Visakhapatnam)	AC 2-Tier Sleeper	4 33
37.	7490 Cochin Express (Upto Hyderabad)	Sleeper	2
38.	8226 Mahanadi Express	AC 2-Tier Sleeper	8 70

1	2	3	4
39.	328 Tata Passenger	Sleeper	44
40.	8029 Kurla-Howrah Express (Upto Bokaro) Upto Howrah	Sleeper First Class Sleeper	12 4 82
41.	8033 Ahmedabad-Howrah Express	AC 2-Tier	2
42.	2859 Gitanjali Express	AC 2-Tier Sleeper AC 3-Tier	16 98 6
43.	8001 Mumbai-Howrah Mail	AC I AC 2-Tier First Class Sleeper	3 13 6 70
44.	1029 Azad Hind Express	AC 2-Tier Sleeper	6 76
45.	5011 Rapti Sagar Express	AC 2-Tier Sleeper	2 6
46.	5011-A Rapti Express	AC 2-Tier Sleeper	2 6
47.	6093 Lucknow Express	Sleeper	34
48.	6043 Patna Express	AC 2-Tier First Sleeper	2 2 4
49.	6039 Ganga-Kaveri Express	AC 2-Tier First Sleeper	2 2 4
50.	7489 Varanasi Express	Sleeper	12
51.	8225 Mahanadi Express	AC 2-Tier Sleeper	4 40
52.	2407 Nagpur-Nizamuddin Express	AC 2-Tier Sleeper	36 332
53.	2409 Bilaspur-Nizamuddin Express	AC 2-Tier Sleeper	4 68
54.	2429 Bangalore Rajdhani Express	AC 2-Tier AC 3-Tier	3 20
55.	8404 Ahmedabad-Puri Express	AC 2-Tier Sleeper	4 64

1	2	3	4
56.	2633 Chennai Rajdhani Express	AC 2- Tier	4
		AC 3-Tier	6
		AC Chair Car	5
57.	8543 Samta Express	Sleeper	14
58.	2431 Trivandrum Rajdhani Express	AC 2- Tier	2
		AC 3-Tier	8
59.	2617 Mangala Express	AC 2- Tier	4
		Sleeper	6
60.	2615 G.T Express	AC 2- Tier	4
		Sleeper	50
61.	2621 Tamil Nadu Express	AC-I	1
		AC 2- Tier	4
		AC 3-Tier	2
		Sleeper	62
62.	2625 Kerala Express	First	4
		Sleeper	10
63.	2723 A.P. Express	AC 2- Tier	2
64.	9767 Chennai-Jaipur Express	Sleeper	14
65.	8237 Chhatisgarh Express	Sleeper	20
66.	6317 Himsagar Express	Sleeper	10
67.	6031 Jammu Tawi Express	Sleeper	12
68.	6687 Navyug Express	AC 2-Tier	2
		First	2
		Sleeper	8

Survey for Mineral Exploration in Kashmir

3086. SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geological Survey of India has recently conducted any survey in Kashmir valley for procurement of Minerals; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) In recent years, Geological Survey of India (GSI) has not conducted any mineral survey in Kashmir valley. However, mineral investigation for platinum group of minerals, base metals, lithium minerals, tin and tungsten, and dimension stone have

been undertaken by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in Jammu and Ladakh areas.

Growth Profitability of Air India

3087. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the decline in growth and profitability of Air India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and remedial measures proposed to be taken to stabilise its growth and profitability?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India incurred a net loss of Rs. 271.84 crores during 1995-96.

To improve its financial condition, Air India is taking steps to intensify marketing efforts, augment capacity, reduce non-operating costs and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

[Translation]

Pig Iron Plants

3088. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Pig iron plants operating in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar at present, separately;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up such more plants in public and private sectors in the above States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) as per available information, pig iron units operating in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar are M/s. Malvika Steel Limited, M/s Nagpur Alloy Castings Limited and M/s. Usha Martin Industries Limited respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Under the new industrial policy entrepreneurs are free to set up pig iron plants anywhere in the country subject to certain locational restrictions.

Increase in the Production Cost of Iron

3089. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item published in 'Hindustan Times' dated December 28, 1996 under caption "Mini Steel Plants on verge of closure";

(b) if so, whether due to recent price rise many small steel units in the country are on the verge of closure;

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the estimated increase in the production cost of iron due to increase in prices of coal, petroleum products electricity and rail freight from December, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Cost of power is an important element in cost of production of steel through electric Arc Furnace and Induction furnace routes which are highly power intensive. Therefore, recent price hike in power tariffs by some States has affected the performance of these sectors.

(d) The increase in prices of Coal, petroleum products, electricity and rail freight from December, 1995 has increased the cost of production of pig iron and sponge iron in the country. However, it is difficult to estimate the impact on the cost of production as it depends on various factors such as the type of product, technology, location etc.

Telephone Connections in Bihar

3090. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the gap between the demand and supply for new telephone connections in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the biggest States of the country;

(b) whether the Government have set any target in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of steps being taken to achieve the target;

(d) whether the demand for new connection is increasing in these States; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to meet this demand and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The demand and supply for new telephone connections in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Department has set targets for providing new telephone connections during the year 1996-97 :

Bihar	-	47000
Uttar Pradesh	-	155000

Also, it is proposed to clear the waiting list upto 31.3.97 progressively during 1997-98.

(c) Necessary equipments and funds for providing telephone lines have been allotted by the Government to all the Telecom Circles and the equipments have started reaching the sites. It is expected that the targets set for 1996-97 would be fully met. Action has been initiated for providing necessary equipments and materials for the year 1997-98.

(d) Yes, Sir. Demand growth rate has increased from 12.46% for the year 1994-95 to an average of 16.32 for the three years (94-97) for Bihar and from 14.62% to 18.77% for Uttar Pradesh during the same period.

(e) The objective to provide telephone connections on demand will be achieved with the participation of private sector complementing the efforts of the Government by the end of 9th Five Year Plan period.

Statement

State	Demand (as on)			Supply (Direct exchange lines (as on)		
	31.3.94	31.3.95	31.3.96	31.3.94	31.3.95	31.3.96
Bihar	238792	268541	322912	203248	247316	280431
Uttar Pradesh	667799	765420	928475	542303	658593	809929

[English]

Farakha Express

3091. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Farakha Express leaving Patna at night is fast going a dubious reputation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are complaints against the travelling ticket examiners and other Railways staff; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Four cases of robbery/dacoity from passengers in Farakha Express train have been reported during the last six months. Law and Order being a State subject, the cases have been registered with Government Railway Police/Bihar.

Twenty nine complaints against TTEs/Conductors of different mail/express trains on Eastern Railway have been received relating to malpractices/irregularities committed by TTEs/Conductors, Coach Attendants etc. In view of the seriousness of the complaints and as a result of confronted enquiries, 24 members of the staff have been punished under Discipline & Appeal Rules.

In addition, regular and special checks are being conducted jointly by Vigilance, Security and Commercial Departments to check such malpractices. 157 such checks have been conducted on Eastern Railway and 48 members of staff have been held responsible during the period from April'96 to January, '97.

Renovation of Bashirhat Telephone Exchange

3092. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not taken any positive action to change and renovate the existing telephone exchange of Bashirhat in 24 Parganas (North) West Bengal which is affecting adversely the services to telephone subscribers;

(b) whether the Government have also not taken action to connect the exchange with Calcutta telephones on a normal call charge;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) Bashirhat 700 lines strowger MAX-II Exchange has already been replaced to 1400 lines C-DOT Electronic Exchange on 13.3.96 and is working satisfactorily. Bashirhat & Calcutta belong to two different *SDCAs and as per policy of the Government calls from Bashirhat to Calcutta are charged at Normal STD rates applicable for the distance between the two.

*SDCA : Short Distance Charging Areas.

Report on Air Collision at Charkhi Dadri

3093. DR. Y. S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Court of Inquiry appointed by the Government for formal investigation of mid-air collision near Charkhi Dadri in Haryana on November 12, 1996 has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made; and

(c) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The term of the Court of Inquiry has been extended upto 15th May, 1997. It is not possible to indicate the date by which the report is likely to be submitted, at this stage.

[Translation]

Rail Link with Mewat

3094. CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has given an assurance to connect Mewat with rail;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such link is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Posting in J & K

3095. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government employees under the Ministry have a tenure posting of only one year in Ladakh division of Jammu and Kashmir and some North Eastern States of the country;

(b) whether newly recruited employees having no experience are being posted to man the vacant posts and to handle sophisticated equipment causing damage to the costly machines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the tenure of one year posting in the places mentioned above is likely to be extended to two years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Recruitment is made strictly on the basis of the recruitment Rules. Persons having requisite qualification/experience are appointed against the vacancies at different Stations including Ladakh Division of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and North Eastern States of the country.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The present tenure at difficult stations in considered appropriate.

ISD Plan for Hassan

3096. SHRI K.S. RAYADU :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "PMO Pushes Rs. 10 crore ISD Plan for Hassan" appearing in the '*Indian Express*' dated January 28, 1997;

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

(c) whether 20 UHF sets are being installed in Hassan district, Karnataka;

(d) the number and names of the districts having UHF sets in Karnataka;

(e) whether UHF sets are being installed in Hassan district, Karnataka;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the SDEs have been deputed from other districts of the State to expedite the work in Hassan district;

(h) whether MARR System is being installed in Hassan; and

(i) if so, the number and names of the districts having MARR system in Karnataka?

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

(b) It is planned to provide STD on reliable media using a combination of Optical Fibre Cable, UHF and Satellite Systems. 13 stations are being covered on Optical Fibre Cable and 4 on Radio System. In addition, it is proposed to provide Satellite communications equipment at 2 locations.

(c) 182 UHF sets have been planned for all the districts in Karnataka State. Out of this 11 will be in Hassan. Action is in hand to commission 4 sets on priority in Hassan.

(d) Total 199 UHF sets are working in 19 districts of Karnataka. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) In view of reply to (e), question does not arise.

(g) The installation work is generally handled by specialised units who are competent to carry out such works involving high technical expertise. Such units work for the state as a whole and are deputed routinely all over the state

based upon the requirements. Similar units are carrying out work in Hassan District also.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement - I

Details of UHF sets working in Karnataka

1. Bangalore	16
2. Belgaum	12
3. Bellary	2
4. Bidar	3
5. Bijapur	12
6. Chickmangloor	7
7. D. Kannada	18
8. Devangere	5
9. Gulbarga	12
10. Hassan	12
11. Hubli	19
12. Karwar	18
13. Kolar	8
14. Madikeri	7
15. Mandya	9
16. Mysore	10
17. Raichur	4
18. Shimoga	13
19. Tumkur	12

Total	199
-------	-----

Statement - II

Details of MARR sets working in Karnataka

Bangalore	23
Mysore	22
Dharwad	28
Belgaum	19
D. Kannada	4

6. Kodagu	
7. Bijapur	27
8. Raichur	36
9. Bellary	23
10. Bidar	14
11. Gulbarga	36
12. U. Kannada	31
13. Shimoga	26
14. Mandya	14
15. Tumkur	19
16. Chickmaglur	17
17. Davangere	13
18. Hassan	18
19. Kolar	22

Total	392
-------	-----

[Translation]

Villages without Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh

3097. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages without Post Offices in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh as on December 31, 1996; District-wise;

(b) the number of villages in the above States having postal facilities; District-wise, Category-wise; and

(c) the details of Post offices proposed to be set-up in future District-wise, Category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of villages without post offices in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh as on December 31, 1996. District-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The number of villages in the above states having postal facilities District-wise are given in the enclosed Statement-II. •

(c) Post offices are opened progressively under Annual Plans, subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

Statement - I

Number of villages without post offices in Madhya Pradesh as on December 31, 1996 District-Wise

S.No.	Name of Districts	Number of Villages without post offices as on 31.12.1996
1	2	3
1.	Balaghat	1060
2.	Bastar	3117
3.	Betul	1122
4.	Bhind	643
5.	Bhopal	451
6.	Bilaspur	2905
7.	Chhatarpur	874
8.	Chhindwara	1653
9.	Damoh	1034
10.	Datia	316
11.	Dewas	905
12.	Dhar	1294
13.	Durg	1526
14.	Guna	1881
15.	Gwalior	577
16.	Hoshangabad	1203
17.	Indore	517
18.	Jabalpur	1952
19.	Jhabua	1559
20.	Khandwa	862
21.	Khargone	1607
22.	Mandla	1902
23.	Mandsour	1296
24.	Morena	1054
25.	Narsinghpur	870
26.	Panna	795
27.	Raigarh	1789
28.	Raipur	3314
29.	Raisen	1236
30.	Raigarh (Bio)	1522

1	2	3
31.	Rajnandgaon	2074
32.	Ratlam	897
33.	Rewa	2041
34.	Sagar	1688
35.	Satna	1519
36.	Sehore	865
37.	Seoni	1402
38.	Shahdol	1718
39.	Shajapur	909
40.	Shivpuri	1119
41.	Sidhi	1641
42.	Surguja (Ambikapur)	2150
43.	Tikamgarh	696
44.	Ujjain	931
45.	Vidisha	1374

Statement - II

Number of Villages in the state of Gujarat having Postal Facility, District-wise, Category-wise

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of villages having post offices category-wise			
		Depart-mental Sub Post Offices (DSOs)	Extra-Depart-mental Sub Post Offices (EDSOs)	Extra-Depart-mental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ahmedabad	20	3	399	422
2.	Amroli	19	3	283	305
3.	Banaskantha	24	1	411	436
4.	Bharuch	45	4	429	478
5.	Bhavnagar	22	-	404	426
6.	Dang	5	-	51	56
7.	Gandhinagar	13	1	50	64
8.	Jamnagar	18	-	324	342
9.	Junagarh	29	1	442	472
10.	Kheda	82	8	478	568
11.	Kutch Bhuj	34	2	435	471
12.	Mahesana	37	9	500	546
13.	Panchmahal	22	4	488	514

1	2	3	4	5	6
14. Rajkot	30		1	415	446
15. Sabarkantha	38		1	511	550
16. Surat	37		1	518	556
17. Surendranagar	16		-	293	309
18. Vadodara	36		7	566	609
19. Valsad	56		1	473	530
Total	583		47	7470	8100

Number of Villages in the State of Madhya Pradesh having Postal Facility, District-wise, Category-wise

Sl. No.	Name of Districts	Number of villages having post offices category-wise			
		Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs)	Extra Departmental Post Offices (EDSOs)	Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs)	Total

1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bhopal	3	-	58	61
2.	Chhatarpur	7	1	196	204
3.	Panna	4	1	139	144
4.	Tikamgarh	5	-	161	166
5.	Sagar	9	1	190	200
6.	Damoh	10	1	141	152
7.	Hoshangabad	9	4	208	221
8.	Narsinghpur	10	-	162	172
9.	Vidisha	6	2	140	148
10.	Raisen	9	3	183	195
11.	Guna	8	1	166	175
12.	Shivpuri	11	5	201	217
13.	Gwalior	2	-	132	134
14.	Datia	3	-	90	93
15.	Sehore	8	-	131	139
16.	Raigarh (Bio)	6	3	144	153
17.	Indore	7	2	108	117
18.	Dewas	4	-	149	153
19.	Dhar	15	11	173	199

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Khandwa (EN)	15	2	187	204
21.	Khargone	15	10	260	285
22.	Mandsaur	17	4	267	288
23.	Morena	6	1	235	242
24.	Bhind	5	1	228	234
25.	Ratlam	9	4	144	157
26.	Jhabua	5	-	150	155
27.	Ujjain	11	-	149	150
28.	Shajapur	7	1	153	161
29.	Raipur	20	-	523	543
30.	Jabalpur	5	1	289	295
31.	Bilaspur	24	-	572	596
32.	Shahdol	-	-	261	261
33.	Sidhi	1	-	176	177
34.	Raigarh	19	-	386	405
35.	Surguja	24	-	237	261
36.	Chhindwara	4	1	234	239
37.	Betul	12	-	195	207
38.	Rewa	14	-	293	307
39.	Sarna	8	-	256	264
40.	Balaghat	15	-	192	207
41.	Mandla	6	-	199	207
42.	Seoni	9	-	174	183
43.	Bastar	30	-	518	548
44.	Durg	6	-	263	169
45.	Rajnandgaon	3	-	198	201

[English]

Airport capacity in the Country

3098. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the existing airport capacity, region-wise;

(b) the airports in the country which are not being used to their full capacity; and

(c) the details of plan launched by the Government for the proper utilization of these airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There are 5 international airports, 87 domestic airports and 28 civil enclaves under the control of Airports Authority of India (AAI). Certain regional groupings have been made only for administrative convenience. No statistical data on region-wise airport capacity is maintained.

(b) Utilisation of airport depends on various factors like, length of the runway, terminal building capacity, navigational aids, traffic potential etc. Therefore, it is very difficult to classify airports based on capacity utilisation as the criteria. However, in general, 5 international airports and only few major domestic airports and civil enclaves are optimally used.

(c) It is for the airline operators to decide on the extension of their services to any airport subject to their commercial judgement.

[Translation]

Foreign Visits

3099. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Steel Delegations from his Ministry have gone abroad during each of the last three years;

(b) the names of the countries which the above delegations have visited;

(c) the purpose of foreign tours of the delegations; and

(d) the extent of benefit drawn by these delegations from these tours alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The year-wise details of the delegation is given below :

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Delegations</u>
1994	7
1995	10
1996	9

(b) The delegations visited the following countries; Australia, China, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, U.K, U.S.A., South Korea, Belgium, Nepal, Ukraine, Hongkong, Italy, Romania.

(c) The delegations undertook these visits mainly for promotion of bilateral trade, participation in Joint Commission meetings, exploring and development of new markets for exports etc. and attending of technical seminars.

(d) The benefits accruing from such visits may not always be immediately quantifiable.

[Translation]

Steel Plants in the Country

3100. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of small steel plants functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the production made by these plants during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) the problems being faced by these plants; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to solve those problems?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Besides the integrated steel plants, steel is also produced by the relatively smaller capacity steel plants comprising Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) and large number of Induction Furnace units functioning mostly in the small scale sector and scattered all over the country. As in December, 1996, 95 EAF units covering a capacity of 7.97 million tonnes were reportedly functioning in the country. The State-wise details of these units are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The production of the EAF based steel plants during the last two years is as under:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Production</u>
1994-95	3.07 million tonnes
1995-96	3.21 million tonnes

(c) The performance of this sector has been affected due to various reasons such as inadequate availability of power and increase in input costs like power, steel melting scrap and uneconomic production capacity, outdated technology, labour, financial and managerial problems etc.

(d) As most of these units are in private sector, initiative has to come from them to modernise and be cost-competitive in changed economic scenario. Besides this, it has been suggested to the State Governments to consider supplying uninterrupted power to these units at concessional rates.

Statement

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>No. of Units Functioning</u>	<u>Capacity (in tons)</u>
1	2	3	4

1 Northern Region

Delhi	-	-
Haryana	5	3,32,500
Himachal Pradesh	3	1,50,000

1	2	3	4
Jammu & Kashmir	2	36,000	
Punjab	8	3,66,500	
Rajasthan	2	1,22,000	
Uttar Pradesh	10	2,94,000	
Chandigarh	1	40,000	

2. *Eastern Region*

Assam	-	-
Bihar	4	1,48,000
Orissa	2	53,000
West Bengal	13	3,65,500

3. *Western Region*

Goa	1	1,50,000
Gujarat	3	20,66,000]
Madhya Pradesh	9	9,67,000
Maharashtra	14	18,30,000

4. *Southern Region*

Andhra Pradesh	3	1,27,000
Karnataka	8	3,88,000
Kerala	1	50,000
Pondicherry	1	29,000
Tamil Nadu	5	3,58,000

Total	95	79,72,500
		or say 7.972 m tonnes

Rural PCO

3101. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exchanges in the country which link the rural PCOs;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up exchanges in all the Development Blocks;

(c) if so, by when;

(d) whether the Government are aware about the corruption being practised by Divisional Engineers in Telecommunication system established through PCOs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are about 18,000 rural exchanges in the country and most of them have rural PCOs connected to them.

(b) and (c) There is no specific proposal to set up exchanges in all Development Blocks. However, as per policy of the Department, a Telephone Exchange is planned at a site when the paid Registered Demand reaches 10 or more.

(d) and (e) Some complaint have been received. Suitable action is being taken by the Department whenever such cases are reported.

Compensation to Persons Killed in Rail Accidents

3102. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of compensation given to persons killed due to train accidents for the untimely deaths differs very much;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring uniformity in the amount of compensation given for untimely deaths;

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Extension to Chairman, VSNL

3103. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred question No. 5401, dated September 12, 1996 and state :

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

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for giving further extension to the Chairman, VSNL till his retirement;

(d) whether he is aware that the Chairman, VSNL has tried to influence the inquiry in this favour;

(e) if so, whether he is also aware that the Chairman, VSNL is trying to get the former Chief Financial Officer who was on deputation from DOT appointed as Director (Finance) so that he could get all the financial irregularities done by him, regularised by the Director (Finance);

(f) whether the Government propose to order a CBI inquiry to go into the nexus between the Chairman, VSNL and that former Chief Financial Officer in regard to all Financial decision taken by these two officers; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Extension has been given as per rules.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Selection of Director (Finance) is to be done on the recommendation of the Public Enterprises Selection Board.

(f) and (g) At present there is no proposal to conduct a CBI Inquiry as the Government has not found any reasons to order one.

Development of Tourism in North-Eastern Region

3104. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps initiated for development of tourism industry in the North-Eastern region of the country;

(b) the increase in the number of foreign tourists to the North-Eastern region after lifting to Restrictive Area Permit (RAP);

(c) the number of tourists visited year-wise from the year RAP was lifted;

(d) the number of projects financed by ITDC along with the amount allocated to the North-Eastern region during each of the last three years and the comparative figures for other States;

(e) the new proposals of the Government in the pipeline for North-Eastern region; and

(f) the number of projects financed by the Department of Tourism along with the amounts in the North Eastern region during each of the three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (f) To encourage the development of tourism including the North Eastern region, the Department of Tourism has constituted a task force. In addition, a Special Cell on the North-East has been constituted to monitor the tourism development activities in the region. The details of Central Financial Assistance extended to the North Eastern region during the last three years in as follows :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u> (Rs. in lakhs)	<u>Project</u>
1993-94	421.66	38
1994-95	300.90	23
1995-96	414.89	34

The Restricted Area Permit (RAP) is still operative in some States of the North Eastern Region. The number of Foreign tourist and total tourist arrivals to North Eastern Region for the last three years is as follows :

	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>
Foreign Tourist Arrivals	1115	1795	2097
Total Tourist Arrival	520922	591542	579053

During the last three years, ITDC has not undertaken any new project in the North Eastern Region.

New proposals for an amount of Rs. 777.33 lakhs stands identified for the year 1996-97 for the North Eastern Region in consultation with the State Governments.

Statement Correcting the reply to USQ No. 1942 dated 5th December, 1996 regarding flight from Delhi to Rajkot and Ahmedabad

In reply to part (b), (c) & (d) of Lok Sabha USQ. No. 1942 on 5th December, 1996 regarding Flight from Delhi to Rajkot and Ahmedabad it was stated that:

"NEPC Airlines is operating a daily flight on the sector Delhi-Rajkot via Mumbai. Delhi is airlinked with Ahmedabad with two daily flights by Indian Airlines and one daily flight by Jet Airways direct between Delhi and Ahmedabad and three weekly flights by Indian Airlines via Jaipur".

2. On further scrutiny, it was found that the tri-weekly flights by Indian Airlines operating between Ahmedabad and Jaipur do not connect Delhi.

3. The error is regretted.

4. The correct reply is as follows :-

"NEPC Airlines is operating a daily flight on the sector Delhi-Rajkot via Mumbai. Delhi is airlinked with Ahmedabad with two daily flights by Indian Airlines and one daily flight by Jet Airways direct between Delhi and Ahmedabad".

5. Since the discrepancy in the answer, due to oversight, came to notice only recently, the reply could not be corrected earlier.

The delay in correcting the reply is regretted.

Delay statement correcting the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1942 in Lok Sabha on 5th December, 1996 regarding flight from Delhi to Rajkot and Ahmedabad

The reply furnished to the above mentioned question was not worded properly and the error in the above mentioned Question was noticed only on 11th December, 1996.

Therefore, it was not possible to lay a correcting statement in the House during Winter Session.

The correcting Statement is now being laid on the Table of the House in the current Session of Parliament.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review of the Working of National Film Development Corporation, Mumbai for the year 1995-96

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : I beg to lay on the Table -

A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the National Film Development Corporation, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96.
- (2) Annual Report of the National Film Development Corporation, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1549/97]

Annual Reports of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering and Nutrition, Applied Nutrition and Catering Technology, Delhi, Mumbai, Madras, Goa, Calcutta, Bangalore, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad etc. for the year 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I beg to lay on the Table -

- 1 (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1550/97]

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Mumbai for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1551/97]

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Madras, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1552/97]

- (iv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Goa, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1553/97]

- (v) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1554/97]

- (vi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1555/97]

- (vii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Lucknow, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1556/97]

- (viii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1557/97]

- (ix) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Ahmedabad, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1558/97]

- (x) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1559/97]

- (xi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Jaipur, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1560/97]

- (xii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhopal, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1561/97]

- (xiii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Gwalior, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1562/97]

- (xiv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1563/97]

- (xv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Hotel Management Catering and Nutrition, Chandigarh, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1564/97]

- (xvi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering and Nutrition, Gurdaspur, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1565/97]

- (xvii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Srinagar, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1566/97]

- (xviii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Guwahati, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1567/97]

- (xix) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Pondicherry Institute of Hospitality Crafts, Pondicherry for the year 1995-96, along with audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1568/97]

- (xx) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1569/97]

- (b) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English Version) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Goa, Calcutta, Bangalore, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Bhopal, Gwalior, Thiruvananthapuram, Chandigarh, Gurdaspur, Srinagar, Guwahati, Foodcraft Institutes at Pondicherry and National Council for Hotel Management, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1570/97]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 12th March, 1997, agreed without any amendment to the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Amendment Bill, 1997, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th March, 1997."

12.03¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Second Report

[English]

SHRI A.G.S. RAMBABU (Madurai) : I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

Fortieth, Forty-First and Forty-Second Reports

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) each of the Fortieth, Forty-First and Forty-Second reports of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on "Mid-term" appraisal of programmes and functioning of (i) the Department of Biotechnology with special emphasis on the role of Biotechnology in Agriculture and allied areas; (ii) Department of Science and Technology; and (iii) Department of Space, respectively.

12.03¾ hrs.

CORRECTING REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 34 DATED 21ST NOVEMBER, 1996 REGARDING LONG RANGE AIRCRAFT

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : In reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 34 on 21st November, 1996 regarding long Range Aircraft, it was stated that :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The aircraft under consideration are A340-300 manufactured by Airbus Industrie, B-777 by Boeing Airplane Company and MD-11 by Mc Donnell Douglas Corp. The proposal is at present under consideration of a Sub-Committee of the Board of Air India, It is not possible to indicate any timeframe within which final decision is likely to be taken.

On scrutiny later, it was found that there was an inadvertent error in reply to part (a) of the question. Instead of the correct answer 'No, Sir', it was erroneously typed as 'Yes, Sir'. The error is deeply regretted.

The reply to part (a) of the question should read as follows:

(a) No, Sir.

The delay in correcting the reply is regretted.

12.04 hrs.

MOTION RE: ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 12th March 1997."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 12th March, 1997."

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have serious objection to the report of the Business Advisory Committee presented by the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister to the approval of the House. If you go through it you will find that item number 7 to 10, are matter regarding Uttar Pradesh. The budget of Uttar Pradesh is also included in it alongwith the Demands for Grants for Uttar Pradesh. It also includes the Supplementary Demands for Grants and the statutory resolution to extend the President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh. I am at a loss to understand that the people there have elected 425 candidates. At first the Government was not constituted there. Now the administration of Uttar Pradesh is accountable to the Parliament for each and every work and it is said in the report of B.A.C. and when it comes to holding a discussion on it, it is mentioned in the Report of BAC.

[English]

May be disposed of without discussion.

[Translation]

All the four things are clear. The grants of Uttar Pradesh the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Uttar Pradesh and even the resolution for extending the period of President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh. It should be passed in this House without discussion and the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is mestering the courage to get it done.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question of the courage.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Whenever we raise a matter regarding Uttar Pradesh then the Government says that discussion can be held at the time of presenting the budget. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, it seems that there is no communication between the leaders and the workers in that party.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Sir, this word, 'himmat' should be expunged from the proceedings. This should not be allowed. That is not a parliamentary expression. I request you to expunge it. This is a constitutional question. This word should be expunged from the proceedings. This is my submission.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : What is unparliamentary in it? We will hold discussion on it at the time of presenting the resolution to extend the duration of President's Rule. Now, it is being said that it is no body's business. Discussions on it will not be allowed, the Government will not be formed there. After all, U.P. is the largest state in India and you will turn it into no body's business. If discussion in the House is not allowed then Uttar Pradesh would be at whose mercy. The recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee are also approved and if someone recommends that the resolution to extend the President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh would be passed without discussion.(Interruptions)

[English]

Is it nobody's business?

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you give a ruling, I want to raise a question.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot give a ruling. How can I give a ruling? This has to be voted by the House.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, I have given it in writing and I want to supplement it here, I have raised an objection under the Constitution of India. Article 356 says, ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

..... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We are talking about the Report of the Business Advisory Committee. We are not talking about the Resolution now. Please sit down.

Shrimati Swaraj, this is a decision, which was taken after due discussion in the Business Advisory Committee. It is not the Government which is bringing forward a proposal. So, you cannot ask how the Business Advisory Committee could make this recommendation. .

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : B.A.C. merely gives the recommendations it is for the House to approve them. If B.A.C. recommends that the President's Rule should be extended without discussion then how will we not object? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : It is there on the Agenda and we have to discuss the UP Budget in Parliament.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, I have raised an objection under the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER : Would you kindly listen to me? Shri Lodha, that objection is not to be raised at this stage. You have not understood it. I have understood the notice given by you. This is not the time for you to stand up. Please sit down, You have been the Chief Justice of a High Court.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is 'judicial activism'.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir you need not reply if you do not want to answer my question, but it should not be a matter of not allowing a Member to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lodha, your notice is for opposing the Resolution of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs for extension of President's rule. Is it not? Has that matter come up now? You are opposing the Resolution and the Resolution has not been taken up now. You must understand that.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : He does not understand that(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : My question is this. Was any hon. Member from BJP present in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee or not? The Report of the BAC is a unanimous Report(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, it seems that there is communication gap in that Party between the Members belonging to the first row and the second row(Interruptions) And also between one another. If they want a little more time to explain to them, let them take...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, the CPI (M) leader who is the member of the Business Advisory Committee has spoken something casting aspersions on us. We were there and there is proper communication between us and the party Members.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not like that.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Normally, I would not have revealed what happened in the Business Advisory Committee(Interruptions) When this issue came up before the Committee, we had said that we were not agreeable to that, So, a senior Member cannot come and say something like this. It is unfair to us. We are helping the Business Advisory Committee by remaining present to ensure that the business goes on smoothly.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : May I make it clear?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have to be practical.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Look here. We have to pass so many Bills. Ten Ordinances have to be passed, Railway Budget has to be passed and Vote on Account has to be passed. So much business is there before the House.

With regard to U.P., we have to discuss the Budget of U.P., we have to discuss on Demands for Grants of U.P., we have to discuss the extension of President's Rule in U.P. and then we have to discuss Motion under Rule 184. Now, for each item on U.P., if we go on discussing, discussing and discussing, then where is the time for other business of the House?

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not allow me to finish?

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think I am partly responsible for that. I emphasised that the whole nation was expecting us to discuss Motion under Rule 184. Therefore, the entire, substantive and real good debate should be under Rule 184 so that we would be benefited. Therefore, instead of repeating again and again discussions on U.P. on several matters, let us dispose of other businesses regarding U.P. without discussion and concentrate on our debate on the Motion under Rule 184. That was the consensus in the Business Advisory Committee. I think the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is very right in presenting this. He is very right regarding that.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Question is :

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 12th March, 1997."

Those in favour will please say 'Aye'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : 'Aye'.

MR. SPEAKER : Those against will please say 'No'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : 'No'(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, we want division. How can you do it without discussion?(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Sir, we want division.(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, we want division....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, this is not right.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : You can not do it in this way. There should be division on it(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : We want a division.(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an attack on the rights of the House.....(Interruptions) It is an attack on the rights of the hon. Members.....(Interruptions) It is our right and we want a division on the report of the B.A.C.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, do not break the convention.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): It is the age-old convention of this House that the Business Advisory Committee unanimously decides and on certain occasions, it authorises the hon. Speaker to do certain things.

If a 'division' is allowed now, in future our party will not attend the Business Advisory Committee meetings(Interruptions) Every time it is being done like this and I shall appeal to them(Interruptions) What is this?(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It is totally unconstitutional(Interruptions) Without discussion, how can everything be passed?(Interruptions) How can it be possible?....(Interruptions) Sir, the Business Advisory Committee has to function under the Constitution(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, apart from the convention, you have made certain observations from the Chair as to the understanding of the deliberations of the BAC so far as you are concerned.(Interruptions) I would like to know this very humbly(Interruptions) Are my friends in the BJP challenging your statement?(Interruptions) Are they challenging your observations?(Interruptions) If a proper respect is not shown to the Chair, how can they talk about democracy?(Interruptions) I would like to know whether the Leader of the Opposition is challenging your observation.(Interruptions) I would like to know this(Interruptions) Let them say that.(Interruptions)

12.18½ hrs.

At this stage, Col. Sona Ram Choudhary and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am Sorry to say.(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) Today we will not listen your(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You Please Speak, I will take my seat(Interruptions)

[English]

12.19 hrs.

At this stage Col. Sona Ram Choudhary and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is very bad that such a situation has cropped up in the House. I have been in the House for so many years and I do not remember that such a serious difference cropped up in the House on the report of the B.A.C. which can not be covered up. I had discussions with my colleagues and as per the information given to me by them, there can not be any decision on the issue of extending the President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh without discussion and that situation prevails even today. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you yourself have accepted it Justice Guman Mal Lodha ji has written in his letter that whenever the hon. Home Minister would bring his resolution, he would raise constitutional objection on that. The discussion would be held. The issue of Uttar Pradesh is a complicated one and that should be discussed in the House(Interruptions) Let me speak. I do not interrupt anyone and if you interrupt, there would be no discussion(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you complicating the matter?(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: They are creating trouble in Rajasthan and here also they are doing so(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with your sentiments. You want to give more time for 184, we welcome it. You have accepted. Otherwise those who are sitting on the other side do not wish to accept it. It is a must that a discussion should be held on that but it does not mean that the legally complicated matter of extending the President's Rule through a resolution should be approved without any discussion. Being the Member of the House, we would like to fulfill our duty and we expected that the Business Advisory Committee would not take such a decision. You are right that there would be consensus.

[English]

But consensus is not unanimity.

[Translation]

If a part of such a big House feels otherwise then, I do not understand that anyone will have objection in it. President's Rule is being reimposed in Uttar Pradesh or it is being extended, the matter is in the Supreme Court. High Court has given a decision. All these questions are to be discussed. We are going to bring a resolution to call the Attorney General in the House to know his opinion and you insist to pass it without discussion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Vajpayee, if I can intervene, I would like to say that I have, right from the beginning, told Justice Lodha that I have received his notice and that he has raised a basic constitutional question in this regard and that I will allow him to submit his point of view. Naturally, once I allow him, then others also will like to speak. As far as the constitutionality of either extension or imposition is concerned, I have already agreed. I have agreed that I will allow that.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Then what does it mean to say that it should be passed without discussion? The discussion would be there. My submission is that an item should be removed from it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a subsequent development

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : BAC has given its Report. I have received the notice of Shri Lodha. He had raised a constitutional question and I have said that I am allowing that. I cannot deny any Member of Parliament raising a constitutional issue.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It was never said and you never observed that a constitutional issue will never be allowed to be raised.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I never said so.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Well, I do not have to say anything. Let us then have a discussion as to what happened there. Let the tape be played.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Yes, let the tape be played, I am astounded that such a senior Member, a good friend of mine, is speaking like this (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have never said it. I have said ultimately that Shri Jaswant Singh was demanding all the time that the matter under Rule 184 should be discussed first (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is not the question of demanding all the time (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir I am sure he will agree with me. He said that the Matter under Rule 184 should be discussed first. It was his persistent demand that Matter under Rule 184 should be discussed first (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I raised the question of constitutional propriety in the BAC (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : In fact, after the BAC meeting, when I was going home, the Press was waiting for me and they were asking me this question. And I said, why that question is raised.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, in the BAC meeting itself, before any of the listed agenda items were taken up, I submitted to you that we have to first decide on the question of extension of President's rule in U.P. We have to decide whether it is a constitutional amendment or whether it is a simple resolution.

You were good enough to direct your staff to look into it. The Minister did not even have the information on this subject. The Minister then said that the Cabinet was yet to meet to discuss that matter. I have been forced and compelled to say all this about the BAC. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the matter is settled now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Of course, I admit that Shri Jaswant Singh said that (Interruptions) Initially,

he said that. He was insisting that the discussion under Rule 184 should be taken up first. I hope, you remember that. Then, what was said was that an adequate time should be given for the discussion under Rule 184. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us now listen to Shri Chandra Shekhar.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : I think, the Leader of the Opposition has very clearly expressed his views. It is Justified.

By your admitting that you have asked Justice Lodha to raise his objection, you have also accepted that there will be some debate or discussion on the extension of President's Rule.

The only point is how to find time about it Mr. Speaker, you can decide about the time. The House can sit late. Once you accept it is principle that there will be some discussion about the constitutionality or otherwise, I think, this problem is solved.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, it is all right.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : That Report is not so important as the ruling or the verdict has been given by the Speaker. So, one should not go into the technicalities.

The Reports of the Business Advisory Committee are not discussed in the House. We are not observing any technicalities. Do not try to be very technical. Otherwise, this House will not run. It is the cooperation and goodwill of all sections of the House. The Leader of the Opposition has said something.

MR. SPEAKER, you have made your observation. That should end the matter. This is my request.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not break the convention, I am allowing a discussion. I have said so.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Does the Government want to say something?

MR. SPEAKER : I have decided about it. They will have to.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Whatever may be said, the Report of the Committee is correct.

MR. SPEAKER : We will have it

..... (Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you protesting?

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Business advisory Committee presented to the House on the 12th March, 1997."

The motion was adopted.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : It will not be allowed(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAN SNAKHAR RAWAT (Agra) : We will safeguard the interest of Uttar Pradesh at any cost, Central Government are bent upon to harm the interest of Uttar Pradesh. You allow discussion on Uttar Pradesh democracy is being dethroned there (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Speaker, Sir with your permission I would like to raise matter of urgent public importance.

The sugarcane producers in Uttar Pradesh are not getting the price of sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 72 and Rs. 76 per quintal as has been declared by Uttar Pradesh Government.

Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh have obtained hon'ble Allahabad High Court orders against the declared price of Uttar Pradesh Government wherein it has been observed that mill owners are not bound to give advisory price of Uttar Pradesh Government. Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh has sent an ordinance in this regard to the Central Government for its approval so as to resolve this problem. Once this ordinance comes into force Uttar Pradesh Government will get a constitutional right to determine the price of sugarcane.

Thereafter, Sugar Mills will be bound to give official price of sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 72 and Rs. 76 per quintal. Recently, in reply to a supplementary of my starred question number 42 dated 25th Feb. 91 hon'ble Food Minister Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav has assured in Lok Sabha that approval would be given to this ordinance within a week in the interest of the farmers. But today 16 days have passed. It is a collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers. Therefore, I request the Government of India that keeping in view the assurance given by Hon'ble Minister of Food in Lok Sabha, clearance be given to the sugarcane ordinance of Uttar Pradesh immediately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir you please issue directives to the Government in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would give you a chance please keep quite.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you keep quiet you would get a chance. But if you make noise, you would not get a chance to speak.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI S.P. UDAYAPPAN (Ramanathapuram) : Sir, in the recent months, the fishermen of Rameswaram have been annoyed by the Sri Lankan Navy personnel. They had arrested 41 fishermen, six mechanised boats and two country boats about four months back. All of them belong to Pamban. The Government of India responded favourably to my efforts and recently the Sri Lankan Government released 21 fishermen so far.

The hon. Minister of External Affairs, Shri I. K. Gujral, has also written a letter to me regarding early release of fishermen. But that was in vain. The rest of 20 fishermen should be released immediately and the eight boats should be given back to the respective fishermen. In order to safeguard the interests of the fishermen from this disaster, Article 5 and 6 of the Katcha Theevu Agreement should be implemented.

I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of External Affairs to intervene in this matter and urge upon the Sri Lankan Government to expedite the move for releasing the remaining twenty fishermen immediately.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the unconstitutional decisions being taken by B.J.P. Government in Rajasthan - Today because of different type of difficulty we are present before you. (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please Madam.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir,(Interruptions)*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is a matter pertaining to the State Assembly. How are you raising Assembly matter here?

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not raise Assembly matter here. Do not set a bad precedent. Not allowed.

..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, you can not raise Assembly matters here.

12.34 hrs.

(At this Stage Dr. Girija Vyas walked out the House)

[Translation]

SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH (Muzaffarnagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir Ganga has a special significance in this country but the Ganga canal has its special value in the doab of Ganga and Yamuna. It is serving the farmers for hundreds of years. It has a vast fertile land suitable for growing sugar first time the flow of this canal is being blocked from 15 April to 15 May. As a result of which the soil of Ganga would be denuded to a great extent and due to the non-availability of water there would be a great difficulty to the people. I would like to state that the flow of this canal should not be blocked in any case from 15 April to 15 May. It has never been done so far it is blocked only during the rainy season. Its flow should not be blocked from 15 April to 15 May.

I would like to submit through you that orders should be issued to the Uttar Pradesh Government that the flow of this canal should not be blocked at this time so that farmers can may continue to irrigate their fields.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker Sir I would like to draw your attention towards the riots which took place in Bhagalpur of Bihar as a very large scale in the country. At that time Bihar Government has provided grant to the victims of these riots. In these riots both the communities Hindu and Muslims suffered. But now Bihar Government is taking back that amount with interest.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a state subject. How can you mention it here.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Case is being registered against those persons who are not refunding this amount. This is the condition of the State, you can find out. (Interruptions) so far as the matter of life and property is concerned, there is no safety for it. About five thousand 'Madarsa' teachers in Bihar are on hunger strike but no body is there to listen to their grievances. I have come prepared with points if you allow me I can submit. Bihar Government has announced that pay and other facilities would be provided to the teachers of Urdu Colleges and 'Madarsas' at par with the teachers of Hindi Colleges and schools but no action has been taken so far in this regard. Five thousand people are suffering. 51 Muslims have been put behind the bar by the State Government on the charges of having involvement in the riots but there is none to redress their grievances, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection otherwise situation can aggravate in the State. I want protection from the Government. This Government claims to follow the path of social justice but they are putting Bhagalpur riot victims in the jails. Is this social justice and is this Government advocating the course of social justice?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will bring it to the notice of the Government.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Please give me protection.

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough. Please, do not insist on it now. I have given you a chance.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will bring it to the notice of the Government.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Thank you, Sir.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the House and of the whole country towards a problem which in my opinion is quite serious. On the 12th of March, the 'Business Standard' published a news saying that a notice has been given to the Government of India, that an international organisation, which is not a Government organisation and which gives opinion about the credit worthiness of any country, has put about 46 questions to the Government of India. All these questions relate to major economic policies about disinvestment, privatisation, insurance or subsidy. Everything that we can imagine, has been raised in it.

The news reads like, "Tough Moody's Posers to decide India's Ratings". Earlier it was the World Bank and IMF and

now Moody's is giving a notice. It is not a big news item. If you want, I can read it out. It is in such a language that any Indian would feel ashamed of it. I do not know what is the reaction of the Government. According to my information, the Government is trying to give answers to all these questions. They are making preparations for that. It will not be known to this House. It will not be known to the people of this country. This policy matters will be divulged to an organisation called Moody's in order to get the credit worthiness certificate for this country. It is a private organisation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I shall just read it out :

"International rating agency Moody's Investor Services has posed several tough queries before the Government on issues ranging from integration of the oil pool deficit into the Centre's finances, inflexibility of public sector spending and the Government's failure to adhere to public sector disinvestment schedules.

The Government's response to these queries will determine Moody's decision to retain India under credit watch. The agency put the country on credit watch with negative implications just a week after the Budget. The report was prepared prior to the Budget presentation. The agency's sovereign risk unit has listed 46 issues to the Finance Ministry for discussion during its visit in the third week of March.

Moody's also expects a time-table for capital account convertibility, opening up of the insurance, pension and provident fund sector. It also wants a preview in the long-term strategy for deregulating administered prices and reducing subsidies.

The queries are divided into seven heads: fiscal policy, deregulation, industrial policy, domestic debt management, external accounts, policy, and prices on monetary and exchange rate besides external commercial borrowings.

The Government has also been asked to identify the factors that contribute to the inflexibility in public sector spending and the political and economic constraints in cutting fiscal imbalances.

Moody's has queried if the political environment has changed to push through reforms in this sector.

On the Oil Pool Account, Moody's has asked how it will be integrated into the Central Government finances. This is significant as the Oil Pool Deficit does not form part of the fiscal deficit. On the disinvestment front, Moody's has asked why the schedules are not adhered to.

Moody's has asked the Centre what instruments it possesses to control State and local spending. It also wants to know now the Centre deals with the non-payments and roll-overs of States.

On infrastructure, Moody's has asked about a long-term policy to encourage private investment and the view on Government guarantees for projects.

Moody's has come down very hard on the Government over domestic debt management. Is the burden of a large public sector debt perceived by the present Government?' it said and also asked for the measures to stabilise this debt. The Government has been told to list the fiscal tools intended to be used in the domestic demand management in 1997-98.

On external accounts, Moody's has asked how much additional tariff liberalisation can be tolerated in advance of revenue reforms. This is an important query as the reduction in tariffs will result in a fall in Government revenue which has to be offset by revenue reforms".

This is the news item, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Prime Minister is present here and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is also not present (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all are sitting here. We will pass on whatever is being said by the hon. Member.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Even if they are present I do not expect much from them. I am very frank. They are under such a great pressure. It is not the only news item. On the same page there is another news from International Monetary Fund. Where are we heading to, Mr. Speaker? I am not criticising anybody. I do not want that anybody should answer this question because the Finance Minister will come here and make a statement in flowery language and everybody will feel satisfied. We have never had such a brilliant Finance Minister!

I expect a reaction from Shri Somnath Chatterji, I expect it from friends who have adhered to certain policies. It is not the question, Mr. Speaker, only of economic policy. It is not the question, of dignity, honour, sovereignty of this nation. and this is at stake, Mr. Speaker. I shall like to know from the Government whether they are going to respond to this in the third week of March without bringing all these matters before this House? Because these are vital policy issues, Mr. Speaker, I sent this notice to you yesterday because I never rise up in the Zero Hour.

But, I think, this is such a vital matter that we just cannot ignore it. I shall like you, Mr. Speaker, to use your good offices to see this so that this Government sees some point in defending the honour and dignity of this nation. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I want to make one observation. I would like to know whether the Government of India has asked for this rating. If not, I do not know on what basis the questionnaire has been put. It should be clarified by the Government.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : That is what I said.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Certainly, there is no question of compromising our dignity. We shall never allow that to happen.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : The Government should tell that. The Government should explain their position. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : The Government should reply. No compromise will be made with the sovereignty of the country.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue raised is very important and it is related with the self esteem of the country. Any private agency may undertake rating on its own we do not bother about it. They are free to do that. But the way of questioning and the stance shown by them indicate as if our future depends on their questioning and rating. They have tried to create such an impression. The Government should tell Moody company that we will not give any reply to your queries. Ours is an independent and open country. You may draw any conclusion that you like but we do not like such questioning. This should be clearly told.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, just one point. I do not think that is enough.

MR. SPEAKER : I think that is enough. I shall have to ask the Leader of the Opposition that something should be done.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We would like to know from the Government whether they approached Moody on their own.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the same question has been asked by Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : No. It is because that itself will indicate to what level of subservience we had been dragged into in the last few years. Therefore, that question should be answered first by the Government. And secondly, they have to confirm whether or not such a questionnaire has been sent to them. It is because, all these are Press reports.

MR. SPEAKER : I think it has already been said. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has already said this. Now, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, from our side, we share the concern expressed by the hon. ex-Prime Minister along with other leaders of this House. The country's prestige, sovereignty and dignity should not be compromised with any one, private company or any other country. This is our policy. Having heard what has been said here, I think, the Government will be kind enough - if any such thing is there - to come and apprise the House and with the consent of the House, that should be done. Nothing else will satisfy us.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, at least, the Government should clarify whether such questions have been asked *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Your Leader has said so Why are you repeating it?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : That is not being responded.

12.48 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair]

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Bhoi.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, before you go to the other issue, I would like to say just one sentence.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have already gone to the other issue. That issue has already been closed.

..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : That is why the issues are getting mixed up.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Bhoi, you may speak after him.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I would like to say only one sentence. It has been stated that the Government of India should inform that private concern that they are not going to reply to their questionnaire. I think instead of replying to them, the Government must simply ignore that questionnaire altogether and consign it to their files. There should be no reply. The questionnaire that had been put by that concern to our Government asking so many questions must be totally ignored and not replied in the interest of the honour and dignity of the nation. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I fully endorse Shri Banatwalla's view. We should just ignore it *(Interruptions)*

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : Sir, the 'Rhur' of our country is the danger. That means the most important mineral belt which is there in Orissa where mining activities for iron ore, manganese and bauxite in Barbil and Barjamda sectors of Keonjhar and surrounding districts are carried on, is in danger. The activities have come to a standstill after the Supreme Court Order. The mines have been close down

following the Supreme Court verdict due to non-compliance of the environmental norms. Because of this, Thousands of workers now are not getting any job in those mines.

So, I want to urge upon the Government of India to request the Supreme Court again to give a Stay Order in this case from six months to one year so that the mine owners, both in the private sector and public sector, fulfil the environmental norms during this period and that thousands of workers get their job and earn their livelihood
...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If so many members speak simultaneously then it will not be proper. Two names Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma and Shri Ashok Kumar Pradhan, and attached with Shri Sukdeo Paswan.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I want to say that on the occasion of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's centenary celebrations the Government of India had decided to construct Dr. Ambedkar memorial on 26 Alipur Road, where he lived. The then Prime Minister of India has agreed to it and the Government had assured the House that provision for necessary funds have been made for requiring land for the purpose. Dr. Ambedkar Foundation has been demanding for additional funds for acquiring the land. On this, questions have been asked in the Lok Sabha twice. This matter has come up eight times before the Assurance Committee. During 1995-96 a provision of Rs. 10 crores was made by the Planning Commission to acquire the land. The Minister of Welfare has made no arrangements in this regard with Delhi Administration, therefore, the funds have lapsed. If arrangement of Rs. 10 crores is not made by 31 March, 1997 then the funds would again lapse. Hon'ble Minister of Welfare should take immediate steps for withdrawal of funds so that the work at Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial, 26, Alipur Road, Delhi could be started immediately. When the funds had been arranged earlier then why has this work not been completed yet? I would like to have an assurance from the Government that the funds would be released by 31 March and the work would definitely be started.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN. (Khurja) : I also want to attract the attention of the House towards this issue raised by Hon'ble Member. An amount of eight crore rupees was allocated for the purpose during 1995-96. After that 10 crore rupees were given. I want to know that on the death of certain leaders their memorials were constructed within few days and not in years or months. Work is done by installing fog light. But Baba Saheb whose principles are followed by this House and this country. His memorial has not been constructed till date. It is really very sad. Delhi Government have been constantly demanding that we have to give notice for acquisition and for this purpose funds should be given by the Union Government. The Union Government have not given any funds for this purpose. This provision got lapsed twice .

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to say that Government should have a time limit so that this memorial is constructed within a specified time schedule because he was a saviour of the poor and this is what is happening. Where memorials with large lights were constructed for other leaders. This Government is for poor people. They have leaders who are Dalit leaders and claim to be well wishers of dalits but they are silent on this issue they tell lies before the people and mislead the people. So, I want to say that this work should be completed within a time limit.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH (Jalaun) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. I agree with the statements made by Shri Ashok Pradhan and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and I want to say that the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India had earmarked provision of Rs. eight crore in the last budget for the construction of a national memorial for Baba Saheb Ambedkar but the officers in the Central Government took no action and this money got lapsed. Now, this year, again a provision of Rs. 10 crore has been made. I demand that this amount of rupees 10 crores should be immediately handed over to Delhi Government
.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA (Ghazipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, this is a very important issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All issues are important. I will call all of you one by one.

SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Hindu University is closed for the last one month and students are agitating there.

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargoda) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Hindustan Latex is one of the most nationally famous and prestigious Public Sector Undertakings. Its contribution is laudable. Its achievements can be seen in the field of population control.

The Company started in 1966. Now it is functioning with a work strength of 2,000. It is topmost in the production of contraceptives. Hindustan Latex supplies its products mainly to the Government at a minimum price of 3 paise each. This helps immensely the Government of India to propagate the birth control objectives even though the birth rate in our country has not yet come down.

There is a recent move of the Government of India to disinvest 74 percent of its share worth Rs. 13.64 crore. This will surely lead our famous Hindustan Latex in the hands of greedy private capital. Not to say more, the private capital is an instrument of only making profit. This will affect the cause of national birth control. For the past five years, our nation experienced the bad results of disinvestment and unprecedented corruption. So, the entire patriotic people of our country are against this disinvestment. It will harm national economy and our cherished national cause.

In the circumstances, I request the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider the proposal for disinvestment of Hindustan Latex.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA (Chhindwara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, an Hon'ble Member of the present Lok Sabha is risking his life by sitting on an indefinite hunger strike at Jatara in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh. Yesterday in Jatara, Students were lathi charged and shot at in which one student was killed four were seriously injured and four other have received minor injuries. Through you I want to know that whether this Govt. have any responsibility of saving the life of a MP or not, and if so, what are the views of the Govt. on this serious incident. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the matter is related to the shifting of an Examination Centre. The Police opened fire.

13.00 hrs.

One Student was killed. Four are missing and four were seriously injured. They have been admitted to the hospital. Whether the Govt. are aware of this or not? Whether after obtaining some information from the UP Govt., the Govt is responsible for offering comments on the matter in the House or not?. I want an assurance from you that keeping in view the safety of the life of a MP, you direct the Govt. to offer their comments on this matter.

DR. RAMKRISHAN KUSMARIA (Damoh) My name is also there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well your name is also there. I will call you one by one. Only one member will speak at a time.

DR. RAMKRISHAN KUSMARIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is also on this subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well you can speak before others.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is a very important matter(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you also went to speak on this subject you can speak later on. Let him speak first.

DR. RAMKRISHAN KUSMARIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the incident which has taken place is of a very serious nature. A day before, the Collector and Deputy Examination Controller had decided to change the examination centre despite the fact that 1200 students went there to appear in the examination. All of a sudden a vacant jail building was suddenly converted into the examination centre. When the students went to that examination centre neither they got any seats nor any paper was given to them. They were in a troubled State. The examination was already started and they could not find seat to sit. Due to which there was resentment among the students. The Police resorted to

atrocities and when the students became more angry, the police opened firing on them. An Adivasi student 'Dashrath' was killed in this incident. Many people were injured there. A number of persons are still missing. There is no due about them. One pregnant women was also injured in this incident and is still fighting for her life. The Administration is casting atrocities on our students but there is no one to give ear to their voice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, you please take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let this issue be finished first.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, this issue is very important. Sadhvi Uma Bharati ji has put her life in danger and she is on fast. The State Government have misbehaved with her. In this way Examination Centre was shifted from that place to Jail. There an Adivasi student was murdered. The police opened firing on them and even today many students are missing. Many parents are tracing their Children. Administration is misbehaving them. When Kumari Uma Bharati ji took up this issue, she was also misbehaved. I request you Sir, to issue directives to the administration to take steps to save the life of Sadhvi Uma Bharati as there is a threat to her life.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) The Indians living abroad for the last many years(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, you have made your point.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) The life of Sadhvi Uma Bharati ji is in danger(Interruptions) you please direct the Government to make a statement over this issue.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay, Your point has been noticed /recorded.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many Indians are staying abroad to earn their livelihood and they are interested to invest their hard earned money in the country. It is a fact that they love their village, they love their home town, They love their country but they did not have the citizenship of our country.

I request you Sir, that those Indians who are living abroad must be given the citizenship of India. Then foreign capital required for development of the country and employment opportunities will increase.(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right you have finished your point.

SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA (Ghazipur) Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House as well as yourself towards an issue of urgent public importance. Kanshi Hindu University has been lying closed for the last one month. Three students were killed there in police firing on 20th-21st Feb. for no reason. The students of that University are provoked. They were on agitation in Delhi also. I had drawn the attention of this August House towards this issue earlier also that the atmosphere in the University is not congenial for learning, teaching as well as for research. For the last thirty years, this University is being run by an ordinance. It was demanded a number of times by the members in this House that a Bill should be brought in regard to Kanshi Hindu University also as has been brought for Aligarh Muslim University and Delhi University. I believe that a University, which was established by Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya with the belief that the students of this University will struggle for the freedom of the country, but today injustice is being done with this University of international fame. I request the Government and the Hon. House to take necessary action in this regard so that the moto of establishment of the University could be fulfilled. Therefore the need of the hour is to bring a bill in regard to this University. In view of the incident which took place on 20th-21st February, the Government should conduct a high level judicial inquiry into this. A vigilance inquiry should be conducted to check the atmosphere of chaos prevailing there for the last thirty years and to look into the financial irregularities being committed and the employment given on the basis of caste.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow every one.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you will not cooperate, I will adjourn the House. The time is already over. Now Mr. Chandra Shekhar will speak.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question raised by Shri Manoj Sinha is a very serious question. As a result of incident which took place in Kashi Hindu University, there has been situation of chaos in the Eastern region. The student are on agitation, the incidents of violence and arson are taking place here and there. This University was the proud of India at one time. As Shri Manoj ji has stated that the Bill in regard to this University is not being passed, it is to be passed by the Parliament only. I do not know why it is not being done. I think that normally the Bill is brought and passed by the Parliament. Then why not the leaders of all the parties are called and the Bill in this regard is got passed unanimously without having discussion on this.

Secondly, there is resentment among the people of the area about the Chancellor of the University. I do not know him personally, but I could not understand that a person who is the victim of wrath of all the student, could be able to run the Kanshi Hindu University. The student have been killed, the

firing has been opened. Whether it is district Balia, or Azamgarh or Gazipur, the students are on agitation. It could not be suppressed even today. I think Kanshi Hindu University is a Central University, therefore it is the duty of Government of India to intervene into the matter. The Government should conduct an inquiry in regard to the irregularities committed there. Judicial inquiry should be conducted against the persons found guilty therein because firing by police in the campus of University is not an ordinary incident. It should be taken seriously. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure, that you will suggest the Government to take action in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Government should take notice of it and take the necessary action immediately. Now, I am calling Shri Kurien alongwith Shri Premchandran.

.....(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with Shri Chandra Shekhar(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed him only. Please, let him speak.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am drawing your kind attention that in Kerala(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please, let him speak.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stand adjourned till 2.10 P.M.

1310 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

1416 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Sixteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ELECTRICITY LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALA CHARI) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 13.3.97

DR. S. VENUGOPALA CHARI : I introduce the Bill.

14.17 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. ELECTRICITY LAWS
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE - Laid

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1571/97]

14.17½ hrs.

INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act. 1961.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act. 1961."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I introduce** the Bill.

14.18 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: INCOME-TAX (SECOND
AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE - Laid

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Income-Tax (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1572/97]

14.18½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(i) Need to restore access of inhabitants of Uttaranchal U.P. to the nearby forest for domestic use

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the villagers of Uttaranchal region of U.P. have got centuries old duly recognised rights to have access in the civil forests and reserved forests for collecting cattle fodder, fire-wood, timber for construction of houses agriculture implements and slate, sand and stone etc. The day-to-day life of the people of Uttaranchal cannot be imagined without these rights.

In compliance of Supreme Court orders, the Uttar Pradesh Government has imposed an undeclared ban on these right of villagers. As a result, thousands of forest labourers dependent on forest have been rendered jobless and a situation of starvation has arisen.

Besides their own subsistence, a serious problem of feeding their cattle has also arisen. This has led to severe resentment in the whole Uttaranchal region it may take a virilant turn.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to take appropriate statutory measures to restore these basic forest rights to the villagers of Uttaranchal.

(ii) Need for early Completion of work on bye-pass at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA (Ghazipur) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Border Road Organisation is undertaking construction of a bye-pass on G.T. Road from Mohansarai to Mughalsarai a bridge on Ganga river in Varanasi (U.P.). Initially, World Bank was funding this project and it was to be completed by 31-12-1991.

However, due to slow progress of work, the World Bank stopped funding this project from 1992. Now, Border Road Organisation has taken up this work. The Government has said that it would be completed in June, 1995 but not even half the work has been completed so far. As a result, the cost of the project has escalated many times and it would continue to rise further. Varanasi is religious and cultural City where lakhs of foreign tourists visit, but due to narrow roads, the traffic remains jammed two to four hours daily causing a lot of inconvenience to the people including foreign tourists. This also results in wastage of diesel and petrol worth crores of rupees. With construction of this bye-pass, not only several hours would be saved in covering the distance upto Calcutta but diesel and petrol worth crores of rupees would also be saved. This issue has been raised in this House several times but no action has come forth so far.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 13.3.97.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

Therefore, I through you, demand from the Government to complete this project expeditiously.

(iii) Need to take up the Issue of sharing the Sindhu River Water with Pakistan

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Sir, the newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan has taken up a new initiative to sort out the problems confronting the two countries. Our hon. Prime Minister has also reciprocated the same sentiments in a spirit of mutual understanding in order to ease tension in the minds of Indian and Pakistani people. Shri I.K. Gujral, Minister of External Affairs also reciprocated these sentiments and offered to start a dialogue with Pakistan to get the problems between the two countries solved peacefully and normalcy restored.

This is a long pending issue, that is, the implementation of Liaquat Ali-Pandit Nehru Agreement which provided that Sindhu river water of Sakhar Ban Dam should be made available to Kutch also. If I may give the background of this Agreement, this Dam is presently situated in Pakistani territory and this was a joint project of Sind, Gujarat and Maharashtra forming part of the then Bombay Province during the British rule. Thus, the water problem of Kutch region is a perennial one and it has become a national problem.

I urge the Government that the sharing of water from this dam be taken up with the Pakistani authorities and be placed on the agenda whenever a meeting between the two countries is held for discussion and agreement.

(iv) Need to allocate adequate LPG to Mavelikara in Kerala to clear the backlog

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, there are a large number of consumers in the waiting list in my constituency-Mavelikara (Kerala) which falls in the district of Pathanamthitta and Alleppey for LPG connection. Those who have booked for LPG connections are in the waiting list for more than six years and adequate allotment are not made for the gas agencies to clear these waiting lists. Since there is a lot of pressure from the consumers, urgent action is to be taken in this regard.

The gas agencies in my constituency are located at places, namely, Kumbanad, Aranmula, Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Pandalam, Mavelikara and Kayamkulam, etc.

I request the Union Government that adequate allotments of LPG may be made to the agencies at these places so as to clear the long pending waiting lists.

(v) Need to set up Rubber Based Industries in Backward District of Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Sir, Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu is the most suitable place in the country for the

establishment of rubber based industries or a tyre factory. The per acre production of rubber here is the highest in our country and qualitatively also, it occupies the highest place. Though Kanyakumari district is an industrially backward district, not even a single industry either in the public sector or in the private sector has been set up. Infrastructural facilities are available there for the establishment of industries. There is cent percent literacy in the district. There is a large number of educated and uneducated unemployed persons in the area.

I, therefor, request the Union Government to consider the long-standing demand of the people of the area favourably by establishing rubber based industries or a tyre factory in Kanyakumari district at the earliest.

(vi) Need to Provide Financial Assistance to State Government of Maharashtra for Rehabilitation and Improvement of Slums in Mumbai

SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY (Mumbai-North Central) : Sir, there has been phenomenal growth in slum population in Mumbai during post independence period due to continuous inflow of migration of people from all over the country in search of jobs. Most of the migrants from various States got settled in slums and continue to live there in most inhuman and degraded conditions. Asia's biggest slum 'Dharavi' falls in my constituency and the condition there is appalling. In the wake of potential growth of slums in Mumbai, a 'slum state' within Mumbai is fast emerging posing a grave threat of ruthless encroachment on Government land, road and rail sides. It is estimated that slum population in Mumbai is 25 percent of the country's slum population. The problem of slums in Mumbai has been ignored in the past for want of adequate financial support and has now become a national issue which need to be treated on utmost priority by the Union Government which is committed to the welfare of the rural and urban poor. The problem of slums is becoming grave day by day and let the Union Government realise that it is beyond the capacity of the State Government to mobilise massive financial resources for rehabilitation and improvement of slums in Mumbai. I therefore, urge upon the Union Government to make available adequate funds from the Central Kitty or through international agencies to the Government of Maharashtra. I would even request other State Government to contribute in proportion to its migrated slum population for rehabilitation programme - realising the gravity of the situation.

(vii) Need to stop the proposed sale of land belonging to Azam Jahi Mills at Warangal, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL (Warangal) : Sir, the National Textiles Corporation is proposing to sell the surplus land and use funds for the revival of sick units. Workers are apprehensive that they might be adversely affected due to this move. Azam Jahi Mills at Warangal in Andhra Pradesh is sick. It is understood that its land is also proposed to be sold. The workers are agitating.

I request the Union Government to ensure that the land of Azam Jahi Mills at Warangal is not sold.

14.27 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET 1997-98 - GENERAL DISCUSSION

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT - (RAILWAYS)
1997-98

* DEMAND FOR EXCESS GRANTS - (RAILWAYS)
1994-95

* SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS --
(RAILWAYS) 1996-97

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the Railway Budget and item Nos. 15, 16 & 17. The Railway Minister will reply.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to convey my thanks to you and through you, to all Hon'ble Members for not only taking interest in the railways and railway budget but for giving very good suggestions which would definitely act as a guide to Railways and help Railways to earn good profit. In all, 96 Members participated in this debate which lasted for more than 24 hours. We left the House today morning at about 5.45 a.m.. Yesterday, it was not that only those Members were present in the House, who were to speak on the Railways. I saw many other Members including Kumari Mamata Banerjee and Nitish Kumar also sitting here.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Please don't say 'yesterday' but say 'today'.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I was saying that it showed the importance of Railways. The atmosphere in the House was not like other days when the House used to sit beyond midnight. Instead, the Hon'ble Members woke up whole night and keenly participated in the debate. The Hon'ble Member were waking their points so energetically as if they were speaking during Zero Hour. Therefore, first of all, I would like to thank all Hon'ble Members.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would also like to interrupt. Other Members had left the House after speaking but I saw you sitting whole time in the House.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I also saw you sitting in the House, when you entered the House at 4.00 a.m. we got

inspiration from you and noticed that the Chair and all Hon'ble Member were alert.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I had recited a couplet in the morning

"Hamein to aaj pau fate tak jagna hoga,
Yehi Kismet Hamari hai, Sitaron tum to so jao"

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am presenting here vote-on-Account proposals for two months of 1997-98 to be passed by the House. Besides, I am also presenting supplementary Demands for Grants for 1994-95 to be passed by the House. We have formulated a rule in the House under which "the Budget" presented in the House is sent first to the Standing Committee. The meeting of Standing Committee is going on.

There are two parts of the Budget. The first part of the Budget consists of general issues such as the measures to increase the efficiency of Railways, the mode of discussion for its development and the second part consists of projects to be taken up for the year.

The hon. Members of all parties have given their suggestions. I have received many suggestions but I understand that under the existing rules and regulations of the Standing Committee, it would be neither possible nor proper for me to speak regarding projects. The report of Standing Committee is likely to be presented in the month of April when Parliament will be in session.

14.32 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

At that time, I shall tell this House as well as the hon. Members of Parliament in detail about projects. I shall speak on the issues raised by the hon. Members as suggestions during the discussion on Rail Budget.

I am glad that my colleague Shri Pramod Mahajan, while initiating the discussion, has given many suggestions. His main issue, which was later on raised by many hon Members, was regarding the plan. He wanted to know whether Railways had any master plan or just passage of Budget once in a year and increase in fare and freight charges accordingly was enough? Is the work done in this manner only on Railways has any far sight or planning under which it works?

I would like to inform the House as well as the hon. Members that there is nothing as such. Railways has its own planning and master plan which we call corporate plan. We prepare the corporate plan in three stages. We prepare plans for 15 years, for 5 years and for one year also. Our previous corporate plan was prepared in 1985. When we chalk out plan, we keep in mind all the details of coming 15 years as to what would be our position in various sectors, such as internal resources, additional resources, passenger traffic, freight traffic, the likely profit of Railways and the likely

expenditure thereon. While preparing corporate plan, we also see as to how will we develop a technology be it locomotive, wagons, coaches, matters ranging from gauge conversion to electrification. Our next planning for 15 years will start after 2000 a.d. For that purpose, we are alert from now. The Government had started its efforts regarding setting up of new perspective planning cell. This new plan will be valid for a period of four year 2000 to 2015. We prepare objectives as per the plan and strategy consists of our five year plan. Though a separate plan is prepared for the period of five year but generally five year plan runs side by side during the same period. Then annual plan is chalked out. To find out the achievements made vis-a-vis target set, a mid-term review is conducted after three years.

I would like to tell the hon Members that this is the plan of the Railways. This year, we have given our a new direction by adding social objective to it. Our plan will not aim at only profit making but the facilities of common man is also kept in mind. I am very glad that all the hon. Members who expressed their views applauded the policy of the Government that Railways is not only a profit-making organisation but its objectives should be public welfare. It has enhanced our will power and I, as the Minister of Railways, would like to assure you that, the Government will prepare one more plan and in that plan, the Government will develop Railways into a public welfare organisation and improve its image.

One of my colleagues had raised the issue of resources mobilisation you must be knowing that the railways have 3-4 services. One is internal resources in which we mobilise resources by increasing our efficiency and production and in which total income, total expenditure incurred and the loss suffered is shown. Thus, the remaining amount is termed as internal resources. The second source of our resource mobilisation is also considered on the same pattern. The Government borrows from the market. Third source is private participation. We encourage private investors. There are mainly two sectors in capital investment. BOLT and own your wagon schemes. Fourth is our budgetary support. The Railways seek financial assistance from the Government through budgetary support. It has to repay the amount so taken.

Our last source is to increase fare charges. These divisions contain almost all the points raised by the hon. Members. But priority should be given to main issues. One or two points are other than these issues. So far as the internal resources are concerned, there is no question of reducing it. We are determined to increase our internal resources, our efficiency and productivity. In the new Rail Budget rolling stock the main issue - has not been reduced. Rs.2408 crore were provided for it in 1992-93 Rs.2320 crore in 1993-94, Rs.1922 in 1994-95 and Rs.2403 crore in 1995-96. While Rs.3800 crore were provided last year which was increased to Rs.4144 till March. This is our rolling stock on which depends the future of railways. We have tried to increase it during the last year and this year also, we have provided Rs. four thousand crore for this year. We have also considered this aspect as to the number of wagons and

coaches required. We have proposed for 26,000 wagons, 2,000 coaches and 300 locomotives.

So far as the matter of track renewal is concerned Rs.970 crores in 1993-94, Rs. 1024 crores in 1994-95 Rs.1150 crores in 1995-96, Rs.1128 crores in 1996-97 were provided for this purpose and this time despite shortage of resources and Rs. 3500 crore kept apart for pay commission the amount has not been reduced. If the amount of Rs.3500 crore was not to be kept for this purpose more funds could have been provided. This time Rs.1250 crore have been sanctioned. Likewise so far as the matter of gauge conversion is concerned Rs.910 crore have been provided from it. So far as the matter of signal is concerned, Rs. 152 crores in 1992-93, Rs. 156 crores in 1993-94, Rs. 169 in 1994-95; Rs. 208 crore in 1995-96 have been provided. For this purpose this time we have given 201 crores. In the same way you see electrification, last year Rs. 230 crores were provided for this purpose but this time the amount has been increased to Rs. 350 crores. The development of tribal and backward areas can not be undertaken till the new infrastructure and new lines are improvised in 1993-94 Rs. 252 crore were given for it, in 1994-95 Rs. 240 crore in 1995-96 Rs. 218 crore, and last year Rs. 284 crore were provided for it and now maximum amount of Rs. 400 crores has been sanctioned for this purpose. Besides, there is a provision for other purposes such as staff quarters etc.

There is shortage of resources, due to which we have compromised as in the matter of safety signal and doubling in some cases.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : How much amount has been provided for doubling for this year as compared to the last year?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : This year we have provided Rs.195 crores for this purpose and last year the amount was Rs. 206 crores. Because of it our credibility has declined. I assure you that this amount would be increased.

Our budgetary support was falling and it came down from 75 percent to 15-16 percent. I am happy to say that we have reversed it and it has again been increased from 15-16 percent to 22 percent. I thank the hon'ble Prime Minister for it. Our many friends of Kerala met him today. They were saying that other members of Kerala were also agitated.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): What about Bengal?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have mentioned about all the States. I feel in that our friends of all States have put forward their demands and we are not able to fulfil their demand in its ratio. But I have only said that we are making our efforts to improve the situation. I am confident that our resources will increase and I assure all the Hon'ble members that we will provide more funds under various heads as compared to the last year.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier, the Indian Railways had given priority for unigauge system. From this Budget, we come to know that Indian Railways are going back from that.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you need not answer that question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell hon'ble Member that railway network is spread in 62000 kilometres area of the country and earlier there was no railway line from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. But now Kanyakumari and Kashmir will be connected and our slogan from Kanyakumari to Kashmir will come true.

We had introduced a system under which there must be uniform track. Last time I had stated in the House that under the unigauge system 12000 kilometre long railway line would be laid in the tribal and remote areas and the areas which have not been covered thereunder. It was presumed that it would be converted into broad gauge gradually. Last time I had stated in the House that metre gauge has its own importance. In areas where gauge conversion can not be undertaken the metre gauge plays an important role to provide many of transportation to the people. Therefore, we had decided that metre gauge would be used continuously. We are trying to convert metre gauge into broad gauge in the case of maximum number of lines and some arrangements would be made in the case of remaining metre gauge line. We have started the use of old tracks and locomotives. Maintenance of them would be undertaken. If required, new coaches would be manufactured and where there are metre gauge and narrow gauge these would be used for the welfare of the people.

Mr. Speaker, so far as borrowing from the market is concerned, I am not happy with it. We will increase our resources. Regarding private participation I had said that last time our "Own your wagon scheme" succeeded and it earned profit But Bolt Scheme is not doing well. I am not an economist. I do not have sufficient knowledge of economics. On the basis of suggestions made by hon'ble members we have drawn this conclusion that we are at a fault to a certain extent in any way. At the time of planning for railways we say that hundred crore rupees would be spent on a particular project and it would be completed within two years. Instead, it takes ten years and its cost increases to four or five hundred crores rupees within these ten years. If a private investor is interested to participate in this field, we will see if he can spend hundred crores rupees in two years or not? If he says, no we are sorry for that. Hence we have asked Railway Board to give details of the completion and the amount incurred on a project.

If a private investor wants to invest in it then what is the amount he intends to spend if we compare both these figures they are sure that BOLT Scheme will succeed.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Has any offer been received so far?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Naik I did not provide opportunity. The discussion is going on for the last two years, since I have held this office, I considered seriously this matter and have decided to call a meeting on the next month and would like to discuss the matter with open mind with the hon. Members willing to participate in discussions on 'BOLT Scheme' and if the need arises, I would also like to change the policy.

The matter regarding utilisation at railways land is raised time and again. I would like to know as to what is utilisation. I have no difficulty in utilising railway land I hail from a middle class families and want that the prevailing corruption should be contained. Unless the corruption is uprooted, the society cannot be cleaned. Therefore, the executive heads should chalk out such policies which leave no room for corruption. If you have gone through this year's Budget, you will note that I have stated that a transaction worth Rs. 7000 crore is made in my Ministry and the rate at which goods are purchased. I would invite tenders and if any one can supply one cheaper rates, I shall consider his proposal. If we could save even 2-3 percent amount, Rs. 2000 crore can be saved in a year automatically. Besides earning profit, there will be transparency in our deal also.

Likewise, there is matter regarding railway land. I know that the Railways has huge property. Go to any station and you will find empty land there. If we make efforts save railway land in Mumbai only, the Railways will be able to mobilise crores of rupees and we can easily overcome our resource crunch. But the fear is that the Pandora box would be opened. Whenever the Railways need that property, it is obtained after holding discussion with the State Government concerned by once this right is handed over to any one else, there is possibility that one more door may be opened for corruption. Though, I know that even if the land is handed over to some one else, the ownership right will be with us. Still, even if any minister be it Ram Vilas Paswan or anyone else takes this matter seriously and execute this work with full devotion, he is sure to be blamed. I have a case with me in which a railway officer sold the railway land. If the railway land is utilised properly, the economic problem of the Ministry of Railways can be solved.

Sir, whenever there is increase in rail fare or freight charges, it is criticised. When I took the charge of Ministry of Railways last year, I tried my best not to increase the same and freight charges, though I had to bear Rs. One thousand as a burden of Fifth Pay Commission. On the other hand, by all means be it imposition of tax or increase in fare or freight charges, the total revenue collection comes to the tune of Rs. 900 crore. This year, the Ministry has to bear an extra burden of Rs. 3500 crore while it will be getting Rs. 1800 crore through freight and fare increase and the imposition of tax. Had the Government Rs. 3500 crore withit, it would not have put extra burden on public. Instead it would have given relief. Had the Government not to give Rs. 1000 crore last year, it would not have put a burden of Rs. 900 crore and it would

have managed the amount from any other source. This unexpected situation has arisen before the Ministry of Railways. The Ministry will have to face a difficult year since it had to spend Rs. 3500 crore.

Now, I would like to tell you about my internal resources. Our total internal resource is to the tune of 45-50 percent in which 25-27 percent is borrowed from the market 10 percent from private capital investment. Last year our Budgetary support was 15-16 percent which has become 20 percent this year. Thus, the increase in fare or freight charges comes to 5 percent of our total income which is likely to become 8 percent this year. The inflation rate rises to 4-5 percent which is an extraordinary situation. Under this compulsion, we have to increase the fare and freight charges, though unwillingly because Rail Budget is not a deficit budget. We have to incur expenditure equal to the amount collected from all sources. We have no freedom to contribute the profit money to any future planning. Therefore we need the fund urgently. This year due to helplessness, we have to spare Rs. 8300 crore for plan side. In case there are any resources in future we shall think of increasing funds for plan side but this year I did what the resources allowed. I am cutting my coat according to my cloth.

Sir, the hon. Member have given very good suggestion regarding accidents. I want to assure you that I will try my best to obtain the latest technology, be it for signalling, for communication between driver and guard or communication between next station and either driver or guard. In spite of all these some factors responsible for accidents are beyond our control such as human error which is cause of our concern. Besides, our rail line is compared with the foreign rail line but India is the only country in the world where one crore and ten lakh passengers travel by train daily. We do not have infrastructure for this. There are at least four rail line in Calcutta, Mumbai, Delhi or Chennai but if you go out of city, you will find only one rail-line. We do not have a separate dedicated line on which we may introduce super fast trains, Rajdhani or Shatabdi. The trains are running on only one line.

15.00 hrs.

I was looking into a file related to various political parties which consisted of my colleagues from BJP and Shiv Sena and Shri Sharad Pawar. The issue was regarding the stoppage of train at Thane. I would like to tell the hon. Members that sometimes when train is stopped at a particular station on the requests of the hon. Members, I invite wrath of the people who opposed this move. I do not recall the name of the train but the issue was related to its stoppage at Thane.

When I was studying the files, I found that the reply was in the negative. The negative reply was of 5-7 members had replied in the negative but how it could be. When I started looking into the file, I found that the issue related to the issue of providing stoppage to the train for two minutes may be provided. Big leaders have been writing but the train can not be stopped there for two minutes. At this the officers of the Railway Board asked us to see if the whole track is vacant.

They started showing. A train was moving followed by suburban train and when it seached in the middle, the train stopped and then picked up the speed again then it was found that at least two suburban trains were to be withdrawn to accommodate this stoppage. Then they said that this decision is to be taken by you whether you want to have a halt for two minutes for these trains or want to get these two suburban trains withdrawn. Then I met those hon. member and told them. I said that there was no additional rail line. We have one line and if an accident occurs the trains gets late. Secondly even the people become angry due to some other issue they give vent to it by damaging the railway track. The agitation takes place on the railway track and the trains get late. We have the Rajdhani train, suppose it goes to Guwahati and comes back from there.

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : This initiative was taken by you. Now everyone including we are doing so.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Most of the trains return. But if the train is three hours late than it will reach the destination three hours late. We have been making arrangements in this regard. We have said that as far as possible, the trains should be introduced on daily basis. On the other hand if one train is late then the other trains should not reach late or we should have additional arrangements. If one train gets late then we can make arrangements from the other train.

Sir, there is the question of dacoities and theft on trains. Therefore, I have repeatedly said that such a subject should not be raised on party lines or State line or any other line. The passengers who travel are not ready to listen the Railway Minister when he says that it is the responsibility of the State and the State says that it is the responsibility of Railway. I agree with it and the responsibility of railway. I agree with it and therefore I never let it be an issue of prestige. I left it upto you since in each State there is the rule of different party. Ours is a federal structure and under the federal structure the State Governments have been given various responsibilities. Till date the question of accidents, thefts and dacoities come under the law and order situations. Therefore, I have said that the question of law and order is the responsibility of the State Government, but it does not mean that Railway Ministry is running away from its responsibility. We have met the Hon. Home Minister in this regard and talked to him. We have talked to the Hon. Prime Minister in this regard and we are talking with the Chief Minister of the State. I have said that if need be the persons of the Railway Ministry would solve the problem by holding talks with the Chief Minister of the concerned States the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Home Minister neither we are backing out nor we are trying to run away but we do not want to violate the constitutional dignity.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Will it solve the problem? Would you consider setting of separate railway force or will you hold the meeting only and hush up the issue? Even if you talk to the hon. Prime Minister and the Chief Minister(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The situation is deteriorating. Even today if you go through the newspaper you would find that the incidents of dacoities are still happening. What is the impact of these thing?

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI : The hon. Minister is a good person. Do not involve yourself in these things. Talk to Indrajit Babu and Laloo ji.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Take a serious initiative in this regard....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Likewise incidents of bus colliding with the train somewhere are also happening

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Speak something on dacoity. What will be the outcome of the meeting? Would you consider setting up of a separate force of the protection of railways(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VISLA PASWAN : Do not politicise it. I have said whatever I wanted to say.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You are giving it a political colour. The dacoity incidents in Bihar are being seen in the perspective of dispute between you and Laloo ji. We are not concerned with it but the incidents of dacoities are still happening(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It is a humanitarian issue and I had said on that very day that it is not confined merely to a single State. There are so many States where such incidents have been happening and I would like to make it clear that we do not hold talks with the Chief Minister of Bihar. We had talked to him and he has transferred many officers from top to bottom. But the State and the Central Governments, the Hon. Home Minister and the Railway Minister should collectively remove the fear from the minds of the people.(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker Sir, I take my seat. If you say....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar, you cannot initiate a debate.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The compensation has been given to the police officers who are killed but what are you going to do for the common passengers so that the fear may be removed from their minds? If a passenger shows courage then he should also been encouraged and he should also be compensated(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : The hon. Minister should announce an action plan so that fear from the minds of the railway passengers could be removed.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We have announced it and the leader of the opposition have and stood it. As far as bravery is concerned we have asked for the names from Shri Brahmanandji and he has given us the names. If a Government employee or a police officer or whosoever takes the risk to fight against a criminal, the Railways reward him and we have done accordingly.

If a bus collides with a running train on the railway track then what can railway do in the matter, We have been making efforts to see that there should be no unmanned railway crossings. I have asked the officer of the Railway Board regarding the suggestion given by the hon. Member that the unmanned railway crossings should be converted into manned one.

We are going to man all those crossings. But don't think that we are going to man 24 thousand crossings. There is no part of the world where there is no unmanned crossing and if we want that all the crossings be manned then it is not possible nevertheless the responsibility lies on us. Similarly, responsibility also lies with the driver of bus or truck passing through the railway crossings. When speed breakers are there, when there is danger to the life of the people then it is the duty of the bus driver to see that the track is free but the drivers drive recklessly and as a result they collide with the train and sometimes with the gate. Such accidents are in fact unfortunate. So I would like to tell you that wherever the fault lies with the officers/staff of railways, they will not be spared and whenever any passenger to killed in accident due to negligence on part of railways, for that matter the hon. Members have asked me as to why I do not insure the life of passengers.

I would like to say that Rs. 2 lakh rupees insurance provision is already in existence. A bomb explosion occurred in Kokrajhar and Ambala. Two lakh rupees as compensation had been given to the families of those person who were killed in the explosion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a question of welfare of casual labour. When I made announcements regarding casual labours then many of the hon. member thought that I am making this announcement for gaining cheap publicity as a Railway Minister. I had made announcement regarding 56 thousand casual labourers and today I would like to inform you that we will regularise 30 thousand casuals labourers out of 56 thousand and the remaining would be regularised by 1997-98. In addition to this many casual labourers claim more. For instance, there are lakhs of labourers, who are working through contractors in Earth working field, who are doing soil extraction work. You are well aware of the Government policy. They want to limit the expenditure. Earlier we had 19 lakh staff in the railways. Today, it has come down to 16 lakhs, when if we try to make even a slightly increase, then there is a uproar not only from outside but also in the press. when we say that we would regularise the casual labourers, then there will be news published in the newspapers that the Government money is being misused. We had said there were three thousand safai karamacharis who were

working under contract system and we further said that we will abolish the contract system and we have abolished the contract system after 31st December and all the safai karamcharis are being reinstated. People are also questioning as to whether the three thousand persons have been appointed on sanctioned posts or not. How they have been reinstated and what has been done in this regard etc.? I would like to tell you that there are 14-15 thousand casual labourers and don't do they have a right for secured future. It will also secure our future.

Mr. Speaker, there is a matter concerning the porters. Even today, porters are not considered as a part of the railways. They are considered to be separate/different from the railways. Last time, we had announced leaves for 75 per cent porters and at that time itself I had said that we will issue free passes to them and this time we have issued 100 per cent passes. These porters have been benefitted or not is not a question but the porters of the country are feeling a sense of self confidence that there is someone to look after them to listen to them. Hence, how much money they get, what facilities we have been provided to them is not the question. The fact is that now the poor people have started realising that the Government is not only paying attention towards big people but also paying attention towards the problems being faced by the poor people as well.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, similarly, yesterday our hon. members have raised questions regarding Mandal Commission. We have started implementing the Mandal Commission recommendations in railways. As per the recommendation a provision for 27 percent reservation has been made w.e.f. 1993. Some hon. members had asked me as to why we are not filling up the backlog vacancies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It brings bad name to us. I will not give any chance to any body to criticize us. There will be no case of corruption. People will only say that Ram Vilas has turned Rail Bhavan into Dalit Bhavan. When every one visits Rail Bhavan then why Dalit can't visit? Tribals have also a right to visit. I am not talking about you, I am talking in general.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : No one says like this. If someone says like this, then it is wrong. Atleast we have not heard this. It is not published in the newspapers too. If you want to get it published in then it's a different matter because this is also a way of publicity.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : No one has said like this in their speech..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I don't want to point out the name of any hon. members here.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): We should atleast know who has called it Dalit Bhavan.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have already told you to read two month old edition of 'India Today' The headline was this is not Rail Bhavan but Dalit Bhavan. It is not that only you have said this. I also don't want to say that they have written

it with any ill feelings. They might have seen poor people coming here. Since we talk about poor people so I feel that it should be the policy of the Government and State Government to look after the interests concerning poor people. One of our friends have raised the question of reservation. I would like to assure you that as far as the question of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes including Backward and Minorities is concerned we have appointed 9 non-official members in each Board so that they can look after the interests these castes. Among them three members from backward castes and three from minorities. You can point out any mistake / loopholes if you come across in the country. We want that interests of all the castes are protected.

You will not find any person from the Tribal areas Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim etc. in R.P.F. and in any railway force. It doesn't mean that they are not efficient.

Here, the case is different they can not join R.P.F. due to short height. Our Gorkha Regiment is considered to be the best.....(Interruptions)

In the present times why should the question of height should be raised. I fail to understand what difference this would make when our technology is so advanced. If the recruit in the army are of high calibre and the army is good what else do we need.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SARAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : The Chinese are short statured

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : That is what I am saying Bravery is not related to height, caste or religion. Exploit is all that is relevant.

I was saying that recently we had made changes in the rules. And I have also written to the R.P.F. to reconsider regarding the height of the people from the tribal areas. I think that we need to reconsider the provisions made for the tribal areas.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : For a correct decision in this regard, you should become the Defence Minister and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav should become the Railway Minister.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have taken too much time. Several issues came up before us. Regarding the catering service, I have said at the outset that I am not satisfied with the present system. Because neither the Railway canteen nor the private contractors to whom this had been entrusted are working satisfactorily. Our colleague from Itarsi knows this. We took the sternest possible action. In spite of this I fail to see any improvement. We had even thought of entrusting this work to the canteen corporation, so that they would cater in a better way. But I have been informed that this proposal has been opposed by the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry. We would again take up this matter with them. Our view is that one independent Body should be set up.....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Nothing has been done for Himachal Pradesh or Gujarat. What have you done in this regard? Tell us about this also.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am coming on the general topic. Similar is the issue of drinking water. I know that it seems to be a minor issue. But water causes a lot of diseases. Pure drinking water is not available at the railways station or at any place you go. Impure water causes diseases. Summer season is round the corner. What would be the situation if you do not get drinking water in summer? The person who provides drinking water, would again be appointed in sufficient numbers in the bogie. At present this is available only in A.C. two or three tiers. This would also be provided in the ordinary class. I would personally monitor this so that the pure water is provided at the railway stations.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said several times and do not want to waste the time of the House. Regarding the South Eastern region. Which is a backward region, I have requested two or three things from the Government. I am asking the Government to enhance the budgetary support. Backward areas are a strain on the Railways. There are seven passenger trains in this region on which the revenue is only 60 percent, i.e. loss of Rs. 40 in Rs. 100. We suffer loss on the passenger trains. For this reason I am requesting the Prime Minister and the Government. I will be sending a note to the Cabinet also regarding the fact that similar facilities should be provided to the backward areas, as has been done for north-east. This would help us immensely to create a infrastructure for the railways.....(*Interruptions*) Please listen first.

Similarly, I want to move another appeal. As I had said earlier also that in the five years Rs. 30,000 were spent on the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. At times we get a return on this and at times we don't. But Railways is such an Institution that returns on investment can be had after five years. If the State Governments spend their money or funds from Jawahar Rozgar Yojana or from other schemes, on infrastructure then we would have to spend only one-third or one-fourth of the required amount and we can say a network of rail lines in the country therefore, I would request the State Governments to cooperate with us in this regard.

Regarding Konkan Railway, it is a matter of great concern to us. We had thought of starting the Konkan Railway by March. I had been to Goa on 2nd January and inspected the tunnel for two days. Our engineers are working very hard. A part of the tunnel remains to be completed. A part of it is in old Goa and the other in new Goa. The part in old Goa has been completed. And the remaining part is dangerous. Twice engineers have been called from abroad. But it collapses after being completed. We are fully confident to open it by June, before the Monsoon. In Goa, track has been opened one way. And we will strive to open the route both ways, till Goa. If the Konkan rail line is opened, it would be a big achievement.

I want to tell the Members that Railways works on a war footing. The 436 km. Mehsana-Ahmedabad railway line was

thrown open to traffic within two months. Work started on 15th December and on 15th February the 432 km. route was open after spending Rs. 236 crores. when we take up a project we scrutinise it, we have to purchase the land, negotiate with the State Government. At this stage we allot a small amount. In the second stage this amount is increased a little. In the last stage we take up the project irrespective of the amount. Therefore, now(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : You mentioned the Konkan Railways. But you did not speak regarding starting train services on this route from Dadar.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that today we are discussing on vote on account in this House. As I told you, I have with me the suggestions given by the hon. Members of Parliament and the action taken in this regard but I will not tell all these things because at present it will be of no use, since you are not passing the budget. Keeping all these things.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : You had told the Members of Parliament from Madhya Pradesh that when reply would be given to the budget then they will be informed.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You please listen to me.

You are not passing the budget now. Our entire budget will be sent to the Standing Committee, then the Standing Committee will discuss on it and then again the budget will come into the House. I know that whatever be the matter is, the Member of Parliament, Shri Ram Naik will find way out through cut motion for everything.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai - North) : Yes, I will have cut motions for everything

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Then you people want to discuss on it again. We were sitting here upto 6. AM, but then I(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : You have neglected some States, please tell something about it(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not possible.

[*Translation*]

You please let us listen.

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You please first listen to me(*Interruptions*) You please listen to me for a minute.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have with me all the State-wise projects and suggestions given by the Member of Parliament and there is no need to read it. Our friends from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Rajasthan or Uttar Pradesh, We have with us.(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can give reply to all queries but if I give reply today then whether will I not be compelled to give reply again? Because, this is a vote on account. We are seeking your permission on this vote on account for two months. Hence, I leave it up to you. 'We will follow your directions.

Now, I put vote on account for the first two months of 1997-98, Supplementary demands for Grants for 1996-97 and additional Demands for Grants for 1995-96 for consideration of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Paswan, you do not have to listen to them. Nothing is going on record. All the Cameras are off.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Just listen to me(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jena, please sit down.

15.34 hrs.

At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. Shri Paswan, keep quiet. Do not say anything

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.*

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 1997-98 to vote

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seat

.....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You will have to expel me(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you are expelled and you have to leave the House now

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is my order.

.....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Yes, I would leave the House.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you leave the House. Get out from here.

.....(Interruptions)

1537 hrs.

At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee had thrown a shawl and left the House.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Sir, you name her.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is too much

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : You name her, but you cannot say get out(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You run the House then.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : You name her, but you cannot say get out.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is limit to it.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : You name her(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now. Enough is enough.

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Upendra, you do whatever you want to do. You run the House

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not running the House

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, you can name her but you cannot say get out(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I may also have to tell you that

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : You cannot say get out.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir let us take it in a very calm and cool manner.

MR. SPEAKER : Then you have to become the Speaker.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : No, Sir. I am not challenging your authority(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not interested in running the House like this. What is this? There is a limit to it. We all are responsible people of this country. We are talking of parliamentary democracy. We say that this is the supreme body and what not and you do not even know as to how to behave yourselves

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : What the 940 million people of this country are thinking of us? You all know as to what they think about us.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, would you allow me for a minute?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you are allowed for three minutes.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, the background of this excitement is not to cast any aspersion on the Minister of Railways. He made an exercise and met the Member of Parliament from various States one by one and he was able to persuade them.....(*Interruptions*) some of them, and assured them of some schemes.

The general expectation was that today reply will come from the hon. Minister and Members will be able to tell their constituents about it. Anyhow, in your wisdom or in the wisdom of other Parties, we do not know as we were not

involved - it has been decided to send it to a Standing Committee without voting. We are not challenging it. We accept it. The Hon. Minister has now completed his speech without giving any decision that has been taken. As Chairman of the Standing Committee, we know that we cannot dictate as to what he should do. We can only analyze the Budget. We can only add or subtract something. Since the hon. Minister is showing a list, if possible, if he can spell out the things that he is considering - it will not be a commitment - I think it will console the whole House.

If there was anything wrong on the part of the Member from my Party, I beg unconditional apology. Knowing you fully well for the last few years, I do not think you can say, 'Get out' and it was out of excitement only. This also should not be there. I think you did not mean it this is my request to you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : My Speaker, Sir, you don't get so much upset over this.

[*Translation*]

After the speech of the Railway Minister, Members are always given an opportunity to ask for clarifications and information. Whatever is asked will be clarified by the Minister and discussion continue. But this time it did not happen so, the Members are agitated. The time we have wasted in noisy affair. If during that time Member were given chance to say this point of view, then they will not have to repeat it. I agree with you. The something is repeated again and again. I did not speak on railway budget I want to speak now. I received a telephone call from Lucknow that the electrification work between Kanpur-Lucknow is going on for a long period. You did not raise it. Now, I raise it and ask if Electrification will be done or not?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. As long as Members stand on their feet in their respective seats to raise certain matters - be it in 10, 15 or even in 100 number - I do not intervene. I have been patiently asking them to sit down. My only plea is that everyone will get a chance in case they stand one by one. How can a Member of Parliament rush to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Minister of Railways and argue with them? Is it the way the Members of Parliament should behave? Are we fit to be the Leaders? This is where I am angry.

I am trying to uphold the dignity of the Member of Parliament. I know very well that impression does the country have of the Members of Parliament. Every day I get hundreds of letters. That is why I am trying to say, let us behave in a decent manner. Members should stand on their feet one by one. I will allow everybody. I have been allowing everybody. You cannot expect me to allow you if you come in the well of the House. In that case, I have no choice either to tell the Member to go back to his seat or adjourn the House, which I refused to do. I do not think I am discharging my responsibility by adjourning the House. I will not adjourn the House easily. Therefore, my only plea is, you are leaders of

this country and you should behave like a leader. That is all my advice.

In this debate, 96 Member took part and 24 hours and one minute was spent on it. I was myself here till midnight. My friends in the Panel of Chairmen were here up to 5.30 in the morning. Why can't we be sincere like this? This is my only plea. Let us behave in a manner that people appreciate us.

That is all, I do not want anything else. If anybody wants to raise questions, all right. Mr Upendra, would you like to raise your point.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : You raise it

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Then we have to start the debate again.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : It is only for asking queries.

MR. SPEAKER : I know, but when I allow one query everybody will make a ten-minute speech again.

I have allowed you, Mr. Upendra.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was trying to draw your attention only to point out that this is the first time the reply of the Railway Minister did not contain any specifics. He indulged in general replies. It has always been the practice that after spending 24 hours, if some of the points he could concede, the Railway Minister always used to say, "All right, I am considering this; I will concede this; I will do this; I will do that". Nothing of that sort has been done. This time it has simply been thrown to the Standing Committee. We have been experimenting with the Standing Committees for the last four years. It never happened so far. Would the Standing Committee know that suggestions the Minister has received, what discussions he has held with various groups of Members? They do not know about it. They go by the Budget. They analyse the Budget. That is all I want to say.

The Minister can at least say, "I will write to the Members on what we are conceding." It could have gone to his credit if he had conceded on some point. That is what I wanted to point out.

MR. SPEAKER : Let me say something. I have been following the Railway Budget thoroughly. It was so nice of the Minister that when a Member asked a question, wherever it was possible for him to concede, during the debate itself the Minister has been conceding to the Members by saying, "Yes, I will do it; I will look into it". Therefore, you cannot blame the Minister. He has been doing his best. And I can tell you that no Railway Minister will ever be able to satisfy 545 Members of the House. That is not possible.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Yesterday, he called the Members from Andhra Pradesh and asked for views. We gave them in writing. He indicated that today, in the course of his reply, he would announce certain things. We had been eagerly waiting for his announcement. Now he talks of Standing Committee April, and May. Now what reply should we give to the people in the Constituency and the State?

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : All the MPs from Madhya Pradesh had met the Railway Minister. They also met the Prime Minister - There was a matter regarding railway zone in Bilaspur and about Indore, Khate Dam, Urmi new railway line and also about a new railway line from Bhopal, Raisen, Gairatgunj, Begumgunj to Sagar. There was also a matter in regard to connecting the most backward area in the country, Baster with a railways line to Dandi, Rajhera and Jagdalpur. The Minister has told us that after given reply to the discussion, he will include these matters. 'If I fail, you can interrupt me and then I will reply' he has said but he has not even said a single word about this. I would like to ask the Minister as to what he is doing about the railway zone in Bilaspur and he had given assurances regarding some demands, which I don't want to repeat, I would like to ask him to clarify what is his outlook opinion in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir as instructed by you we were all waiting in the House till 5.30 in the morning. You know that we were all cooperating to the maximum extent with the Railway Minister. I know for certain that the Railway Minister cannot satisfy all the 545 Member in the House. But there are very major omissions, discrepancies which have crept into this Budget, knowingly or unknowingly, that some States are grossly neglected. I am sure that the Railway Minister did not mean it nor did he want it. But the fact remains that some States, for example Kerala, have been grossly neglected. I am not speaking about the schemes. While Rs. 126 crore were provided last year, this year it was only one fourth of that. That if there is a proportionate cut in the allotment, we have to suffer it. But we could convince the Railway Minister that something happened wrongly to Kerala and many other States also, The hon. Minister was kind enough to consider that. We were just waiting to hear that major anomalies would be rectified. It is not done here today, when will it be done? We know the functioning of the Standing Committees. The Standing Committees are not empowered to go into these details. That is our worry. We should be given some solace. Otherwise, what is the purpose of having this kind of an exercise?

MR. SPEAKER : Kerala's position has been ventilated. Let us hear Orissa now.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we the Member of Parliament from Orissa have expressed our views regarding development projects and the backward districts of Orissa. One train is going from Delhi to Sambhalpur.

In the name of Orissa, the Minister has given one train but it is covering only two stations in Orissa.

But it covers only two stations in Orissa. We have five backward districts. We have requested him to extend the train up to Titlagarh. It will take only three hours. According to his speech, he is the champion of development of the backward people of India. The hon. Chief Minister of Orissa along with all the Members of Parliament from Orissa met the hon. Railway Minister and submitted a Memorandum to him regarding all the projects.

The people of our State are interested to know from the hon. Railway Minister something about the extension of this train to Titlagarh.

Sir, I request him to give a reply on this.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, I want to make a request to you. Kindly recall Kumari Mamta Banerjee to the House.

MR. SPEAKER : No question. Do not embarrass me.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Railway Minister was kind enough to give us a categorical assurance when we met him twice, along with our Leader, Shri Sharad Pawar. We have told about his assurance to the people of Himachal Pradesh. We were waiting for that. Sir, last time also, he made a promise but unfortunately it could not materialise. But this time, we were expecting through you Sir, that whatever promise he had made before our leader, Shri Sharad Pawar will be carried out totally. He had assured us that he will do it. I hope he will do it. That is why he did not interfere in the debate.

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was sitting here upto 4'o clock in the morning to speak. I had requested the Minister that last year Rs. 35 crores were given to Guna-Itawa railway line but this year only Rs. 13 crores have been provided whereas there is already a liability of Rs. 24 crores between Shivpuri and Guna. I had also requested that only Rs. 10 crores is needed to connect Gwalior and Bhind and even if you provide only Rs. 33 crores, as provided during the last year, then also railway line would be connected from Guna to Bhind. I had requested only this much but the hon. Minister has said nothing about it.

Secondly, Pitambara teerth is a major pilgrimage place in Datiya. Then Chambal Express has stoppages at small stations and it plies between Jhansi to Allahabad as a passenger train. If orders are issued to make its stoppage in Datiya, then it will be good. I had requested him these things but hon. Minister has not paid any attention.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will conclude my speech in very brief. My request is that Bandi Kui-Agra Gauge conversion work is pending for the last three years. Token money of one crore

rupees be provided for it. The Army is facing a lot of inconvenience in absence of this line. We have difficulty in sending the army to Jodhpur. Hence, army itself has requested to take it up soon. If Mr. Mulayam Singh will see record, then he will agree with me. but no work is taken up there at present.

Secondly, there is a matter concerning doubling of Tundla-Agra. Only one crore rupees has been provided for it. There is no mention about Mathura-Agra Gauge conversion in this budget, whereas it has been passed by the Planning Commission. Mr. Minister has said about introducing a new train between Agra-Kanpur. I would like to request the hon. Minister to extend it upto Lucknow but not Kanpur. Lucknow is the Capital of Uttar Pradesh. I hope he is listening to my request. Marudhar passes from Jodhpur to Varanasi via. Lucknow. Now it runs four days a week. My request is to run it daily. If it runs daily then the problem relating to delay in reaching Lucknow will be solved. In the end I would like to say something about the area of Defence Minister. The survey work of Agra-Itawa railway line be completed at the earliest.

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA (Serumpore) : Sir, on behalf of the State of West Bengal, we had submitted a lot of proposals to the hon. Minister. Our expectation was that, at least, to some of the genuine cases he would positively respond.

Now, Sir, I have a positive suggestion to make to the hon. Minister. Through you, I would request the hon. Minister to say in this House that he would taken up all the issues with the Members of Parliament of different States so that we can be enlightened about the affairs of the Railways and as to which proposals have been accepted or rejected. Otherwise, we are in dark and we do not know exactly what is happening in the Railways.

I have another submission to you, Sir. A little while ago, out of excitement something had happened in this House and two of our colleague had to leave the House. May I request you to recall these two hon. Members who had to leave the House. It would be better if you allow them to attend the House, that is my humble submission before you.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMANLAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, work on Udhampur railway line was started in 1983. Now it is 1997. This line was of only 52 kms but hon. Minister has said that he is going to connect Kashmir to Kanya Kumari through the trains. My request is that previously a corporation was set up for Konkan railway and the work had finished in record time. Similarly this work should also be completed in a record time.

My second point is that despite of the announcement made by the Rail Minister at several places outside the House for providing some relief, say half tickets in rail travels to the journalists, he has not said anything in this regard in

the House so far. I want him to apprise this House of the factual position in this regard.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had urged the Rail Minister to double the Jhansi-Kanpur rail route and electrify the same. The second thing I have said that Lalitpur is an important station linking Madhya Pradesh to Uttar Pradesh, therefore here stoppage of Cochin-Gorakhpur, Gorakhpur-Cochin and Hyderabad-Cochin and Gorakhpur, Hyderabad trains should be provided. Earlier the Punjab Mail used to halt at *Talnet* but now it does not have the stoppage point there. Its stoppage should be restored there. To my delight the Minister has committed in the House for allocating Rs. 1.25 lakh for laying Satna-Lalitpur line. Now I request him to fix a date for taking up the work of the important line and closing it for rail services in Bundelkhand which is a backward region. If Lalitpur-Satna line starts, it would open the venues for development in that area. Therefore the Minister should make a prompt announcement in the House for its date of inauguration.

[English]

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (Karol Bagh-Delhi) : Sir, I want to make a submission to you. A little while ago, there were some heated exchanges and now that the matter is over, I would request you to ask Mamataji to come back.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not press for that. I know when to decide that.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : It is a request, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I neither have to demand a rail line, nor any project from the Minister, as all that I wanted to say have already been said yesterday. My only point is that yesterday the Rail Minister had privately assured me, and made an announcement in the House that arrangements would be made for selling tickets in all the central universities through the computers. My submission is that the Rail Minister should announce in the House today that in all the university through out India, such as in Jawahar Lal Nehru University - Aligarh University, Banaras University and all other Universities and residential Universities computerised reservation facility would be provide subject to the condition that site should be provided by the Universities for the same.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HUSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel afraid while saying in the House. The Minister himself has admitted to fact that resentment breeds in him when somebody says anything against him. We too receive scores and scores of letters seeking out explanation as to what we are doing here. It puts us in trouble. In the

Common Minimum Programme provisions have been made for backward region but not for backward districts. My district is still backward. Over these 17 years we have raised this issue 34 times. Question are raised here regarding the cutting of district, rail line etc. But so far nothing has been done there. Electrification was done on Lal Guda section but the lines from Katwa to Murshidabad were left. This electrification work started from Howra but the area from Latwar-Murshidabad were not covered. Then there is the third line which runs via Golpur and Satia. Many north Bengal bound trains emanating from Delhi cross the Farakka barrage but even then no stoppage has been provided at Farakka except for the stoppage of the Bhiwani Express but God know when that Bhiwani Express starts. Through you I want to request the Government to think of the development of Backward Districts along with the backward areas. Will we get any specific assurance from you in this regard.

SHRI BHUPENDRA SINGH HUDA (Rohtak) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, last time the Minister has stated in the reply that the proposal for Rohtak-Rewari line would be forwarded to the Planning Commission. It has been shown under survey whereas the survey has already been completed but we do not know about its latest position. On our request on Rohtak-Rewari line EMU was plied between Rohtak and Delhi. The EMU was plied there but in exchange two trains were cancelled and this way the very purpose has been defeated. That line has heavy traffic load. The trains cancelled should be restored there.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bangalore city has a population of 50 lakh persons and we do not have any public transport. According to a survey we have got 7,90,000 vehicles now and by 2,000 A.D. we will be having 16,00,000 vehicles there. Therefore, the pollution will be 500 gras pollutants for each individual of 50 lakh persons. We have been time and again requesting for a Metro Rail Transport System for Bangalore city. I had met the hon. Prime Minister and the hon Railway Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and requested for the Metro Rail Transport System. And for that, they had assured that they would be considering the matter and a survey would be conducted. But there has been no assurance in the reply of the hon. Railway Minister in this regard. Therefore, I am requesting the hon. Railway Minister, through you Sir, to assure us that he will conduct a survey for the Metro Rail Transport System and the Circular Rail and he will begin the work as soon as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT (Balaghat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you, want to invite the attention of the Minister to Bilaspur. It is a very sensitive issue. The Prime Minister and the Rail Minister had given an assurance in the House that they would make an announcement in this regard. Similarly the Delhi Rajhara-Jagdarpur line would

supply iron ore to Bhilai Steel Plant. Our Bhilai Plant would not get supply of iron ore if this line is not completed in time. Similarly the Vihramipur-Ambikapur line has been sanctioned by the Planning Commission. This would help in the movement of coal extracted from the collieries and prove beneficial for the railways. The work on Indore-Damoh-Makasi line is continuing on a tardy pace. Samata Express is plying between Vishakhapatnam and Hazrat Nizamuddin via Nagpur. It runs twice in a week whereas though it traverses Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. This is the only train there. I request the Minister to run the Samata Express daily.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not keep quite. This is in response to the request of Srikanta Jena and Shrimati Meira Kumar. The manual says this and I will read out from the manual :

"The Member who has been directed to withdraw from the House should express his or her regret to the Speaker before the latter can accord his permission to another member to make a request to the House to rescind the order of withdrawal."

So you have to first ascertain from her whether she is expressing regret or not. Then I will rescind my order.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, right since the Tenth Lok Sabha I have been requesting that the Shatabdi Express and Kashi Vishwanath Express should be provided a stoppage point at Ghaziabad and telling you that people of Hapur had been demanding stoppage of Shaheed Express. It does not involve much money but the people there are faced with lot of inconvenience. No train comes from Muradabad, the number of trains emanating from Muradnagar should be increased. More than one Lakh people travel from Ghaziabad, therefore the number of EMUs should be increased there. The Rail Minister is talking of development but one provision has been made in this budget for doubling of Muradabad-Saharanpur route : The same is the case of lines between Ghaziabad and Gajrola.

Through you I want to make a request to the Railway Minister that a stoppage be provided to Shaheed Express at Hapur; at Babugarh, Nauchandi Express and at Ghaziabad Shatabdi Express and Kashi Vishwanath Express should be provided a halting point as compared to the previous sanctions, less amount was sanctioned this year for Muradabad Saharanpur line and Ghaziabad - Gajrola line. This amount should be increased.

SHRI PARAS RAM MEGHWAL (Jalaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday night I had made request to the Minister for making arrangements for imparting education to the children of Railway class IV employees including the Gangmen etc. living in forest areas(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now you are raising the new points. How it will go like this. This debate on the Budget will never end. Now adhere to the limit of half an hour.

SHRI ASHOK SHARMA (Rajanandgaon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last budget session I has attracted the attention of the Minister the Sarnath Express. He had given me an assurance the Sarnath Express plying between Durg and Chhapra would go enroute Dumgargarh. I alongwith several other Members had called upon him in this regard. I request the Minister to, he may cover this issue in this reply.

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Sir when the hon. Minister of Railways was making a speech, he himself had mentioned that in regard to Surendra Nagar-Bipavave line, the second clearance had not been received and he would get it within a few days, I want to know whether that clearance has been given or not.

My second point is I have not asked for money. But the people are willing to give more money. The Dhangodhra-Kooda railway line has been promised to me. What is the position? That I want to know and nothing more.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : In Maharashtra also, we have got certain grievances. I want to place them before the hon. Minister, If only you allow me.

MR. SPEAKER : I know, but how long can we go on like this?

SHRI RAM NAIK : From Maharashtra, we have three or four Members.(Interruptions) There are only two issues relating to Maharashtra. One is about the formation of an autonomous corporation of Mumbai Suburban Railway.

The second request is this. All the Members from Mumbai have requested that the two trains of the Konkan Railway may start from Dadar which is a predominantly central area of Mumbai instead of from Kurla as they are doing now. All the passengers of the Konkan Railway are Konkanites who stay in Mumbai. That is why the request is that the two trains may leave from Dadar.

[Translation]

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Thank you. When a delegation of the Member from Orissa had called upon the Minister he had made two promises to us and said that he would made a mention of it in his reply. There is a provision of Rs.3 crores for Ruksa Banbarinesi Project, but he had made an announcement for sanctioning Rs. 2 crore separately. He had also stated that orders would be issued for its survey and extension. Similarly it was stated that Vadan Pahar would be linked to Tata Nagar. The Minister had agreed with 88 percent recommendation of that delegation and had assured us to make a mention of it in his reply in the House. But we could not attract the attention of the Minister, now I request you to include our demand in the Budget.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : The five demands made by us included laying a line between Kalka and Parvanu. This year itself and the Minister had also agreed to lay it. The second demand was to conduct a survey for Kangra-Johinder Nagar line. The third was with regard to laying a line from Una to Talwara and a line between Bhanupalli and Bilaspur but the Minister did not make any mention of these in his reply. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we never entered the well of the House during these five years but this time we were compelled to enter it for which we beg your pardon.

[English]

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : I come from North Bengal. I request the hon. Minister to treat North Bengal as a backward area in the field of Railway connection. We have some problems. Out of them I would like to mention only three to be solved.

One is, the Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Guwahati should run daily.

The second one is a special train, a fast one, may be started from North Bengal to Calcutta. The third problem is for promoting tourism the Himalayan Railway has to be improved.

These are the three problems I want to place before the hon. Minister for execution.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : The borders of Uttar Pradesh are adjacent to the international borders of Nepal. It has major Buddhist centres also which are thronged by the foreign tourist and pilgrimages in the large number. There is a railway line from Gonda-Balrampur-Tulsipur to Navagarh-Gorakhpur and people are demanding the gauge conversion of this track from long time. I would also urge upon you to include it in your work plan. The survey work of Balrampur to Khalilabad via Atruah was carried out in 1977. I would like the hon. Minister to his views on these two projects. You should declare a clear cut policy on the gauge conversion and the railway level crossing. You should set up railway level crossing near Khalilabad. I would like the hon. Minister for Railways to express his views on these three points.

MR. SPEAKER : This way it will never end.

[English]

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) Mr. Speaker, Sir, twelve percent hike in freight rates is going to impose a backbreaking burden on the people of the North-East because bulk of the consumption items, apart from food grains which are excluded from the like are imported from the Indian mainland. So, my suggestion is that there should be a cap on the hike of twelve per cent in freight rates. Instead

of twelve per cent on the entire distant. The increase should be restricted to a maximum kilometrage of 1200 kilometers or 1500 km. so far as to reduce the impact of the hike on remote areas. That should be the maximum hike in freight rates so that the people of the North-East are relieved of the burden of extra freight on huge quantities of goods going to the North-East. This is essential to provide some relief.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA (Phillaur) : Sir it is very important to have a railway link from Phagwara to Nawan Shahr, Balachaur, Ropar and Chandigarh. Only 27 km of railway line is left to be completed. Also, we would be saving at least 40 km. All the important cities, that is, Amritsar, Pathankot, Jammu and Ludhiana will be interlinked with Chandigarh via Ropar. As a Member of the Northern Railway Consultative Committee, have submitted this proposal to the hon. Minister of Railways, but he has not made any reference to this in his Budget speech. So, I am submitting this to him again, through you.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir the issues in respect of Kerala have already been agitated. So, I am not going into those issues. I would only raise a technical question. From the date of the presentation of the Railway Budget, many news items have been coming out in the newspapers that many delegations were approaching the hon. Minister of Railways and many assurances were given by him to those delegations. Even yesterday, a delegation from a chamber of commerce has approached him. I now raise a technical question. Only Parliament is the proper forum, this is the supreme body, where he can give those assurances. I would urge him to give his assurances to us here, on the floor of this House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Hon. Speaker Sir, through you I would like to request and remind the Railway Minister that he had promised to allocate funds for Kerala last time too, however nothing was spent out of the allocated funds. I would like to know as to why these funds were not utilised. The funds allocated this time in the budget are very less. All the Members have been requesting the Railway Minister to ensure the utilisation of funds for some developmental work. This time Kerala has been grossly ignored so therefore you should do something for it. The survey work of Kottayam to Pulurail line which is being demanded since 1993, has been completed and it was promised to incorporate it in the budget, however, this demand has not been met, you should give us assurance in your reply so that more and more developmental works could be undertaken in our state.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Hon. Speaker Sir, the Konkan rail project has been completed in the record time. Today the public is raising a very small demand that the train passing via Kurla should instead go via Dadar. Dadar is the main centre in Mumbai for taking transport to all directions, therefore the people want that the Konkan rail should go via Dadar instead of Kurla. If this popular demand is not met

then, the people will resort to agitation press for their demand. I would earnestly request the Railway Minister to make an announcement in this regard.

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Railway Minister that the Rajdhani Express trains are available to all State capitals however, there is no Rajdhani Express Train from Bhopal to New Delhi in Madhya Pradesh which he had promised last time. Similarly Nagpur is the sub capital of Maharashtra. There is a train from here which runs thrice in a week. If this train runs for all seven days then, it will fulfil the demand both for Bhopal and Nagpur. My constituency Betul is also adjoining to Nagpur and this train will also provide transport facility from Betul to Nagpur. Therefore, Mahamaya Express should run for all seven days of week and this is my only demand.

[English]

SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagapattinam) : Sir, I represent the State of Tamil Nadu. The other Member belonging to Tamil Nadu who participated in the Railway Budget expressed their own view. They have put many demands. I would like to point out to the hon. Minister of Railways that the State of Tamil Nadu has been neglected in general, and my constituency, in particular. Last year they had assured conversion of Trichy-Nagore line into broad gauge line. But in this year's Budget, there is no mention of Nagore. So, I request the hon. Minister of Railway to take up this work in my constituency, that is from Trichy-Nagore, immediately. This is my humble request.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargoda) : Last year the hon. Minister of Railways assured that doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore line would be completed by the year, 2000. But in this year's Budget, no amount has been provided for that purpose. All other new lines which were assured last year have been rejected. We are totally disappointed. The Railway Board and the Administration is running hopelessly. My humble suggestion is that Railway Board and Administration should be dissolved and in their place, Regional Boards and Administration should be set up.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, people have to travel unnecessarily for 375 km. to reach Mumbai and Calcutta. Therefore I request the hon. Railways Minister that Agra and Pandikui have been excluded from the BOLT scheme. I demanded Rs. 150/- crores. I had demanded Rs. 100 crore yesterday for this purpose but you have just given Rs. 1 crore. This is a very petty amount. When the train to Haridwar will be introduced from Jaipur. 'When the zonal office which you are mentioning will be opened? Hon. P. J. me Minister had inaugurated it however it has not yet been opened. I think that the train does not stop at Durgapur. If a halt is provided at Durgapur, it will provide relief to the local people. I would request you to make arrangements for reaching Haridwar from Jaipur.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : They are repeating the same demands. What can I do?

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The same thing is being repeated.

[Translation]

SHRI MANVENDRA SHAH (Tihari-Garhwal) : Karnal has. NDRI and I.C.R.I. centres. Some of students and Professors of North East come there. But no superfast train stops there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The same thing is being repeated you want to have first round of debate, second round of debate and third round of debate. I cannot help it.

[Translation]

SHRI MANVENDRA SHAH : It does not have any financial implications. The meter guage line has not yet been converted into the broad guage. I would urge upon you to provide a two minute halt of Superfast train there.

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, devastating rail accident occurred four days back and a train accident had also taken place at Guna four days back. In a collision between bus and train 20 people got killed and 30 people were injured. Those who were killed were largely dalits. You were in Bhopal that day. But you did not reach the spot. It would have been better if you should there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know how to run the House. Why don't you yourself decide as to how the House should be run.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH : I would like to know as to whether you are extending any assistance to the family members of those, killed in the accident.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not able to run the House. I am very sorry. You have to find another man to run it.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry. I have no ability to do this job.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Somewhere we should stop it.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Whosoever want to speak can speak now. I am prepared to sit here.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would request the Minister to allocate money for the matter I raised in my speech
.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Go on speaking as long as you wish. I am ready to wait.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Sir, I have a question to ask about the policy. During the construction work, if there is a necessity to construct a road over-bridge or an under-bridge or in the case of construction of a level crossing, it is the policy of the Railways that the cost will be borne by the State Government or the local bodies including the recurring cost.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is enough

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : May I know whether the Railways will take a decision that the cost would be borne by them?(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right. You have made your point

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we were sitting in the House yesterday, Shri Kalpanath Rai was also present. I was intervening in between and at times. I was warned by the Chair but I had said at that time as many as 96 Members have spoken and each Member is giving 5 to 6 suggestions. If I as the Railway Minister give reply to them, it will take at least 15 days or a month. I was trying, this is a part of the record if I had given you assurance at that time then, it is not so that it was not part of the record at that time and the assurances. I am going now are also the part of the record. Therefore, I had asked at that time not to sent the budget to the Standing Committee and let me give full reply to each Member which would satisfy all the Members. But I was told that the committee had objected for not sending the budget to it last

time. I think this objection is justified. When an Act has been passed then it should go to it. This time you are sending it to the Standing Committee. This is our proposal. Let us see whether the House approved it or not and what the Standing Committee does with it. Therefore, I had asked at that time that let me give the final reply the same day only and I had asked for time. We can sit together and think over it. I have with me the views expressed by the Hon'ble Members. I shall give the reply statewise. We should know that we are seeking the approval of the House on the vote on account for two months. We should be allowed to spend and we shall discuss when the full budget is presented. If the discussion is to be carried out later on then we should be given full time. I have received your suggestion and Hon. Speaker, Sir, I through you assure all the Member that they shall receive the written replies to their suggestion made till 21st April before the Parliament session starts on 21st April. If still there are some problems then you could raise them when the budget is presented. We shall give replies to them at that time.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 1997-98 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1998, in respect of the head of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

The motion was adopted

*Demand for Grants on Account (Railways)
for 1997-98 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account submitted to the Vote of the House
1	2	3
		(Rs.)
1.	Railway Board	6,00,76,000
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	28,23,30,000
3.	General Superintendence and Services of Railways	201,62,50,000
4.	Repairs & Maintenance of Permanent Way & Works	392,87,93,000
5.	Repairs & Maintenance of Motive Power	222,81,85,000

1	2	3
6.	Repairs & Maintenance of Carriage and Wagons	405,15,66,000
7.	Repairs & Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	209,22,22,000
8.	Operating Expenses-Rolling Stock Equipment	319,90,98,000
9.	Operating Expenses-Traffic	1324,39,10,000
10.	Operating Expenses-Fuel	744,69,11,000
11.	Staff Welfare & Amenities	147,21,59,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	182,75,71,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and other retirement benefits	418,84,00,000
14.	Appropriation to Funds	1177,66,67,000
15.	Divident to General Revenues, Repayment of Loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalization	4,28,11,000
16.	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Revenue	7,50,00,000
	<u>Other Expenditure</u>	
	Capital	1608,67,21,000
	Railway Funds	682,59,67,000
Total		8084,46,37,000

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1994-95 to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the consolidated Fund of India to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ended on the 31st day of March, 1995, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 8, 14 and 16.

The motion was adopted.

Demand for excess Grants - (Railways) for 1994-95 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants submitted to the Vote of the House
		(Rs.)
8.	Operating Expenses-Rolling Stock & Equipment	1,57,81,798
14.	Appropriation to Funds	366,39,46,659
16.	Assets-Acquisition Construction and Replacement	
	<u>Other Expenditure</u>	
	Capital	23,53,27,736
Total		391,50,56,193

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1996-97 to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1997, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 4, 6 to 8, 11, 13, and 16".

The motion was adopted.

Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1996-97 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account submitted to the Vote of the House
1	2	3
		(Rs.)
1.	Railway Board	1,16,300,000
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	3,45,39,000
3.	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	22,61,44,000
4.	Repairs & Maintenance of Permanent Way & Works	56,35,56,000

1	2	3
6.	Repairs & Maintenance of Carriage and Wagons	60,16,39,000
7.	Repairs & Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	27,95,89,000
8.	Operating Expenses-Rolling Stock Equipment	79,68,35,000
11.	Staff Welfare & Amenities	8,66,97,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and other retirement benefits	135,54,68,000
16.	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Revenue	
	<u>Other Expenditure</u>	
	Capital	1,000
	Railway Funds	304,73,32,000
	Total	700,34,30,000

16.30 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) VOTE ON ACCOUNT BILL*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1997-98 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. SPEAKER : The Question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1997-98 for the purposes of Railways".

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You may now move the motion for consideration of the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1997-98 for the purposes of Railways be taken into consideration."

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Not required in the Appropriation Bill.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is required. Therefore I have given prior notice. This is the convention at the time of appropriation Bill. There is a rule and therefore notice has been given. I want the permission to read two-three points in a minute. The Hon'ble Minister may say, whatever he wants to say.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I will give you in writing.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, this part was raised during the discussion that a railway bridge should be constructed on the river Ganges near Munger. The Hon. Minister may tell us something about that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : How can you go on raising points like that? I am so sorry. I really feel sorry. You are a very senior Member.

Motion moved :

"That the Bill provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1997-98 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Therefore I am presenting my point very briefly. I have given it in writing, I want to read it out only. After that the Hon. Minister may say whatever he wants to say after it.

There has been demand for the construction of the Buddhist circuit in view of the international tension. I would request that the survey which was conducted in 1982 to connect Rajgir and Gaya, it should be immediately started on that basis. What is the response of the hon. Minister towards this, we want to know that. The third point Futhme Islampur was light rail line, which has been acquired and train service

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 13.3.97

was stopped after the acquisition. We would like that it should be started again. No survey is required for that. You can continue that service. When the work will commence on the construction of bridge over the Ganga in Patna and when it will be completed. I want to know the hon. Minister's mind in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has taken note of it.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1997-98 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the schedule stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1 the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.40 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) BILL *

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purpose of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1995 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purpose of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1995 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1995 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1995 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

- * Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 13.3.97
- ** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now taken up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 and the schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1 the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed"

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill is passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.40½ hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) No. 2 BILL* 1997

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1996-97 for the purposes of Railways.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1996-97 for the purposes of Railways."

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1996-97 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1996-97 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the House shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 1 the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 13.3.97

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER : The Home Minister will make a statement on the law and order situation in Bihar, sorry, Uttar Pradesh.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE (Kanara) : He must be having doubts about Bihar also.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

16.40% hrs.

INCIDENTS/ISSUES RELATING TO UTTAR PRADESH

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : During the Zero Hour on 12.3.97, that is yesterday, hon. Members of the House, while expressing concern over the general law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh, mentioned certain specific incidents and issues relating to the State.

1641 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO in the Chair]

I am making a statement with regard to this. The first incident mentioned in the House related to some relatives of Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria, MP, who are alleged to have been kidnapped. The State Government has informed that a written report was given by Shri Katheria to the SSP, Agra, in connection with this matter on February 26, 1997 stating that Truck No. UP-80-E-9967 belonging to Shri Katheria, along with three persons namely, Shri Ram Swarup, Driver; Shri Ashok, Conductor And Shri Ram Khiladi, Helper, was not traceable since the night of February 17/18, 1997. The report was given by him on February 26. Shri Ram Khiladi and Shri Ashok are said to be distantly related to Shri Katheria. According to police records, the driver, Shri Ram Swarup, is wanted in a murder case of Police Station Bah, the case being No. 52/95 under section 302 IPC and he has been evading arrest. The police have since 25.10.96 announced a cash reward of Rs. 1,000 for his arrest. It is reported that Shri Katheria had engaged him about 3/4 months ago. According to preliminary investigations of the police, the aforesaid three persons and one Shri Rajender had left the residence of the hon. Member late in the evening on February 17, 1997 to bring sand from the banks of the river Chambal and around 1 a.m. on the night of February 17/18 1997 Shri Rajender got off the truck near Jaitpur at his residence. The whereabouts of the truck and its occupants are not known since then. A special team of officers headed by SP Rural Area has been formed for investigating the case. Nine persons including those mentioned by the hon. Member as suspects have been questioned so far Raids have been carried out in various places in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, besides Uttar Pradesh. Enquiries were also made

in Maharashtra and Delhi. The local police is working on various theories in order to work out the case. Senior officers from the DGP Headquarters, Lucknow, visited the scene and are monitoring the progress. This, Sir, is the first issue which had been raised.

The incident of murder of Dr. Ved Bhushan, a renowned heart specialist of Muzaffarnagar district, who was shot dead on 11.3.97 was also raised in the House. It has been ascertained from the State Government that the doctor was shot dead by two unidentified miscreants while he was attending to outdoor patients at his clinic located at Bhagat Singh Road in Muzaffarnagar city. According to information available, SP, Muzaffarnagar, and other senior administrative officers reached the spot to take stock of the situation and man-hunt has been launched by the District Administration.

Dr. Ved Bhushan, I have been informed, had also been kidnapped earlier from Muzaffarnagar in November, 1995 and was kept in captivity by the kidnappers for about 10 days. He was released from captivity as a result of a police encounter on 16.11.95 from Deobund town in district Saharanpur. In this encounter, two kidnappers were killed and three others were arrested.

The arrested persons are in Jail since then. The State Government has offered to provide security to Dr. Ved Bhushan, but he declined the same. It has also been reported by the State Government that Dr. Ved Bhushan was running his clinic in rented premises where he had a dispute with his landlord.

The third incident prominently mentioned by hon. Member relates to the killing of five people in Hamirpur on 26 January, 1997. According to the reports available with us, an FIR in the matter was registered on 26.1.97 in Hamirpur against the accused persons, who include one Shri Ashok Singh Chandel, former MLA. On the day after the incident, that is on 27.1.97, four accused were arrested and sent to jail. Action to attach the property of other was immediately taken whereafter four more accused were arrested. Shri Ashok Singh Chandel, former MLA, and his driver are still absconding. A charge sheet in the case has since been filed on 26th February, 1997.

As would be evident from the brief details available on these individual incidents, action by the State police has been taken, wherever possible, and I can assure the House that we will ensure that the quickest possible action is taken in the case relating to the kidnapping in Agra and the murder of Dr. Ved Bhushan in Muzaffarnagar. As I had mentioned in the other House during the course of my reply to the debate on the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh, we have further geared up the law and order machinery in the State. The State Government has already initiated steps on the Action Plan which we discussed with them and we hope that the situation will take a turn for the better sooner rather than later.

16.47 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

A mention was also made by some Members of the campaign launched by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) for the 'liberation' of the shrine at Mathura. Krishna Janma Bhoomi-Shahi Idgah Mosque (KJB-SIM) complex at Mathura is covered under the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, which provides for maintenance of the religious character of a place of worship as it existed on 15th August, 1947. However, 'liberation' of the KJB-SIM Complex at Mathura has been on the agenda of the VHP for the last few years. From the 10th of March, 1997, the VHP has started a "Sant Yatra" in a few districts adjoining Mathura. The "Sant Yatra" will conclude at Mathura on the 16th of March. In addition to the demand for 'liberation' of the shrine, a demand has also been made for the removal of barricading and withdrawal of the police force. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has been sensitised by us. They have assured us that they are committed to ensuring the security of the shrines and have made all necessary arrangements including deployment of adequate police force for this purpose.

16.49 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF
CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF PROCLAMATION BY
PRESIDENT IN RESPECT OF THE STATE OF
UTTAR PRADESH

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We now move on to the Statutory Resolution to be moved by the Minister. As I said in the morning, Justice Lodha has raised a Constitutional point on the issue of extension of the President's Rule. I said that before taking a final decision I will hear the Members. Justice Lodha may speak.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Shall I move the Resolution?

MR. SPEAKER : No, he is objecting to the moving of the Resolution itself.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Very respectfully I would submit that he has to take objection on certain proposal. Unless it is moved, it is just a paper proposal. It does not become the property of the House. It is entirely up to you. It is not very important but the question is of procedure.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this context, as mentioned by my leader, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and subsequently executed by Shri Atalji and some other Members, we have actually also submitted for your consideration that for this particular matter, given the constitutional complexity of the situation, given also the fact that the Supreme Court is seized of the matter of President's

Rule in UP and that we are dealing with an exceptional situation, the Attorney General be invited to the House. I would request that this complex situation not be taken up for discussion today at five o'clock in the evening. If at all some business is to be taken up, we could, perhaps, consider the Budget of UP. Then this matter receives due and proper consideration. Otherwise, we will be treating rather perfunctorily what is a serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER : I will read out the notice given by Shri Lodha.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : I would complete my submission, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterji has raised a question. Though this notice may not be exactly in appropriate form, Shri Lodha has said:

"The Constitution of India Article 356 or any other Article, nowhere provides for such extension and this Resolution is unconstitutional. The Government should come forward with a Constitutional Amendment if it desired to end the deadlock and Constitutional crisis likely to be created on the 17th of April, 1997, by the expiry of the President's Rule."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is an advisory notice. The Member has given advice to the Government. The Government may consider it or may not consider it. What is the point there?

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I have not complete my submission. How can he object to it?

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. member make his submission.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Under Article 356 of the Constitution it has been provided that proclamation by the President can be issued, and thereafter it can be extended for another six months. Under Article 356, Clause (4), if, after that, any further extension is required, the requirement of the law is that there must be a proclamation of emergency and after that proclamation of emergency, there must be consultation with the Election Commission that elections cannot be held, and then only further extension can be made. Clause (5) reads like this:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (4), a resolution with respect to the continuance in force of a proclamation approved under clause (3) for any period beyond the expiration of one year from the date of issue of such Proclamation shall not be passed by either House of Parliament unless.

(a) a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation, in the whole of India or, as the case may be, in the whole or any part of the State, at the time of the passing of such resolution, and

(b) the Election Commission certifies that the continuance in force of the Proclamation approved under clause (3) during the period specified in such resolution is necessary on account of difficulties in holding general elections to the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned.

Now, it is not in dispute that after the Government led by the Chief Minister Mayawati went out of power, a proclamation was issued. That proclamation was again extended for six months. During this period, elections were held. On the 16th or 17th of October, when the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh have been completed and the results have been declared, the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, instead of calling some of them who enjoy the confidence and who can run the Government to form the Government, on the 16th, sent a report.

On account of that, another extension was given for six months. Now, what I am saying is that, that extension of six months after completion of one year could not have been given because of the requirement of clause 5 which is mandatory. That extension was confirmed by this House also. But the hon. High Court of Allahabad in a writ petition held unanimously, and by a full bench judgement consisting of three judges given on December 19 said - I will read only one sentence, the operative part of it :

"Justice B.N. Lal delivered the judgement in a packed court room at 10.15 a.m.

On behalf of all three judges he said :

"This Court unanimously holds that the impugned Presidential proclamation, dated October 17, 1996 reimposing Presidential rule under Article 356 of the Constitution of India in the State of Uttar Pradesh subsequently approved by the Parliament is unconstitutional, issues in colourable exercise of powers and is based on wholly irrelevant and extraneous grounds and therefore cannot be allowed to stand. Consequently, the same is hereby quashed."

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to repeat the last one sentence in which he has said:

"Unconstitutional, issued in colourable exercise of powers and is based on wholly irrelevant and extraneous grounds and therefore cannot be allowed to stand. Consequently the same is hereby quashed."

Now, Sir, this unanimous judgement of the Allahabad High Court which has been delivered on December 19 has not been set aside by any appellate forum, that is, the hon. Supreme Court. Now, Sir, the position is that not only according to our logic or our argument or our contention or citing of some precedents, but by a judicial verdict of the full bench of the High Court, it has been quashed and held to be unconstitutional. Therefore, Sir, the question is that another extension of six months which is now sought for is again

another unconstitutional act which has got no bedrock, which has got no basis, no legal foundation and nowhere contemplated by Article 356 of the Constitution.

Therefore, Sir, the first point which I want to raise before your Honour is that, now there is no ground, now there is no Constitutional permissible jurisdiction under which the hon. Home Minister can ask for consideration of this Resolution. It is because this Resolution in turn wants to perpetuate one unconstitutional act by another unconstitutional act. Therefore, I would submit that the Resolution should not allowed to be considered by Your Honour as a guardian of this House. It is because we owe to our oath to the Constitution. We cannot go beyond it. All of us are bound by it. Therefore, Sir, this is one aspect which I want to put if before Your Honour.

Now, Sir, the second aspect is that it may be said that an appeal has been filed in the Supreme Court by the Union of India and that appeal is pending.

1700 hrs.

Now the pendency of the appeal is itself would never mean quashing of the judgement of the Allahabad High Court.

Secondly, if pendency of the appeal is likely to be used by them as an armoury weapon for permitting the discussion on this extension of proclamation then I would submit that it was for the Union of India to file an application before the hon. Supreme Court and obtain an order with regard to the unconstitutionality of the earlier Presidential Proclamation. The matter is pending before the hon. Supreme Court. According to the assessment of the Governor, he has not been able to get any party or any person who can form the Government. But according to my assessment, the party having the majority or having the largest number of Members was entitled to be called and Shri Kalyan Singh should have been called.

This is what was said earlier also. This is what happened in the case of this House when our leader Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was called having the support of the largest number of Members. But whatever it may be, it is a matter of debate. There could be two views on that point because Allahabad High Court has taken one view and the other view has been taken earlier. But nonetheless, it was the duty of the hon. Minister of Law, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the Union of India to have filed an application before the hon. Supreme Court and obtained a direction and have asked for extending the proclamation which has been quashed for another six months in order to get a decision of the Supreme Court. This they have not done. They can do it even now because the expiry of it would be on 17th of April. It is not expiring today or tomorrow. There is no haste that one fine morning they get up and request Your Honour and put a resolution in the Agenda, of course, with your permission. It is such a serious matter that the fate of fifteen crore people is going to be considered because they are living without

democratic Government in spite of their Members having been elected. The surprising thing is that the Governor has not even notified to the Election Commission for the purpose of given them oath. The Governor has not given them Oath and has not allowed the Government to be formed.

In the Bommai's case it was held that the floor test is the best test. If there is a doubt in the mind of the Governor that who has go a majority then he could have gone into it and obtained it on the floor after getting the Government formed. That also he has not done. Therefore, today, there is nothing to be extended.

The Proclamation issued on 17th October 1996 is *non est*, non-existent on account of being declared as unconstitutional. There is nothing to be extended. When there is nothing to be extended, I would respectfully submit that because of the bar of Clauses 3 and 4 of Article 356, the question of getting this Resolution moved and considered, cannot be and should not be allowed by Your Honour.

One more point I would like to submit before I take my seat. It may be argued that on behalf of the other side, the Government, that not only the appeal is filed but there is a limited Stay Order which has been issued by the hon. Supreme Court. Now that is the point and I must answer this point. That is the point we must know that what is the Stay Order. It would be perfect justification, if the operation, if the operation of the judgement or if this particular operation has been stayed or quashed. Then the consideration should be different.

But I would read the Stay Order which has been issued by the hon. Supreme Court in order to bring home the point that the operation of the judgement has not been stayed.

All that has been stayed in that at the moment the Government and in that respect this judgment would not come into stay for that purpose and then we would hear the case early and till then the matter is before the Government.

Now, I would read this one line Stay. Interim Stay of the High court dated December, 19th say: "In the mean time(Interruptions)

Kindly listen It is a delicate legal matter. if I am wrong, I can be corrected(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is a very important point, no doubt(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Hon. Speaker, the legal interpretation of very word is very delicate and it requires some very calm and composed consideration. So, I am praying with them to bear with me for a minute. Interim Stay of the High Court Order dated December 19th, says:

"In the mean time, the Attorney-General assures us that there will be no dissolution of the House...."

Because dissolution of the House was imminent, so the Attorney-General assures us that there will be no dissolution of the House.

It further says:

"We also so direct, however, this will not preclude the formation of a popular Government if possible. Liberty for the petitioner to approach for a date for hearing the petition and the matter will be taken up after the conclusion of the Civil judge, Constitutional Bench."

Therefore, as I respectfully submitted that the judgement and the constitutionality having been adjudicated by the Allahabad High Court Full Bench, that adjudication of the constitutionality of the Proclamation being in violation of Article 346 of the Constitution stands. It would either be confirmed by the hon. Supreme Court after full hearing or they can quash it, either way. Till then, Sir, the Government can be formed. Therefore, I am submitting that this Stay Order is an Order, a limited Order, on account of which the Proclamation, constitutionality has not been revived, has not been put to constitutional what was unconstitutional and, Therefore, Sir, this would continue to be unconstitutional till it is quashed. Of course, if was open to them to move the hon'ble Supreme Court for such directions as they may deem proper, But having not done so, my respectful submission is that Article 356 Clause IV and V read with this judgment and all the orders which are there, the facts and the circumstances, they provide a complete bar for the consideration of any *non est*, non existent proclamation and my respectful submission is that on account of that, I have submitted this constitutional limited aspect and the rest, of course, can be submitted by the other Members.

SHRISATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given my notice. Please allow me to speak(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question of a notice.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, I am opposing the introduction of the Bill(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a Bill that we are introducing.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, I am sorry. I am opposing the introduction of this Statutory Resolution. Sir, I have also given a notice in writing.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not come individually on serious issues like this.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, I have a right to say my point of view. Kindly give me some time to speak. I have given it in writing also(Interruption)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, my intervention in this discussion my not be treated that on principle, I approve of the application of Article 356.

Earlier when this Resolution had come up, I said that in the context of the situation prevailing in the State of Uttar Pradesh, we had decided reluctantly to support that Motion. But now we do not want that there should be a genuine Constitutional chaos in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, it is our duty to see now as to what should be done and what the House should do in view of the state of affairs as they prevail today in the absence of any likelihood of a Government being constituted in Uttar Pradesh.

I have heard very, very attentively to former Chief Justice and our distinguished Member, Shri Guman Mal Lodha's submission. I do not say he has laid down a Lodha's jurisprudence. But it is some what surprising to hear from a distinguished jurist who occupied the position of the position of the Chief Justice of a High Court. Be it of Assam!

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Sir he is referring to Assam (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No, that is for Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. That is not for you.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Or for anybody.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : We were very happy with him. I have nothing against him. He was a very good judge of High Court. I have nothing against him. I feel proud of you. Why are you annoyed?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He should have gone to the Supreme court. He was a very distinguished judge as Chief Justice of a High Court. I am sure he would, as a former Chief Justice, never say that once a matter has been decided by a trial court, subordinate court, although an appeal is pending and where the appeal court has intervened as it has done here, therefore, that the subordinate judge's decision is the final to the extent of no question can be asked on that, I do not think that he could have passed that judgement. It is a question of *subjudice*. It is well-known that whatever order is passed, the earlier lower courts order will merge in that. The theory of merger is very well-known. There obviously, he has to adopt 'mix politics with law.' This is the trouble. One thing is very clear.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Either of us is mixing.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Then you admit about yourself. It is good.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : No, this is what I am saying that you are doing it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If I follow a distinguished jurist like you, but I hope not to follow you. It has been said that the High Court has held that there was a colourable exercise of power which has been commented on by the learned hon. Member here, is that as there was no reason for imposition of the President's Rule, the Governor should have continued in making efforts, the Governor could

have called Shri Kalyan Singh as Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was called here even if that Government has lasted for 13 minutes or I do not know-it lasted here 13 days - and that exercise should have gone on. Well, this is what has been argued. Is it a colourable exercise of power? Obviously 'No' Sir. That has no relation to the objects. That is, there is no nexus. So far as Article 356 is concerned, the basic nexus has to be that it is not possible that a situation has arisen in which the Government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

What the High Court has presumably held is that such a situation has not arisen. Not that in no circumstances, the President's Rule could have been imposed. If there have been grounds, it could have been.

Kindly appreciate under Article 356, time is being stressed on. The language is very clear :

"Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (4), a resolution with respect to the continuance in force of a Proclamation approved under clause (3)...."

What we had approved about six months earlier was not a Proclamation that has been earlier approved. It was not a case of continuation of a Proclamation issued under Article 356 (1).

It was a fresh proclamation that had been issued. You may say that there was a fraud on the Constitution, or fraud on the Statute. But if it was a fraud on the Statute, I am sure that the Honourable High Court would have decided straightaway and the Supreme Court would not have kept it pending, if it was so palpably a fraud on the constitution a fraud on the powers of the Government. It would not have kept it pending for hearing on merits and in the meantime may have granted a stay - may not be an absolute stay - but what had happened? The honourable Supreme Court expressly permitted the Governor to continue with his efforts. The Governor was to continue with his efforts for the formation of a popular Government and he had to continue with his efforts until the matter was heard and the Governor's rule could be kept pending.

Therefore, there was no finding, not even an implied finding by the Supreme Court that the proclamation was necessarily ultra vires the Constitution of India and a colourable exercise of power is not to be equated with a lack of constitutional authority or jurisdiction.

What had happened in this case is this : Of course, nobody has been able to find or give an answer. A former Chief Justice says that an amendment to the Constitution is required. Even they are not able to affirm categorically that they are able to form a Government. They want to have an amendment of the Constitution as if just to show that what has happened earlier by the steps taken by the House was not constitutionally possible so that it could bolster the arguments of those who are appearing before the Supreme Court and to oppose the Governor's action in the proclamation or issue of a fresh proclamation.

Therefore, I respectfully submit at this stage as necessarily we do not decide the vires of this action, the vires is to be decided by the courts of law ultimately and the case is pending before the highest court of the land. Actually, we cannot deliberate when the honourable Supreme Court will take up the matter; we cannot bind then as to the date of disposal of the matter.

On the 17th of April this Proclamation is coming to an end. There will be total chaos in Uttar Pradesh if there is no extension, or a Government cannot be formed. Getting a judgement in the meantime is not at all possible. This House is going on recess on the 21st of March and it is not going to sit till the 20th of April and that means that the House has to be called again for the purpose of a decision. In the meantime we cannot guarantee that the Supreme Court decision will come. Therefore, who benefits by this? Nobody benefits. There will be more and more uncertainty leading to a possible constitutional crisis in Uttar Pradesh; it is not for the benefit of either the people of the State or for the benefit of the administration there or the benefit of the country as a whole.

Therefore, I respectfully submit that what is being done today is a questions of the continuation of a proclamation which has been issued only six months back. It is not only some proclamation which was issued initially a year and a half back when it was passed. That is what is interdict in sub-article (5) of Article 356 of the Constitution.

If I may, with greatest humility, submit, sitting there you will decide the question whether prime facie there is a constitutional question to the extent of invalidation the very objective of the Resolution namely, that there is a case for the extension of the President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh in spite of kindly see, Sir - what is provided in Article 356(5) :

"Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (4) a resolution with respect to the continuance in force of a Proclamation approved under clause (3) for any period beyond the expiration of one year from the date of issue....

Let us see what the Motion is.

It says '.....for a further period of six months, which was issued on the 17th October, 1996'. Therefore, my submission is that Article 356(5) does not come into play at the moment unless the Supreme Court decides that the proclamation of the 17th October, 1996 was bad. That has not been decided by the Supreme Court.....(*Interruptions*)'

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : That , precisely, is my point.

MR. SPEAKER : You can answer that later. I will allow you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am already on the verge of completion of my submission.

Realising this point, realising this difficulty, what Justice Lodha has said was something which was not there. Why does he like to perpetuate that? It is because he has assumed that the proclamation of the 17th October, 1996 will necessarily be set aside by the Supreme Court(*Interruptions*)

SHRI I.D. SWAMI (Karnal) : It has been set aside.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Sir, he is a legal luminary.

[*Translation*]

If you go to the chamber of Shri Chatterjee and ask him, he will also say that this proclamation is illegal, since he is in the House, he has to say this, otherwise this is the reality.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is a reflection of my behaviour and on my character. Of course, to be blamed by the BJP friends is no real reflection.

AN HON. MEMBER : But they are blaming in reality.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Maybe, it is a compliment let us not have double standards here. I can assure them that even if they paid me fees, I would not, on this score, go against what I am saying here. This is a very important matter; not a matter of levity. But there are certain basic laws. The basic law is when the matter is pending before the Supreme Court, everything is open. If the hon. Speaker today says that is pending before the Supreme Court. can we, here, with all humility per-empt the Supreme Court from taking a decision? Therefore, let the Supreme Court do its duty and let us do our duty. Our duty is to see that there is no chaos in the country and that there is good governance in this country, whatever may be the position there. The Krishnjanamboomi and so many other targets are there which could be attacked. So, it is all the more necessary that this Resolution is passed.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I will make a very small submission. It is really only to clarify the position.

It is indeed incumbent on this House to do its duty. In the performance of our duty, as the light that guides us, we should be guided and we should not deliberately and knowingly commit an act which is likely to be called 'unconstitutional'. Our opposition is not to the principle of the extension of the President's Rule. I think, the hon. Member, Shri Chatterjee, was misplacing the issue. The objection is not to the principle of the need or the necessity as it has arisen today.

There is no Government in Uttar Pradesh. President's Rule has to be extended. That is the reality. All that we are saying is that if it is extended through the device of a simple Resolution, we are likely to be committing a grave error. Therefore, we are likely to on account of a particular persuasion

or a temporary convenience, land this Assembly in a situation of deliberately and knowingly committing a constitutional wrong. Therefore, there are two suggestions.

The first suggestion is this. Either this extension should be treated as a constitutional requirement or a constitutional amendment. This is the second suggestion. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpeyee has moved that motion and I have also moved it. What is says is this. 'Considering the extraordinary constitutional complexity of the question of President's Rule in the State of Uttar Pradesh. taking serious note of the issue already being examined by the hon. Supreme Court and mindful of the implications to the Republic of our determination on the subject, therefore, this House do now resolve to request the Attorney-General to attend the House during discussion on this subject.' The Government can, either on its own, take a decision and say, 'Out of abundant caution, we will go down the path of the Constitution Amendment'. Or, mindful of what we are submitting - we have submitted this Resolution for your consideration - say, 'No, we will also call the Attorney-General'.

It is because, after all there is a Constitutional provision whereby the Attorney-General has a seat in this House, and is entitled to attend the House, it is precisely for such occasions. The eminent jurists, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Lodha, would argue the points. The Attorney-General could well hold a view. The Attorney-General thereafter can say on his own, in substance that this House is entitled to go down the path of Constitutional Amendment. The question, Sir, is not of conniving with furthering the chaos in U.P. The question is attempting to minimise the existing chaos in U.P. The question and the responsibility with which we are seized is not to further contribute to the Constitutional complexity of the situation. That is the submission I would like to make.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, I would not like to repeat the points that have been raised by Justice Lodha. Before I come to Article 356, I would like to draw your attention towards Article 163 and 164 of the Constitution of India. Article 163 says:

"There shall be a Council of Minister with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise"

So, Sir, Article 163 is mandatory. There has to be a Council of Ministers. But Article 356 deals only with certain situation. When, it is not possible to form the Government or run the Government as per law, then, certain situations have been given. Then, you can suspend the Assembly, you can dissolve the Government or you can dissolve the Assembly or you can impose the President's Rule. Now, under Article 356, the maximum period prescribed for imposing President's rule is one year. I heard Shri Somnath Chatterjee with rapt attention. With respect, I would like to submit that from the legal point of view he has tried to place the cart before the House. You cannot say that earlier Proclamation passed was different Proclamation and today we are extending a

different Proclamation. The intention has to be seen, the content has to be seen and the consequences have to be seen. Otherwise, tomorrow what would happen is that one Home Minister would say extend the President's rule for six months and next time, another Home Minister would come and he would also extend the President's rule. If the present argument is accepted then for all five years, you can extend the President's rule on the ground that 'A' has mentioned this, 'B' has mentioned this, the Member was different etc. That is not the question. The intention of the Constitution makers was that under no situation, you can have President's rule beyond a period of one year. If Shri Indrajit Gupta is allowed to move this resolution, then this would be a plain fraud on the Constitution of India, if not a rape on the democratic working and democratic tradition of the country. What would happen is, one fine morning, in the name of President of India, you would say, 'We extend earlier Resolution'. Practically, it is the continuation of the same Proclamation. Therefore, if this Resolution is allowed to be moved, it would be in utter violation of Article 356 of the Constitution of India.

Secondly, Sir, this Proclamation has already been declared null and void by the High Court judgement. I am surprised how Shri Somnath Chatterjee was talking about the theory of merger. The question of theory of merger comes in only when the final judgement is pronounced by the Supreme Court. Then, the High Court judgement would merge into Supreme Court's judgement. I am also a small lawyer. Simply because the judgement is pending before the Appellate authority and the Appellate authority has granted an interim and discretionary stay, you cannot say that the judgement merges with the interim order.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have never said that.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : You did talk of merger. The question of merger comes only when the final judgement is pronounced. Today, as it is this Proclamation which Shri Indrajit Gupta wants to get extended is *non est* in the eyes of law. The full-bench judgement of the Allahabad High Court has not set aside that part of the judgement. The Supreme Court only said that :

"Pending appeal, you will not be stopped, you will not be debarred from exploring the possibilities of forming the Government."

I would like to remind Shri Somnath Chatterjee about his own statement. On 18 December, 1996 while speaking in this House on the same topic of Resolution, he said :

"I want to appeal to all secular forces that let us form the Government in U.P."

What stopped the secular forces to form the Government in U.P. within four months? Even today you can form the Government. You cannot have the best of both the worlds. There, we are claiming a chance to form the Government, but

you are not allowing us. You claim that you are all secular forces, but you are not able to unite. In that context, you cannot be allowed to violate the provisions of the Constitution of India, Particularly Article 356 and Article 163.

Sir, this House has frame certain rules. I would like to draw your kind attention to Rule 352 of the Rules of Procedure:

"A Member, while speaking, shall not refer to any matter of fact on which a judicial decision is pending."

Now, he wants this Resolution to be moved; he wants this Resolution to be discussed. But Rule 352 says that we cannot even make a reference. Then, what type of discussion would take place in this House? This matter is pending before the Court.

So, I would like to submit to the hon. Speaker that if this Resolution is allowed to be moved, it is in violation of Article 356 of the Constitution of India and it is in violation of Article 363 and 364 of the Constitution of India.

Now, there are two options available before the Government. That is the view expressed by almost all the legal jurists. Under Article 175 of the Constitution, if there is any doubt, he can call the Session of the Assembly; he can send a message to the Assembly to elect a leader. If the leader is elected, he may be invited to form the Government. If the leader is not elected, then he can resort to other means. But he is not doing that also.

Lastly, I would just reply to Shri Somnath Chatterjee's point and then I would conclude my argument on this point. He says that there must be some nexus with the object that is sought to be achieved. The object is very clear; the nexus is very clear and the purpose is also very clear. The object sought to be achieved is to deprive the BJP from coming to power and to achieve that object, they are using the Governor also; they are violating provisions of the Constitution and they are resorting to all undemocratic, illegal and unconstitutional ways.

Therefore, I oppose the introduction of the Resolution.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB): Sir, I have the highest regards for the Supreme Court and generally for the whole judicial system. I also have the highest regards for the supremacy of the Parliament because I do believe in the structure of democracy. I do not believe in the imposition of President's Rule in any State. But the compulsion of the situation commands my conscience to say that the extension of President's Rule or even moving the Resolution for extension of President's Rule in U.P. is highly justified; and in support of my statement, I will refer to two valuable documents in this regard.

I will quote what Dr. D D Basu, the famous commentator on Indian Constitution, says regarding the imposition of President's Rule in a State in federal structure of India. This

is said in one line and in another line, he says about the improper use of the imposition of President's Rule under Article 356 of the Constitution in any State under the federal structure of the Indian Constitution.

I would now quote Dr. D D Basu. He says:

"The only way to save the Constitution from an indiscriminate and politically motivated invasion of the Union to supersede the State Government would, therefore, be to point out what would be a proper of improper ground for the use of this extraordinary power."

The most important thing is that it can be used which is a proper use. He says:

"Where, after a general election, no party is able to secure a working majority in the Legislative Assembly".

In this case only, Article 356 can be imposed in a State.

Sir you already referred to the judgement of the Court. I would like to refer to the 'Kerala case of 1965'. That case was : K K Aboo, Petitioner Vs. the Union of India and others, Respondents. I will quote that case.

MR. SPEAKER : You are going out of the way.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Please let me be allowed to say this in a minute. I will finish. I will quote that case where there was an imposition of the President's Rule in Kerala and during the imposition of the President's Rule in Kerala, a General Election was held to constitute a separate Legislative Assembly. What was the result? The result was that no party could obtain an absolute majority to form the Government. At this stage, the President of India was pleased to impose Article 356 of the Constitution and the President's Rule was imposed in Kerala. I will read out that judgment with your kind permission :

"Consequent on the resignation of the ministry that caused a breakdown of the constitutional Government in the State of Kerala, the President dissolved the Legislative Assembly and assumed the executive powers of the State to himself by a Proclamation dated September 10, 1964, which was approved by the Parliament by a resolution on September 30, 1964. A general election was held thereafter in February/March, 1965 for the purpose of constituting a new Legislative Assembly in the State;"

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know where you are going.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : It further states :

" and the names of members elected for the various constituencies where notified under Section 73 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, in the Kerala Gazette. ... (Interruptions) ..

I would like to quote some figures. Sir, please allow me. What was the Position? I may be allowed to quote from the judgement :

"No party was able to secure a working majority of seats in the Legislature. The Party position among the elected representatives was thus:

Communist Party of India (Marxist or Left) -	40
Indian National Congress -	36
Kerala Congress -	23
Samyuktha Socialist Party -	13"

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think we are going into all those things. Ours is a very limited question.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Under these circumstances, the Vice-President of India declared the imposition of President's rule in the State and that was granted as valid. Therefore, I put this document before you for your consideration while moving the Resolution of the extension of President's rule in U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA (Chindwara) Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I will be very brief.

I am astonished to see this and I am feeling pity too. Two lions roared in this jungle of politics against Article 356 throughout their life. The lions who roar in the jungle how become pitiable in the cage of circus. One lion opposed the Article 356 throughout his life, he is the Home Minister of India by fate. The second lion is lending his hand to him from outside, supporting him.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is one example, which I would like to put before the House. In this case President rule was imposed in Madhya Pradesh. I was the Chief Minister. That Government was brought down. We moved to the High court, the High Court declared it unconstitutional and gave judgement to revive the Assembly. The Government appealed. Appeal was pending. One year of President rule was completed. If it was to be extended, constitutional amendment was necessary. The Government was not in a position of effecting constitutional amendment, it could not do so and therefore there was compulsion of holding election. Both parties the Union of India, the Appelant and we, Sunder Lal Patwa Respondent, approached the Supreme Court and by the constent of both this case was decided that elections should be held, we had no objection.

[English]

The election was held by order of the Supreme Court.

[Translation]

Here I see, there is no need to move the Supreme Court, no need to call the Attorney General and by manipulation in

the constitution through a short cut should not let BJP come to power, from that angle I want to appeal to my learned friends, senior colleagues ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : You don't have a majority, how can you form the Government?(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : You have time to say your mind. You just listen to what a small man a new man like me says instead of making this running commentary.

MR. SPEAKER : You are not small man, you are a new member.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I am a new member.

MR. SPEAKER : We do not presume that you are a small man.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : This Government is by accident, I am also by accident. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I want to appeal to the Home Minister of the Government of India Hon'ble Gupta ji and senior member Shri Somnath Chatterjee that whether we remain or not, any Government could come or go but this constitution will remain. What example you want to present about the constitution sitting in this House, you are in power. As Jaswant Singh ji said either approach the Supreme Court or discuss the matter with the Attorney General. There is no other way out. If you try to avoid this, it is just for petty ends, political ends, you are playing with the Constitution.

SHRI RAMSAGAR (Barabanki) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two proposal have been forwarded here just now to extend this period of the President rule. One party has said it is an unconstitutional task of the Government and does not honour the Courts, the second party say, they honour the constitution and the Courts as well. Hon'ble Lodha ji gave many reasons. I want to give an example. When these was a Government in Uttar Pradesh, the then Chief Minister has submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : He is unburying the buried.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Just listen what he says.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Is this a thing to listen? Again we would like to say that during the tenure of one Chief Minister there was sudden spurt in the incidents of looting....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM SAGAR : If you are the protagonist of the Constitution and honour the Courts then why this Affidavit was filed in the Supreme Court.....(Interruptions) Two things were mentioned in the affidavit.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, I am on a point of order.....(Interruption) If any Member speaks on an issue which is irrelevant to the subject-matter, he should not be allowed to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please forget it

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not go strictly about these things.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAGAR : I want to say that this is constitutional and we also honour the courts...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Agnihotri, why are you unnecessarily wasting your time?

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You have said whatever you wanted to say, now please take your seat.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : There are certain constitutional facts regarding introducing in the proposal, they have now come before the House. I do not know about jurisprudence, but those which are the conventions of the House, I know a few of them. There are certain rules and conventions of this House. As per them whatever statutory resolution is moved is first published in the bulletin for the information of the members. After publishing in the bulletin when such resolution appears in the list of business, it could be discussed to some extent. The information about this statutory resolution does not figure in the bulletin which we have received today. If it is published in the bulletin in this manner, we can persuade them to some extent therefore only prior notice should be given, that has not been given. We cannot discuss this atleast today. That's why you should not give permission for discussion on this matter.

[English]

Why? Do you not want follow the convention and practices?(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : What about Maharashtra?(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him conclude now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, he should have made this point at the beginning..(Interruption) Sir, this is about Shri Sunder Lal Patwa's intervention to uphold the Constitution.

Sir, after he lost his job as the Chief Minister he went to Calcutta and in a meeting there he said that if contractors had been engaged to demolish the Babri Mosque then it would have taken three months but our Karsevaks have done it in five hours. That is the credit he claims; that is his commitment to the Constitution and he is lecturing us on the Constitution.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir my name has been mentioned. I respect Somnath Chatterjee very much.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We also respect you very much. You are doing wrong to side with the B.J.P.(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : You say that I am doing wrong to side with the B.J.P. I say that you are doing wrong thing by supporting this Government. This lion of forest has been trapped in the circus cage. That's why it is wagging its tail pitifully. What I speak in Calcutta....(Interruptions) listen to that ...(Interruptions) are you not in the habit of listening? ...(Interruptions) I cannot make Pappu Ji understand my point even if I were to take seven births.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Yes you could not. You are talking about the lion living in a cage. Talk about the constitution regarding Bal Thakare Ji. If you dare arrest him. There is no discussion on that(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please stop now. Where are we heading to? Shri Pappu Yadav, please stop now. Why are you taking name like this? It is not correct.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, this reference should be deleted.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, this reference should be deleted.

MR. SPEAKER : I would certainly go through it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I request you all that I do not feel bad of children's is talks. I invite Shri Somnath ji that bring in a proposal for discussion on that entire speech and on that entire matter. We would

welcome that. After full discussion and the conclusion drawn out of that discussion if you are in the wrong, you regret and tender apology. If we are in the wrong we will regret, and tender apology. You bring in proposal for complete discussion on the matter. I invite you. I challenge you.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : That is a separate thing ..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : That is a separate issue. I have no hesitation. You bring in a proposal. Why feel uncomfortable about it?(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have said enough. We shall stop there ..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I have no hesitation. What I have said today, I have no hesitation in that ..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER. I do not know. I have to give some time to the Home Minister also. We have to dispose it of today before 6 O' Clock. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, they have intervened. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : You please bring it for discussion....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR SPEAKER : Now it is enough. Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I said, Somnath ji said this only about that I should have said earlier. The Children who have less knowledge of legal matter, you understand their point at last. I want to say it is 10 minutes to 6 o' Clock. The notice above the statutory resolution which

should have been received earlier as usual, we have not received that. It does not figure in today's bulletin also. Therefore, there should be no discussion on matter today and discussion should be held tomorrow about its merits. That's all(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : In this way, how can we finish it?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, this House is duty bound to safeguard the Constitution. We are also duty bound to see that the Constitutional crisis does not arise in the way of administration of the Union as well as the State.

As far as the proclamation is concerned, there was proclamation and a court order at a later stage which purported to have the effect that proclamation was not pending before the court. But as far as the interim stay order is concerned, we are quite sure that there has been an order allowing the Governor to continue his efforts as a Governor and as a person who has to represent the Union of India and as a person who has to represent the President of India.

At this stage, I would submit that we, as Members of Parliament and as the Parliament of India, are duty bound to see that the Constitutional crisis does not arise. I would like to submit that nothing has been mentioned as to how to come out of this impasse, if there is any. The only point mentioned is, whether to invite or not to invite so and so. That is not the way to solve the impasse we are in. Suppose, at this stage it is found that it was not Constitutional. What was the position two or five days before? We should think of that. This has been continuing and this was being atoned. I am sure there is no way to move out of this impasse. I would like to submit that there is no impasse. I think I should just say a word like to submit that there is no impasse. I think I should just say a word with regard to Rule 352?

MR. SPEAKER : I don't think it has got any relevance here.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : What has been said about Rule 352?

MR. SPEAKER : You need not reply that. Everybody understands it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : It says that a Member while speaking shall not refer to any matter or fact on which a judicial decision is pending. That is you cannot mention any fact on which a judicial decision is pending but can mention the fact that a judicial decision is pending. We can mention that. If we cannot mention that then there is no question of this Resolution or even your objection. I think that is how it would be taken into account.

MR. SPEAKER : We have got only six minutes. My appeal is, let the Law Minister have his view and then I will give my ruling.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : I have heard this debate with rapt attention and I think it is my turn now to express that I am really surprised to hear hon. Member Justice Lodha that the order passed by the Supreme Court—you may call it an interim order—does not have the effect of reviving the proclamation which was struck down by the Allahabad High Court. This does not need any legal wisdom but it is common understanding that if any judgement, of any court, sets aside or declares a particular situation and the higher court pending appeal passes an interim stay order, that interim order revives the original situation.

I can describe this as a *Sanjivani* where a man is declared to be dead but some higher authority says, "You shall not be dead till the final decision is taken, you inject some life into it." So, when the Allahabad High Court declared that this proclamation was invalid, that the President was not entitled—for the reasons cited there—to pass that proclamation and impose Presidential Rule, they very fact that the higher court, the Supreme Court, passed an interim order staying the operation of the judgement, automatically revives the proclamation and the President's Rule remains in force ... *(Interruptions)* I will read those two orders of the court and Supreme Court. For this purpose, I will first read the order of the High Court itself. The High Court, in its order of 19th December, 1996 says:

"For the reasons recorded separately, this court unanimously holds that the impugned Presidential proclamation dated 17.10.96 reimposing Presidential rule under Article 356 of the Constitution of India in the State of Uttar Pradesh, subsequently approved by the Parliament, is unconstitutional, issued in colourable exercise of powers, and is based on unholy irrelevant and extraneous grounds and, therefore, cannot be allowed to stand. Consequently, the same is hereby quashed."

Further, the same court says:

"However, to avoid any Constitutional deadlock.. These words are very very important".

"However, to avoid any constitutional deadlock or crisis resultant to the quashing of aforesaid proclamation, we direct, by applying the doctrine of prospective overruling, that this judgement shall come into operation with effect from 26.12.96."

So, although it was held that the proclamation was bad, the same Court said that by applying the principle of prospective overruling, till 26.12.96, their judgement shall not come into operation.

Then we went in appeal before the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court in its order dated 20.12.96 said this:

"The petitioner is permitted to amend the petition. Special Leave granted. Additional documents may be filed in brief

written submissions which would facilitate expeditious disposal of the matter. There will be a stay on the operation of the impugned order dated 19.12.96 pending appeal."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me know from Justice Lodha now the meaning of these words pronounced by the Supreme Court—"There will be stay on operation of impugned order dated 19.12.96 pending appeal." This order has been passed before the order of the Allahabad High Court came into operation because it was to come into operation only from 26.12.96.

It further says :

"The learned Attorney General assures us that there will be no dissolution of the Assembly during the pendency of this appeal. We also so direct. This will not preclude the formation of a popular Government, if that is possible, nor will it preclude the Governor from exploring the possibility of formation of a popular Government."

Now this is so very apparent, so very clear. Though the judgement was passed by the Allahabad High Court, they said that it will come into operation on a prospective date and before that judgement came into operation the Supreme Court gave its stay. So, what remains now? In effect, there is no judgement which holds that the proclamation is bad. This is the situation.

Let us go back to the other aspects, since points have been raised.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why should you go into all that?

Mr. Speaker, Sir it is entirely for you to decide. I did not have a copy of the judgement. Only a portion was read out to say that there was an outright stay. I did not recall.

1800 hrs.

It was not stated on the floor of the House on the other hand, it was construed. What is the meaning of this 'limited stay'? What was the effect of this limited order of the Supreme Court? Now it appears that there was a total stay.

This is the legal situation ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Justice Lodha started by saying that no special legal ability was required and it was a matter of common sense. It also implies that even with his uncommon sense he has not been able to understand it! That is the problem.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, retired Justice should not mean injustice!

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : So, there is a Proclamation in force. What we are trying to do by this

Resolution is to extend that Proclamation for another period of six months. This is the legal situation.

I will only mention one point. The question was that the single largest party should have been called. If this is the argument, then the same Allahabad High Court had said that the Governor was justified in not inviting the largest Party to form the Government after the election results were declared on the 10th October. That is what I want to say. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not worry I am not going to give a long ruling on this. I have heard the hon. Members, particularly, Justice Lodha, who has raised objection to the moving of the Statutory Resolution. I think the position is that on 17.10.1996, there were two Proclamations issued, one revoking earlier Presidential Proclamation of 18.10.1995. I am not going into the election results and constitution of the Assembly by the Election Commission. I am not going into all the details at all. After having revoked the earlier Presidential Proclamation of 18.10.1995, there was another Proclamation imposing President's rule in Uttar Pradesh under Article 356 of the Constitution. Now this Proclamation of the President's rule was challenged which has been stated very clearly by the Law Minister himself. In fact, he had challenged the Constitutional validity of reimposition of the President's rule. The matter went up to the Supreme Court. The Law Minister today, tells us that there is a clear cut stay order of the Supreme Court. Even if Justice Lodha had not specifically mentioned it, the fact is that Justice Lodha also pointed out that the Supreme Court did impose two condition. One condition was that there shall be no dissolution of the Assembly and that continuance of President's rule shall not preclude the possibility of formation of a popular Government.

You know the word "preclude", what will not preclude, means the continuation of the President's rule. Therefore, the President's rule in Uttar Pradesh was temporarily stayed by the Supreme Court and till today the Supreme Court has not disposed of the case. The point to decide is that whether the present President's rule which is going on, which is to expire only on 16th April is in operation. The President's rule is in operation in Uttar Pradesh by the stay order issued by the Supreme Court. There is no doubt about this. The President's rule is now in operation and if it has to be extended, the question of validity of the imposition of the President's rule has not been disposed of by the Supreme Court.

I think the Government is perfectly in order in seeking extension of President's Rule by a resolution. Therefore, I do not agree to what he has said. The Minister may now move the resolution.

SHRI INDRJIT GUPTA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House approved the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 17th October, 1996 in respect of Uttar Pradesh, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 17th April, 1997."

MR. SPEAKER : Now the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow the 14th March 1997 at 11 a.m.

1806 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 14, 1997/ Phalgun 23, 1918 (Saka)

© 1997 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eighth Edition) and printed by National Printers, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-8.
