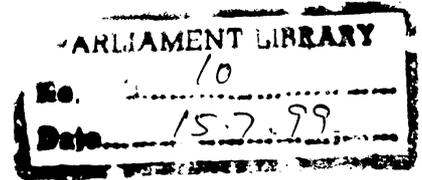


LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

125

Second Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IV contains Nos. 21 to 30)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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(English Version)

Thursday, July 23, 1998/Shravana 1, 1920 (Saka)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 23, 1998/Shravana 1, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice.

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have not made any appeal against the CBI officer in the Supreme Court . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a constitutional crisis has developed in Delhi. The Chief Minister of Delhi has been challaned . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise it in "Zero Hour". Why are you disturbing the Question Hour?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a good thing. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Sir, I have given a notice. This is a very serious matter . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is not good doing it everyday.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we seek justice from you. Had 12th not been the last date, we would have no objection. We could have given more time and agreed. We people . . .

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise it in "Zero Hour". You should not disturb the Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are precedents and such matters have been raised during the Question Hour. We seek justice from you. Only 2 to 3 days are left for the session to end. After 2-3 days nobody would listen, please help us. Till you are in the Chair, we expect help from you. Legal opinion has already been taken in regard to the whole issue. The Attorney General has given his views. The Government is not going to Supreme Court. The Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to raise it in "Zero Hour". This is not the way to raise a matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are a senior Member. Please understand. Question Hour is an important hour. I will allow you to raise it in "Zero Hour".

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, till such time you are in the Chair, we can expect justice . . . (Interruptions) . . . After this session is over, we would not get justice. Till you are there, we will get justice . . . (Interruptions) It is a very serious matter. Only three days are left for the session to end. Then there will be nobody to listen. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are making this submission under certain compulsions because 12th is the last date . . . (Interruptions) . . . It is not the question of Shri Lalu Prasad.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand, you cannot raise it in Question Hour.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore) : Sir, the first question is very very important . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, then there will be nobody to listen . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is for the Government to prefer an appeal or not. The Hon. Member cannot raise this issue in the Parliament

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to all the Leaders to ensure that the Question Hour is not disturbed everyday. The Members should cooperate.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Sir, the issue raised by the hon. Member from Rashtriya Janata Dal party is a very important one. There is a definite time limit stipulated that by such and such time, the Government of India has to take a decision on appeal. This particular subject was discussed with the hon. Speaker. The hon. Speaker has given consent that we could raise this issue after the Question Hour. Therefore, it is our responsibility to raise this issue after the Question Hour only. My request to all my colleagues is that Question Hour be allowed to go on.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : I should also be given an opportunity to make my submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Sharmaji, you will be allowed after the Question Hour.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Route Diversion of Mangla Express

*522. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for diversion of Mangla Express via Konkan Railway line;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the Mangla Express is the only train running through the business centres in Tamil Nadu like Coimbatore, Salem from Delhi with reservation facility in those stations;

(c) whether the Government are aware that Kerala Express running via Coimbatore does not have reservation facility at Coimbatore;

(d) whether the Government direct the authorities to run Mangla Express on its original route;

(e) whether the Government provide reservation facility for Delhi bound Kerala Express at Coimbatore for convenience of passengers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (f) Mangala Express is being diverted via Konkan Railway w.e.f. 1.8.1998 to derive the benefits of shorter distance thereby saving running time to an extent of about 12 hrs. between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Mangalore. Apart from Mangala Express, Train No. 6687/6688 Navyug Express, 6343/6344 Swarnajayanti Express and 6317/6318 Himsagar Express are providing 3 days a week service between Tamil Nadu and Delhi with reservation facility. At present, reservation facility at Coimbatore in Kerala Express is not available as passengers can travel by Mangala Express. However, such reservation facility to Coimbatore passengers is being provided by Kerala Express in view of diversion of Mangala Express via Konkan Railway from 1.8.1998. In view of the benefit of reduced transit time to the passengers, running of Mangala Express on its original route is not considered feasible.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Railway Minister has stated in his reply that Mangala Express is being diverted via Konkan Railway to derive the benefits of a shorter distance. I fully appreciate it. We are not against running Mangala Express on this diverted line. However, the city of Coimbatore, which is known as the Manchester of the South and the textile capital, is being deprived of the facilities which it has been enjoying all these years. Not only the Mangala Express, six other trains which were running on this route have also been diverted. The trains diverted are: Cochin-Kurla Express; Mangala Express; Ernakulam-Nizamuddin Express; Trivandrum-Gandhidham Express; Cochin-Rajkot Express; Trivandrum-Rajkot Express; and the superfast Trivandrum-New Delhi Rajdhani Express. All these trains were running via Coimbatore, Tirupur, Erode, Salem and Jolarpet. These areas are known for foundry industries, knitting industries, textile industries, and powerloom and handloom industries.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, please come to the question.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, the whole textile belt is terribly affected because these trains have been diverted. On the other hand, the Minister, in his written reply, gave a misleading report that Navyug Express, Swarnajayanti Express and Himsagar Express are providing three-days-a-week service between Tamil Nadu and New Delhi. These trains have been running for quite some time. These are not new trains.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, what is your question? If you do not put your question, I will have to disallow your question.

SHRI VAIKO : We have lost the facilities of six trains. After cancelling six trains, an impression is being sought to be created that three new trains have been provided. This is not at all true. These trains have been running all

these years. The only thing that was not there was Navyug Express touching Coimbatore.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, if you do not come to your question, I will have to disallow you.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, because of this diversion of trains a serious problem has come up for people living in those areas. The whole textile belt is fully agitated on this issue. The people of the area are terribly agitated because they are not able to go to Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Delhi, etc.

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much, Shri Vaiko. This is not a discussion. Please ask your question.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, because of the diversion of the six trains, the people cannot hereafter go to Mumbai, Ahmedabad and New Delhi. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is prepared to provide a new train each on this route, from Coimbatore to New Delhi, and from Coimbatore to Mumbai. If these new trains are not provided, we will be terribly affected. He is an able Minister and a very good friend of mine. I never expected to get such a raw deal from him. I urge upon the Minister to provide at least these two new trains. Will you consider my request, Mr. Minister?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, first of all I would like to refute the charge that I have misled the House. The hon. Member should have read the answer carefully. I have not misled the House, I have given correct information.

So far as the diversion of Mangla Express through Konkan route is concerned, I would like to say that Mangla Express was running from New Delhi to Mangalore and after opening up of the Konkan route due to popular demand of that area - as it shortens the running time and also the distance - that decision was taken. That was a correct decision. I appreciate his sentiments but he is not factually correct. Mangla Express used to provide in altogether 257 berths serving Coimbatore, Erode, Salem and Katpadi belt now. We are providing good service to this area through Kerala Express. Now, they are being provided with 250 berths. That is all I want to say. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to the main question. There were six trains. . . . (Interruptions) I seek your protection because the hon. Minister has not replied to my basic question of diversion of Mangla Express. All these years, these six trains are running through this route. I am not opposed to Konkan Railways but at the same time, I would like to say that these trains have been diverted. The people in this particular area who want to travel to Gujarat, Mumbai and New Delhi, they cannot avail the facility. . . . (Interruptions) He has stated in his statement as if these six trains are new trains. These trains are

already running. These six trains which have already been running have been diverted now. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister at least to cater to the needs of the travelling public, one new train from Coimbatore to New Delhi, and another new train from Coimbatore to Mumbai should be provided, Will the hon. Minister consider my requests?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, Mangla Express is going to be extended up to Ernakulam. So far as connectivity to Mumbai is concerned, we proposed to extend this Kurla-Bangalore Express up to Coimbatore.

So far as New Delhi is concerned, Karala Express will serve sufficiently. It will cater to the needs of this area.

SHRI VAIKO : Kerala Express is not a new train. It is already running.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : So far as introduction of new train from Coimbatore to New Delhi is concerned. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : What will happen to these people who want to travel to New Delhi from Coimbatore? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : They can travel by Kerala Express.

SHRI VAIKO : Kerala Express is already there. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, we can discuss it outside the House. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : We have no grouse against you. We are not against Konkan Railway. . . . (Interruptions) Kindly tell me, will you consider this demand for a new train from Coimbatore to New Delhi? Mr. Minister, will you kindly consider this request? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He wants a specific answer.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I will consider his request sympathetically. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mangla Express originates from Mangalore, my Parliamentary constituency. It connects Mangalore with New Delhi. Now, diversion of this Mangla Express through the Konkan Railway route is a welcome measure because that would shorten the distance and that would also speed up the journey. I fully support the measure taken by the hon. Minister. . . . (Interruptions) Now, the journey of the train will be extended from Mangalore upto Ernakulam. There also we have no objection. My only apprehension is, the number of berths allotted to Mangalore may be affected because of the extension of the journey from Mangalore down South up to Ernakulam.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Railway Minister whether he would ensure that the number of berths allotted to Mangalore would be reserved. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, you can ask only one supplementary.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, the timings of the trains, touching Mangalore, also will be altered. The trains during the downward journey would be reaching Mangalore in the midnight.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kumar, is it the way of putting a supplementary?

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, it is connected with that. During the upward journey also it would reach Mangalore in the night.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether suitable arrangements would be made to safeguard the travelling public from Mangalore, who would like to travel by this Mangla Express.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, it is not a question, it is a suggestion. But so far as people of Mangalore are concerned, they are not going to be affected.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Sir, because of this diversion of the Mangla Express, the people of Nellore are suffering a lot. Most of the business people from there go to Kerala and Delhi. I would request the hon. Minister, instead of this diversion of the Mangla Express, let him provide one more train or, at least, give a stoppage of Kerala Express at Nellore.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have already replied, Sir.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Sir, there is no stoppage of Kerala Express at Nellore. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, thank you very much for this opportunity. A product of total revolution Shri Nitish Kumar has cancelled six trains belonging to my Constituency and is not giving me, at least, one new train. I am appealing to all the Members of this House that if a Member loses six trains, can he go back to his Constituency without any problem. This is going to create a great law and order problem in my Constituency.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to introduce, at least, two new trains, one from Palakkad to Mumbai and one from Palakkad to Delhi.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, it seems that the hon. Member has not fully listened to my reply. I have already stated that Kurla-Mangalore. . . . (*Interruptions*) Sir, again he is not listening to me. I have said that Kurla-Mangalore Express is going to be extended up to Coimbatore.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : When?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Very soon. . . . (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, please take your seat. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, Shri Baalu is unnecessarily poking his nose into this question. He has a different problem. . . . (*Interruptions*) Shri Baalu is trying to make his presence felt in this House. . . . (*Interruptions*) He has problem in Chennai, we will separately look into that.

But so far as the question of hon. Member from Coimbatore is concerned, he should have listened to me carefully. I have already replied that Kurla-Bangalore train is going to be extended up to Coimbatore. So far as a new train from Coimbatore to Delhi is concerned, I have replied to the supplementary put by Shri Vaiko that I would consider it.

SHRI C. GOPAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, Mangla Express is running for the past five years only. Now the Railway Minister has diverted it through Konkan railway. It was passing through my Constituency, Arakkonam. Now, because of this diversion, people, particularly business people, belonging to eight districts of Tamil Nadu have been affected.

The hon. Minister has replied that he would extend some trains to this area. I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that this extension is not sufficient. Even though Mangla Express was running, several business people were affected because they were not getting tickets. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether a new train will be introduced from Nizamuddin to Mangalore or from Nizamuddin to Palakkad.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I have already replied.

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, with the commissioning of the Konkan railway line, not only Mangla Express but also almost all the North-bound trains are being diverted along the Konkan route including the prestigious Rajdhani Express. It is impossible to accommodate any new train on the single line from Mangalore to Shoranur because of these diversions, increase in the frequency of passenger and goods trains. It has already been over-saturated. Train services are in a hopeless mess. Not only that, but also, all the trains along this route are getting delayed for hours together. Physical fights between agitated passengers and also poor railway officials are taking place everyday. This has become the order of the day. Under these circumstances, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what positive steps are being taken by the Minister to ensure punctuality of trains on the line from Mangalore to Shoranur.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : So far as this question is concerned, the hon. Member is aware that there was a

discussion with all the hon. Members of Parliament from Kerala. They have also emphasized that Mangalore-Shoranur doubling should be expedited. We are on the job. Due to this undergoing construction work of doubling from Mangalore to Shoranur, there is a problem. There is speed restriction at different levels and that is why, the trains are getting delayed. But if there is a fight everyday, we will definitely look into it and take the hon. Member's help also.

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : My help is always there at your disposal.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Vaiko has expressed a view which is the view of many passengers who were using the erstwhile Mangla Express through the earlier route. There is a very easy solution. There is already one Swarnajayanti Express which is a weekly train. It is running once a week only. You can easily make it a daily train. If you make it a daily train, that will cater to Shri Radhakrishnan's constituency as well as about eight States which will be benefitted. Will you be able to consider this positively?

MR. SPEAKER : This is a suggestion.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have already replied.

Setting up of N.S.C.

+

*523. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO :
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 3421 on July 9, 1998 regarding National Security Council and state :

(a) the date on which the Task Force submitted its Report to the Government;

(b) the details of the recommendations;

(c) the details of the recommendations accepted and rejected by the Government, separately;

(d) whether the Government have since taken a decision to set up the proposed "National Security Council" and if so, its composition with arms and objectives;

(e) whether a decision to induct nuclear weapons in the Army has also been taken; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Task Force submitted its report to the Government on June 25, 1998.

(b) to (d) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(e) and (f) It will not be in the interest of national security to divulge information in this regard.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Mr. Speaker. Sir, the Question is regarding setting up of the National Security Council. Of course, the hon. Minister has mentioned the date on which the Task Force has submitted its Report and all those things, but the details of the recommendations are not given. The hon. Minister has not mentioned what were the recommendations which were accepted and what were the recommendations which were rejected. I would like to know whether there is a decision to set up the National Security Council at all. If it is so, its composition may kindly be explained. Who will be the members? What are the activities of the National Security Council? Was there any decision to set up the National Security Council? All these things should be explained.

Regarding the last Question, of course, in the interest of the nation, the hon. Minister has said that they should not be disclosed. I agree with that. With regard to the nuclear weapons, I forego that part. But he may kindly elaborate the rest of the Question regarding the setting up of the National Security Council, and the composition of the Council.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, when I said that the matter is under the consideration of the Government, it was implied that till the Government has taken a total view of the Report of the Task Force and come to certain conclusions, it would not be proper for me to make any statement.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : No, I have requested the hon. Minister to elaborate the recommendations made by the Task Force. If the recommendations were given, what were the recommendations which were accepted and what were the recommendations which were rejected?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : That is precisely the point. The matter is under consideration. Acceptance and rejection will arise only when a final view is taken on the Report.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Once accepted, the recommendations can be spelt out which are the recommendations that have been accepted. There is nothing wrong in test.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary?

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : I know it concerns security.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is a very specific question, but the hon. Minister of Defence has said that because of the secrecy and national interest he was not disclosing certain

information. The Report of the Task Force has been submitted for the consideration of the Cabinet. So, naturally there are all limitations in replying to this question. I can understand that. But my anxiety and worry is that, even after the decision of the Cabinet in what form will this National Security Council be constituted and while finalising the National Security Council which are the aspects that the Ministry of Defence is going to take into consideration?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The consideration of the Report has not reached a stage where it could have been referred to the Cabinet. Once the Report is considered by the Government and certain conclusions are arrived at, it will go before the Cabinet, and then it will be possible for me to speak on that.

MR. SPEAKER : Major Khanduri. Sorry, Major General B.C. Khanduri.

(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : The constitution and effective functioning of the National Security Council has always been recommended and insisted upon by the BJP while it was in the Opposition. It has also been included in the National Agenda for Governance by this Government. Therefore, I expect that the recommendations of the Task Force cannot be spoken about here at this point of time, but part (d) of the question, "Whether the Government have since taken a decision to set up the proposed National Security Council", I think, could have been answered in a straight manner. I would expect that the Government would clarify. I am not talking of the composition, I am not talking of the recommendations. I would like to know from the Minister whether this Government is going to set up a National Security Council or not.

Secondly when will the Government place the recommendations of the Task Force on the Table of the House? And thirdly could he give us an idea when will this National Security Council become functional and start functioning effectively?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : In so far as the decision to set up a National Security Council is concerned, this was a commitment that in the National Agenda for Governance which our alliance had released before the Government was formed. We stand by that commitment and a National Security Council will be in position. But when it will come into position is a matter which will have to be decided after we have considered the Report of the Task Force and taken decisions on what exactly will be the form of that Council, who will constitute that Council and so on and so forth. These are matters which are under consideration.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : By what time?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We are agreed to have this Council in position as soon as possible.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : The idea of formation of the National Security Council is not of recent origin. It is not only in their National Agenda. It has been talked about for the last several years. But what exactly is holding up? What is the Task Force intended to recommend? Why is the formation of a National Security Council being delayed for the examination of the recommendations of the Task Force? There is no reason for that and the Minister of Defence always takes a line that whenever it is inconvenient, he will say that it is secret, confidential, and it cannot be revealed in national interest. And what is such a big thing that he cannot reveal? Everything concerning Defence is being shrouded in mystery. Even the Ninth Defence Plan of Defence has not been finalised so far. The Standing Committee on Defence had repeatedly been mentioning about this aspect of the National Security Council, and the Ninth Plan of the Ministry of Defence. When will you finalise these things? Please give us a specific deadline that by this time you will be able to form this Council.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I did not say that the formation of the National Security Council was an original idea of the B.J.P. or of the alliance. There has been a National Security Council which was set up way back in 1990 by the then United Front Government. Unfortunately, that National Security Council did not become functional. Therefore, what I am trying to tell the House is that in so far as formation of the National Security Council is concerned and taking a decision in that regard is concerned, they are the matters which can be done only after we have studied the Report of the Task Force which had made recommendations not only about the formation of the Council, but on the structure, and a whole lot of other related issues. There is nothing very secret about these things. But till the Government has taken a view and till we have arrived at a conclusion, I believe, it is premature and it is not in anybody's interest to discuss the recommendations made by the Task Force.

As far as Budget, Plan and so on and so forth are concerned, I do not believe that they arise out of this question. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : With reference to the reply given to 'e' and 'f' I would like to know whether it was stated on behalf of the Government that after Pokhran, we have now become a 'Nuclear Weapons State'. This is a status which is not for others to confer upon us. I would like to know whether the definition of nuclear

weapons State' implies that nuclear weapons will be inducted into the Army.

The reply which is being given today, is it because we are buckling under pressure from others or is it because as if we are refusing to see the security concern? This was stated by the Government in this House that because in the neighbouring countries nuclear weapons have been amassed so India needs to go nuclear. When we have said that we are a 'Nuclear Weapons State', then was it implied that nuclear weapons will be inducted into the Army, or was it because of the pressure which is coming from others that today this statement is being made by the hon. Minister of Defence?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : There is no question of buckling under any pressure from any source or from any quarter.

In so far as the hon. Member's point about inducting nuclear weapons in a particular Force is concerned, I do not believe that it is wise to make any statement in regard to this matter. *(Interruptions)*. Yes, being a 'Nuclear Weapons State' is one thing and which are the sectors in the Army or in the Navy or in the Air Force and so on and so forth is not the . . . *(Interruptions)*.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, we seek your protection. He makes statements outside this House. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : No, please, Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Sir, the reply has not come to my question. *(Interruptions)*. What is the definition of a 'Nuclear Weapons State'? Kindly protect my right. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I have been a long admirer of Shri George Fernandes, as a great democrat who believes in public debate on public issues. Though he is keeping a strange company, I continued to be his admirer. But the doctrine of secrecy does not lie well in his mouth. I am not saying that the Government should take us into confidence in regard to its decisions. If a Committee has made . . . *(Interruptions)*.

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, is it Question Hour or a debate?

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I have allowed him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Sir, will you ask the hon. Minister to define what a Nuclear Weapon State is? . . . *(Interruptions)*. I asked but he did not reply.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, please put your Supplementary.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, if the Expert Committee has made recommendations which are under the consideration of the Government, the recommendations can be made public because those recommendations need to be considered and discussed by the country. The decision in such a matter cannot be taken only by the Government. If you are going to make the Report known to us after the Government takes a decision, it will be improper. I, therefore, suggest to the Minister whether he will consider making the Report public.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, the Report cannot be made public till it has been finally considered by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of National Security Council is also directly linked with our armed forces. The sitting officers and retired officers of the armed forces have since long been raising 2-3 issues regarding their pay and allowances, their status after their retirement and the way their position is being lowered continuously in the warrant of precedence. Whether the hon. Minister of Defence while constituting security council will take care of other issues also and such issues will also be brought within the preview of security council so that a solution to them could be found?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question has nothing to do with this issue.

[English]

Losses Suffered by Rourkela Steel Plant

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*524. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRI JUAL ORAM :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of different types of products in Rourkela Steel Plant after its modernisation, year-wise;

(b) whether the Rourkela Steel Plant is running at losses due to increase in production cost;

(c) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the total loss suffered during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) Modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant is still in process. The capacity of production of different products after modernisation, and actual production during the last three years, are as under :-

(Unit'000 T)

Product	Capacity After Modern.	95-96 Actual	96-97 Actual	97-98 Actual
SEMIS		47	65	37
PLATE MILL PLATES	299	255	247	240
HOT ROLLED COILS/PLATES	473	329	363	380
COLD ROLLED COILS/SHEETS	433	223	213	224
GALVANISED SHEETS	160	141	151	161
COLD ROLLED GRAIN ORIENTED/COLD ROLLED NON ORIENTED	74	38	35	30
HOT ROLLED ELECTRICAL SHEETS	17	11	0	0
TIN PLATES	85	23	13	29
ELECTRIC RESISTANCE WELDED PIPES	75	38	36	42
SPIRAL WELDED PIPES	55	43	57	39
TOTAL SALEABLE STEEL	1671	1148	1180	1181

(b) and (c) Rourkela Steel Plant has suffered losses during last 3 years as under

(Rs. in Crores)		
1997-98	1996-97	1995-96
(-) 374	(-) 316	(-) 57

*Provisional subject to CAG Audit.

Losses are due to the following :

- * Sluggish demand for steel, and greater competition from imports arising due to lower international prices and lower duties.
- * Escalations in input prices primarily of coking coal, petroleum products, power, transportation etc. which could not be fully neutralised by increase in the prices of steel.
- * Higher interest cost which the plant had to absorb because of part-capitalisation of modernisation schemes and higher inventory level.
- * Increased depreciation due to capitalisation, as under :-

(Rs. in Crores)			
	1997-98	1996-97	1995-96
Interest	333	282	200
Depreciation	127	120	95

*Provisional subject to CAG Audit.

(d) Some of the important measures taken by SAIL to improve the performance of RSP, interalia, include :

- * Improving techno-economic parameters i.e. reduction in coke rate, improvement in Blast Furnace Coke yield, Blast Furnace Productivity, etc.
- * Improving quality of products, product-mix and production in line with market requirement.
- * Increasing sales through aggressive & customer oriented marketing.
- * Greater emphasis on cost control measures etc.

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Hon. Speaker, Sir, in the statement laid on the Table of the House, the Minister has stated that the projected production of steel is 1671 thousand tonnes but the actual production is around 1181 thousand tonnes. The modernisation of the Rourkela Steel Plant had been going on for the last three to four years and crores of rupees have been spent on this modernisation. But if you go by the hon. Minister's statement, in 1995-96, the loss was Rs. 57 crore which has risen to Rs. 374 crore in 1997-98. I would like to know from the hon. Minister who had prepared this project, how much money has been spent on this project, what is the production cost of steel now, and how the Minister is going to cut the production cost.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Sir, first of all, I would like to tell the hon. Member who has asked the question, that production and production cost have been laid amply on the Table of the House. If he would like me to read through that, I would be very happy to do that, but it has been substantially laid on the Table of the House.

As regards the second part of the question, originally, in 1988, the modernisation of the Rourkela Steel Plant envisaged an outlay of Rs. 2,461 crore, but later on, in 1992, this was revised and the total sum envisaged was Rs. 3,954 crore.

After that another anticipated cost of Rs. 5,112 crore came up in 1997. I wish to tell the hon. Member in reply to his question that these huge costs have been inherited by Our Government. In 1988, the Government was of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, and in 1992, the Government was of Shri Narasimha Rao. I would like to mention that we are trying to improve the situation.

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : But the statement says that in 1995-96, the loss was Rs. 57 crore and now it has risen to Rs. 374 crore. What I was asking is how the Minister is going to cut the losses.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Sir, as I understand the question of the hon. Member . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH) : Please do not blame your predecessors. Tell us what you are going to do.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : All right. I shall tell you how we are going to rectify the situation. We shall . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : His revered father was the Chief Minister . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Sir, I would appreciate if the hon. Member from the Opposition does not make personal remarks. This is uncalled for.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : This is not a personal remark. You are referring to your predecessors. . . . (Interruptions) You mentioned the names. So, we are also entitled to mention names. . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : They have ruined the economy totally. Now, they are asking us. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, he has mentioned the name of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Sir, I may be allowed to answer the question of the hon. Member. I would tell the factors responsible for losses in Rourkela Steel Plant. The losses are there because the steel industry as a whole is facing a sluggish demand, a greater competition as

imports are rising due to lower international prices, enhancement of supplies in domestic markets and an increase in interest margin. The profits were adversely affected due to escalation of prices, primarily of coaking coal, petroleum products, power, transportation etc. which could not be fully neutralised by better techno-economic parameters and increase in the prices of steel.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, he is asking about how to mitigate the losses.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : I am giving a reply to that. The RSP had to absorb high interest rate costs because of per-capitalisation of modernisation scheme and higher inventory level. Capitalisation also results in absorption of higher depreciation. The measure that the SAIL has taken in this regard, to improve the performance of the RSP, is improvement of techno-economic parameters . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : It is laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : The answer being given to the question is not relevant. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Sir, I am trying to reply to the question of how Rourkela Steel Plant (Interruptions) I am trying to give a reply to the hon. Members. If they have patience, then I would be able to tell what our plans are.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please complete your reply.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Sir, the SAIL has taken a number of steps to improve Rourkela Steel Plant. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jual Oram.

SHRI JUAL ORAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Sir, I have to ask the second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : You have asked two supplementaries.

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : No, Sir. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jual Oram, please take your seat. I will call you later. He has to complete his supplementary. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I come to the supplementary, I would like to remind the hon. Minister that during Shri Narasimha Rao and late Rajiv

Gandhi's time, SAIL and RSP were making profits. I was an employee of SAIL before coming to this august House. I know that they were making profits. Now they are incurring losses . . . (Interruptions). You can say that this is wrong. . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : You go and ask this to Shri Narasimha Rao and Shri Santosh Mohan Dev. They know it. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Biswal, please ask your supplementary.

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Has the BSP made any study of production cost of other steel plants in the country? If so, what is the position as compared to RSP?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Sir, I am very happy to give financial position of other steel plants. . . . (Interruptions). Sir, they are not allowing me to reply to any of their questions. . . . (Interruptions). Sir, am I going to be permitted to reply to their questions? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, you are always disturbing the House. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, there is a need to ensure prevention of torture of the Minister (Interruptions)

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Sir, may I complete the reply? . . . (Interruptions). The hon. Members from the Opposition side should allow me to reply when a question has been asked. I am very glad to reply to him. I should be permitted to do so. . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Jogi, why are you making this running commentary?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Sir, the RSP is one of the highest steel producing plants. I will give the hon. Member various elements of total expenditure of RSP in 1997-98. In raw material, it is approximately Rs. 42%; in salaries, it is approximately Rs. 14%; in stores, it is Rs. 12%; in power and fuel, it is Rs. 11%; in repairs, it is around Rs. 1% and other expenses come to Rs. 2%. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please, let him complete.

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Government do not take note of our complaints that will not be healthy trend. . . . (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister should be given

protection. Before listening to his reply the hon. Members are interrupting him. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, we need your protection. We had asked a pointed question. . . . (Interruptions) He has asked the comparative figures of RSP vis-a-vis other steel plants. He should tell whether the production cost is higher or lower. . . . (Interruptions). He has not answered to it properly.

MR. SPEAKER : He is giving the reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is giving the reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, this is not correct. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. This is not good. The Minister is giving the reply, please take your seats. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is giving the reply, please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the hon. Member had asked a very pointed question, and the question is very clear. He wanted to know about the comparative figures pertaining to the production cost of steel in various public sector undertakings. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : He is giving the figures.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is giving the reply, please take your seats.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : The cost of production of steel in the last three years is as follows. In the Rourkela Steel Plant, in 1997-98, it was Rs. 17,900 per tonne; in 1996-97, it was Rs. 17,880 per tonne, and in 1995-96, it was Rs. 16,731 per tonne. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Sir, this is not the reply that I have asked for. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Please have patience, In Durgapur Steel Plant, in 1997-98, it was Rs. 14,500 per tonne; in 1996-97, it was Rs. 13,304 per tonne, and in 1995-96, it was Rs. 12,816 per tonne. In Bokaro Steel Plant, in 1997-98, it was Rs. 9,850 per tonne; in 1996-97, it was Rs. 9,719 per tonne, and in 1995-96, it was Rs. 9,109 per tonne. In Bhilai Steel Plant, in 1997-98, it

was Rs. 12,500 per tonne; in 1996-97, it was Rs. 11,900 per tonne, and in 1995-96, it was Rs. 11,350 per tonne. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know whether the cost of production is high in comparison with other steel plants. But the Minister is reading out the figures. This is not correct. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the way the scam has taken place. I would like to know . . . (Interruptions) [English] We wanted to know what made the then Minister of Steel to inaugurate the modernisation project in the year 1986?

[Translation]

According to the report of the Steel Minister, modernisation work is on. When the work is on, how is it that the hon. Minister inaugurated in the middle when this thing took place, the Minister-in-charge of the Department. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary?

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the congress regime the cost of the Rs. 2461 crore modernisation project was raised to Rs. 5112 crore . . . (Interruptions) Was the cost escalation real or it was political . . . (Interruptions) That is why the plant is incurring loss. There should be a CBI enquiry into this modernisation package.

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : In reply to the question of the hon. Member from Sundargarh, I would like to say that only one synter plant was inaugurated. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : The Rourkela Steel Plant was sanctioned by the Government in October, 1989 at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,461 crore with a completion schedule by December, 1995. The anticipated cost of modernisation is now estimated at Rs. 5,112 crore, but the modernisation is not complete till date. I have gone through your reports regarding escalation and others. But if I deduct Rs. 2,461 crore from Rs. 5,112 crore, and that will come to Rs. 2,651 crore. I would like to know whether Rs. 2,651 crore was spent on modernisation cost or Additional Maintenance Rehabilitation is allowed. If it is so, then there will be unholy alliance between the contractors and the management. I demand an inquiry by the CBI into the matter.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : In reply to the first part of the hon. Member's question, I would like to say that maintenance has nothing to do with modernisation. The question put to me is about modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant.

SHRI BIKRAM DEO KESHARI : The CAG report has not been presented to the House. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when the CAG report will be presented. Secondly, the loss in 1995-96 was Rs. 57 crore. Now it has jumped up to Rs. 374 crore. This indicates that there are lapses in the administration of Rourkela Steel Plant. Will the Government initiate a CBI inquiry into these losses and into the modernisation project of the Rourkela Steel Plant?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : In reply to the question of the hon. Member from Kalahandi, I would like to say that a CBI raid was conducted in June, 1998 in the houses of ten officers of Rourkela Steel Plant ranging from Junior Manager to Assistant General Manager.

12.00 hrs.

The Report from the CBI has not yet been received. In the meanwhile, the management of Rourkela Steel Plant has taken action and suspended three of these officers. The CBI inquiry is related to certain works which were going on.

MR. SPEAKER : What about modernisation?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : As far as modernisation is concerned, we have not asked for any CBI enquiry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Housing Projects in Assam

*525. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :

SHRI A. SIDDARAJU :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the Housing Projects under consideration of HUDCO as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the schemes approved and the funds allocated by Housing & Urban Development Corporation during 1997-98 and 1998-99, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) As on date there are 307 housing projects seeking HUDCO loan assistance of Rs. 72563.34 lakh which have been received in Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) from

various agencies from 32 States/UTs. These schemes are at different stages of processing and will be sanctioned as per HUDCO guidelines. The State-wise details of these schemes are given in the statement-I.

(b) HUDCO has sanctioned 672 housing schemes with total project cost of Rs. 2736.26 crore and loan amount of Rs. 1749.49 crore during the year 1997-98. On completion, these would provide 548710 dwelling units and 15648 developed plots. HUDCO has also sanctioned 130 urban infrastructure schemes with project cost of Rs. 2144.77 crore and loan amount of Rs. 1288.88 crore during the period. During the year 1998-99 till 30.6.98, HUDCO has sanctioned 116 housing schemes with project cost of Rs. 289.28 crore and loan amount of Rs. 191.38 crore for 27764 dwelling units and 5006 developed plots. 5 urban infrastructure schemes with project cost of Rs. 63.16 crore and loan amount of Rs. 44.99 crore have also been sanctioned during this period. The State-wise details of the schemes sanctioned during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given in statements-II and III respectively.

A Statement-IV indicating fund allocation for housing during 1997-98 and 1998-99 (tentative) is attached.

Statement-I

Statewise Housing Schemes in Pipeline

(Rs. in lakh)			
S.No.	States/UTs	No. of Schemes	Loan Asked For
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	153.36
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
3.	Assam	21	4831.46
4.	Bihar	12	789.70
5.	Gujarat	14	2002.30
6.	Goa	—	—
7.	Haryana	12	4150.33

1	2	3	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	3030.83
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	510.27
10.	Karnataka	69	10802.76
11.	Kerala	48	12828.31
12.	Madhya Pradesh	21	2728.31
13.	Maharashtra	7	6213.98
14.	Manipur	3	539.08
15.	Meghalaya	2	272.65
16.	Mizoram	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—
18.	Orissa	16	1875.00
19.	Punjab	2	199.10
20.	Rajasthan	6	937.82
21.	Sikkim	1	38.75
22.	Tamil Nadu	34	14404.37
23.	Tripura	2	30.55
24.	Uttar Pradesh	17	3578.46
25.	West Bengal	11	2137.45
26.	A & N Islands	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—
28.	D & N Haveli	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—
30.	Delhi	2	496.00
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	01	12.50
TOTAL		307	72563.34

Statement-II

Statewise summary of Housing Schemes* during 1997-98

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Schemes	Project Cost (RS. IN CRORES)	Loan AMT.	No. of Dwelling Units	No. of Plots
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	A & N Islands	2	2.81	1.38	115	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	76	282.30	172.16	183755	3282
3.	Assam	6	28.49	16.51	1424	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Bihar	4	6.18	4.65	380	0
5.	Delhi	1	3.36	1.66	0	0
6.	Goa	5	21.83	13.34	6590	378
7.	Gujarat	25	93.62	75.63	35859	0
8.	Haryana	9	28.43	19.41	1610	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	23	99.42	72.06	30474	191
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	43.86	36.07	9536	0
11.	Karnataka	54	204.29	125.38	57104	3933
12.	Kerala	81	380.45	232.18	67001	165
13.	Madhya Pradesh	44	103.47	80.24	17500	5086
14.	Maharashtra	55	296.12	124.63	1892	0
15.	Manipur	6	39.08	22.28	2391	0
16.	Meghalaya	1	.27	.23	0	0
17.	Mizoram	2	9.81	6.38	1930	0
18.	Nagaland	2	18.13	13.13	2519	0
19.	Orissa	13	87.49	55.65	4453	0
20.	Pondicherry	2	2.30	1.71	0	0
21.	Punjab	7	90.26	50.50	192	0
22.	Rajasthan	71	337.97	227.04	13464	0
23.	Sikkim	1	.55	.50	500	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	108	275.90	192.32	72539	0
25.	Tripura	2	2.99	1.50	238	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	45	219.08	137.92	32344	2613
27.	West Bengal	20	57.79	35.04	4900	0
TOTAL		672	2736.26	1719.49	548710	15648

*This includes ILCS, LA and Operational Finance also.

Statewise Summary of Urban Infrastructure Schemes during 1997-98

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Schemes	Project Cost (RS. IN CRORES)	Loan AMT.	No. of Dwell- ing Units	No. of Plots
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26	219.17	147.40	0	0
2.	Bihar	1	11.34	4.00	0	0
3.	Delhi	1	11.67	4.90	0	0
4.	Goa	2	51.25	32.85	0	0
5.	Gujarat	7	156.14	107.89	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1.08	0.50	0	0
7.	Karnataka	20	468.40	275.88	0	0
8.	Kerala	17	111.78	70.74	0	0
9.	Madhya Pradesh	3	36.06	13.85	0	0
10.	Maharashtra	2	265.76	104.56	0	0
11.	Orissa	5	51.00	35.68	0	0
12.	Punjab	11	41.75	20.61	0	0
13.	Rajasthan	8	47.41	32.95	0	0
14.	Tamil Nadu	20	592.74	387.55	0	6809
15.	Uttar Pradesh	5	71.41	44.51	0	0
16.	West Bengal	1	7.80	5.00	0	0
TOTAL		130	2144.77	1288.88	0	6809

Statement-III

Statewise summary of Housing Schemes During 1998-99 (Upto 30.6.1998)

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Schemes	Project Cost (RS. IN CRORES)	Loan AMT.	No. of Dwell- ing Units	No. of Plots
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	27.79	18.18	874	0
2.	Assam	1	8.47	6.00	2000	0
3.	Bihar	1	10.00	10.00	0	0
4.	Delhi	1	12.13	3.51	0	0
5.	Gujarat	14	9.93	7.53	2452	920
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	9.08	4.81	82	0
7.	Karnataka	9	24.84	19.21	5380	0
8.	Kerala	15	82.75	46.64	5926	0
9.	Madhya Pradesh	12	25.67	19.40	2342	1927
10.	Maharashtra	1	3.61	1.00	33	0
11.	Rajasthan	13	16.18	11.92	1938	0
12.	Tamil Nadu	31	56.13	42.46	6700	2159
13.	Uttar Pradesh	1	2.71	0.73	37	0
TOTAL		116	289.28	191.38	27764	5006

Statewise Summary of Urban Infrastructure Schemes during 1998-99 (upto 30.6.1998)

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Schemes	Project Cost (Rs. IN CRORES)	Loan AMT.	No. of Dwell- ing Units	No. of Plots
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Delhi	1	8.23	2.66	0	0
2.	Madhya Pradesh	1	25.64	17.94	0	0
3.	Tamil Nadu	1	11.04	8.28	0	0
4.	Uttar Pradesh	1	10.00	10.00	0	0
5.	West Bengal	1	8.26	6.12	0	0
TOTAL		5	63.16	44.99	0	0

Statement-IV

Statewise Housing Loan Allocation made by HUDCO during 1997-98 & 1998-99 (Tentative)

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Allocation 1997-98	Allocation 1998-99 (50% of the total allocation on the basis of area and population)
1	2	3	4
1.	A & N Islands	1.36	0.33
2.	Andhra Pradesh	117.56	54.01
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.46	0.90
4.	Assam	70.55	38.55
5.	Bihar	53.32	41.41
6.	Chandigarh	0.93	1.13
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.06	0.07
8.	Daman & Diu	0.09	-
9.	Delhi	18.88	14.44
10.	Goa	1.44	1.75
11.	Gujarat	66.54	49.98
12.	Haryana	29.94	11.23
13.	Himachal Pradesh	15.20	3.05
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	15.29	9.80
15.	Karnataka	95.66	43.96
16.	Kerala	70.17	22.22
17.	Madhya Pradesh	184.25	58.25

1	2	3	4
18.	Maharashtra	76.38	81.28
19.	Manipur	17.42	8.11
20.	Meghalaya	8.87	5.34
21.	Mizoram	15.72	10.46
22.	Nagaland	9.42	4.76
23.	Orissa	85.99	22.82
24.	Pondicherry	1.04	1.26
25.	Punjab	30.89	16.42
26.	Rajasthan	79.26	46.07
27.	Sikkim	0.56	0.34
28.	Tamil Nadu	133.21	62.02
29.	Tripura	7.94	5.05
30.	Uttar Pradesh	80.77	75.31
31.	West Bengal	49.76	44.47
32.	Lakshadweep	0.08	0.10
Total		1340.01	735.00

Investments in Research & Development

*526. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the investments made in Research and Development in public and private steel sector during the last three years and results achieved therefrom;

(b) whether the Government have decided to encourage more investments in Research and Development for improving the quality of steel keeping in view the global trends in quality and cost effectiveness;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith order of investment likely to be made in public and private sector of steel industry during the current year; and

(d) the present status of ongoing Research and Development projects in public/private sector and the projects under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) The investments made in Research and Development in public and private steel sector during the last three years is gives below :

	(Rs. in crores)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Public Sector	46.29	48.03	49.55
Private Sector	14.29	18.71	13.91
Total	60.58	66.74	63.46

The results of the research and development efforts in the public and private sectors during the last three years are :

- improvement of performance indices of the steel plants.
- process improvements, project development and problem analysis.
- cost reduction, energy conservation, quality improvement and waste utilisation.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to utilise part of the interest proceeds accruing in the Steel Development Fund (SDF) to supplement Research and Development activities in Iron and Steel sector, Government will utilise this fund to encourage more investment in Research & Development by providing part of the funds needed for research projects to be undertaken by public & private sector.

For the year 1998-99 Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) will be investing an amount of Rs. 54.9 crores in Research and Development and pursuing 77 projects aimed at improving quality and reducing cost of steel production. The private sector is also expected to make investments in research and development activities.

(d) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is pursuing 130 projects in different plants and units and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL). The private sector is also running many research and development projects in the current year.

Own Your Wagon and "BOLT" Schemes

*527. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "Own Your Wagon" and "BOLT" schemes have had very poor response in attracting the private investment;

(b) if so, the details of achievements of the schemes since their inception and reasons for poor performance; and

(c) the reaction of the Government about further implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) The response to 'Own Your Wagon' Scheme has been, by and large, encouraging. However, the response to 'BOLT' Scheme has not been encouraging for fixed infrastructure projects.

(b) and (c) Since inception of 'Own Your Wagon' Scheme in August, 1992, orders for 15638 wagons (in terms of four wheelers) have been received and 13060 wagons (in terms of four wheelers) have been procured till June 1998. Under the 'BOLT' (Build, Own, Lease, Transfer) Scheme, one gauge conversion project (Mudkhed-Adilabad) and two rolling stock projects (for 3000 wagons in terms of four wheelers and 53 AC/DC electric locomotives) have been awarded. Out of the rolling stock awarded under 'BOLT' Schemes, 2138 wagons (in terms of four-wheelers) and 50 AC/DC Electric locomotives have been delivered. The poor performance of 'BOLT' Scheme for infrastructure projects is attributable to high cost quoted by the bidders and inadequate response to the Scheme. However, based on the experience gained, efforts are being made to make the schemes more attractive.

Maintenance of Railway Tracks

*528. SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of amount allocated for maintenance of railway tracks during each of the last three years, Zone-wise;

(b) the details of railway tracks renewed and expenditure incurred thereon, during the above period, zone-wise;

(c) whether the South-Eastern Railway has received lowest amount of budget for maintenance of railway tracks in comparison to other zones; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) The details of amount allocated for maintenance of railway track during the last three years, zone-wise is as given below:

(Rs. in Crores)			
Railway	1995-96 (Actuals)	1996-97 (Actuals)	1997-98 (R.E.)
1	2	3	4
Central	136.62	149.24	196.92
Eastern	129.25	144.38	185.61
Northern	168.11	199.09	268.13
North Eastern	60.13	67.44	88.05
Northeast Frontier	54.44	60.41	78.55

1	2	3	4
Southern	93.71	96.82	130.01
South Central	108.43	124.00	159.78
South Eastern	172.55	199.37	256.47
Western	126.75	142.27	190.02
Total	1049.99	1183.02	1553.54

(b) The details of railway track renewed and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years, zone-wise are as given below:

Railway	Expenditure (Rs. in Crores) (Gross)			Track renewed (in Kms.)		
	1995-96 (Actuals)	1996-97 (Actuals)	1997-98 (R.E.)	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central	254.25	276.49	313.50	403	444	506
Eastern	164.2	202.68	210.00	316	337	351
Northern	226.94	232.7	235.00	459	429	467
North Eastern	53.95	65.22	76.00	173	162	185
Northeast Frontier	42.02	57.65	53.00	92	93	83
Southern	105.57	99.83	121.00	221	214	221
South Central	178.78	122.2	107.00	328	213	170
South Eastern	349.77	361.69	405.00	586	593	615
Western	170.59	178.06	204.50	315	310	353
Total	1546.07	1596.52	1725.00	2893	2795	2951

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Non-Profitable Airports

*529. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Airports which are non-profitable;

(b) whether the Government propose to entrust the non-profitable Airports with the State Governments and Private Companies;

(c) if so, whether any decision on the above proposal has been taken;

(d) if so, whether private Companies have been entrusted with operating any Airports in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Out of 120 airports controlled by AAI (5 international airports, 87 domestic airports and 28 civil enclaves), 99 airport are unprofitable.

(b) and (c) The policy on Airport Infrastructure recognises the need for change in the management of airports in the country. AAI has identified 32 unprofitable airports which could be handed over to the State Governments for upkeep and maintenance. Kolhapur and Sholapur airports have already been transferred to the State Government of Maharashtra on mutually agreed terms.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Installation of Tubewells and Handpumps with World Bank Assistance

*530. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

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

(a) whether the Government have introduced the handpump and pipewater scheme to supply drinking water in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the total number of villages covered under the said scheme by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) whether the targets fixed during the above period were achieved;

(d) whether the Government have received any assistance from the World Bank for this scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the number of handpumps/tubewells installed in each State with the World Bank aid for the last three years;

(g) whether the scheme has not proved successful; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (b) Rural water supply is a State subject, Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing funds under the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. State Governments have been delegated powers to plan and implement individual rural water supply schemes. The State Government have introduced handpump and pipe water schemes under rural water supply programme.

As per information received from the States, 991519 rural habitations were fully covered and 377484 rural habitations were partially covered with drinking water facilities, as per national norms, at the end of Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise list is enclosed as statement. Targets fixed for the coverage of habitations during the said period were achieved on an all India basis.

The following projects with World Bank assistance are under implementation in the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh:-

- (i) Karnataka Integrated Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project targeted to cover 4.8 million rural population of Karnataka at a cost of US \$ 92 million.

- (ii) Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project targeted to cover 17.5 Million rural population of Maharashtra at a cost of US \$ 140.7 million.

- (iii) Uttar Pradesh Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project targeted to cover 1.2 million rural population of Uttar Pradesh at a cost of US \$ 71.0 million.

Information received from the above States regarding number of handpumps/tubewells installed during the last three years with World Bank assistance is as under :

			Provisional
Karnataka	Maharashtra	Uttar Pradesh	
374	279	Implementation of the project has just started	

The Rural Water Supply schemes implemented with World Bank assistance are by and large successful.

Statement			
S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Partially covered Habitations	Fully covered Habitations
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	30600	38752
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1368	2067
3	Assam	23745	36339
4	Bihar	18319	183454
5	Goa	58	309
6	Gujarat	6558	21970
7	Haryana	1087	6398
8	Himachal Pradesh	14462	25323
9	Jammu & Kashmir	4542	8121
10	Karnataka	18860	35045
11	Kerala	7141	1474
12	Madhya Pradesh	23988	133591
13	Maharashtra	38330	38621
14	Manipur	755	1643
15	Meghalaya	1834	5531
16	Mizoram	617	240
17	Nagaland	756	305

1	2	3	4
18	Orissa	17898	91390
19	Punjab	3123	4058
20	Rajasthan	41841	50225
21	Sikkim	983	696
22	Tamil Nadu	29476	37155
23	Tripura	2400	4030
24	Uttar Pradesh	62233	209957
25	West Bengal	26141	53304
26	A & N Islands	32	461
27	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	261	127
28	Daman & Diu	4	25
29	Delhi	62	138
30	Lakshadweep	10	0
31	Pondicherry	0	276
32	Chandigarh	0	24
Total		377484	991519

[Translation]

Land Acquisition Act, 1894

*531. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 to expedite the process of rural development;

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

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to amend the Land Acquisition Act 1894, which may, inter-alia, expedite the process of rural development also through execution of irrigation projects, construction of dams, reservoirs, roads and highways, development of marketing infrastructures, project for generation and supply of electricity, etc. However, the land is also acquired for other public purpose including execution of various developmental projects, including projects for industrialisation and urbanisation, which also absorb the surplus rural manpower in the secondary, tertiary and informal sectors; and thus

helps the economic development of rural and semi-urban population.

(b) The main features of the proposed Amendment Act are as follows:

(i) to give liberal compensation, increase solatium and empower the Collector to make consent award;

(ii) to reduce the total time in the land acquisition process;

(iii) to arrange physical resettlement and rehabilitation of persons displaced on account of, or in consequence to, the acquisition of land; and

(iv) to increase people's participation and transparency at all levels in the process of land acquisition.

(c) The Government is likely to take a final decision in this regard shortly.

Quality of Food Served During AI & IA Flights

*532. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKER RAWAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the agency by which the food is supplied during Air India and Indian flights;

(b) the criteria adopted in regard to quality of food supplied during flights; and

(c) the percentage of amount included for food in the air fare per passenger?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Both Air India and Indian Airlines uplift food from the reputed flight kitchens/hotels/restaurants in the cities from which the flights are operated.

(b) Menus are made keeping in mind the flight timing, the sector length, the aircraft type, regional tastes, passenger preferences, etc. Periodic checks are carried out at the caterer's premises to ensure the quality of food served on board the aircraft.

(c) Air fare is fixed after taking into account cost of operations, competition etc. However, there is no fixed percentage of the cost of food in the airfare charged by the airlines.

[English]

Introduction of a Book on Human Rights during Training in Armed Forces

*533. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prescribed a text book on Human Rights as part of training curriculum of armed forces personnel.

(b) the broad features of the next book; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to minimise the frequent complaints of violation of Human Rights in respect of militants, infiltrants and insurgents by Security personnel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Army has a Training Publication on Human Rights which has been issued by Army Training Command to all training establishments and units. This publication forms the basis of training on human rights at all levels. In addition, the training establishments in the Army have their own training briefs on Human Rights.

The Training Note covers the subject of human rights and its training in seven chapters as under:-

- (a) Human Rights-General This chapter gives a brief introduction to the publication, its need and its layout.
- (b) Concept of Human Rights and its Evolution: Apart from performing the basic function of soldiering, personnel in the Army are also responsible citizens of the country. It is, therefore, essential that they are aware of the contemporary views on 'Human Rights' These are covered in detail in this chapter.
- (c) Operational Environment: This chapter covers the operational environment in which the Army personnel may be called upon to operate in so far as it relates to human rights during peace time.
- (d) Legal Aspect in Counter Insurgency Operations and Aid to Civil Authority: In this chapter, the legal provisions have been explained to deal with various situations to prevent any human rights violation.
- (e) Prevention of Human Rights Violations: In order to bring out certain essential lessons which can act as a guide in handling other situations, real life case studies have been selected and included in this chapter. Based on ongoing experiences, case studies are also forwarded to all units and formations from time to time by Headquarters, Army Training Command.
- (f) Dealing with the Media: This chapter covers the guidelines on interaction with the media.
- (g) Training: This includes the guidelines for training of personnel from the stage of Recruitment Training to training at unit/formation levels on Human Rights.

3. The training materials on human rights enable the Army personnel to know the fundamentals of the human rights so that they take utmost care to uphold the rights of human beings, whether they are civil militants, infiltrators or insurgents.

4. Violation of human rights by Army personnel is always treated as a disciplinary case and attracts stringent action as per Army Act, 1950.

[Translation]

New Posting Policy

*534. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplate to formulate a policy under which it would be mandatory for the officers appointed under his Ministry to be posted in inaccessible and remote areas initially so that they can become familiar with the circumstances under which the brave soldiers are posted to safeguard our boundaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) It is proposed that officers, working in the Ministry of Defence, will undergo familiarisation exercise in different parts of the country where Defence personnel are deployed-at the beginning of their tenure in the Ministry and also at regular intervals, during their tenure.

(c) Two officers were deputed to the Siachin glacier area during June-July 1998, in the above context.

[English]

Revenue Earned from Commercial Exploitation of Surplus Railway Land

*535. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have identified the surplus land across the country around big cities for commercial utilisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether during 1994, the Parliamentary Committee had estimated that the commercial exploitation of surplus railway land would yield the annual revenue of Rs. 36,000 crores;

(d) if so, the steps taken to realise this big amount from the surplus land;

(e) whether the Railways have entered into an agreement with the Government of Maharashtra for sharing

of revenue earned from the commercial exploitation of surplus railway land at Bandra railway station in Mumbai; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, because Railways do not have any surplus land. The land lying vacant/unutilised will be required for Railways future expansion & developmental works. Railways have, however, proposed commercial utilisation of air-space over railway land/structures to generate resources.

(c) and (d) Estimates Committee (1992-93) had assessed in their 29th report that air-space above Railway land particularly in urban areas has a potential of generating resources to the tune of Rs. 20,000 to 25,000 crores (Total one time). However, Expert Committee on Commercial Exploitation of Railway Land, constituted by Ministry of Railways, had in 1992 estimated generation of revenue to the tune of Rs.2500 crores (Total one time) out of 70 sites considered having commercial potential. Railways have since then been making continuous efforts in this direction. A Pilot Project for development of air-space at Bandra has been proposed with a view to commercially utilise upper floors.

(e) and (f) During the meeting of the then Minister of Railways and Chief Minister of Government of Maharashtra in 1993 it was proposed that earnings from property development on Railway land would be utilised for Railway Projects in Mumbai area, rest of Maharashtra and elsewhere in the country.

Privatisation of Airports

*536. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airport Authority of India has short-listed three international consultants in regard to privatisation of airports;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have decided that Delhi and Ahmedabad airport may be included in the first phase of privatisation;

(c) if so, whether any concrete proposal in this regard has been worked out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Modalities for participation of private sector in the development of airports are under examination.

Losses Suffered by Public Sector Airlines

*537. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether public Sector Airlines like Air India and Indian Airlines have suffered losses during the last three years;

(b) if so, the amount of such losses alongwith the reasons therefor, Airline-wise; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The details of profits/(losses) incurred by Air India and Indian Airlines during last three years are as under:-

YEAR	PROFIT/(LOSE) (Rs. in crores)	
	Air India	Indian Airlines
1995-96	(271.84)	(109.98)
1996-97	(296.94)	(11.36)*
1997-98 (Prov.)	(280.43)	50.00*

*Including Alliance Air.

The losses in Air India are because of increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft, reduction in yield due to increased competition and cost of operations, increase in wage bill and other staff costs and landing, handling and navigational charges, agitation by engineers, depreciation of rupee value, etc.

Indian Airlines incurred losses because of low utilization of aircraft due to shortage of commanders, reduction in market share with the emergence of private operators, increase in landing and navigational charges, depreciation of rupee, operations on un-economical routes more than the prescribed minimum under the guidelines on the subject, etc.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the two airlines to control expenditure and increase productivity are as follows;

Air India

(i) Marketing efforts have been stepped up to generate additional revenue.

(ii) Network rationalisation and consolidation with emphasis placed on route profitability

- (iii) Reduction in expenditure on outside repairs of aircraft by undertaking more in-house repairs.
- (iv) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished in various departments.

Indian Airlines

- (i) Closure of off-line station and reduction in the number of booking offices.
- (ii) Ban on recruitment, unless absolutely necessary for operational reasons.
- (iii) Drastic cut in the expenditure on office buildings.
- (iv) Freeze on capital expenditure unless absolutely necessary for operational reasons.
- (v) Reduction in frequencies of loss making routes.

The Government has constituted a committee of experts under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Chairman, Tariff Commission to undertake a comprehensive examination of the reasons for the losses incurred by the Air India and to suggest strategies for turning around the company.

Kelkar Committee's report on turnaround strategy for Indian Airlines is under the consideration of the government.

Discount by Foreign Airlines

*538. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether foreign Airlines give heavy discount to the passengers from India and to those coming to India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether recently the British Airways has announced discounted fares on India-bound flights and has already cut fares on London-bound flights from India by 20 per cent;
- (d) if so, the impact of this fare cut by foreign Airlines on the Air India; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Discounting is a common airline practice based on pricing strategies of the airlines determined by factors like competition, seasonality and economic conditions. The discounts on IATA published fares vary for different fare types and different destinations.

(c) to (e) British Airways has recently announced reduction in the promotional fares from London to India. No discounted fares ex-India have been filed by British Airways with the Director General of Civil Aviation of Government of India, though it offers incentives to travel

agents who may part with some of it to the passengers ex-India.

In order to remain competitive, Air India has also reduced its promotional fares from London to match the British Airways fare.

Performance of HUDCO

*539. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently undertaken a critical/analytical review of the performance of HUDCO during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of financial and physical achievements as against targets set for the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of restructuring/upgrading/strengthening proposals formulated for HUDCO to perform its crucial role assigned in execution of ambitious targets during the current years; and

(d) the details of foreign assistance made available and actually utilised by HUDCO so far?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Government reviewed the performance of HUDCO critically in the year 1997-98 on March 19, 1998. This was with reference to the Memorandum of Understanding signed in April, 1998. The performance of HUDCO is reviewed by Government on a quarterly basis also.

(b) The details of the financial and physical achievement against targets set under Memorandum of Understanding during the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given at enclose statement I. Since HUDCO provides loan assistance to State Government/agencies only financial targets are set. As far as State-wise targets are concerned every year HUDCO fixes annual target of loan sanctions for housing projects for every State/UT in the country. This allocation is made in two stages, except in the case of North-Eastern States, where 100% allocation is made at the beginning of each financial year. In the first stage, 50% of the annual allocation is distributed among the States/UTs based on area and population criteria. The balance 50% is allocated on the basis of performance and demand by the various States. Performance of various State/UTs vis-a-vis loan allocation is given at statement-II.

(c) Government is providing enhanced equity support to HUDCO and extending support to mobilise resources from the market for meeting the targets set for the current year. Equity support to HUDCO by the Government has

been increased by more than 200% for the purpose. Government is initiating steps to strengthen HUDCO in order to enable it to take up increased targets under the National Agenda for Government which calls for construction of additional 20 Lakh houses every year in the country. Technical Assistance with the help from the World Bank is

currently underway for restructuring and capacity building of HUDCO's Urban Infrastructure operations.

(d) The details of foreign assistance drawn from the foreign institutions and bilateral agencies are given in enclosed statement-III.

Statement - I

S.No	Performance Criteria	Unit	Target	ACH. 1995-96	Target	ACH. 1996-97	Target	ACH. 1997-98
1.	Source Mobilisation	Rs. in Cr.	1171	847.06	1248	1963	1350	2650.27
2.	Loan Sanctions							
	(a) Housing	Rs. in Cr.	1130	1156.7	1200	1442	1385	1772.01
	(b) Urban Infrastructure	Rs. in Cr.	770	810.18	847	1039	930	1289.5
3.	Loan Release							
	(a) Housing	Rs. in Cr.	958	821.35	1011	1035	1170	1325.8
	(b) Urban Infrastructure	Rs. in Cr.	410	420.45	466	501.8	790	811
4.	Priority Sector Housing Schemes							
	(a) Sanctions for EWS/LIG	Rs. in Cr.	621.5	538.51	600	683.3	693	833.6
	(b) Release for EWS/LIG	Rs. in Cr.	527.1	318.97	506	387.5	585	605
	(c) Sanctions for EWS/LIG units	% of Total	87	88	87	93.54	88	95.04
5.	Recovery	%	95.5	92.1	92.5	95.43	92.5	94.34
6.	Gross Margin	Rs. in Cr.	57.05	110	70	83.78	80	91.52
7.	Profit after Tax/capital Employed	Ratio	0.75	1.61	1.02	1.1	0.8	0.91
8.	Earning per employee (pre-tax profit)	Rs. in lakh	6.22	12.53	7.77	9.52	10.2	10.1
9.	Training & Technology Development							
	(a) Training at HSMI	No.	320	1000	350	591	500	2124
	(b) Setting up of Bldg. Centres	No.	50	72	70	81	70	81
	(c) Appraisal of Bldg. Centres Fully Function	No.	160	218	180	250	240	303

Statement - II

Housing Allocation v/s Loans sanctioned for the last 3 years*

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	States/Uts	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Loan Allo.	Loan Amt.	Loan Allo.	Loan Amt.	Loan Allo.	Loan Amt.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	71.85	76.63	118.85	196.18	117.56	172.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.28	0.00	0.40	0.00	1.46	—
3.	Assam	17.96	8.31	22.21	33.04	70.55	16.23
4.	Bihar	34.35	26.32	46.45	49.59	53.32	4.65
5.	Goa	49.17	48.40	2.19	0.85	1.44	13.34
6.	Gujarat	66.71	46.00	56.15	47.39	66.54	75.63
7.	Haryana	41.21	56.07	17.52	17.45	29.94	16.94
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7.34	3.71	20.16	15.20	72.04	72.04
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	13.60	13.67	14.86	0.89	15.29	10.75
10.	Karnataka	44.92	92.84	89.29	81.89	95.66	108.78
11.	Kerala	85.47	118.51	83.81	177.79	70.17	230.97
12.	Madhya Pradesh	77.26	74.64	92.336	77.60	184.25	87.12
13.	Maharashtra	54.25	38.17	75.12	41.79	76.38	124.87
14.	Manipur	2.56	5.77	12.30	39.65	17.42	22.28
15.	Mizoram	3.31	5.26	6.30	5.38	15.72	6.37
16.	Meghalaya	2.01	0.94	3.75	5.74	8.87	0.23
17.	Nagaland	1.89	0.00	6.83	5.89	9.42	13.13
18.	Orissa	31.29	18.74	31.26	33.90	85.00	53.21
19.	Punjab	30.78	8.21	22.92	31.10	30.89	3.75
20.	Rajasthan	55.35	75.10	76.09	90.46	79.26	227.05
21.	Sikkim	0.11	6.50	0.12	7.14	0.56	0.50
22.	Tamil Nadu	141.73	159.88	137.33	186.88	133.21	178.10
23.	Tripura	1.65	0.73	2.30	0.09	7.94	1.50
24.	Uttar Pradesh	50.27	57.58	83.53	101.74	80.77	126.77
25.	West Bengal	52.28	38.30	57.18	48.35	49.76	35.03
26.	A & N Islands	0.22	1.49	0.25	0.00	1.38	1.38
27.	Chandigarh	2.87	0.00	0.88	0.00	0.93	0.00
28.	D & N Haveli	0.05	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.00
29.	Delhi	9.61	0.00	11.17	1.84	18.88	0.00
30.	Lakshadweep	0.07	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.08	0.00
31.	Pondicherry	0.84	0.00	0.98	0.00	1.04	0.95
32.	Daman & Diu	0.08	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.00
TOTAL		929.50	991.00	1078.01	108.78	1340.01	1603.73

*This does not include Land Acquisition and low cost sanitation.

Statement - III

Foreign Assistance for Housing availed by HUDCO from Government of Germany to KfW (German Bank for Reconstruction)

The Indo-German cooperation in human settlement and Government of FRG funded KfW-Funded Collaboration programme started in 1984. This cooperation was forged between the Housing a Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO), India and the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) or the Bank for Reconstruction, Germany. As per

this the KfW is providing assistance to finance various housing programmes of HUDCO taken up for the poor and under privileged in urban and rural areas. The objective of the cooperation was to assist the economically weak by providing an effective back up service for delivery of affordable housing. The emphasis was on creation of shelter provision through self-help and self administrated or managed basis.

The details of various financial cooperation extended are as under:-

	Amount	Nature of Assistance	For	Status
HUDCO-KfW-I	DM 20 M	Loan	Urban Weaker Section Housing	Amount fully received utilised.
HUDCO-KfW-II	DM 30 M	Loan	Urban and Rural Weaker Section Housing	Amount fully received/ utilised
HUDCO-KfW-III	DM 10 M	Grant	Strengthening of BCs	DM 6.50 million received DM 6.30 utilised Balance under Utilisation.
HUDCO-KfW-IV	DM 35M*	Grant	Urban & Rural Weaker Section housing & earthquake rehabilitation housing measures for Latur	DM 34.66 million recd. & utilised.
HUDCO-KfW-V	DM 35.34 M* (including DM 0.34 M of KfW IV)	Grant	Urban/Rural Weaker Section housing	DM 34.54 million received and released to the agency work in progress
HUDCO-RSW-VI	DM 50 M/s DM 30 M/s DM 20 M/s	Grant/Loan (Grant) (Loan)	Urban/Rural Weaker housing and grant and grant for AP cyclone	DM 10 million received & released for AP Cyclone/EWS housing scheme work in progress

Details on the extent of Funds Drawn by HUDCO under OECF Financial Assistance

1. Urban City Water Supply Project
OECF (ID-P-79)

Under this agreement, HUDCO forwarded to reimbursement claims to a tune of Rs. 107.91 crore to the OECF through the Government of India out of which Rs. 104.779 crore has been released to HUDCO by the Government of India.

2. Urban Water Supply & Sanitation Improvement Programme.

It is a line of credit funding directly to HUDCO. Under this agreement, rupee equivalent to Rs. 52.38 crore has been disbursed to HUDCO.

ADB ASSISTANCE

1. Line of credit from ADB for housing for EWS has been obtained. The details are as follows:-

Loan Amount sanctioned	US \$ 100 million
Loan Amount Drawn by HUDCO	US \$ 20 million (Rs. 78.96 crore approx)

[Translation]

Encroachments on land of Airports Authority of India

*540. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of people are living in slums on the land of Airports Authority of India for the last 25-30 years;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the action taken by the Government to get these unauthorised persons removed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There is encroachment on land belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI), to the extent of 160 acres, at Mumbai and 4 acres in scattered pockets at Delhi airport. Land at Juhu, Ahmedabad, Kota, Guwahati, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Tirupati, Vadodra and Nagpur airport has also been encroached upon by slum/hutment dwellers.

- (c) AAI is taking steps to evict the encroachers with the help of the local authorities/state Government.

[English]

Building Materials used by DDA

541. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has been using inferior quality of cement and other building materials in the construction of flats;

- (b) if so, the number of cases of foundation sinking, roofs falling, cracks appearing in the walls etc. reported during each of the last three years;

- (c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

- (e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Delhi Development Authority has informed that no such case has been reported during the last three years which was due to the use of inferior quality of building materials.

- (c) to (e) Question do not arise in view of reply to (a) & (b) above.

East-West Airlines

5198. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to collect the outstanding amount from East-West Airlines;

- (b) whether the Government have given permission to East-West Airlines to operate scheduled/unscheduled aircraft;

- (c) if so, the term and conditions stipulated therefor;

- (d) the loss shown by the Airlines;

- (e) whether the money raised from public at a premium of Rs. 35 per share has been misappropriated;

- (f) if so, whether Government propose to inquire into the matter and save the investors who have been defrauded; and

- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Legal action has been initiated by the Oil Companies against M/s. East West Airlines for recovery of outstanding dues. Airports Authority of India has initiated action under the public premises Eviction Act, 1972 to recover outstanding licence fees for the allotted premises, and has also filed recovery suits for recovery of outstanding Route Navigation facility charges, Landing, Housing and Parking Charges. For recovery of IATT, notice under rule 14(4) of the IATT Rules, 1989, has been issued by the Customs authorities for attachment of the movable and immovable property against the outstanding dues.

- (b) and (c) Approval for grant of NOC to the Company to operate scheduled air transport service has been given on 25th June, 1998 subject to the conditions that the security clearance of the MHA in respect of the Directors of the Board of the Company is received. Acquisition of aircraft will be allowed only after the settlement of outstanding dues is reached with the concerned agencies.

- (d) As per information given by the company on 31st March, 1996, (prior to closure) the Company had incurred a loss of Rs. 48.06 crores.

- (e) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Reform Measures for National Security

5199. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an Association of Army Officers commissioned on December 21, 1997 has submitted a memorandum on reforms for cost effective national security;

- (b) if so, the gist thereof; and

- (c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) and (c) The question does not arise.

Development of Mines

5200. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government for the development of mining industry in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the income earned by the State Government as a result thereof; and

(c) the details of minerals exported from Uttar Pradesh during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The Central government had formulated the National Mineral Policy, 1993 for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals for the country as a whole including Uttar Pradesh for the exploration and development of mineral resources in the country. Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 has been amended in 1994 in line with the National Mineral Policy announced in 1993. The government in October, 1996 have also issued guidelines for grant of Prospecting Licences for areas larger than 25 sq.kms. for carrying out aerial prospecting, to encourage induction of state of the art technology and private investment in exploration and exploitation of the minerals.

(b) The income earned by the State Government in the form of mineral royalty for the year 1996-97 is Rs. 22.64 Lakhs and for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 52.79 Lakhs.

(c) Only dimensional granite was exported from Uttar Pradesh. The export figures are:

1996-97	10,339 cu.meters
1997-98	11,913 cu.metres.

Expansion of Alumina Plant

5201. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the expansion projects of Alumina Plant at Damongodi and Aluminium Plant Angul as approved by the Government;

(b) the progress made so far by NALCO with regard to expansion programme of Alumina Plant since approval; and

(c) the details of ancillary industries identified at Damongodi and other areas based on Alumina raw material and other materials to develop socio-economic condition and employment facilities in undivided Koraput District of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The approved project cost of expansion of Bauxite Mines and Alumina Refinery of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is Rs. 1665 Crores (June 96 price level). The approved project cost of expansion of Aluminium Smelter and Captive Power Plant of NALCO is Rs. 2062 Crores (June 1997 price level).

(b) The progress in implementation of bauxite mines and alumina refinery expansion project so far is as follows:-

1. Consultants appointed for all the project segments.
2. Total basic engineering documents received from Aluminium Pechiney, France.
3. Detailed engineering has progressed around 40%.
4. Ordering done for around 25% of the total equipment.
5. Manufacturing and delivery has also started.
6. Civil structural work has started.

(c) The details of ancillary industries identified at Damanjodi and other areas is given the attached statement.

Statement

List of SSI Units Awarded Ancillary Status

DAMANJODI

Name of the Party	Item
1	2
1. M/s Aurobindo Precision Tools Industrial Estate, Sunabeda	Fabrication and Machining jobs
2. M/s Annapurna Engg. Pvt. Ltd. B/18, Industrial Estate Rourkela-4	do
3. M/s Krishna Ferro Products Ltd. H-3 Civil Townshop, Rourkela-4	do
4. M/s Nilachal Cotton Industries Manikghosh Bazar, Cuttack-2	For hospital supply and phyniles.
5. M/s Indian Disinfectants & Detergent Ltd., Madhupatna Cuttack-10	do

1	2
6. M/s Chemie (India) Industries Estate, Cuttack 10	do
7. M/s Aero Printing Works 2/6 Industrial Estate Sunabeda	Printing and Binding Jobs
8. M/s Orissa Polyjute Pvt. Ltd. PO: Remuna, Balasore-756019	LDPE Bags & Liners
9. M/s Priyanka Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. 49-Bhagabanpur Industrial Estate PO Patrapada, Bhubaneswar	Bleaching powder
10. M/s Orient Engineers Pvt. Ltd. Lathikata, Rourkela-37	Machining & Fabrication Jobs
11. M/s Hitech Engineering & Consultants, LL-6, Civil Township, 7&8 Area, Panposh, Rourkela-4	Machining & Fabrication jobs
12. M/s Jyoti Foundry & Works Shop Rayagada-1	Casting & Machining jobs'
13. M/s Jyoti Steel Casting (P) Ltd. Kolliguda. Rayagada-1	do
14. M/s Sreedevi Cotton Works O.F.M.Road, Jeypore-1 Koraput	Cotton Waste
15. M/s Reeti Printers At, Pujariput, PO/Dist. Koraput	Printing items
16. M/s Quality Printers, Main Road, Semiliguda-36 Dist. Koraput	do
17. M/s National Printers, At/PO Bhejaput Damanjodi, Dist. Koraput	do

Price of Aluminium

5202. SHRI TATHAGATHA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether buyers of unwrought aluminium in India have to pay a price equivalent to about US=\$1700/t as against the ruling average price of US-\$1400/t on LME;

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

(c) whether it is attributable to the extra high cost of unwrought aluminium metal that Indian Manufacturers of semifabricated products have had to pay;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether the domestic demand growth for semifabricated aluminium products like steel, foil and extrusions fell in 1997-98 only 1.5% over 1996-97 and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and corrective measures taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The average LME price of unwrought aluminium was US\$ 1308 per Metric Tonne (MT) in June 1998. Importers of unwrought aluminium have to incur additional costs in the form of freight, insurance, customs duty, countervailing duty, special countervailing duty and terminal handling charges. As a result, the landed cost of imported unwrought aluminium to the Indian manufacturer of semi-fabricated products at an LME price of US\$ 1308 works out to

approximately US \$ 1842 per MT. As against this, the price of domestically produced unwrought aluminium by the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) during June 1998 was Rs. 73166 per MT (equivalent to approximately US \$ 1702 @ exchange rate of US\$1-Rs.43) Thus the price of domestically produced unwrought aluminium is lower than the landed cost of imported unwrought aluminium.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The price of domestically produced unwrought aluminium is lower than the landed cost of imported unwrought aluminium. However, market forces, fluctuations in LME prices, demand-supply situation, taxes and other commercial factors decide the price of unwrought aluminium to be paid by domestic semi fabricators.

(e) Since most secondary producers/re-roller/extruders are in the unorganised sector, complete information is not available. However, the three major secondary producer, viz. Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO), Indian Aluminium Company (INDAL), and Hindustan Aluminium Company (HINDALCO) who account for a substantial market share in rolled sheets, foils and extrusions, recorded a growth rate (provisional) of 16.2% in rolled sheets, 7.4% in foil and (-) 8.9% in extrusions in 1997-98 over 1996-97.

(f) Growth rate in the aluminium industry is largely dependent on the general growth in the economy.

Introduction of Small Aircraft and Helicopters

5203. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently the Government has permitted the non-scheduled operators to induct some small aircraft and helicopters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the detailed policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) On 25th June 1998, Government has given approval for import of 13 small aircraft (50 seater or less) and 5 helicopters as per details given in the enclosed statement.

(c) In accordance with the existing policy, choice of the aircraft type and size has been left to the operator.

Statement

Details of Approval given on 25.6.1998 to Import small Aircraft/Helicopters

Name of Operator	No. & Type of Aircraft	Seating capacity
Deccan Aviation	3 Bell 206-L4	(5)
Sahara India Airlines	2 King Air B-200	14
	1 Falcon	(20)
	1 BAe-125-700	(9)
	1 King Air-1900D	(19)
	1 Bell-406	(5)
Stallion Airlines	1 Allouette	(4)
	5 Fairchild Metro 235 A-227-DC	(19)
VIF Airways	3 DO-328	(31)

[Translation]

Assessment of JRY

5204. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Programme Assessment Organisation of the Planning Commission has conducted a study of the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the findings of the study;

(c) whether the study has revealed that the amount provided under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana has not been utilised by some Village Panchayats of State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO), Planning Commission conducted a quick study of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) during 1992 covering the period from April, 1989 to September, 1991. The PEO had selected 10 States for this purpose. The State of Gujarat was not included for Quick Evaluation Study conducted by the PEO.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Cases of Compensation

5205. SHRI SATYAPAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of compensation paid to the victims of rail accidents during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases of compensation have been pending for the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government of expeditious disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The total amount of compensation paid to the victims of rail accidents during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	535.95
1996-97	709.31
1997-98	240.89

(b) 975 accident compensation cases are pending as on June, 1998.

(c) The following steps are taken for expeditious disposal of accident claims cases:-

(i) All the benches of Railway Claims Tribunal have been advised to give top most priority to accident

claim cases so that speedy relief is given to the persons injured and to the dependants of the deceased.

- (ii) Adjournments are not ordinarily being granted to the parties.
- (iii) Requests of claimants are allowed for transfer of cases from one bench to another nearer to their residences for their convenience.
- (iv) Members from one bench are deputed to other bench whenever required due to non-availability of a member at that bench.

Attachment of AC-II Coach

5206. MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI AVSM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to attach one AC-II Coach with Varanasi-Dehradun Janta Express; and
- (b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Bhavnathpur Lime Stone Mine

5207. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of chemical analysis of Bhavnathpur lime stone;
- (b) whether the lime stone of above mine has been found good for cement industry;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to utilise the lime stone for production of cement; and
- (d) the names of the other Industrial Units where the lime stone of Bhavnathpur mine could be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) As per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of

Mines, the chemical analysis of Bhavnathpur limestone is as below :

Calcium Oxide (CaO)	29.98% to 44.99%
Magnesium Oxide (MgO)	4.73.% to 15.76%
Silicon Di-oxide (SiO ₂)	6.23% to 11.6%
Aluminium Oxide (Al ₂ O ₃)	up to 2.7%
Loss on Ignition (LOI)	upto 39.7%

(b) The Limestone of the area contains high percentage of MgO i.e. more than 3% and it is most deleterious constituent and therefore, as such cannot be used in cement plants.

(c) Does not arise in view of the information furnished under part (b) above.

(d) The limestone of the area is supplied to Bokaro Steel Plant conforming to the following specifications:

CaO	SiO ₂	Fe ₂ O ₃ (Ferric Oxide)	MgO	Al ₂ O ₃	LOI	Size
40-42%	7.5-8.5%	1%	8%	2%	40%	(-)80mm to (+)25mm

[English]

Rural Sanitation Programmes

5208. SHRI RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of proposals under the Rural Sanitation Programme submitted by the States during 1996-97 and 1997-98, State-wise;
- (b) the number of proposals out of them accorded clearance alongwith the amount earmarked, State-wise; and
- (c) the status of sanitation schemes being presently implemented in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS, AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) Allocations under the Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) are primarily based on the approved criteria like incidence of poverty, rural population and recognised hill states and hilly areas on the basis of their population and not on specific proposals. The State-wise allocations/releases and the number of toilets installed under CRSP during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Constructed under Rural Sanitation Programme During 1996-97 and 1997-98*

STATE/UT	1996-97			1997-98		
	ALLOCATION	RELEASE	NO. OF LATRINES CONS- TRUCTED	ALLOCATION	RELEASE	NO. OF LATRINES CONS- TRUCTED
		(Rs. in Lakhs)			(Rs. in Lakhs)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ANDHRA PRADESH	343.000	590.014	91454	642.000	1021.320	136552
ARUNACHAL PR.	8.000	4.000	608	15.000	0.000	216
ASSAM	130.000	11.179	3811	243.000	0.000	1961
BIHAR	603.000	16.391	212	1129.000	0.000	31
GOA	5.000	2.500	2931	9.000	3.750	4827
GUJARAT	155.000	175.000	29541	290.000	215.000	26758
HARYANA	56.000	56.000	36137	105.000	52.420	35228
HIMACHAL PR.	54.000	27.000	43131	101.000	50.540	16455
J & K	75.000	37.500	8242	140.000	0.000	1613
KARNATAKA	278.000	584.445	151094	520.000	1014.550	157504
KERALA	214.000	379.147	19438	401.000	531.470	26424
MADHYA PR.	401.000	357.000	36669	751.000	506.860	39697
MAHARASHTRA	439.000	808.985	387332	822.000	1285.380	196421
MANIPUR	16.000	16.000	1210	30.000	15.000	1311
MEGHALAYA	17.000	8.500	3018	32.000	15.910	1910
MIZORAM	5.000	5.000	400	9.000	4.680	529
NAGALAND	10.000	0.000	0	19.000	0.000	0
ORISSA	241.000	127.600	3810	451.000	405.540	6691
PUNJAB	57.000	28.500	4488	107.000	0.000	10326
RAJASTHAN	207.000	166.928	129951	388.000	193.760	121020
SIKKIM	5.000	5.000	1500	9.000	23.130	1084
TAMIL NADU	363.000	297.920	46439	680.000	925.930	44808
TRIPURA	26.000	26.000	1369	49.000	48.670	1316
U.P.	852.000	1097.400	93184	1595.000	2641.990	136218
W.B.	325.000	200.000	117123	608.000	304.210	147072
D & N HEV.	5.000	2.500	27	5.000	0.000	31
A & N ISLAND	5.000	2.500	3720	5.000	0.000	1962
L. DWEEP	5.000	5.000	202	5.000	2.500*	40
PONDICHERRY	5.000	5.000	407	5.000	2.500	357

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
DELHI	5.000	0.000	0	5.000	0.000	
DAMAN & DIU	5.000	0.000	17	5.000	2.500	105
CHANDIGARH	5.000	0.000	0	5.000	0.000	
TOTAL	4920.000	5043.009	1217465	9180.000	9267.610	1118467

[Translation]

Railway Bridge on River Sharda

5209. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the life span of Railway bridge on river Sharda on Mailani-Paliya-Gonda railway line in North-Eastern railway is over and it has become unsafe for use; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Corruption in CPWD

5210. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the alleged corruption prevailing in CPWD, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the cases of corruption reported during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any departmental or CBI enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The CPWD is aware that CBI has registered some cases of corruption involving officials of CPWD.

(b) The number of cases registered by CBI against the CPWD officials as per records of CPWD are as under:-

Year	No. of Cases	Year	No. of Cases
1995	13	1997	19
1996	16	1998	3
		(upto 30.6.98)	

(c) and (d) the number of cases including CPWD officials in which investigations are being conducted by CBI are as under:-

Year	No. of Cases
1995	7
1996	12
1997	7
1998	2
(upto 30.6.98)	

(e) As a result of investigations conducted by CBI, 10 officials are being prosecuted in Courts of Law and departmental action has been initiated against 22 officials.

Transfer of Defence Land to Kerala

5211. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request from the Government of Kerala has been received for transferring 100 acres of excess land under Sainik School, Trivandrum for setting up of a Training Centre; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The transfer of 75 acres of land from the Sainik School, Kazhakootam to the Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) has been agreed, in principle, subject to the condition that the State Government provides adequate monetary compensation to the Sainik School in lieu thereof.

Advisory Committees

5212. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Advisory Committees have been constituted;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of Members in each Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees on each Zonal Railway and Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees at each Division have been constituted w.e.f. 1.7.1998 for a two year term.

(c) and (d) There is a proposal to give representation to all the Members of Parliament and a nominee of Union Ministers on Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees. Besides representation will be given to one nominee of each Union Minister and Member of Parliament on Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees.

(e) Does not arise.

Extra Coaches in Shuttle Trains

5213. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are proposing to increase the number of compartments in the shuttle trains running on Rewari-Delhi, Panipat-Delhi and Rohtak-Delhi section of Northern Railways so as to make the journey comfortable;

(b) if so, the time by which this will be done; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The load of 4095/4096 New Delhi-Kalka Himalayan Queen by one 2nd Class Chair Car. 341/342 Delhi-Firozpur Passenger and 1TR/2TR Tilak Bridge-Rohtak Shuttle each by one General Class coach have been augmented w.e.f.

20.07.1998. Increase in the number of coaches on Shuttle trains, running on Delhi-Rewari and Delhi-Panipat sections is not feasible at present due to operational/resource constraints.

Tenure of Officers in Government of India Press

5214. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the tenure of an officer in the Government of India Press and the number of officers who are over-staying in the Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi despite expiry of their tenure;

(b) whether the deployment of an officer from Letter Press Unit to Photolitho Unit in the same Press and same place treated as transfer; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No specific tenure has been prescribed for Officers (Groups 'A' & 'B') working in the Government of India Presses; therefore, over-staying of officers in the Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi does not arise.

(b) Yes, deployment of an officer from Letter Press Unit to Photolitho Unit in the same Press and same place is treated as transfer; and

(c) Both the Letter Press Unit and the Photolitho Unit are considered as separate units, each independently headed by a Manager reporting directly to the headquarters.

Temporary Allotment of Government Accommodation

5215. SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2916 on August 11, 1997 regarding Temporary allotment of Government Accommodation and state:

(a) the definition of temporary occupation under Public Premises (Eviction of unauthorised occupants) Act, 1971.

(b) whether an occupation for a period of six months comes within the purview of this definition; and

(c) if so, the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) As per the definition given in the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants)

Act 1971 "temporary occupation in relation to any public premises means occupation by any person on the basis of any order of allotment made under the authority of the Central Government, a State Government, the Government of a Union Territory or a Statutory Authority for a total period (including the extended period, if any) which is less than thirty days." However, occupation of houses meant for service personnel and allotted to civilian employees are liable to be cancelled as and when the accommodation is required for use of Service personnel.

Illegal Mining of Valuable Stones

5216. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether valuable stones in Koderma District (Bihar) are being extracted illegally;
- (b) details of loss of revenue to the Government on this count; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to check illegal activities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by the State Government of Bihar, complaints about illegal mining of semi-precious stones in the Indarwa Forest area within the district of Koderma have been received.

No firm estimate on the loss of revenue has been made so far but the loss estimated is substantial. Eleven First Information Reports have been lodged by the concerned District Mining Officer so far. The Forest Department has also lodged forty three First Information Reports in which 169 persons have been made accused. A number of surprise raids have been conducted by the District Forest Officer Station House officer, and Deputy Superintendent of Police with the help of Police Force in the District. Since the concerned area is a forest area, in order to impose a check on illegal mining, measures for appointment of forest guards, filling up of ditches and fencing of area have been initiated.

New Suburban Railway between Sion and Matunga in Mumbai

5217. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have received any representation for creating a new Suburban Railway between Sion and Matunga in Mumbai;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the Government's response thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways have not received any representation for creating a new Suburban Railway line between Sion and Matunga in Mumbai.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise. 8D

AC Tier in Ranikhet Express

5218. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide AC 3 Tier facility in Ranikhet Express;
- (b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) Provision of A.C. 3 tier sleeper coach on 5013/5014 Ranikhet Express is technically not feasible at present as this train is running with vacuum brake rakes whereas A.C. 3 tier sleeper coaches are equipped with air brake system.

[Translation]

Testing of Lime by BALCO

5219. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the lime supplied by lime industries is tested through B.I.S. system by Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. Korba;
- (b) if so, the date on which the B.I.S. (I.S.I.) testing system was abandoned by BALCO during 1998;
- (c) whether lime of Sarvamangla Lime Industries and Vijay Lime Industries found sub-standard in B.I.S. testing system;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether I.S.I. (B.I.S.) system was changed in 1998 after the lime found sub-standard; and
- (f) if so, by whose order the testing system was changed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No, Sir. The lime samples are being analysed by Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) in its own laboratory by the method recommended by Hungarian technology suppliers for the alumina plant.

(b) The Company carried out the testing of lime by B.I.S. method for the first time on experimental basis for a short period in May, 1998 and the results were not found to be dependable by the Company. Thereafter, analysis in the BALCO's laboratory as recommended by technology suppliers was resumed.

(c) to (f) Out of 16 trucks supplied by M/s. Vijai Lime Industries (ancillary industry) and 15 trucks supplied by M/s Sarvamangala Lime Industry (other than ancillary) four and three trucks respectively were rejected after carrying out test in BALCO's laboratory by the method recommended by Hungarian technology suppliers.

[English]

Brea down in NALCO

5220. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is serious breakdown in NALCO's Aluminium Plant in Orissa causing huge loss of production and quality;

(b) if so, some complaints of sabotage by competitors have been received;

(c) whether import duty has been further increased on Aluminium leading to acute shortage of metal in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government are taking to ease the situation and punish the culprits for sabotage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir. The total loss of production on account of operational problems in the smelter of NALCO is 16639 tonnes upto the end of June 1998.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 4 per cent additional import duty across the board has been levied on aluminium in the Budget for the year 1998-1999. However, the basic duty on aluminium scrap and waste has been lowered from 20% to 10%. There is no acute shortage of aluminium in the country.

(d) The Government have constituted an Enquiry Committee to look into the reasons for instability and failure in the pot line in the Smelter of NALCO.

Watershed Development Scheme

5221. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Watershed Development Scheme is being implemented by Desert Development Agency in the district of Leh and Kargil in Jammu and Kashmir under the new guidelines of 1994;

(b) if so, whether the same scheme is being implemented under the Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAT) in the districts of Doda and Udhampur now considering the new guidelines;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the NGO's of the said districts have approached the Government to implement such scheme under the new guidelines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGAUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Desert Development Programme is being implemented in the districts of Leh and Kargil by the Desert Development Agency as per the new Guidelines for Watershed Development which came into effect from 1.4.95.

(b) In Doda, and Udhampur districts, Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAT) is being implemented as per the old guidelines.

(c) The DPAP is being implemented in these districts as per the old guidelines in view of the weak setup of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and the scenario prevailing there.

(d) Yes, Sir. NGO's of the said districts have approached the Government for implementation of watershed projects under the new guidelines.

(e) The request of these NGOs shall be considered by the concerned DRDAs once the new Guidelines become operational in these districts.

Maintenance of Roster Points by AAI

5222. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Roster Points of SC/ST employees were maintained by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the years 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Before introduction of Post Based Reservation Rosters from 2.7.1997. 120 Point Roster for Group A and B and 100 Point Roster for Group C and D categories were followed in respect of Direct Recruitment. For promotions, 40 point Roster was followed in respect of all Groups.

[Translation]

Corruption Cases Against SAIL Employees

5223. PROF. RITA VERMA :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- the number and nature of Corruption cases registered against the officers of various units of SAIL;
- the number of officers against whom the enquiry has been conducted; and
- the action taken against the officers found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The number of vigilance cases initiated against executives of various Units of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in the year 1997 and 1998 (upto June, 1998) are as under:-

Year	Number
1997	49
1998(upto June'98)	25

The Nature of charges levelled against the executives interalia, include irregularities in purchases, irregularities in placement/execution of contracts, favouritism to customers in sale of steel materials, misuse of advances granted by the Company, misuse of Travelling Allowance, and acceptance of bribe, etc.

(b) The number of officers against whom inquiry (Regular Departmental Action) has been initiated are as under:

Year	Number
1997	71
1998 (upto June'98)	39

(c) As a result of the Regular Department Action, the number of executives on whom major/minor penalty punishment was imposed during 1997 and 1998 (upto June 1998) are:

Year	Number
1997	47
1998(upto June/98)	10

[English]

Restoration of Joravarnagar-Sayla Railway Line

5224. SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- whether the Government have received representations for restoration of Joravarnagar-Sayla narrow gauge railway line in Rajkot Division, Western Railway because of its historical importance and being a place of pilgrimage; and
- if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Joravarnagar-Sayla (26 kms.) narrow gauge section was closed in 1988 as it was running at a loss and was totally uneconomical. The number of passengers kept reducing and there was no goods traffic. This was due to train taking one hour fifty five minutes while the journey time by road was only 40 minutes and journey by road was also cheaper. The same position continues as such there is no proposal for restoration of the line.

Errors in Bills of Indian Airlines

5225. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- whether attention of the Government has been to a news-item captioned "Business with IA" appearing in the Indian Express dated June 18, 1998;
- if so, the facts thereof; and
- the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter has been investigated by the Management of Indian Airlines and it has been found that correct amount was charged in all the cases and as such

there was no under-billing resulting in any loss to Indian Airlines.

Manned Level Crossing in Barmer

5226.COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding opening of manned level crossing in Barmer district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government have sought the concurrence of State Government to bear the expenses for manned crossings;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The details of locations where level crossings have been demanded in Barmer Distt. are as under:-

S.No	LOCATION
1.	Provision of level crossing at km 737/2-3(736/12-13) between Balotra-Janiyana.
2.	Level crossing at km 784/11-12 between Baytu-Bhimarial.
3.	Upgradation of 'D' class cattle level crossing No. 337 at km 890/6-7 between Ramsar-Gadra road.
4.	Manned level crossing at km 854/2-3 between Jassi-Bhachbhar.

Opening of new manned level crossing, required by the State Govt., can be provided subject to feasibility, visibility from safety point of view, only on 'deposit' terms i.e. authority requesting for the same has to bear all the costs, initial capital as well as annual recurring maintenance cost. No such proposal has yet been received by the Railway either from State Govt. or from local body. As soon as, the proposals for the same are sponsored, prompt action will be taken by the Railways.

[Translation]

Allotment to the Employees of Political Parties

5227.SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued guidelines regarding allotment of residential accommodation to the employees of the political Parliamentary party offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not allotting the accommodation sanctioned earlier as yet even after one year of the Supreme Court verdict?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Judgement dated 23.12.1996 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 585/94 directed that revised guidelines may be framed for allotment of Government accommodation to political parties and the Government and the Government should abide. regarding the number of units to be allotted by the advice to be given by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Vice Chairman of Rajya Sabha. The revised guidelines are under formulation in consultation with Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

[English]

Indo-Chinese Disputes

5228.SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-China Joint Working Group has failed to make any headway in their talks held on June 8 and 9, 1998.

(b) if so, the briefs of the outcome thereof and the scheduled date, if any, fixed for the next meeting;

(c) whether instead of lessening the tension on the Indo-China border, the Chinese Government is increasing their activities in Burma and other neighbouring countries to encircle India, and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to strengthen the borders between India and China and also Burma?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) No meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group was held on 8th and 9th June, 1998. However, a meeting of the India-China Expert Group (EG) of diplomatic and military official was held on 8th and 9th June, 1998. This was a functional meeting at the working level and issues of mutual concern were discussed including the current state of bilateral relations. No progress could be made on the issues under the mandate of the EG at this meeting.

2. No date for the next EG or JWG has been fixed as yet.

3. Government is aware that China has steadily improved its military co-operation with India's neighbouring countries like Myanmar (Burma) and Pakistan. Chinese assistance to Pakistan's missile and nuclear programmes is well known.

4. All developments having bearing on our national security are constantly monitored and assessed. Appropriate measures are taken to maintain our defence preparedness to face all eventualities.

[Translation]

Tripartite Agreement in Halli Rajhara Iron Ore Mine

5229. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tripartite agreement had been reached with Halli Rajhara Iron Ore Mine of Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of labourers who are being benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) A Tripartite Agreement was reached on 14.11.1995 between the management of the Dhalli Rajhara Iron Ore Mines of Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) and Chattisgarh Mines Shramik Sangh (CMSS Union), in presence of the Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), Raipur, inter alia, to lay down the modalities for the departmentalisation of contractual workmen. Under this Agreement, 3025 contract labourers were benefited by being taken as Departmental piece Rated workers.

[English]

Farm Houses in Delhi

5230. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farm houses in Delhi;

(b) whether there is any rule which provides for their compulsory registration;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) There are 1599 farm houses in MCD area in Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The existing laws do not provide for registration of farm houses.

[Translation]

Tata-Singapore Airlines

5231. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether the permission is being granted to M/s Tata Singapore Airlines' for operating air transport services;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) There is, at present, no proposal under consideration for grant of permission to "M/s Tata-Singapore Airlines" for operating air transport services.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Municipal Bonds

5232. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce tax free municipal bonds in the country to mobilise resources for the development of cities; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the Planning Commission are yet to give their concurrence to the proposal. Subsequent to concurrence by the planning Commission, guidelines for issue of the Tax Free Municipal Bonds will be framed by this Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

As such it is not possible at present to furnish information regarding the salient features of the proposal.

[English]

Direct Airlin to Capitals of SAARC Countries

5233. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide direct airlin between Delhi and the capitals of the SAARC countries; and

(b) if so, the date by which the above proposal is likely to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Delhi is already connected with all the SAARC capitals except Islamabad and Male. Islamabad is presently not available as a point of call for Indian carriers on the route schedule in the Air Service Agreement between

India and Pakistan. Moreover, the traffic potential between Delhi and Islamabad is not sufficient even to cover the operating cost. As regards Male, Indian Airlines' flights from Delhi to Trivandrum provide convenient onward connection to Male.

Platform Ticket Counters at Delhi Stations

5234. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that counters at New Delhi and Old Delhi railway stations for the purchase of tickets and 'Platform Tickets' are inadequate resulting in inconvenience to public at large;

(b) whether the Government have ever assessed the position and taken any concrete steps to open sufficient number of counters to avoid any undue harassment to public;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether tickets for any routes/destination can be purchased from any counter as a result of which passengers whose trains leave early cannot purchase tickets as the passengers for trains being afterwards blocks the way on ticket windows; and

(e) if so the remedial measures to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The existing arrangements for issue of tickets including platform tickets at Delhi and New Delhi Railway stations are considered adequate for the present level of traffic.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. During periods of unprecedented rush like summer, puja and winter, additional counters are operated to clear the extra rush.

(d) The system of issuing tickets from all counters is to give flexibility to passengers and avoid long queues.

(e) The number of counters are augmented during rush period as per the traffic demands.

[Translation]

Watershed Development Schemes

5235. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) the States in which watershed development schemes have been implemented during Eighth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the achievements made under these schemes in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGAUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Department of Wastelands Development has been implementing the Integrated Wastelands Development Projects (IWDP) scheme for treatment of non-forest wasteland on watershed basis in 13 States since 1995-96. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, 27 Intergrated Wastelands Development projects have been sanctioned and Rs. 1028.90 lakhs have been released for development of 25,723 ha. of wastelands during the period 1995-96 and 1996-97. The details are given State-wise in the attached statement.

Statement

S. No.	Name of State	Fund release during 1995-96 & 1996-97 (Rs. in Lakhs)	For treatment of the area(Ha)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	233.13	5828
2.	Bihar	6.00	150
3.	Gujarat	4.87	122
4.	Haryana	14.50	363
5.	Kerala	60.48	1512
6.	Madhya Pradesh	69.79	1745
7.	Nagaland	117.00	2925
8.	Orissa	16.18	405
9.	Punjab	3.30	83
10.	Rajasthan	8.00	200
11.	Sikkim	20.82	520
12.	Tamil Nadu	2.89	72
13.	Uttar Pradesh	471.94	11708
	Total	1028.90	25723

[English]

Evening Flights of Indian Airlines

5236. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA :
SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start evening flights of Indian Airlines from Delhi to Goa or Delhi to Goa via Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b). Because of non-availability of spare aircraft capacity in the evening at Delhi and Mumbai, Indian Airlines is not considering to operate evening flights from Delhi to Goa or Delhi to Goa via Mumbai.

Sidding of Aircraft of Jet Airways at Mumbai

5237. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Jet Airways Boeing 737 skidded on the Sahar Airport runway on 25th June, 1998 at Mumbai and another Indore bound Jet Airways Boeing 735 plane also skidded off on the same runway on 29th May, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any inquiry has since been made in each of the incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The incidents are under investigation.

Free Tickets by Air India

5238. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether to commemorate the 50th anniversary of its International Flights Air India has offered fifty free tickets to the Indian Nationals who went to U.S. for medical treatment;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines exists for grant of such free tickets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The scheme announced by Air India provides that such free tickets would be offered on the basis of a recommendation made by an Indian Hospital, or leading doctor/surgeon that the facility for treatment required by the patient is not available in India and also only if the patient cannot afford travel costs.

[Translation]

Purchase of Planes and Helicopters by Private Airlines

5239. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI ANANTH RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the private Airlines to purchase Planes and Helicopters in order to promote them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the permission to purchase said planes and helicopters is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) In accordance with the existing policy, choice of the aircraft type and size is left to the operator, Consideration of proposal for permission to import/acquire aircraft is a continuous process. On 25th June 1998, proposals for import of 12 bigger and 13 smaller aircraft and 5 helicopters have been approved.

[English]

Conversion of Narrow Gauge Railway Line in U.P.

5240. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS to be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the narrow gauge railway lines being converted in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the achievement made in that regard so far; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to complete these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) There are no narrow gauge lines in Uttar Pradesh. However, the following gauge conversion works are in progress in Uttar Pradesh :-

Name of Project	Progress and Target
1	2
1. Mathura-Achnera	This works was earlier planned under Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) Scheme. However, owing to high rates and unacceptable conditions, it has been decided to carry out the work

1	2
1. Mathura-Achnera	with railway funds. It is planned to do this work alongwith Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura line and complete in coming years.
2. Khadda-Gorakhpur	This work is progressing well and would be completed alongwith Valmikinagar-Narkatiaganj and Khadda-Valmikinagar in 1998-99. Full funds provided for completing the work.
3. Kashipur-Lalkuan	Work is in progress. 86% earthwork and 52 minor bridges out of 104 have been completed. Agencies for all 13 major bridges have been fixed. With these funds earthwork and bridges will be completed in the entire line. The work will be completed in the 9th Plan, subject to availability of resources.
4. Kanpur-Kasganj-mathura	Earthwork and minor bridges are in progress in the full section. 3.20 lac cum of earthwork has been completed out of total 12.20 lac cum. An outlay of Rs. 35 crs. has been made in 1998-99 for progressing work on this project. The work will be completed in about 5 years subject to availability of resources.
5. Gonda-Bahraich	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
6. Gonda-Gorakhpur	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
7. Indara-Phephana	Earthwork and bridge work has been completed except one major bridge. The section is targetted for completion by December, 1999 subject to availability of resources. P. Way will be arranged in 1999-2000.
8. Agra-Bandikui	The work was earlier planned under Build-Own-Lease-Transfer

1	2
8. Agra-Bandikui	(BOLT) Scheme but could not be awarded due to very high rates and unacceptable conditions offered by various parties. This has delayed the project. The work is now proposed to be undertaken with Railways funding. Funds to the tune of Rs. 10 crs. have been provided for starting earthwork and bridges. The work will be completed in the 9th Plan subject to availability of resources.

Cancellation of Platinum Passes

5241. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has quashed the system of issuing Railway Platinum passes as reported in the 'Times of India' dated May 14, 1998;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme of Platinum Pass was held to be discriminatory by the honourable High Court of Deih.

(c) The scheme has been withdrawn in compliance with the judgement.

Unutilised Land of V.S.P.

5242. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total land of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant lying unutilised;

(b) whether there is any proposal to return this unutilised land to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The land lying apparently unutilised is infact earmarked for future utilisation for various purposes such as expansion and meeting the green belt stipulation laid down. As such, there is no land lying unutilised.

(b) to (d) Based on the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh, and after consultations with the State Government and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, a decision has been taken to transfer 1100 acres of land for the purpose of development of a minor port at Gangavaram. This is subject to certain conditions including inter-alia making available alternate land to RINL on 'land to land' basis.

Budget Crunch for Army Services Corps

5243. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army Services Corps is facing a serious budget crunch following the Government's decision to withdraw subsidy on food items supplied to Defence Forces;

(b) if so, to what extent the withdrawal of the subsidy is going to affect the armed forces; and

(c) the other items, if any, where the subsidy to armed forces has been withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Consequent to withdrawal of subsidy on food items. MOD will have to bear an additional expenditure of Rs. 99.28 crores at the current prices, during the Financial Year, 1998-99.

(c) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Profits Earned by Airports Authority of India

5244. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned and the loss incurred by the Airports Authority of India during each of the last three years; and

(b) the major heads on which the profit was earned alongwith the amount during the above period and the number of employees working therein?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Airport Authority of India is making profits since its inception i.e. since 1995-96. The Year-wise details of profit earned by AAI are furnished below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Profit before tax	Net profit after tax
1995-96	276.05	145.16
1996-97	245.70	132.09
1997-98	308.53*	193.33*

*Provisional

(b) The major heads on account of which profit is earned are Traffic Revenue and Non-Traffic Revenue. The revenues earned under head are furnished below year-wise:

(Rs. in crores)

Activity	95-96	96-97	*97-98
Traffic Revenue	608.58	717.28	746.99
Non-Traffic Revenue	394.75	424.84	537.71

*Provisional

The number of employees of the AAI were 18778 during 1995-96, 18793 during 1996-97 and 20708 during 1997-98.

Pay Scales of Group 'B' Officers

5245. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all Group 'B' officers in the Railways are getting equal pay;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the pay scales of Group 'B' officers of the Accounts Department have been revised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) After the implementation of V Central Pay Commission recommendations the Group 'B' officers working in different offices on the Indian Railways are placed in the following revised pay scales:-

- (i) Rs.7500-12000 (pre-revised scale of Rs.2375-3750)
- (ii) Rs.6500-10500 (pre-revised scale of Rs. 2000-3500)
- (ii) Rs.8000-13500 (pre-revised scale of Rs. 2200-4000)

The scale of Rs. 7500-12000 stands allotted to the majority of Group 'B' Officers in the zonal Railways and other field offices. This grade has replaced the pre-revised grade of Rs. 2375-3750, which had been allotted to these officers in improvement of the earlier of Rs. 2000-3500, through an order of Central Administrative Tribunal on the ground that the same was inferior to the apex Group 'C' scale of Rs. 2375-3500 operated in the zonal Railways and other field offices.

However Group 'B' officers working in Railway Board's office, which is a Ministry, and those working in attached offices of the Ministry such as RDSO, have been allotted the revised scale Rs. 6500-10500, just as the Group 'B' officers in all other Ministries of the Government.

Since the Accounts Department in the Railways is patterned on the structure in other organised Audit and Accounts cadres, a segment of Group 'B' officers in the Accounts Department has been allotted the revised pay scale of Rs. 8000-13500, based on similar scale being in existence in other organised Audit and Accounts cadres.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Orders have been issued to place 80% of Group 'B' officers in the Accounts Department in the revised scale of Rs. 8000-13500 in line with V Central Pay Commission's recommendations. The placement in this grade will be admissible on completion of three years service in the grade Rs. 7500-12000.

[English]

Customer Care/Service Institutes

5246. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI K.S.RAO :
DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up 'Customer Care/Service Institutes' under the each Railway Zone to inculcate the motive of 'service with smile' attitude among the railway staff especially with public dealing duties;

(b) if so, whether the Railway authorities have sought the advice of various management institutes, public relation institutes and experts in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred in setting up of these institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) In order to bring out an attitudinal change in the behaviour of the frontline staff, it has been decided to set up a Customer Care Institute on Northern Railway with an approximate expenditure of Rs. 77 lacs. There is no proposal to set up more such institutes at present. The experts from Management Institutes and the Universities etc. are proposed to be associated with the finalisation of the curriculum of the institute. The action to set up the institute is underway.

Plot for CGHS Dispensary

5247. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plots earmarked for construction of CGHS Dispensary building in Delhi have not yet been handed over to Central Government Health Scheme by the Land & Developments Office;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these plots are likely to be handed over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The possession of four plots has not been handed over/taken over for construction of CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi to the Central Govt. Health Scheme owing to the following reasons:-

(i) For want of removal of encroachment on the plot.

(ii) Non-payment of the balance amount of premium and the interest.

(iii) Due to the existence of a dustbin in a corner of a plot.

(iv) Due to lack of response from the allottee.

(c) The possession of the plots would be handed over after completion of necessary formalities.

Survey for Hospet-Seetimani Railway Line

5248. SHRI H.G.RAMULU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether preliminary survey has been taken up for laying new railway line between Hospet and Seetimani;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the proposed project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
(c) Constraint of resources.

First Schedule Appended to the MMRD Act

5249. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the union Government's approval for grant of mineral concessions to States for minerals specified in the parts A & C of the First Schedule appended to the MMRD Act usually takes long time;

(b) if so, the details of the number of cases pending for the Union Government's approval, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Mineral Concessions are granted as per provision of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder by the State Governments concerned. Proposals for approval of mineral Concessions for minerals specified under the First Schedule of the aforesaid Act originate from the respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of by the Central Government as per provisions of law.

362 cases were disposed in respect of part C of First Schedule of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act during 1997-98. 128 cases in respect of part C of First Schedule of the Act are pending with Central Government as on 1.6.98. List showing pending cases for approval of Central Government for minerals listed in part A and part C of First Schedule of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 are appended statement I and II respectively.

In certain cases the proposals received from the State Government are incomplete and consequently, in such cases, State Governments are asked to furnish complete information/additional information for disposal. However, all efforts are being made to expedite clearance of the remaining proposals.

Statement-I

State	Pending cases as on 1.6.1998
Orissa	1
Rajasthan	1
Total	2

Statement-II

State	Pending Cases as on 1.6.1998
Andhra Pradesh	19
Bihar	7
Gujarat	14
Himachal Pradesh	4
Karnataka	16
Madhya Pradesh	14
Orissa	26
Rajasthan	15
Tamil Nadu	11
Uttar pradesh	2
Total	128

Promotion in DDA

5250. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matriculate and non-engineers are being promoted or working as Assistant Engineers or Executive Engineers in DDA; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. DDA has reported that there are seven Asstt. Engineers (Civil) who have Diploma in Survey. However, there is no such Executive Engineer (Civil) working in DDA. As per the Recruitment Regulations; 50% of the posts of Asstt. Engineer (Civil) are filled by direct recruitment or by deputation and 50% by promotion from Junior Engineer (Civil). Junior Engineers with eight years service having diploma are eligible for promotion to the post of Asstt. Engineer (Civil). These seven Junior Engineers (Civil) having Diploma in Survey were considered by the Departmental Promotion Committee between 1977-82 and were recommended for promotion to the post of Asstt. Engineer (Civil).

Railway Projects

5251. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA : SHRI SHANTI LAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects of Gujarat related to Railways are pending with the Union Government for approval;

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

(c) the names of the projects for which request for early implementation have been made from the respective Divisional Railway Managers of Vadodara, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Ratlam and Ajmer,

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved;

(e) the details of new Railway lines laid in Gujarat during the last three years till date; and

(f) the expenditure incurred thereon during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Gauge conversion of Palanpur-Gandhidham-Kandla Port (313km) included in the Budget 1998-99 is awaiting clearance. Estimated cost of this project is Rs. 318 crores.

(c) The planning process in the Railways involves formulation of proposals at the Divisional level. These proposals, after scrutiny by the Zonal railways are sent to the Railway Board. Railway Board, taking a total view of the Railway's resource constraints and the relative priority of the projects, processes the proposal for inclusion in the Budget.

(d) Necessary action has already been initiated to obtain requisite clearances from Planning Commission and Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

(e) No new railway lines were laid in Gujarat during the last three years till date.

(f) Does not arise.

Introduction of Smart Card by Railways

5252. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to introduce 'Smart Card' for monthly season ticket; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. At present, no such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Derailment of Mandor Express

5253. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether seventeen coaches of Jodhpur bound Mandor Express had derailed between Harsoli and Ajarka station in Alwar district on March 25, 1998;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in the said incident;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The accident is being inquired into by a Committee of Senior Administrative Grade Officers and the report of inquiry Committee is awaited.

(d) Follow up action to check recurrence of such incidents will be taken after completion of inquiry report.

DDA Land to Private Developers

5254. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government decided to handover the development work of DDA lands to private sector;

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

(c) whether thousands of DDA employees are likely to become redundant following this decision of the Government; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Rush in Bihar Bound Trains

5255. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of general coaches are being reduced in the Superfast and Express trains;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that hundreds of passengers are not able to get reservation in Bihar bound trains from Delhi everyday; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the situation permanently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Some passengers do remain on waiting list in Bihar bound trains from Delhi.

(c) Besides introducing a bi-weekly train between Delhi and Muzaffarpur in the current year, the loads of existing trains are also being augmented depending upon the availability of coaches, operational feasibility and traffic justification.

[Translation]

Training of Railway officers Abroad

5256. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any provision for training/studies abroad for the officers working in Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the criteria for selection;

(c) the number of doctors sent to Australia from the Department of Medicines, Western Railways in April 1996, for attending 'Hospital Business Management' course;

(d) whether the officers after their training are bound to work at North East Frontier Railway;

(e) if so, the period for which they have to work there;

(f) whether this rule is strictly complied with; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Suitable officers who fulfil the condition laid down by donor agencies or are involved in the project/machinery/equipment related activities are nominated bases on their suitability-cum-seniority and weightage is given to the performance of officers during last five years.

(c) Two;

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

[English]

Consultative Committees

5257. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR) : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to discontinue various consultative and other committees constituted by Railways; and

(b) if so, the details of such committees proposed for discontinuance and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The National Railway Users' Consultative Council (NRUCC), Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCC) & Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC) were dissolved w.e.f. 2.4.1998/ Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee and Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees have been re-constituted for a two year term w.e.f. 1.7.1998. National Railway Users' Consultative Council will be reconstituted shortly after these two other committees become functional.

Lime Stone Mining

5258. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in "Hindu" dated May 11, 1998 under the caption, "Lime Stone Mining Contractors defying SC Order";

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

(c) the details of stern action proposed to be taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Railway Sports Promotion Board

5259. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Sports Promotion Board has been set up by the Government;

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

(c) whether the Indian Railways will identify and adopt the talented teenagers who do not have any national and international status;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the manner in which the Indian Railways will contribute for the promotion of sports in the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The existing Railway Sports Control Board is being renamed as Railway Sports Promotion Board.

(b) The existing functions and features will largely remain unchanged.

(c) to (e) As per the new policy, recruitment in sports quota for such sports persons will be through advertisements in order to ensure greater transparency in the recruitment process.

Sports persons, once recruited, will be provided a congenial environment and opportunities to develop their skills.

Revised Pension Scheme for Defence Forces

5260. SHRI K.S.RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revised pension scheme for the defence forces;

(b) whether the aforesaid scheme is totally in conformity with recommendations made by the Fifth Central Pay Commission;

(c) if not, the details of the variations and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether all the defence pensioners, irrespective of their date of retirement, are covered by the revised pension scheme;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the revised pension scheme also fulfils long outstanding demand of 'one rank one pension' of the defence pensioners; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A Statement is attached.

(d) Yes Sir. But those who retired before 1.1.1996 will not get total parity in pension with those who retire after 1.1.96

(e) The Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended parity in pension of pre and post 1.1.1986 only which has been already implemented.'

(f) No Sir.

(g) The Fifth Central Pay Commission which examined the demand of "one rank one pension" has not recommended the same.

Statement

The salient features of the revised pension scheme for the Defence Forces are as under:-

- (i) Retiring pension for officers will be calculated at 50% of average emoluments drawn during last 10 months and for Personnel Below Officer Rank at 50% of the highest classification pay appropriate to the pay grants/rank held at the time of discharge for qualifying service of 33 years.
- (ii) The minimum period of qualifying service for retiring pension will be 20 years for officers and 15 years for PBOR.
- (iii) Weightage for the purpose of calculation of pension will be 5 years for PBOR and between 3 to 9 years for Commissioned officers.
- (iv) The minimum period of qualifying service for earning retiring/service gratuity will be 10 years (without weightage) in the case of Commissioned officers and 5 years (without weightage) in the case of PBOR. The gratuity will be admissible at a uniform rate of 1/2 month emoluments for each completed six monthly period of qualifying service. This will be subject to a maximum of 161/2 times of emoluments.
- (v) The minimum pension will not be less than Rs. 1275/- p.m. and the maximum pension will not exceed 50% of the highest pay in Govt. which is Rs. 30,000/- since 1.1.96.
- (vi) The ordinary family pension shall be paid at a uniform rate of 30% of emoluments subject to a minimum of Rs.1275/- p.m.
- (vii) Commutation of pension will be allowed @43% for officers and 45% for PBOR as hitherto fore.

- (viii) Grant of fixed Medical Allowance @ Rs.100/- p.m. to all pensioners who do not avail OPD medical facilities in Army Hospitals/MI Rooms.

The revised scheme implemented so far, by and large, is in conformity with the recommendations made by the Fifth CPC. However, there have been slight deviations as per details below:-

- (i) 20% weightage in Pension/family pension to pre-1996 pensioners/family pensioners was recommended by Vth CPC. The Govt. have granted the weightage at 40%.
- (ii) Pay Commission had recommended that in case, Pension of pre-1996 pensioners after the application of fitment formula falls short of the minimum pension applicable to the post-1.1.1996 retirees, it may be stepped up to the minimum pension prescribed for the rank. This has not been accepted by the Government.
- (iii) Fifth V CPC recommendations with regard to liberalised pension, disability pension, special family pension, War Injury pension, have not been implemented so far as Government is yet to take a view on these recommendations.

[Translation]

**Compensation to Displaced Persons
by B.S.P**

5261. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of displaced persons who were paid compensation and provided jobs in Bokaro Steel Plant during the last three years till June, 1998;
- (b) the number of persons whose cases are pending or have been rejected;
- (c) whether Steel Authority of India Limited has received letters regarding the displaced persons from a Member of Parliament;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard;
- (e) whether the displaced persons have filed their case in the Court for providing them employment and compensation and whether the Hon'ble Court has pronounced judgement in their favour; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (f)

13309 families were displaced due to acquisition of land for setting up of the Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL). 179 displaced persons have been provided jobs in BSL during the last three years till June, 1998. BSL does not maintain details about the payment of compensation to the displaced persons. However, 15768 displaced persons have been provided employment by BSL as on 30/06/1998 against 13309 displaced families.

Letters regarding the displaced persons have been received from a number of Hon'ble Members of Parliament and appropriate action is taken thereon.

A section of the displaced persons had filed a writ Petition in the Hon'ble High Court of Patna, Ranchi Bench. The Hon'ble High Court has, inter-alia, held that after payment of compensation, employment to displaced persons cannot be claimed as a matter of right. The Hon'ble High Court has also held that there is no harm in case they are considered on compassionate grounds. In pursuance of the directives of the Hon'ble High Court, BSL had framed a scheme in this regard and submitted it before the Hon'ble High Court. The Hon'ble High Court had found no infirmity in this scheme. This scheme is operative in BSL.

[English]

Train Accidents

5262. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :

Will be Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that head on collisions of railway trains are taking place much too frequently killing and injuring people;
- (b) if so, the outcome of the inquiry commissions that went into such accidents during the last three years with details of action taken to prevent such accidents;
- (c) the expenditure incurred on these commissions during the above period;
- (d) the extent to which the implementation of recommendations of these commissions reduced the recurrence of accidents; and
- (e) the number of railway officials penalised for such accidents besides the guilty subordinate staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No. Sir. There

have been 12 Head on collisions during the last three years. The year wise break up is as under:-

1995-96	8
1996-97	2
1997-98	2

(b) These accidents have been enquired by the Commission of Railway Safety functioning under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and also Departmentally. Recommendations made by the Enquiry Committees have been examined for adoption depending on their feasibility.

(c) No expenditure had to be incurred as no separate enquiry commission was set up to enquire into these accidents.

(d) The implementation of recommendations certainly help in reducing the recurrence of similar mistakes, but their efficacy cannot be quantified.

(e) In all 23 Railway staff have been held primarily responsible for causing these accidents and they have been proceeded against under the Discipline and Appeal Rules.

Cargo Facility at Srinagar Airport

5263.DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cargo facilities are not available in Kashmir after the closure of Srinagar Airport; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to provide this facility?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Srinagar airport which belongs to Indian Air Force (IAF) has been temporarily closed for flight operations from 8-6-1998 for recarpeting of the runway. Civil flights are being operated from Awantipore Air Force Station. Airports Authority of India and IAF have provided all necessary facilities both for passenger and cargo handling at Awantipore Air Force Station.

Construction of Under Bridges Near Subhadrapur Railway Crossing

5264.SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Railway crossing near Subhadrapur on Cuttack Gopalpur route remains closed for most of the hours daily;

(b) if so, whether there are pressing demands to construct under bridge on this Railway crossing; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the time by which the said bridge is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Railways construct Road Over Bridge/Road Under Bridge on cost sharing basis/deposit terms depending upon the volume of traffic at the site, proposal for which are sponsored by State Govt. duly agreeing to bear their share of cost & fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites; State Govt. has not yet sponsored proposal in this case. Proposal will be examine promptly on receipt.

Aero-Bridges at Calicut Airport

5265.SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Kerala Government to construct a new international terminal with two aero-bridges at Calicut Airport to cope up with the demands and lessen the rush experienced; and

(b) if so, the action taken,by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Land for Construction of Administrative Building and Staff Quarters

5266.SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had provided land to the Railways for constitution of administrative building and staff quarters for new Railway Division at Guntur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not,the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has been approached to make available land free of cost for setting up of a new Division at Guntur. Adequate funds shall be allotted to complete the work as soon as land is made available by State Government.

Utilisation of Railway Property at Bitragunta

5267. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the huge land, buildings and other property are lying unused at Bitragunta in South Central Railway: and

(b) if so, the plan of Railways to put this property to good use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Addition and Alteration in Government Quarters

5268. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether General Pool quarters transferred to Lok Sabha Secretariat Pool on functional basis are maintained by CPWD and licence fee of these quarters are also deposited in the Government A/c No.0216 Housing-Receipt from Government Residential Building-General Pool Accommodation;

(b) whether additions and alterations is not done by CPWD on payment of 10% charges as is done in respect of Government Pool Quarters;

(c) if so, the reasons for this discrimination; and

(d) the steps taken to enforce parity in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Lok Sabha Secretariat & Rajya Sabha Secretariat have been delegated powers vide this Ministry's letter No.11013/5/88-WI dated 11.3.97 to sanction works of additions/alterations in the residences allotted to Members of Parliament upto a value of Rs.30,000 in each case. On the recommendations of 'House Committee of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha' estimates exceeding the monetary ceiling of Rs.30,000 are sanctioned by the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment with the concurrence of Ministry of Finance.

In the case of accommodation allotted to Ministers, DG(W), CPWD has been delegated powers vide this Ministry's letter No.11013/5/88-WI dated 9.4.97 to sanction works upto a ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh for carrying out additions/alterations. Over and above this monetary ceiling estimates are sanctioned by this Ministry with the concurrence of Ministry of Finance.

In both the above cases the entire expenditure is borne by the Government and not by the allottee in any manner.

In the case of General Pool Accommodation the allottees are required to pay 10%, 20% or 100% of the cost of the works to be carried out at their request depending upon the nature of the work classified into three distinct categories in this Ministry's O.M. No.11014/22/90-W.3 dated 9.1.96.

[Translation]

Exploration of Mines

5269. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD) :
SHRI S. S. OWAISI :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the different kinds of mineral reserves in each State;

(b) the steps taken to exploit this hidden mineral wealth;

(c) whether the Government propose to prepare a policy and programme for the proper exploitation of mineral in Andhra Pradesh and other States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) A statement of mineral reserves in the country as on 1.1.96 and the States where these have been identified is attached.

(b) Any Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder. In the country, already there were 2617 reporting mines in the year 1997-98 and they are exploiting the mineral resources. The total value of mineral production in the country (excluding atomic

minerals) during 1997-98 was estimated at Rs. 37,157 crores.

(c) and (d) The National Mineral Policy was announced in 1993 for the whole country including

Andhra Pradesh. No new policy and programme for exploitation of minerals in Andhra Pradesh or any other State is under consideration of the Central Government.

Statement

(In Million Tonnes)

Minerals	Reserves	States
1	2	3
1. Hematite	10052	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan.
2. Magnetite	3408	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
3. Maganese Ore	176,477	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal.
4. Chromite	88.351	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.
5. Lead-Zinc Ore	189.55	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
6. Copper Ore	431.046	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gurajat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
7. Gold Ore	17.696 (66.6 T of Gold)	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.
8. Diamond	1,065,056 carats	Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
9. Tin Ore	28.907 (3,272 T of Tin)	Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.
10. Tungsten Ore	25.868 (77320 T of Tungsten)	Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and West Bengal.
11. Rock Phosphate	146.95	Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
12. Apatite	13.236	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
13. Asbestos	2.295	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
14. Bauxite	2,525	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnatak, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
15. Dolomite	4,967.47	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
16. Graphite	3.109	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
17. Gypsum	239.312	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

1	2	3
18. Limestone	76,446	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, Sikkim, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
19. Magnesite	233.329	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
20. Coal	196,029.88	Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
21. Lignite	26,150	Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

Note : T-Tonnes

[English]

Extension of Kashod Airport at Gujarat

5270. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- whether all necessary facilities like shed, etc have been provided to the Kashod airport in Gujarat;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether any proposal for extension of the airport is under consideration of the Government; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Kashod Airport is suitable for operation of 50 seater aircraft. The terminal building can handle 50 passengers at a time. Presently Gujarat Airways operates through this airport.

- No, Sir.
- Does not arise.

Government Accommodation

5271. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- whether employees of Prasar Bharati are not entitled for allotment of Government accommodation;
- if so, whether the employees who have been allotted Government accommodation earlier have to surrender the quarter; and
- if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir, Prasar Bharti being a statutory body, its employees are not eligible for allotment from the General Pool.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Employees already occupying General Pool residential accommodation have been permitted to retain the same for five years upto 22nd November, 2002.

Import of Expensive and Risky ABB Locos

5272. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI RAJ BANSHI MAHTO :
SHRI SITA RAM YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- Whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards news-item captioned, "Railways Pulled up for importing expensive, risky, ABB Locos" appearing in the Economic Times' dated June 15, 1998;
- if so, the facts reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- the reasons for not putting all the imported ABB locos in service;
- the steps taken by the Government for production of 6000 HP AC three phase locomotives indigenously; and
- the time by which the indigenous production is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The News item is based on a recent Comptroller & Auditor General's (C&AG) Report. The detailed reply on various issues mentioned in the Report will be sent to C&AG in due course.

(c) All locomotives including those assembled at CLW have been put in service.

(d) and (e) The process of transfer of technology from ABB at Chittaranjan Locomotives Works is in progress and

it is planned to start indigenous production of these locomotives during 1998-99.

[Translation]

**Flights on Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Indore-
Calcutta Sector**

5273. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Flight No. 134/133 of Indian Airlines which was in operation between Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Indore and Calcutta has been discontinued:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the date by which it is likely to be re-operated?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This flight was withdrawn in 1992 because of shortage of operating crew.

(c) The traffic on these sectors is not adequate for operations with the existing Jet aircraft fleet of Indian Airlines. Shortage of smaller capacity aircraft and the related operating crew also do not permit operation of service on this route by Indian Airlines. Private operators are being encouraged to include new stations such as Indore in their network, subject to viability.

[English]

**Problems of Soldiers at Difficult
Border Areas**

5274. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems faced by our jawans in difficult border areas like Siachin Glacier;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of jawans who lost their life or suffered from serious diseases due to severe cold in those areas during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to minimise their problems and also to compensate them in some other way?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In Siachen area which is avalanche prone, blizzard swept and bitterly cold, our troops are deployed

on Saltoro Ridge at an average height of 19000 feet in sub-zero temperatures ranging from -5° to -50° Celsius. Living in such areas makes them prone to frost bite, snow blindness and various high altitude related sicknesses. Besides the difficult terrain and weather conditions, our troops also face almost daily shelling/firing by the enemy, which includes artillery and rocket fire.

(c) During 1995 to 1997, 31 Officers/Jawans were killed and 104 were wounded due to severe cold conditions in Siachen Glacier.

(d) In order to mitigate the hardships of the soldiers posted in Siachen Glacier and to boost their morale; various measures have been adopted which include speedy rotation of troops, provision of special extreme cold clothing items, appropriate shelters, modern communication system, and high calorie special diet. A special allowance called Siachen Allowance has also been sanctioned as follows:-

(i)	JCOs/ORs	Rs.4667/pm
(ii)	Officers	Rs.7000/-pm

Civic Amenities in Assam

5275. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Assam regarding financial assistance for civic amenities schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) There are two Centrally sponsored schemes: Low Cost Sanitation Scheme (LCS) and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) being implemented by the Ministry for providing civic amenities in the urban areas of the Country.

Under the LCS, for construction of pour flush toilets where none exists and conversion of dry latrines into pour flush toilets, 27 schemes at a project cost of Rs.3908.27 lakhs involving subsidy of Rs.1284.59 lakhs have been sanctioned. There are no pending schemes for Assam for Low Cost Sanitation.

Under the AUWSP, applicable for towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 Census, 9 schemes for 9 towns have been received out of which 6 schemes for 6 towns have been approved at the

total estimated cost of Rs.867/35 lakhs. The approval of remaining three schemes will depend upon availability of funds under the Central Plan for the Programme. The details of the scheme are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Assam (Status 15.7.98)

(Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme)

PROJECT SANCTIONED			(RS. IN LAKHS)
S.NO.	NAME OF TOWN	DISTRICT	PROJECT COST
1.	NAMRUP	DIBRUGARH	135.31
2.	SONKARI	SIBSAGAR	297.24
3.	PALASHBARI	KAMRUP	69.30
4.	BILASIPARA	DHUBRI	187.00
5.	SARTHEBARI	BARPETA	81.15
6.	NAZIRA	SIBSAGAR	97.35

SCHEMES UNDER TECHNICAL SCRUTINY

(RS. IN LAKHS)			
S.NO.	NAME OF TOWN	DISTRICT	PROJECT COST
1.	GOSSAINGAON	KOKRAJHAR	309.98
2.	LAKHIPUR	GOALPARA	213.88
3.	BIHUPURIA	LAKHIMPUR	218.00

[Translation]

Export of Bauxite

5276. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether bauxite has been found in abundance in Chittrakoot areas of Satna district and is exported; and

(b) if so, whether the Ministry would contemplate to set-up bauxite based industries in Chittrakoot itself in Satna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) According to the National Mineral Inventory prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) as on 1.4.95 (latest available), recoverable reserves of bauxite in Satna district, including Chittrakoot areas, are placed at 7.3 million tonnes. As per available information, no export of bauxite is reported from Satna district.

(b) Government has no proposal to set-up any Alumina or Aluminium Plant in public sector based on bauxite deposits in Satna District.

[English]

Constitution of Individual Latrine

5277. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether under Sanitation Programme the construction of individual latrine has been undertaken by the State Government and the Union Government have provided 40 percent of the cost as Central Grant to various States;

(b) if so, whether the cost of 2500/- per unit of latrine prescribed in 1992 has since been increased due to increase in the cost of building material;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to enhance this cost; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does arise.

(d) and (e) Based on the technological options developed by the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, the existing cost norms were found to be more than sufficient to meet the requirements.

Claims for Theft of Booked Luggage

5278. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of claims for theft of booked luggage in trains filed by the parties during the last three years and till date year-wise;

(b) the number of claims settled including value of theft compensation; and

(c) the time by the remaining claims are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No separate statistics are maintained regarding claims cases

filed on account of theft of booked luggage. However, the total number of claims settled by payment on account of loss and theft of booked luggage and parcels for the last three years are as under:-

(Amt. in lakhs)		
Period	No. of claims settled	Amount paid as compensation
1995-96	15128	205.67
1996-97	12277	201.99
1997-98	12284	241.60

(c) Claims cases are settled within a target period of six months subject to submission of all the requisite documents by the claimant and their verification.

[Translation]

Production Capacity of Mineral Industries

5279. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) The production capacity of the mineral industries in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, Industry-wise;

(b) whether these industries are utilising their installed capacity fully;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the industries sought permission to increase their installed capacity during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken thereon, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The following are the important large and medium-scale mineral-based industries in the State of Maharashtra :

Industry	No. of Units	Total installed capacity (tpy)
1	2	3.
Elemental phosphorus	1	2500
Electrolytic manganese dioxide	2	3200
Calcium carbide	1	22,000
Alloy steel	2	81,000
Asbestos-cement	3	79,851
Cement	5	4,311,000
Mini and tiny cement	7	115,800
Ceramic & refractory	9	63,727 and 30,000 pieces

	1	2	3
Ferro-manganese and silico-manganese	4		281,000
Other ferro-alloys	2		500
Sulphuric acid	11		462,110
Petroleum Refining Fertilizers (Urea, nitrophosphate)	2		11,500,000 1,000,000 (N)
single superphosphate triple superphosphate)	9+3 (SSI)		244,300 (P ₂ O ₅)
Caustic soda	7		157,700
Sponge iron	3		190,000
Pig iron	1		190,000

The following are the important large and medium scale mineral-based industries in the State of Madhya Pradesh :

Industry	No. of Units	Total installed capacity (tpy)
Aluminium	1	100,000
Asbestos-cement	3	150,422
Ceramics	3	23,449
Cement	18	18,170,000
Mini and tiny cement	21	592,200
White cement	1	80,000
Ferro-chrome	1	5,000
Fertilizers (ammonium sulphate, 7+1 (SSI)		340,800(N)
Single superphosphate, urea)		82,000(P ₂ O ₅)
Refractory	7	114,340
Steel ingots (including concast)	1	4,000,000
Sponge Iron	6	770,000
Sulphuric acid	3	1,38,000
Claustic soda	3	86,158

The following are the important large and medium-scale mineral-based industries in the State of Gujarat :

Industry	No. of Units	Total installed capacity (tpy)
Asbestos-cement	2	119,000
Cement	9	6,430,000
Mini and tiny cement	27	734,900

1	2	3
White cement	1	50,000
Ceramic & refractory	7	57,807
Caustic soda	7	154,565
Ferro-alloys	1	300
Fertilizers (ammonium sulphate,	12+4(SS1)	1,540,000(N)
DAP, NPK, Single superphosphate, urea)		561,700 (P ₂ O ₅)
Oil refinery	1	9,500,000
Phosphorus (elemental)	2	6,500
Sponge iron	1	1,760,000
Soda ash	4	863,000
Sulphuric acid	10	432,902

(b) and (e) Comprehensive information is not maintained centrally.

[English]

Rural Development Scheme

5280.DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

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

(a) whether the Government forces that the economic sanctions will affect the rural development schemes;

(b) whether the US and the World Bank has intimated that the sanctions will not have effect on schemes for the poor people; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) the G-8 Countries in their Communique on Nuclear Tests have stated "We will therefore not oppose loans by International Financial Institutions to the two countries to meet basic human needs. We agree, however, to work for a postponement in consideration of other loans in the World Bank and other Financial Institution to India and other country that will conduct nuclear tests". Subsequently, by follow up of Government of India, the following loans/credits have been approved by the World Bank.

- (i) Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (US \$543.2 million) on June 25, 1998.
- (ii) Women and Child Development Project (US \$ 300 million) on July 1, 1998.)

(iii) U.P. Diversified Agriculture Support Project (US \$130 million).

(iv) Orissa Health Systems Development Project (US \$76.4 million).

However, the following three loans have been postponed.

(i) The power Grid II Project (US \$ 450 million)

(ii) Renewable Energy II Project (US \$ 130 million)

(iii) Haryana State Highway Project (US \$ 275 million).

Platform Shkds at Diphu Railway Station

5281.DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the platform sheds of Diphu railway station under NF Railway is on the wrong side of the rail track leaving virtually the entire town on the other side of the platform;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the level of existing railway platform of Diphu and Bokajan railway stations are below and hazardous for the passengers to board/unboard trains; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the railways in regard to part (a) and (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) There is only one platform which is on the other side of the town, Approach to the platform is through a Foot-over-bridge.

(c) and (d) Station platforms are provided as per norms laid down. Bokajan and Diphu stations are provided with rail level platforms which are adequate for the present volume of traffic. Raising of these will be considered when so warranted.

Conversion of Steam Loco Shed

5282.SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any demand to convert steam loco shed at Bitragunta into either as a major electric loco shed or a Carriage and Wagon Workshop; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) References have been received from the Hon'ble Member of Parliament demanding conversion of steam loco shed at Bitragunta into either an electric loco shed or a Carriage and Wagon Workshop.

In view of the adequate electric loco, carriage and wagon maintenance facilities available in the existing Railway electric loco sheds and workshops in the region to meet the Railways requirement, there is no Plan to convert the steam loco shed at Bitragunta.

Delay in Printing of Postal Stationery

5283. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether inordinate delay is reported to have been noticed in printing of Money Order forms, A.D. Cards etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the orders placed and pending with the Directorate of Printing from Deptt. of Posts at the end of each of the last three financial years; and

(d) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) There is some delay in printing of Money Order forms, A.D. Cards etc.

(b) The reasons for delay are as follows:-

(i) Annual production capacity of the Presses is getting reduced every year due to natural wear and tear.

(ii) Erratic supply of electricity/load shedding/low voltage results idling of machines.

(iii) The Presses also undertake printing jobs of other Ministeries/Departments on priority basis. Due to change in priority of the printing jobs, all works cannot be completed strictly on first come first served basis.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) The Managers of the Government of India Presses have been directed to accord priority to these jobs of the Department of posts in consultation with the Superintendents of the Postal Depots who have placed the indents.

Statement

The Details of orders placed and pending with the Directorate of Printing from Department of Posts at the end of each of the last Three financial Years.

	31.3.96		31.3.97		31.3.98	
	Orders placed	Pending	Order placed	pending	Order placed	pending
Money Order Forms (MO-8)	6,07,720	Nil	20,46,000	19,25,000	15,59,550	6,43,920
A.D.Cards (RP-54)	Nil	Nil	50,00,000	29,82,500	Nil	Nil

Diversion of Routes

5284. SHRI K.H.MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have diverted the routes of some trains recently particularly in Karnataka and Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether any alternative arrangements have been made for the affected passengers; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 6635/6636 Kurla-Mangalore/Cochin Netravati Express diverted to run via Konkan Railway between Kurla-Ernakulam, 2431/2432 Trivandrum Rajdhani Express diverted to run via Konkan Railway and 7685/7686 Kacheguda-Bangalore Express diverted to run via Mehaboob nagar-Dronachellam to reduce the distance and journey time.

(c) and (d) To the extent feasible alternative arrangements have been made for the affected passengers by reallocating quotas by other trains for Delhi and Mumbai.

Railway Protection Force

5285. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the personnel of Railway Protection Force right from constable to Director General are the members of the Force as per RPF Act.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the RPF personnel are civil servants and Railway servants as per RPF Act;

(c) whether the Gazetted Officers of this Force are governed by the Railway servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules 1968 which provide for lenient procedures of inquiry and punishment and the non-Gazetted Staff of this Force are governed by RPF Rules, 1987 which provide for harsher procedure of inquiry and punishment for one and the same offence'.

(d) if so, the reasons for this discriminatory treatment; and

(e) whether in view of the above, the Government propose to provide equal treatment to all the personnel without any discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. RPF personnel are civil servants. They are Railway servant within the meaning of the Railways Act, 1989.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Gazetted Officers of the Force are governed by the Railway Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1968 and the Non-Gazetted Staff are governed by the RPF Rules, 1987. It is incorrect to say that the former Rules provide for lenient procedures and the latter for harsher procedures.

The procedures prescribed under both sets of Rules conform to the requirements of the Constitutional provisions and the principles of Natural Justice.

(d) Provision of separate Rules for the Gazetted Officers and Non-Gazetted Staff does not amount to discrimination as the classification has been made on reasonable grounds.

(e) Does not arise.

Working of CPWD Officials in Delhi

5286. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the complaints received and action taken against CPWD officials in Delhi found guilty during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the complaints for repairs or minor defects in the Government quarters are not attended to; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Year-wise complaints received against CPWD officers and number of officers against whom action has been taken are as under:-

Year	No. of Complaints	No. of officers against whom action taken
1995	114	6
1996	90	13
1997	119	5

(b) and (c) Complaints are attended to in a reasonable time depending on the nature of complaints, convenience of the occupants and availability of funds. As such questions of taking action against any officer does not arise.

Over-bridge on river Chenab for Military Movements

5287. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Bridge on river Chenab near Akhnoor is being constructed for defence purpose and military movement for the last ten-fifteen years;

(b) if so, the quantum of funds spent thereon so far and the reason for delay in completion of the work; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take for speedy completion of work in view of security of the town of Akhnoor and uninterrupted military movement in the region?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes. The construction of this bridge was started in December, 1978 for movement of all kinds of traffic.

(b) An expenditure amounting to Rs. 193.51 lacs has been incurred so far on this bridge. The bridge could not be completed because of the washing away/tilting of the pier wells due to the high velocity of the stream.

(c) The Technical Committee, which was constituted to go into all the aspects of construction of this bridge, has recommended to avoid construction of piers inside of stream. The BRO is working on this recommendation.

Token Strike by IA Employees

5288. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the employees of Indian Airlines observed one hour strike on 3rd July, 1998;
- (b) if so, the fact thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government on their demands?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Out of the Eight recognised Unions/Associations, only the Air Corporation Employees Union (ACEU) called for one hour walk out as a token protest against the policy of the Government to disinvest part of Government Shares in Indian Airlines. Government have decided to restructure capital of Indian Airlines and also to undertake a phased disinvestment in this company over three years, bringing the Government's equity holding down to 49%.

Stray Bullets Shatter Peace in Inderpuri

5289. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Stray Bullets Shatter peace in Inderpuri appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated 21st March, 1998;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether any compensation has been given to the residents whose properties were damaged;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor, and
- (e) the efforts being made to ensure that such incidents do not occur in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A joint investigation into the reported incidents by a team of officers from army civil and police has been ordered.

(e) The additional safety measures that have been taken to preclude the possibility of a stray bullet crossing the butt inter-alia include the following-

- (i) repair of target trolleys;
- (ii) increasing the width of mantlets by 1.5 metres and marking them with Wooden planks and sand bags;

- (iii) reducing the height of firing points;
- (iv) provision of platforms for firing trenches,
- (v) strengthening of stop butts;
- (vi) firing to be conducted from a distance of only 100 yards from the target; and
- (vii) firing not to be conducted during night.

'Chhajjas' Collapsed in R.K. Puram

5290. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 'chhajjas' of the market and Government Quarters of Sector. VIII, R.K. Puram, New Delhi have collapsed and narrow escape of hurt of the people;
- (b) if so, whether the quality of concrete and steel used in the Chhajjas have got analysis;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government have inquired into the matter and to bring to book the persons held responsible;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government which are of dilapidated conditions and could collapse any time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Concrete lumps, and not the full Chhajjas, had fallen from one of the Chhajjas in Sector VIII Market, R.K. Puram. However, no one was hurt in the incident.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, the incidence was got examined.

(e) Concrete lump had fallen because of loosening of grip of concrete from reinforcement on account of corrosion (of reinforcement).

(f) Repairs to Chhajjas have been taken up in phases. Chhajjas affected with corrosion are identified every year and those with excessive corrossions are repaired through special repairs on availability of funds.

Report on Charkhi Dadri Accident

5291. RAO INDERJIT SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received report on the mid-air collision between Saudi Jumbo and Kazakh Airlines plane on 12th November, 1996 near Charkhi Dadri;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government held responsible the Kazakh crew for the crash;

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken up the matter with the Kazakhstan Government to bear all the expenditure of investigation, compensation etc; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The report is under consideration.

[Translation]

Tours by Officers of BALCO

5292. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be please to state:

(a) the amount spent on the tours of officers and employees of Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd., Korba from Korba to Delhi and back during the years 1993-94, 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(b) how far these visits have bearing on the expenditure of BALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The amount spent on tours of officers and employees of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) during the year 1993-94, 1996-97 and 1997-98 from Korba to Delhi and back, and the share of this expenditure in the total expenditure by BALCO in these years is given below:-

Year	Expenditure on tours of officers and employees	% of total expenditures (Rs in lakhs)
1993-94	17.79	0.024%
1996-97	27.71	0.044%
1997-98	54.16	0.08%

[English]

Construction of Bus Stand on Railway Land

5293. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rayagada Municipality had approached the South Eastern Railway to provide land on lease for construction of bus stand and other activities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The land in question is required by Railways for future developmental works and hence cannot be transferred.

Survey for Badagara-Vythiri-Naugingud Railway Line

5294. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey on the proposed Badagara-Vythiri-Naugingud Railway line in Kerala is progressing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated amount required for the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details and the cost will be known after the survey is completed.

NBCC Project in Maharashtra

5295. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going projects of National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC) in Maharashtra;

(b) the expenditure incurred on these projects during each of the last three years and till date;

(c) the details of projects completed and lying incomplete at present;

(d) the reasons for delay in completion of the projects; and

(e) the cost escalated as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (e) The information has been provided in the attached statements.

Statement

(a)	(b)	(c)				(d)	(e)	(f)
S. No.	The details of the ongoing Projects of National Building Constructions Corporation Ltd (NBCC) in the State of Maharashtra	The expenditure incurred (value of work done) on these projects during each of the last three years and till date; (Rs. lakhs)				The details of the projects completed and lying in complete at present	The reason for delay in completion of the projects; and	The cost escalated as a result there of
		95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99			
1.	Constn. of Commercial-cum-Residential Complex at Gandhi Nagar Bandra for Bank of Maharashtra	-	-	30.15	47.00	About 26% Complete	No delay, work is progressing as per schedule	Nil
2.	Constn. of Technical & Admn. Office Building at Cuffe Parade, Mumbai for MTNL.	168.71	146.80	172.20	30.00	About 98% Complete	Delay in due to : i) Non-availability of decision regarding services. ii) Non-availability of Centre line at lift lobby. iii) Non-Completion of electrical works by other agency.	Nil
3.	Modernisation of India Govt. Mint. Mumbai	35.49	220.31	215.31	30.65	About 95% Complete	No delay, original works completed in time, additional works beyond the scope of contract are in progress.	Nil
4.	Constn. of 44 Nos C' type flats at Bandra-Kurla, Mumbai for ONGC	-	54.81	195.06	50.00	About 74% Complete	The delay is due to delayed decision for foundations & external finishings.	Nil
5.	Constn. of office building at Bandra Mumbai for Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)	2.62	88.17	243.07	50.00	About 94% Complete	No delay, work is progressing as per schedule	Nil
6.	Constn. of Office Building at Moral Mumbai for Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)	162.60	212.15	305.78	157.00	About 95% Complete	No delay is on account of delay in approval of drawings & revised estimate by clients.	Nil
7.	Constn. of 119 Staff Quarters at Nagpur for Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)	-	2.25	238.05	60.00	About 55% Complete	No delay work is progressing as per schedule	Nil
8.	Constn. of Service Industrial Estate at Worli Mumbai for Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL)	-	-	34.95	70.00	About 20% Complete	No delay, work is progressing as per schedule	Nil

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	
9. Constn. of additional Warehouse at Taloja for TRIFRD	-	-	6.94 65.00	About 33% Complete	No delay, work is progressing as per schedule	Nil
10. Constn. of Office Complex at Panvel, Navi Mumbai for TRIFED	-	-	11.60 38.00	About 20% Complete	No delay, work is progressing as per schedule	Nil
11. Constn. of 2 Nos. multi storeyed Building & one multi-storeyed Building "The Morradam" at Royal Palm Goregaon (E), Mumbai for M/s Amil Parks & Amusements Pvt. Ltd.	-	-	25.85 51.00	About 13% Complete	No delay, work is progressing as per schedule	Nil
12. Constn. of Additional Bag Storage Shed in Bulk Terminal at Jawahar Lal Nehru Trust (JNPT) Navi Mumbai.	-	-	- 45.00	About 8% Complete	No delay, work is progressing as per schedule	Nil
13. Constn. of Radiation Laboratory for Society of applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER) in IIT Campus Powai, Mumbai.	-	-	- 11.00	About 32% Complete	No delay, work is progressing as per schedule	Nil
14. Civil, Structural & Under ground piping of Ammonia Revamp Plant Ph. II at Thal for RCF.	-	-	5.19 90.83	About 44% Complete	No delay, work is progressing as per schedule	Nil
15. Modernisation of Note Press, Nasik. Currency	-	81.11	771.52 904.30	About 62% Complete	The delay is in account of delay in finalisation of scope, specifications and in release of fronts.	Nil
16. Constn. of Staff Housing Complex at Narul, Navi Mumbai for Air India	1240.00	537.00	762.00 112.00	About 96% Complete	Delay is due to shortage of funds with clients.	Rs. 120 Lakh approx.
17. Constn. of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Shankar Nagar in Nanded Distt. Maharashtra.	15.50	18.06	22.19 5.84	About 83% Complete	No delay, the work as per original contract was completed on schedule, however, the additional works awarded from time to time are in progress.	Nil

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)			
18.	Constn. of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Ramtek Navagaon Kheri in Nagpur Distt.	18.05	8.20	30.00	7.20	About 86% Completed	No delay, the work as per original contract was completed on schedule, however, the additional works awarded from time to time are in progress.	Nil

Assistance to Karnataka

5296. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Centre Karnataka in a tight spot' appearing in the "Times of India" dated 29th June, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Summary of the facts reported therein are mentioned below:-

The Government of Tamil Nadu had written to the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan, New Delhi office to stop funding of the Bangalore Water Supply under Cauvery Stage IV and Sewerage project at an estimated cost of Rs. 1209.60 crores due to non-implementation of the Interim order of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal (CWDT) by the Government of Karnataka.

The Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to advise Government of Tamil Nadu to withdraw the letter from OECF. It is also reported that the Government of Karnataka had claimed that it has been fulfilling its obligations under the Tribunal's Order for release of water to Tamil Nadu in all the years except in 1995-96, when the monsoon was below normal.

(c) The Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs has since requested the Government of Tamil Nadu that all such issues should be taken up through that Ministry rather than directly with the external funding agency, i.e., OECF.

The Ministry of Water Resources has also convened a meeting on 29.6.98 with the representatives of the Governments of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, etc., to discuss the drinking water supply schemes of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in Cauvery basin and inter-related issues.

It was highlighted in the meeting that the National Water Policy attaches highest priority to drinking water supply. Therefore, the Cauvery basin States were advised to evolve a system by which drinking water projects could be cleared through mutual agreement to avoid unnecessary delays and keeping in view the stipulations of the CWDT.

Residential Accommodation to Staff of K.Vs. in Delhi Cantt.

5397. SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to part (b) of Unstarred Question No. 2280 dated June 11, 1998 regarding Residential Accommodation to staff of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi Cantt. and state:

(a) whether the 50% residential accommodation referred to therein is earmarked in each of the Kendriya Vidyalayas for their employees, and

(b) if so, the justification of pressing them for eviction on the plea of the accommodation's need for JCOs/ORs etc.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) At the time of opening of a Kendriya Vidyalaya, accommodation for 50% of the staff is earmarked.

(b) The defence authorities of Delhi Area have not issued any eviction notice to any staff member of the Kendriya Vidyalaya in lawful occupation of defence accommodation allotted under the terms of the agreement.

Thefts in Trains

5298. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will be Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the thefts are being committed in trains, stations and parcel vans very frequently with the connivance of the railway employees;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last three month; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to stop these activities.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) During the last three months i.e. April to June 1998, only one case under the head 'pilferage' was reported in which one railway employee was arrested and a case was registered against him u/s 3 Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act 1966.

(c) In order to control crime against railway property, adequate measure like intensive patrolling in the yards, conducting raids against receivers of stolen property and deployment of crime intelligence staff have been taken by the RPF. Intelligence network has been geared up. Surprise checks and raids have been organised. Apart from the preventive action as discussed above, the due legal action has been taken against accused persons under the provisions of the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966.

Rooms for Transit Passengers near Airports

5299. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether waiting room at all Major Airports for the Transit Passengers are available;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to provide this facility to such passengers by constructing waiting rooms; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Facility of Transit Rooms for the use of transit passengers are available at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Calcutta, Thiruvananthapuram, Guwahati, Lucknow, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Indore, Calicut, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Jaipur and Vadodra airports.

(b) to (d) providing additional Transit room facility is a continuous process and this facility is provided keeping in view the demand from the transit passengers at any particular airport.

Non Receipt of Tenders

5300. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Chief Engineer NDZ III for non-receipt of tender forms 'PWD 6' from the Divisions under their zone for wide publicity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)1. There was a complaint received through vigilance unit from Sh. Matharu & Sons regarding awarding of works without publicity by 1/Q sub-division.

2. Another complaint was received from two Unions of constructors regarding avoiding wide publicity of tenders by 3/U sub-division.

(c) Both the complaints have been investigated and these have been found without any merit.

Swimming Pools in Farm Houses

5301. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy norms on construction of Farm Houses in Delhi as per Delhi Master Plan 2001;

(b) whether double storey kothies and swimming pools have been constructed on agricultural land by the Farm House owners in Rajokari and Rangpuri villages in Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) According to MPD-2001. Farm houses are permissible in Rural Use Zone with the following development controls:-

S. No.	Size of Farm	Maximum floor area of DUs.	Max. height of DUs.
(a)	1.0 ha. and above but less than 2.0 ha.	100sq.M. (including mezzanine floor)	Single storeyed max.ht.6m.
(b)	2.0 ha. and above.	150 Sq.M. (including mazzanine floor)	Single Storeyed max. ht. 6 m.

Besides the following controls have also been laid down in the MPD-2001:-

(i) Set back in dwelling house should be 15 mts. away from any boundary line of the property.

(ii) Where the property abuts an urban road, the dwelling house building should be set back from the centre line of the road by 60 mts. where the

property abuts a village road, the building set back from the centre line of that road should be by 30 mts.

(iii) No dwelling unit should be built within 400 mts. of the right of way of any National Highway.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) MCD has reported that as and when any unauthorised construction or deviation against the sanctioned building plan is noticed, action under the law is taken.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Railways

5302. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have sought financial assistance as are available to the road sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Railways have been seeking several tax and fiscal incentives as have been extended to other infrastructural sectors.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Cargo Centre at Bangalore Airport

5303. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a cargo centre for perishable goods at Bangalore Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) M/s Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL), a Government of Karnataka Undertaking, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for setting up a centre for handling perishable cargo in the warehouse of MSIL. The estimated cost of this facility is Rs. 1.5 crores. The centre is expected to be commissioned by September, 1998.

Schemes For Slum Dwellers in Maharashtra

5304. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has started many schemes for the improvement of slum dwellers and also the environmental conditions of the slum;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has submitted any schemes to the Union Government to obtain N.O.C.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time since when these schemes are pending with the Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (e) In 1998, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment received one Action Plan of the Government of Maharashtra under Upgradation and Special Problem Grants for Rs. 50 crores recommended by the 10th Finance Commission for the improvement of slum conditions in Mumbai, through Ministry of Finance for comments. This Ministry supplied its comments to Ministry of Finance within a month of receipt of the proposal.

So far as the schemes of Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums (E.I.U.S.) and National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) are concerned, State Governments are not required to obtain N.O.C. from this Ministry.

Computerised Complaint System

5305. SHRI VAIKO :

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any railway stations in Tamil Nadu have been selected for keeping the computerised complaint system during the Current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Nine stations in Tamil Nadu viz. Chennai Central, Coimbatore

Chennai Egmore, Madurai Jn. Tiruchchirapalli, Katpadi, Erode, Salem, Tirunelveli have been selected for computerised registration and monitoring of complaints during the current year.

Construction of Railway Stations

5306. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether there are demands for construction of new railway stations between Guduvancheri and Kattan Kulathur in Tamil Nadu and between Sayan and Matunga in Mumbai, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible at present to provide new halts between Guduvancheri and Kattan Kulathur in Tamil Nadu since there is no commercial justification. Opening of new station between Sion and Matunga is not feasible

because there is no space for siting a station at the proposed location. Also creating stations in the suburban section at short intervals reduces the capacity of the section. This will adversely affect the frequencies of suburban services.

Drinking Water Projects

5307. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the drinking water projects getting assistance from Asian Development Bank, World Bank and HUDCO separately, State-wise;

(b) the assistance provided to each of them by the said agencies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) A Statement showing the drinking water projects getting assistance from the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and HUDCO in urban areas along with the details available is enclosed.

Statement

Drinking Water Projects getting Assistance from The Asian Development Bank, World Bank and HUDCO

S.No.	STATE	PROJECT/SCHEME	AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE	EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION
1	2	3	4	5
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK				
1.	KARNATAKA	Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development including water supply for 4 towns/cities	US\$ 72.15 million	30.6.2000
WORLD BANK				
2.	TAMIL NADU	II Chennai Water Supply & Sanitation Project	US\$ 86.50 million	30.6.2002
HUDCO				
3.	ANDHRA PD.	42 Water Supply Schemes	Rs.34567.87 lakhs	Varies from scheme to scheme
4.	ASSAM	12 Water Supply Schemes	Rs.6099.60 lakhs	do
5.	BIHAR	2 Water Supply Schemes	Rs.1599.00 lakhs	do
6.	GUJARAT	3 Water Supply Schemes	Rs.12466.79 lakhs	do

1	2	3	4	5
7.	HIMACHAL PD.	3 Water Supply Schemes	Rs.464.90 lakhs	do
8.	KARNATAKA	31 Water Supply Schemes	Rs.28658.95 lakhs	do
9.	KERALA	15 Water Supply Scheme	Rs.11106.26 lakhs	do
10.	MADHYA PD.	5 Water Supply Schemes	Rs.3537.00 lakhs	do
11.	MAHARASHTRA	9 Water Supply Schemes	Rs.26430.70 lakhs	do
12.	ORISSA	11 Water Supply Schemes	Rs.13449.92 lakhs	do
13.	PUNJAB	70 Water Supply Schemes	Rs.5837.77 lakh	do
14.	RAJASTHAN	39 Water supply Schemes	Rs.14083.82 lakhs	do
15.	TAMIL NADU	14 Water Supply Schemes	Rs.20083.91 lakhs	do
16.	WEST BENGAL	14 Water Supply Schemes	Rs.16368.53 lakhs	do

Extension of Railway Line upto Lakhimpur

5308. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has requested the Union Government for extension of rail line upto Lakhimpur via Rangiya; and

(b) If so, the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, a survey for Gauge Conversion of Rangiya-Murkongselek via North Lakhimpur has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridges

5309. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Patan-Mehsana Rail service has been discontinued due to the damage of two bridges; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to reconstruct the above mentioned two bridges and to resume the said rail service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. Not

only two, a total of five bridges were damaged, resulting in discontinuation of train services from 30.06.1997.

(b) Decision has been taken to restore the section within 20 months. Action has been initiated for taking up the work and to start with, tenders for rebuilding of bridge No. 14 have been finalised.

[English]

Fire in Mumbai-Howrah Express

5310. SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to State:

(a) Whether the Committee set up inquire into the causes of fire in Mumbai-Howrah Express at Chakradharpur station has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the out come thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Sub-Committee of Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Railways had gone into various aspects of this accident however it could not arrive at any conclusive evidence as to the cause of the fire.

(c) The recommendations of the Sub-committee have been examined and acted upon.

Technology Development, Extension and Training Scheme

5311. SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had launched a scheme Technology Development, Extension and Training in the year 1994-95;

(b) if so, he details thereof;

(c) the details of plan outlay, actual release, physical target set and achieved since its inception, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the physical target set for 1998-99 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of information is given in the statement I enclosed.

(c) The scheme envisages development and dissemination of new and appropriate technologies for the development of non-forest wastelands. Being technology-oriented, it is difficult to quantify in terms of physical parameters. Moreover, the scheme is being implemented through Institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and other Organisations having institutional framework. Therefore, the State-wise physical target and achievement are not furnished. The details of information is given in the attached statement II.

(d) The tentative physical target for 1998-99 is 3000 ha.

Statement-I

The Scheme envisages development and dissemination of new and appropriate technologies for non-forest wastelands with the following objectives:

- To operationalise appropriate, cost effective and proven technologies for development of various categories of wastelands specially problem lands affected by soil erosion, land degradation, salinity, alkalinity, water logging etc.
- To implement location specific pilot projects as demonstration models for development of wastelands on a sustainable basis.
- To take up pilot projects for development of wastelands through land based activities including pisciculture, duckery, bee-keeping etc.

The scheme is being implemented through Institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and other Organisations having institutional framework.

Under the scheme, 100% central grant is admissible to implement the projects on wastelands owned by Government, public sector undertakings including universities, panchayats/ communities. In case of projects executed on wastelands of private farmers/ corporate bodies, cost of project is shared in a 60:40 ratio between the Department of Wastelands Development and the farmers/corporate bodies.

Further, Cent-percent funding support is given for imparting of training to the farmers and trainers.

From 1994-95 to 1997-98, 54 projects have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.1259.34 lakhs.

Statement-II

Yearwise details of Plan Outlay, Release made, Physical Target and Achievement under Technology Development, Extension and Training (TDET) Scheme

Financial (Rs. Lakhs)

Physical (Area ha.)

Sl. No.	Year	Plan Outlay	Release made	Physical	
				Target	Achievement
1.	1994-95	200.00	200.00	2000	2000
2.	1995-96	200.00	200.00	2000	2000
3.	1996-97	200.00	299.17	2000	2000
4.	1997-98	800.00	560.17	3000	2700
Total		1400.00	1259.34	9000	8700

IDSMT Scheme in Andhra Pradesh

5312.SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposal for the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received and approved;

(c) whether the Union Government have released its share or part thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under, the revised IDSMT Scheme, till 31.3.98, proposals received from Government of Andhra Pradesh

for releasing Central assistance (grant) (recommended by the State Level Sanctioning Committee) for projects in 15 towns have been approved by Government of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The townwise details of Central assistance (grant) amounting to Rs.704.00 lakh released so far for 15 towns in Andhra Pradesh under the revised IDSMT scheme are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Townwise Central Assistance Released under the Revised IDSMT scheme (upto 20.7.98) to Government of Andhra Pradesh

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Name of the Town	Central Assistance Released
1.	AMADALAVALASA	30.00
2.	VIZIANAGARAM I	55.00
3.	RAJAHMUNDRY	50.00
4.	GUNTOOR	66.00
5.	CHITTOR	130.00
6.	WARANGAL	90.00
7.	TUNI	30.00
8.	TIRUPATI I	53.00
9.	NELLORE	34.00
10.	GADWAL	17.00
11.	BHONGIR	25.00
12.	KUPPAM	16.00
13.	ELURU	32.00
14.	BOBBILI	18.00
15.	MACHILIPATNAM	58.00
TOTAL		704.00

Defence Land to Private Company in Maharashtra

5313. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) the total area of Defence land allotted in favour of a power generation company for mining of coal in Chandrapur, Maharashtra and the reasons therefor,

(b) whether the Government have taken a decision to shift some of the units of Ordnance Factory, Chandrapur to Orissa, and

(c) if so, the justification thereof and the efforts being made to protect the interests of the workers of this factory?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No defence land has been allotted in favour of any power generation company.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Renewal of Lease Agreement

5314. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has taken a decision not to renew the lease agreement with Kudremukh Iron Ore Company after its expiry in 1991; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) was granted a mining lease by the Government of Karnataka for an area of 4605 hectares for a period of 30 years, the validity of which is due to expire in July, 1999, The Company has filed an application in June, 1998 for renewal of the said mining lease with the Government of Karnataka. No decision has yet been conveyed by the Government of Karnataka in this regard.

Airport at Devenhalli

5316. SHRI H.G. RAMULU :

SHRI VIJAY GEOL :

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI MOTILAL VORA :

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER :

DR. SANJAY SINH :

SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news items captioned "Tatas were asked to pay Rs. 50 crore bribe" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated June 17, 1998 and 'Gowda tells Tata to clarify' appearing in The Hindustan Times dated June 18, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has so far not received any complaint regarding demand of bribe from Tatas for clearing the Bangalore Airport project.

Linking of Kandla Port by Air

5316.COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any plan to air link the Kandla Port with the rest of the country; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The airport at Kandla is capable of accepting only smaller capacity aircraft. The shortage of such aircraft does not at present permit Indian Airlines/Alliance Air to operate their services to this destination. Private operators having smaller aircraft are being encouraged to include new stations such as Kandla in their network, subject to viability.

Development of Civil Aviation in Gujarat

5317.SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the projects approved for the development of Civil Aviation in Gujarat during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
(b) the details of the projects on which work has since been started and whether the progress is as per the schedule; and
(c) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the timely completion of all these projects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) to (c) Details of the projects being taken up during the 9th Five Year Plan for development of airports in Gujarat, with the status of each project is given in the attached statement.

S. No.	Name of the Airport	Details of the Projects being undertaken during 9th Five Year Plan	Progress of Work	Whether as per schedule
1.	Ahmedabad	i) Extension of runway from 9000' for operation of B-747 class of aircraft ii) Extension of apron to 550 x 200mts. iii) Strengthening of existing runway/ taxiway iv) Extension of Car Park Area v) Extension of Domestic Terminal Complex vi) New VHF Transmitter & Receiver vii) HF Receivers viii) UHF Link	Tender action in hand The work is scheduled to commence from October, 1998. It will take 30 months to complete from the date of commencement. Preliminary architectural drawing are being prepared. Supply completed Procurement in Progress Purchase Order placed.	As per schedule As per schedule
2.	Bhuj Civil Enclave	New Terminal Building	IAF have been requested for issue of NOC for construction of Taxiway and Terminal Building. p3836X	Not as per schedule because of delay in issue of NOC by IAF
3.	Rajkot	Strengthening/resurfacing of runway, apron, taxiway, etc. HF Receiver/Airport Speech Recorder	Work scheduled to commence in Aug, 1998. Procurement in progress.	As per schedule
4.	Porbandar	New Terminal Building with Technical Block apron and Taxiway; Extension of runway to 7500 feet and land acquisition. HF Receiver/Airport Speech Recorder	Detailed Engineering work is in progress; Acquisition of land pending with State Government Procurement in progress.	As per schedule
5.	Vadodara	Construction of new terminal block cum Control tower; Construction of new apron and link taxi track HR Receiver/Airport Speech Recorder	Detailed engineering work is in progress. Work completed Procurement in progress.	As per schedule
6.	Surat	Airport Speech Recorder	Procurement in progress.	As per schedule
7.	Bhavnagar	HF Receiver/ Airport Speech Recorder	Procurement in progress.	As per schedule

Losses Suffered by Railways due to Bomb Blast at Railway track

5318. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss suffered by the Railways due to the bomb explosion at railway track near Bari Brahmana, Jammu on June 23, 1998;

(b) the total amount of compensation paid to the victims; and

(c) the number of trains cancelled/diverted due to this explosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Total loss suffered by the Railways due to this Bomb explosion was estimated as Rs. 41,45,939/-

(b) For compensation, the next of kins of deceased persons or the injured persons shall have to prefer claims in the concerned Bench of Railway Claims Tribunal who will adjudicate on these claims. However, ex-gratia payment of Rs. 15,500/- was made to the victims.

(c) As a result of this incident, 5 trains were cancelled and 6 diverted.

Incident of Fire in Rail Engine

5319. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the engine of a goods train was damaged due to outbreak of fire near Kanwar railway station;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the preventive steps proposed to be taken to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. Engine No. 31008 WAG 9 of Electric Loco Shed, Gomoh caught fire between Khaga and Kanwar stations on Allahabad Division on 14-4-98 while working a goods train. The fire was controlled by the engine crew with the help of fire extinguishers available in the engine and finally the fire was extinguished with the help of fire brigade.

(b) to (e) Preliminary enquiry has revealed the probable cause of fire as bursting of capacitor in power circuit. Since the engine is under warranty detailed investigations are in progress by the manufacturer of the locomotive with the help of engineering and fire experts for establishing the exact cause and to suggest remedial measures to avoid recurrence. However, short term steps have been taken to check the condition of capacitors at shorter intervals and provide fire extinguishers of higher capacity to tackle fire at the initial stage effectively.

[Translation]

Mumbai Drinking Water Project

5320. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the drinking water projects being run in Mumbai, in collaboration of Germany alongwith location thereof;

(b) the details of the funds sanctioned therefor, project-wise; and

(c) the present status of each of the projects and the time schedule fixed for completion of each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai has reported that no drinking water project is being run in Mumbai in collaboration with Germany.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Urban Basic Services for Poor in Maharashtra

5321. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the cities developed under the Urban Basic Services of the Poor Programme in Maharashtra;

(b) the amount allocated under the programme during each of the last three years, city-wise; and

(c) the achievement made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP) Programme was implemented in 35 towns in the State of Maharashtra as per the statement attached.

(b) Under the Programme, Central funds were provided at the state level only. Townwise distribution of funds for the Programme is not monitored by the Centre.

A sum of Rs. 133.00 lakhs, Rs.44.35 lakhs was released as Central share during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively. No fund was released to the State Govt. during the year 1997-98.

(c) The UBSP emphasised provision of social services through convergence. As on 31.3.96, 9.81 lakh beneficiaries were reported to be covered under the Programme in Maharashtra.

Statement

1. BOMBAY
2. AMARAVATI
3. KALYAN
4. AURANGABAD
5. SHOLAPUR
6. KOLAPUR
7. NAGPUR
8. BULDHANA
9. MALKAPUR
10. ACHALPUR
11. WARDHA
12. YAVATMAL
13. JALGAON
14. PANVEL
15. ULHASNAGAR
16. MIRA BHAYANDAR
17. SINNAR
18. BHAGUR
19. GANGAKHOD
20. BID
21. CHANDRAPUR
22. AKOLA
23. MALEGAON
24. MANMAD
25. BHANDARA
26. BHONDIYA
27. BHUSAWAL
28. CHALISGAON
29. JALNA
30. LATTUR

31. CHOPDA
32. NASIK
33. OSMANABAD
34. DHULE
35. PARBHANI

Formation of National Nuclear Command Structure

5322. SHRI AJIT JOGI :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to form a National Nuclear Command Structure is under the active consideration of the Government after the recent Atomic blasts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken; and

(c) the details of the system followed in other nuclear countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details are under examination.

Rail Travellers Service Agents

5323. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail travellers service agents appointed so far in the country, zone-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending with the Government in this regard, zone-wise; and

(c) the time by when these applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The number of Rail Travellers Service Agents (RTSAs) functioning and the number of applications pending on Railways, Zone-wise are as under :

Railway	No. of RTSAs	No. of applications pending
1	2	3
Central	102	—
Eastern	20	—
Northern	197	—

1	2	3
North Eastern	8	4
Northeast Frontier	28	-
Southern	80	17
South Central	49	10
South Eastern	22	-
Western	138	-

Action is on hand to appoint more RTSAs on Eastern and Western Railways.

(c) No specific time frame has been set for clearing these applications.

Enquiry against Officers of Air India

5324. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether any departmental vigilance enquiry has been initiated against the GM (contracts) and the Project Manager, Air India for awarding a contract for Laying Polyurethane Flooring at Air India Engineering Complex Santacruz, Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the inquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Urban Transport Development Fund

5325. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Urban Transport Development fund.

(b) if so, the main objectives thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be spent during the Ninth Five Year Plan under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) The Sub-group on Urban Transport set up by M/o Urban Affairs and Employment has recommended that a National Urban Transport Development Fund be set up. The main objectives of creating such a fund are:

(i) Financial support for mass urban transportation projects in million plus cities and traffic

improvement measures in all cities through equity, soft loans and grants;

(ii) Financing of feasibility reports and detailed project reports to the extent of 50% of costs;

(iii) Financial support for training and visit programmes in the field of urban transport within India and abroad;

(iv) Financial support for workshops, seminars etc. in the field for urban transport.

(c) The sub-group has recommended that to begin with a seed money of Rs. 500 crore should be provided by the Central Government through budgetary allocations during Ninth Five Year Plan. In addition, an equal amount can be raised through dedicated taxes/cesses on selected Central levies in million plus cities. A final decision in this regard is yet to be taken and therefore, the question of expenditure does not arise.

Rural Connectivity Programme

5326. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds sanctioned under Rural Connectivity Programme to the different States/Union Territories during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the mechanism recommended for the utilisation and execution of projects sanctioned under the scheme;

(c) whether in the State of Orissa the projects are being execute on job work basis without going into the process of inviting the tenders: and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Professional Allowance for Non-Technical Staff in Defence

5327. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations made by the high power committee headed by the Defence Secretary for the professional qualification allowance for the non-technical officers in the Ministry have been accepted by the Government.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the financial implication involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The High Power Committee

headed by the Defence Secretary to consider anomalies in Pay and Allowances of the Armed Forces personnel arising out of the Vth Central Pay Commission recommendations, has since submitted its Report. These recommendations are presently under consideration of the Government. Appropriate decisions will be taken after due consideration.

Janata Housing Registration Scheme, 1996

5328. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether applications were invited by the DDA under "Janta Housing Registration Scheme 1996" during January, 1996;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Janta Flats on higher purchase basis were allotted within the price mentioned in the brochure; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The salient features of the Scheme are as under:-

- (i) A person having annual income upto Rs. 72000/- during the year 1994-95 were eligible to apply.
- (ii) Registration deposit of Rs. 5000/- between 27.1.96 to 29.2.96 for 20,000 registrants.
- (iii) The plinth area of each flat to be around 18-25 sq.mt.
- (iv) Approximate price of the flat in the first phase (1996-98) is in the range of Rs. 1.25 lakhs to Rs. 1.60 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The prices given in the Brochure at that time were only indicative. Disposal cost depends on the prevailing price of land, materials, wages etc. at the time of allotment; DDA has reported that in about 90% cases of allotment, disposal cost of the flats was within the price indicated in the Brochure.

Withdrawal of Flights by Air India

5329. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India has decided to withdraw their flights from Seoul, Geneva; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Air India has stopped its operations to Seoul and Geneva w.e.f. 28th March, 1998 and 29th March, 1998 respectively as both the routes were not economically viable. However, Air India have concluded Code sharing arrangements with Air France for flights between India and Geneva via Paris.

Survey for Nadikudi-Venkatgiri Railway Line

5330. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Survey for the proposed railway line between Nadikudi and Venkatgiri of South Central Railway has been undertaken;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for a new BG rail line between Nadikudi and Srikalahasti via Venkatgiri, has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible, once the results of the survey become available.

- (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Flights on Mumbai-Raipur-Bhubaneshwar-Calcutta Sector

5331. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Airlines is operating only three flights for Madhya Pradesh viz. Delhi-Nagpur-Raipur-Delhi, Delhi-Bhopal-Indore-Mumbai-Delhi and Delhi-Khajuraho-Delhi routes;
- (b) if so, steps taken to increase the same;
- (c) whether any flight for Mumbai-Raipur-Bhubaneshwar-Calcutta had been introduced in 1988; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for which this flight has been discontinued?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Alliance, Air, at present, operates flights to the following cities in Madhya Pradesh :-

		Flights per week
1	Khajuraho	14
2	Gwalior	8
3	Bhopal	14
4.	Indore	14
5.	Raipur	14

However, the flights to/from Khajuraho have been reduced to four services per week from 1st May, 1998 to 31.7.1998 because of drop in passenger traffic in the summer season.

(b) Because of aircraft capacity constraints, Indian Airlines/Alliance Air has no plans to increase services in Madhya Pradesh, at present. However, Jet Airways is operating daily service on Mumbai-Indore-Mumbai sector and Sahara Airlines is operating thrice a week service on Delhi-Bhopal-Indore-Delhi sectors.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines introduced thrice a week service on Mumbai-Raipur-Bhubaneshwar-Calcutta sector in November, 1991. This service was, however, rerouted w.e.f. 15.10.1992 to operate on Mumbai-Bhubaneshwar-Calcutta sector omitting Raipur because of operational constraints.

[English]

National Social Assistance Programme

5332. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned full amount under the National Social Assistance Programme during 1997-98;

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

(c) the amount sanctioned and yet to be released under this scheme State-wise; and

(d) the reasons for not releasing the sanctioned amount so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The State-wise allocation and funds released under three schemes of National Social Assistance Programme during 1997-98 is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The release of funds under NSAP during 1997-98 was conditional. The release of 1st instalment was dependent on the utilisation of 50% or more funds already released. The 2nd instalment was to be released on the utilisation of 60% or more funds available with the districts and on submission of Audited Accounts and Utilisation Certificates for the year 1995-96. As a number of districts could not fulfill aforesaid conditions, it was not possible to release more funds.

Statement

Year-1997-98		National Social Assistance Programme				(Rs. in lakh)	
S.No.	States/UTs	NOAPS		NFBS		NMBS	
		Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4361.76	4327.75	2247.96	2211.43	1211.18	1191.39
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45.65	15.26	22.88	5.52	19.34	1.72
3.	Assam	656.14	333.25	646.36	309.62	292.34	99.54
4.	Bihar	7248.38	4766.66	1810.38	1114.26	940.37	490.54
5.	Goa	10.30	7.73	11.44	5.72	4.37	0.00
6.	Gujarat	749.27	369.99	377.52	0.00	194.38	3.48
7.	Haryana	352.87	274.96	77.22	53.92	59.59	61.33
8.	Himachal Pradesh	108.58	97.79	20.02	20.67	22.62	23.36
9.	J & K	248.98	138.24	45.76	26.74	51.79	26.02
10.	Karnataka	2959.63	1771.37	649.22	18.91	392.34	162.90
11.	Kerala	676.26	815.67	168.74	198.89	117.16	64.18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4584.53	4870.56	1404.26	2595.08	762.53	386.55
13.	Maharashtra	2347.96	2423.45	1026.74	653.57	594.98	299.81
14.	Manipur	97.34	33.69	28.60	9.85	40.56	14.09
15.	Meghalaya	94.54	34.07	34.32	9.78	39.31	11.36
16.	Mizoram	37.44	21.72	11.44	6.64	15.91	7.96
17.	Nagaland	66.46	37.18	17.16	5.01	27.77	12.05
18.	Orissa	2652.62	2550.36	872.30	699.34	395.30	286.06
19.	Punjab	341.64	170.82	125.84	62.92	41.96	9.13
20.	Rajasthan	936.00	495.33	451.88	252.66	338.68	83.57
21.	Sikkim	11.23	6.72	2.86	2.28	4.68	2.34
22.	Tamilnadu	3668.18	3629.66	1904.76	1758.69	453.18	368.65
23.	Tripura	146.02	124.32	51.48	39.63	60.84	35.95
24.	Uttar Pradesh	9617.40	8676.49	2654.08	1452.17	1447.21	1111.56
25.	West Bengal	3312.50	2431.37	903.76	206.88	451.46	199.23
26.	A & N Islands	2.81	0.00	2.86	0.00	1.09	0.00
27.	Chandigarh	6.08	2.92	2.86	0.00	2.65	0.00
28.	D & N Haveli	2.81	1.41	2.86	4.29	0.47	0.71
29.	Daman & Diu	0.94	0.94	2.86	2.86	0.31	0.04
30.	NCT Delhi	177.84	177.84	31.46	31.46	36.97	0.00
31.	Lakshdweep	0.94	0.47	2.86	0.00	0.16	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	14.04	21.06	2.86	1.42	2.96	4.44
Total		45537.34	38629.05	15615.60	11780.21	8024.48	4957.96

Note : Release includes Committed Liability during 1996-97.

Poor Condition of Civil Aviation Sector

5333. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the News-item captioned Civil Aviation Sector in Shambles appearing in Sunday Observer dated June 14-20, 1998;

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

(c) the measures the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item mentions ignoring of Civil Aviation Sector in the Economic Survey, 1997-98, need for improving the performance of various

organisations under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and other related issues.

(c) Improving the performance and functioning of the organisations is a continuing process. Some of the important steps taken in the recent past for improving the performance of the National Carriers are as under:-

Air India

- (i) Marketing efforts have been stepped up to generate additional revenue.
- (ii) Network rationalisation and consolidation with emphasis placed on route profitability.
- (iii) Reduction in expenditure on outside repairs of aircraft by undertaking more in-house repairs.
- (iv) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished in various departments.

Indian Airlines

- (i) Closure of off-line stations and reduction in the number of booking offices.
- (ii) Ban on recruitment, unless absolutely necessary for operational reasons.
- (iii) Drastic cut in the expenditure on office buildings.
- (iv) Freeze on capital expenditure unless absolutely necessary for operational reasons.
- (v) Reduction in frequencies of loss making routes.

The Government has also constituted a committee of experts under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Chairman, Tariff Commission to undertake a comprehensive examination of the reasons for the losses incurred by the Air India and to suggest strategies for turning around the company.

Land Acquisition Act, 1894

5334. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government are aware that, Mahanadi Coal Field (MCF) Basundhara area violating the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (1 of 1894);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Railway Projects in Uttar Pradesh

5335. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS to be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of railway projects received from Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the steps taken on each of the proposals and the reasons for non- clearance of proposals, if any;
- (c) the details of the improvement and expansion work undertaken by the Government in Uttar Pradesh during the above period year-wise;
- (d) the expenditure incurred thereon during the above period; and
- (e) the reasons for slow progress in completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Offset Printing Papers

5336. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the offset Printing papers are being stolen from various Government Presses;
- (b) if so, the value of Offset Printing papers stolen during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been made in this regard?
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to stop such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Only one case of misappropriation of White offset Printing Paper by some employees in connivance with the carrying contractor was reported from the Government of India Text Book Press, Mysore in 1996.

(b) The value of mis-appropriated paper was Rs.1.94.200.00 approximately.

(c) FIR has been lodged with the Nazabad Police Station, Mysore on 31.5.96.

(d) On 1.6.96 the Police recovered 18 Reels of paper from Bangalore. The Police are still investigating the matter.

(e) It has been decided to purchase Offset Printing paper in bulk quantities with distinguishing water mark of the Directorate of Printing and the Paper mill; to avoid mis-appropriation during transit. Paper is procured on delivery to consignee basis i.e. the firms themselves deliver the paper at the Press premises.

[Translation]

Procurement of Lime Stone by Bokaro Steel Plant

5337. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bokaro Steel Plant has procured its quota of lime stone as per the agreement with Raw Material Division of SAIL during the last three years:

(b) if so, the total consumption of lime stone in Bokaro Steel Plant and the quantity of lime stone and silica mixed lime stone procured during each of the last three years; and

(c) the lime stone and silica mixed lime stone procured by the Bokaro Steel Plant during the above period, mine-wise including private parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Limestone generated by RMD linked mines of SAIL was supplied to Bokaro Steel Plant. Details of the plan & actual supplies are given below:

(Figures in Tonnes)

YEAR	MINES	PLAN	RECEIPT
1995-96	Bhawanathpur	7,46,000	2,28,261
	Kuteshwar	10,00,000	7,45,768
	ILQ Satna	Nil	Nil
1996-97	Bhawanathpur	2,40,000	1,89,642
	Kuteshwar	9,00,000	2,36,154
	ILQ Satna	Nil	67715
1997-98	Bhawanathpur	2,21,000	1,61,744
	Kuteshwar	7,50,000	4,55,007
	ILQ Satna	Nil	18,216

(b) and (c) Consumption of Limestone at Bokaro Plant during the last three years has been as under:-

Year	Total Consumption of Limestone (in Tonnes)
1995-96	12,32,343
1996-97	10,81,735
1997-98	8,77,724

Details of procurement of lime stone by Bokaro Steel Plant during the last three years (mine-wise) are given in attache statement.

Statement

Lime Stone Procured by Bokaro Steel Plant

(Figures in Tonnes)

S.N.	Supplier	Source	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	SAIL	Bhawanathpur	228261	189642	161744
2.	BSMDC Ltd	Chipadohar	19003	355	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	SAIL	Kuteshwar	745768	236154	455007
4.	SAIL	Satna	Nil	67715	18216
5.	RSMDCLTD	Jaisalmer	87002	171424	87826
6.	RSMM Ltd	Jaisalmer	Nil	23384	60530
7.	NMDC Ltd	Nagaur	NI	4168	Nil
8.	UPSMDC Ltd	Dehradun	13943	Nil	Nil
9.	Bumpur, IISCO (Diverted)		3544	Nil	Nil

PRIVATE SUPPLIERS

M/S

1.	S. Goenka Lime & Chemicals Ltd.	Nanwara/ Maihar	114695	188997	19682
2.	M.P.Mineral Suppliers	Nanwara/ Maihar	Nil	10230	7465
3.	S.N.Sunderson (Minerals) Ltd.	Nanwara/ Maihar	26960	95607	8943
4.	Diwan Lime Co. Pvt. Ltd.	Maihar	39219	25187	Nil
5.	N.M.Dubash Stone & Lime Co.	Jukehi/ Maihar	23860	38398	14966
6.	United Trading Co	Maihar	26763	17613	26314
7.	Maihar Stone & Lime Co.	Maihar	28722	97072	Nil
8.	Satna Stone & Lime	Satna	Nil	22352	Nil
9.	Commercial Minerals	Jukehi	Nil	10293	5082

As limestone has certain percentage of silica, there is no separate designated category as 'Silica-mixed Limestone'

[English]

Membership of Housing Societies

5338. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some persons in Delhi have acquired several units through Cooperative Housing Societies by filing false affidavits or applying in neighbouring States, such as Haryana and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether acquisition of membership of more than one Group Housing Societies is an offence and contrary to rules of these societies; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government envisage to check such malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Registrar Cooperative Societies, NCTD had informed that complaints relating to dual membership of the individuals in two primary cooperative housing societies of the same class registered under the Delhi Cooperatives Societies Act, 1972, were received in the office of the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Delhi. Action for cessation of membership has been initiated as membership in more than one Cooperative Housing Society is not permissible under the rules.

The Delhi Cooperative Societies Act, 1972, and Delhi Cooperative Societies Rules 1973, do not apply outside Delhi.

(b) Yes, Sir. Under Rule 28 of Delhi Cooperative Societies, 1973, a member is liable to be removed from the membership of the Society.

(c) Wherever any complaint/information is received, proceedings under the rules are initiated by the Society and the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, NCT of Delhi respectively.

Trade Unions in Railways

5339. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

(a) Whether there is any plan to end multiplicity of Trade Unions in the Railways by invoking one union by secret ballot; and

(b) If so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No decision has been taken in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

Maintenance of Government Buildings

5340. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government are aware that crores of rupees are shown as spent annually on maintenance of the Government buildings in Delhi but not 10% of the amount actually spent and material of crores of rupees is either stolen or spent only on papers; and

(b) if so, the inquiries instituted, their findings and officials found involved and with what results during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No, Sir. Expenditure on maintenance of Government buildings in Delhi is actually incurred on materials and services as per prescribed norms.

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

Houses for Poor

5341. SHRI K.H.MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether this Ministry has any proposal to construct and allot low cost houses to the poorest of the poor people including SC and ST during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Ministry is implementing Indira Awaas Yojana with the objective of providing dwelling units to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Freed bonded labourers and Non-SC/ST poor below poverty line living in rural areas. A minimum of 60% of houses are allotted to SC/ST poor. Under this scheme, assistance of Rs. 20,000/- in plain areas and Rs. 22,000/- in difficulty/hilly areas is provided for construction of a house. Emphasis is given on adoption of cost effective technologies, materials etc. in construction of houses.

An allocation of Rs. 1600 crores has been made for rural housing during current year 1998-99.

[Translation]

Financial Irregularities in CMRI

5342. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of financial irregularities at any level in Central Mining Research Institution (C.M.R.I.) have come in light during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, yearwise;

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has also detected the irregularities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total loss suffered by C. M.R.I. on account of these financial irregularities;

(f) the officers involved in these irregularities alongwith their status; and

(g) the action taken against such officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise
(c) No, Sir.
(d) to (g) Do not arise.

[English]

Reserve of Limestone

5343. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any recent mineral investigations were conducted to assess the BS and SMS grade limestones in Meghalaya;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government propose to enlist overseas participation in the commercial exploitation of limestone deposits in Meghalaya; and
(d) if so, the details thereof in quality and quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has estimated a total of 2265 million tonnes of limestone in Litang river valley, Jaintia Hills district, Meghalaya as resource potential. Detailed exploration by GSI to recategorise these reserves is going on since 1992-93 and probable reserves of 884 million tonnes are established in a block of 3.5 sq.km. in Litang river valley of which 50% is of Steel Melting Shop (SMS) grade and 25-30% is of cement grade.

(c) and (d) A proposal from M/s. Lum Mawshun Minerals Private Ltd., a company incorporated in Shillong, Meghalaya for mining and export of limestone and shale in foreign collaboration with M/s. Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd., France with 74% foreign equity participation has been received through Ministry of Industry. The proposal is under examination in Department of Mines, The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) will take a final decision in the matter thereafter.

New Airport near Mumbai

5344. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bureaucratic hurdles block Rs. 5,870 cr. Cidco projects" appearing in The Observer dated 6th July, 1998;
(b) if so, the facts thereof; and
(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India in November, 1997 had constituted a committee to look into the issues related to the second airport for Mumbai Region. In the last Committee meeting held on 13th May, 1998, it was decided that four sites at Mumbai recommended by the Government of Maharashtra, i.e. (1) Navi Mumbai, (2) Existing Mumbai Airport, (3) Mhapan at Sindhudurg District and (4) Mandwa Rewas would be evaluated. Out of the four sites, three sites have been surveyed and technically evaluated i.e. existing Mumbai Airport, Mandwa-Rewas and Mhapan-Sindhudurg. The fourth site i.e. Panvel, where CIDCO proposes to construct new domestic airport is under review. Traffic and site surveys are being undertaken and the final report is likely to be submitted to the Government by early October, 1998.

[Translation]

Purchase of Sub-Standard Lime in BALCO

5345. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of lime purchased by Bharat Aluminium Company, Korba from the lime industries situated at Korba during 1996-97 and 1997-98, industry-wise;
(b) the amount deducted on account of sub-standard lime purchased from the subsidiary lime industries and other two lime industries which are not subsidiaries of BALCO;
(c) whether these two lime industries were given the order of supplying lime even after the expiry of the tenders; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) has ancillary industries and not subsidiary industries. The quantity of lime purchased in 1996-97 and 1997-98 from Ancillary Industries as well as from units other than ancillary industries is given below:-

Financial Year	Fig. in Tonnes	
	From Ancillary Industries	From other than Ancillary Industries
1996-97	18,763	25070
1997-98	18,957	18798

(b) The amount deducted on account of substandard Lime in the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given below:-

Financial Year	Amount deducted (Rs. in lakhs)	
	From Ancillary Industries	From other than Ancillary Industries
1996-97	16.66	12.58
1997-98	31.63	10.74

(c) and (d) Initially the contracts with the Suppliers were for a period of 12 months from January 1996 to December 1996. The Contracts were subsequently extended on same terms and conditions from time to time for those suppliers of Lime (including ancillaries and other than ancillary Lime industries) who gave their consent, upto September 1997.

[English]

Damage of Pots in Aluminium Plant

5346. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES to pleased to states:

(a) the terms and reference of Committee recently constituted by his Ministry to enquire into the causes of damage of large number of pots in Aluminium Plant at Angul, Orissa;

(b) the number of times this type of incident took place in that Plant in the past and the precautionary measures taken by NALCO from time to time if any; and

(c) the steps taken by NALCO to identify the technical defects and man power management system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The terms of reference of the Committee constituted by the Department of Mines are as under:-

- (i) To determine the causes for the instability & failure in the potline in the Angul Smelter since January 1998.
- (ii) To asses whether there has been a failure of backup services for proper maintenance & repairs to the potline.
- (iii) To determine whether there has been human failure in terms of absenteeism, indiscipline, lack of supervision and other such contributing factors.
- (iv) To compute the overall loss in production in terms of quantity, quality/purity of metal produced & value.
- (v) To identify clearly the lapses & acts of omission & commission which have led to this production loss & those responsible for the same.

(vi) To make recommendations to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

(b) This type of pot damage has taken place on 3 occasions in the past in the smelter plant of NALCO. i.e. 1988, 1990 and 1994. The Company took corrective steps like improvement in working conditions, automatic in landing from the Orissa Grid in case of under frequency to improve stability of power etc.

(c) NALCO has constituted a Technical Committee to assess the situation and its recommendations are being implemented by the Company. Further, the Company has also brought technical experts from Aluminium Pechiney, France for Potlines and Anode areas, from M/s Syprim, France for Rodding Shop and from M/s Electrification Charpante Leavage (ECL), France for Overhead Cranes. Their recommendations are also being implemented by the Company. To tackle the manpower problem a Special Task Force has been constituted by the Company and a 12 hour duty cycle has been organised.

Million Wells Scheme

5347. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the total number of wells dug under Million Wells Scheme and the amount spent thereon during the last three years and so far, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : Details are given in enclosed Statement I and II.

Statement - I

Total number of Wells constructed under Million Wells Scheme

Sl.No.	State/UT	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10899	13169	12670	NR**
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	130	89	152	5
3.	Assam	1865	2332	1842	NR**
4.	Bihar	25476	22011	23307	2358
5.	Goa	37	33	16	9
6.	Gujarat	4107	3148	2773	306
7.	Haryana	572	363	741	8
8.	Himachal Pradesh	138	670	602	9
9.	J & K	1673	1544	1745	NR**

1	2	3	4	5	6
10. Karnataka		5236	3004	3096	307
11. Kerala		3458	2268	3976	523
12. Madhya Pradesh	35554	19950	19029		349
13. Maharashtra		8770	8002	8324	660
14. Manipur		520	429	218	7
15. Meghalaya		732	885	468	0
16. Mizoram		425	483	325	NR**
17. Nagaland		0	80	608	NR**
18. Orissa	24263	18349	15798		987
19. Punjab		0	0	0	NR***
20. Rajasthan		2457	2389	2420	91
21. Sikkim		384	91	89	2
22. Tamil Nadu	10899	5962	3626		673
23. Tripura		2049	1221	926	NR**
24. Uttar Pradesh		518	43	44	NR**
25. West Bengal		2402	1461	542	NR**
26. A & N Islands		6	13	4	4
27. Dadra & NH		24	8	16	0
28. Daman & Diu		0	0	2	0
29. Lakshadweep		0	0	140	NR**
30. Pondicherry		1	0	0	NR**
TOTAL		142685	108897	103499	6298

*Progress upto May, 1998.

**Not reported by States/UTs

***Funds under MWS have been spent on levelling of land etc. in Punjab

Statement-II

Total funds utilised under Million Wells Scheme

Sl.No.	State/UT	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2608.25	3950.53	4374.73	NR**
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	71.46	36.80	36.00	1.33
3.	Assam	666.70	852.99	1481.36	NR**
4.	Bihar	5719.22	6351.13	7057.44	950.94
5.	Goa	12.23	9.13	10.15	4.11

1	2	3	4	5	6
6. Gujarat		1494.06	1182.96	1454.36	161.51
7. Haryana		168.40	151.64	255.01	6.91
8. Himachal Pd.		184.29	200.15	169.97	4.30
9. J & K		216.80	258.81	283.69	NR**
10. Karnataka		3241.76	2750.66	2799.97	90.38
11. Kerala		1542.52	1075.77	1028.08	13.00
12. Madhya Pd.		4766.37	3864.57	4403.29	41.62
13. Maharashtra		3416.04	4604.17	4855.69	408.32
14. Manipur		99.18	46.70	26.10	0.94
15. Meghalaya		42.12	54.96	46.71	0.00
16. Mizoram		40.27	42.82	27.74	NR**
17. Nagaland		0.00	19.90	27.00	NR**
18. Orissa		4822.29	4176.51	3132.66	274.44
19. Punjab		0.00	46.09	61.53	10.75
20. Rajasthan		625.77	891.96	873.23	105.97
21. Sikkim		104.46	44.94	48.40	0.96
22. Tamil Nadu		4814.56	4341.06	4205.41	51.48
23. Tripura		123.77	80.89	109.86	NR**
24. Uttar Pradesh	11988.78	11672.94	9629.94		NR**
25. West Bengal		7341.71	3507.85	3088.87	NR**
26. A & N Islands		9.35	5.17	3.78	0.61
27. Dadra & NH		8.24	4.20	3.52	1.32
28. Daman & Diu		0.00	0.00	2.17	0.52
29. Lakshadweep		0.00	0.00	17.85	NR**
30. Pondicherry		0.16	0.00	1.38	NR**
Total		53828.85	50233.38	49516.88	2129.43

*Progress upto May, 1998.

**Not reported by States/UTs

Touts at Mumbai Airports

5348. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether touts operate in and around the Domestic and International Terminals of Mumbai Airports; and

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken to curb their activities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The problem of touting at Mumbai airport, particularly at the international terminal/cargo complex is being tackled with the assistance of the local police authorities. Periodic checks/joint inspections have been organized with police officials to curb this menace. During the year, till June, 1998, 785 persons have been arrested while indulging in touting/soliciting the passengers. AAI has taken various steps to educate/caution the passengers by displaying notice boards (signages) that have been installed at conspicuous places in the Terminals. The information regarding various facilities has also been displayed on CCTV monitors. Additional money exchange counters have been provided inside the Terminals as well as on the city side to facilitate the passengers. Free Inter-Terminal shuttle coach service facility has been provided to passengers for their connecting flights. Prepaid taxi service is also available at the international terminal to prevent soliciting of passenger.

**Permission for Construction of
Temporary Shed**

5349. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has permitted for temporary sheds for Car, Scooter and pet animals with 100% deposit of cost to the allottees of the Government accommodation; and

(b) if so, the number of temporary sheds constructed by CPWD in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) None. However, some sheds not falling under the category referred to at (a) above have been constructed in VIP Bungalow as per their entitlement as per the guidelines issued by the Government.

Newspaper-cum-Book Shops at IGI

5350. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is no Newspaper-cum-book shops at Indira Gandhi International Airport; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to open a Newspaper-cum-book shop there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The space earmarked for the Stall/Shop which provides Travellers requisites, including

Newspapers, Magazines and books has been lying vacant since August, 1997 because of poor response to open tenders. Airports Authority of India is taking steps to invite tenders for these shops again and it is expected that the facility would be available shortly.

Railway Hospitals

5351. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the location of hospitals set up by Railways in its different zones;

(b) whether the adequate health care facilities are not available for Railway employees due to shortage of hospitals; and

(c) if so, the steps taken during the last three years and proposed to be taken by 2000 AD to set up new hospitals to provide adequate health care to the Railway employees staff, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) A list of Railway hospital is enclosed as statement:

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

List of Railway Hospitals Locationwise

(A) Central Railway

- (i) Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, Mumbai
- (ii) Divisional Railway Hospital, Kalyan
- (iii) Divisional Railway Hospital, Bhusawal
- (iv) Divisional Railway Hospital, Jhansi
- (v) Divisional Railway Hospital, Jabalpur
- (vi) Divisional Railway Hospital, Nagpur
- (vii) Divisional Railway Hospital, Solapur
- (viii) Divisional Railway Hospital, Nishadpura Bhopal
- (ix) Sub-Divisional Railway Hospital, Amla
- (x) Sub-Divisional Railway Hospital, Puna
- (xi) Sub-Divisional Railway Hospital, Igatpuri
- (xii) Sub-Divisional Railway Hospital, Manmad
- (xiii) Sub-Divisional Railway Hospital, Katni

- (xiv) Sub-Divisional Railway Hospital, Itarsi
- (xv) Sub-Divisional Railway Hospital, Khurdwadi
- (xvi) Sub-Divisional Railway Hospital, Daund
- (xvii) Sub-Divisional Railway Hospital, Bina

(B) Eastern Railway

- (i) Central Hospital, B.R.Singh/Sealdah
- (ii) Orthopaedic Hospital/Howrah
- (iii) Divisional Hospital Asansol
- (iv) Divisional Hospital, Dhanbad
- (v) Divisional Hospital, Danapur
- (vi) Divisional Hospital, Mughalsarai
- (vii) Divisional Hospital, Malda
- (viii) Workshop Hospital, Liluah
- (ix) Workshop Hospital, Jamalpur
- (x) Workshop Hospital, Kancharapara
- (xi) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Gaya
- (xii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Andal
- (xiii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Patratu

(C) Northern Railway

- (i) Central Hospital, New Delhi
- (ii) Divisional Hospital, Delhi
- (iii) Divisional Hospital, Allahabad
- (iv) Divisional Hospital, Lucknow
- (v) Divisional Hospital, Moradabad
- (vi) Divisional Hospital, Jodhpur
- (vii) Divisional Hospital, Bikaner
- (viii) Divisional Hospital, Ferozepur
- (ix) Divisional Hospital, Ambala
- (x) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Tundla
- (xi) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Jharipani
- (xii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Saharanpur
- (xiii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Rewari
- (xiv) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Jalandhar
- (xv) Sub-Divisional Hospital, RDSO-Lucknow
- (xvi) Workshop Hospital, Jagadhri
- (xvii) Workshop Hospital, Kanpur
- (xviii) Workshop Hospital, Amritsar

(D) North Eastern Railway

- (i) Central Hospital, Gorakhpur
- (ii) Divisional Hospital, Izatnagar
- (iii) Divisional Hospital, Lucknow
- (iv) Divisional Hospital, Samastipur
- (v) Divisional Hospital, Sonepur
- (vi) Divisional Hospital, Cancer Inst/BSB
- (vii) Divisional Hospital, Varanasi
- (viii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Gonda
- (ix) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Garhara

(E) North East Frontier Railway

- (i) Central Hospital, Maligaon
- (ii) Divisional Hospital, Lumding
- (iii) Divisional Hospital, Alipurduar
- (iv) Divisional Hospital, Katihar
- (v) Divisional Hospital, New Jalpaiguri
- (vi) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Badarpur
- (vii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Rangapara North
- (viii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, New Bongaigaon
- (ix) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Tindharia
- (x) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Dibrugarh

(F) Southern Railway

- (i) Central Hospital, Perambur
- (ii) Divisional Hospital, Golden Rock
- (iii) Divisional Hospital, Palghat
- (iv) Divisional Hospital, Madurai
- (v) Divisional Hospital, Mysore
- (vi) Divisional Hospital, Bangalore
- (viii) Divisional Hospital, Arakonam
- (ix) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Villupuram
- (x) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Podanur
- (xi) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Erode
- (xii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Shoranur
- (xiii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Ashokapuram

(G) South Central Railway

- (i) Central Hospital, Lallaguda

- (ii) Divisional Hospital, Vijaywada
- (iii) Divisional Hospital, Hubli
- (iv) Divisional Hospital, Guntakai
- (v) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Puna
- (vi) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Rayanapadu
- (vii) Divisional Polyclinic, Kazipet

(H) South Eastern Railway

- (i) Central Hospital, Garden Reach
- (ii) Divisional Hospital, Chakradharpur
- (iii) Divisional Hospital, Adra
- (iv) Divisional Hospital, Bilaspur
- (v) Divisional Hospital, Vishakhapatnam
- (vi) Divisional Hospital, khurda Road
- (vii) Divisional Hospital, Kharagpur
- (viii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Nainpur
- (ix) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Tatanagar
- (x) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Bondamunda
- (xi) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Bhilai
- (xii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Shahdol
- (xiii) Divisional Hospital, Mancheswar
- (xiv) Divisional Polyclinic, Nagpur

(I) Western Railway

- (i) Jagjivan Ram Hospital, Mumbai
- (ii) Divisional Hospital, Pratapnagar
- (iii) Divisional Hospital, Ratlam
- (iv) Divisional Hospital, Kota
- (v) Divisional Hospital, Ajmer
- (vi) Divisional Hospital, Rajkot
- (vii) Divisional Hospital, Bhavnagar
- (viii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Valsad
- (ix) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Sabarmati
- (x) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Gangapur City
- (xi) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Abu Road
- (xii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Ranapratapnagar
- (xiii) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Gandhidham
- (xiv) Sub-Divisional Hospital, Bandikui

- (xv) Workshop Hospital, Dahod

(J) Production Unit

- (i) Railway Hospital, Chittaranjan
- (ii) Railway Hospital, DLW Varanasi
- (iii) Railway Hospital, ICF Chennai
- (iv) Railway Hospital, Yelahanka Bangalore
- (v) Railway Hospital, DCW/Patiala
- (vi) Railway Hospital, RCF/Kapurthala

Hiring of I.A.F. Planes by State Governments

5352. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount is outstanding against some State Government for hiring aircraft and helicopters of Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details of outstanding amount. State-wise

(c) the action taken by the Government so far to recover the said dues;

(d) the total amount recovered as a result of these efforts during the last three years; and

(e) the steps being taken to recover the remaining dues?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) A statement indicating outstanding dues against different State Governments for use of IAF aircraft is attached.

(c) to (e) As a result of concerted efforts, an amount of Rs. 131.7 crores has been realised by the IAF from different States during the last three years. Special Collection Drives, other than the regular collection process, are undertaken to clear the arrears.

Statement

State Government	Amount Outstanding (in Rs.)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	3,62,84,164
Arunachal Pradesh	17,72,04,297
Assam	1,35,72,452
Bihar	5,74,93,333
Delhi	9,79,396
Gujarat	1,80,77,916

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	2,57,96,250
Jammu & Kashmir	7,80,63,338
Karnataka	7,41,667
Kerala	14,69,480
Manipur	65,05,076
Maghalaya	22,46,120
Mizoram	63,84,634
Madhya Pradesh	9,58,333
Nagaland	84,44,052
Punjab	8,23,278
Rajasthan	14,26,994
Sikkim	36,60,111
Tamil Nadu	70,51,374
Tripura	3,32,678
Uttar Pradesh	9,03,750
West Bengal	4,13,333
Andaman & Nicobar (UT)	1,78,22,001
Total	46,66,54,027

New Civil Aviation Policy

5353. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :
SHRI MOTILAL VORA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jet airlines had to work out an alternative strategy by July 15, and furnish a response to the Ministry's order for an undertaking that it would comply with all the guidelines;

(b) if so, whether the Jet Airways is confident that the new guidelines prohibiting lease of aircraft from foreign airlines will not be grounding its aircraft as the lease agreements are already in operation for the last few years;

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Consequent to promulgation of guidelines vide AIC No.2/1998 on 11th June, 1998 for foreign equity participation in the domestic air transport services, a copy of the guidelines was forwarded to all the scheduled and non-scheduled airlines including M/s. Jet Airways and NOC holders to operate air transport services.

(b) and (c) DGCA has already been advised to ask Jet Airways to export back all such aircraft which have been imported on lease/hire purchase, etc. which do not conform to the guide lines.

Mysore Airport

5354. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed an Expert Committee to suggest improvements to the Mysore Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Expert Committee has given its report; and

(d) if not, the time by which it will be given?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) A team of officers from Airports Authority of India had carried out a feasibility study in May, 1998 for the upgradation of the airport at Mysore. The recommendations of the team of officers are under examination keeping in view the policy on Airport Infrastructure.

Translation

Financial Condition of Steel Companies

5355. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel industry have been bearing the burnt of recession prevailing in the economy for long time and the financial condition of the steel companies has deteriorated due to piling of the finished goods during 1997-98;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) It is a fact that the steel industry has also been affected by the general slow down of the economy, inter alia resulting in inventory pile up and lower profitability.

(b) and (c) Government has initiated several measures to stimulate demand for steel and reduce the inventories which include:

(i) Enhanced allocation for infrastructure development housing, power, high-ways proposed in the Budget for 1998-99.

(ii) A National Campaign has been launched to increase the consumption of steel particularly in Rural and Agro Based Industrial Sectors.

- (iii) A Steel Exporters Forum has been constituted to boost export of Steel.
- (iv) Measures are also being taken by Public Sector Steel Plant to increase sales and reduce stocks by fine-tuning the product-mix in terms of market requirements, improve quality through technology upgradation, interface with customers and adopt market driven pricing strategies etc.

[English]

Changes in DDA Flats

5356. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Committee has been set up by Delhi Development Authority for allowing the allottees to construct extra rooms and make changes in their DDA flats for solving the problems of space shortage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the composition of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) Vice-Chairman, DDA has approved constitution of a Technical Experts Committee to suggest feasibility of more covered area in DDA flats.

Following is the composition of the Committee:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Commissioner (II) | Chairman |
| 2. Addl. Chief Architect | Member |
| 3. Director (Bldg.) | Member |
| 4. S.E.(Design) | Member |
| 5. 2 representatives from Apex Association of DDA Colonies | Members |

Theft of Luggages

5357. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cases of luggage thefts at the New Delhi Railway Station are on the rise;
- (b) if so, the number of cases reported during the last three months; and
- (c) the steps taken to prevent the theft cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The responsibility of providing security to the passengers and their belongings at stations and in running trains vests with the concerned State Government, which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP).

However, the information received from the Delhi Railway Police through Chief Security Commissioner/RPF, Northern Railway, the number of theft luggage reported at New Delhi Railway Station during the last three months from April to June 1998 is as under:-

Period	No. of cases reported
April to June* 1998	117

(c) In order to ensure safety of passengers and their belongings during train journey, the Railway Administration have taken the following steps to help the GRP in checking criminal activities:-

1. RPF officers are holding regular co-ordination meetings with their counterparts of the GRP and Civil Police.
2. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.
3. The Railways have introduced the Instant Action Group (IAG) on superfast trains to prevent entry of unauthorised persons.
4. RPF staff assist the Government Railway Police for escorting of passenger trains.
5. Joint Strategies for dealing with anti-social elements operating on Railways have been chalked out by the GRP and RPF.

Development of Non-Forest Wastelands

5358. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

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

- (a) whether "Investment Promotional Scheme" to stimulate involvement of the corporate sector and financial institutions to pool in resources for development of non-forest wasteland was launched in 1994-95;
- (b) if so, the number of projects sanctioned under the scheme in each State; and
- (c) the details of Plan allocation, actual release and actual expenditure for the scheme during Eighth plan, year wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four projects were sanctioned during Eighth Plan under the Scheme in Tamil Nadu State.

(c) The details of information are given in the attached statement.

Statement

*Details of Yearwise Allocation during Eighth Plan
Period under Investment Promotional Scheme*

(Rs. Lakhs)					
Sl. No.	Year	Allocation	*Amount Approved	Release made	**Actual Expen.
1.	2	3	4	5	6.
1.	1994-95	100.00	34.09	7.20	-
2.	1995-96	200.00	74.12	13.81	30.8
3.	1996-97	100.00	-	0.84	8.97
TOTAL		400.00	108.21	21.85	39.77

* Total cost of project for 5 years including Bank Loan, Promoter's Contribution & Central Promotional Subsidy.

** Against Column No.4

Provision of Escalators at Railway Stations

5359.DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government propose to provide electronic escalators in the main railway stations in the country,

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

(c) the funds earmarked in this regard during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Construction of Airports by Private Sector Companies

5360. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private sector companies are kept to participate in the construction of some Domestic as well as International Airports in the country; and

(b) the details of the airports being constructed or proposed to be constructed by these private sector companies, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) So far no private company has shown interest in developing new domestic airport. However, private companies have shown interest in developing new airports of international standards at Bangalore, Goa and Mumbai.

(b) proposals of Tata Consortium for a new airport in Goa and M/s Bhagat Enterprises for an airport in Goa and M/s Mumbai Airport Alliance for the second airport at Mumbai have been received.

Assistance from European Commission for Civil Aviation

5361.DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the first time the European Commission has decided to provide assistance to India for development of aviation sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from the Commission of European Community for implementation of a programme of cooperation between European Industry and regulatory authorities and the Indian aviation industry and regulatory authorities in the field of aviation safety, air transport infrastructure development and aerospace industry collaboration. The programme envisages a series of workshops and seminars for senior/middle level and junior level officers in various disciplines.

[Translation]

Investment in Steel Sector

5362. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment made in the steel project in private sector indicating the percentage of contribution therein by indigenous companies and foreign parties;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any policy for investment in the private undertakings with a view to have financial control over them;

(c) whether production capacity of private sector is in consistent with the financial investment made in it, and

(d) the percentage of share holding of indigenous and foreign investors in each undertaking in private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) As per available information All Indian Financial Institutions have approved and sanctioned 19 steel plants involving an aggregate investment of around Rs. 25,000 crores since July, 1991. Of these, 6 units have since been commissioned representing an aggregate investment of about Rs. 6000 crores. Information on percentage contribution of indigeneous and foreign parties to this investment is not centrally monitored.

(b) No, Sir. Government policy is to encourage investment in the steel sector; not to have financial central over it.

(c) It is not expected that private sector would under take any investment without the same being techno-economically sound.

(d) Private sector undertakings are not required to seek Govt. approval for Foreign Direct Investment in the Iron & Steel Sector upto 74% equity participation. Information therefore is not available nor centrally monitored.

[English]

Water Supply Scheme for Guwahati

5363. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modified projects for water supply scheme for Guwahati Municipal Corporation and Greater Guwahati City have been submitted to the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) The Government of Assam has submitted a modified project proposal for water supply to Greater Guwahati at a revised estimated cost of Rs. 444.614 crores for obtaining assistance from the World Bank. The proposal has been recommended by the Union Government to the World Bank for loan assistance. The Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) in this Ministry have also communicated their technical comments to the State Government for appropriate action.

Attachment of Coach

5364. SHRI JUAL GRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the link compartment coming from Rourkela to Jharsuguda and joined with Superfast Sambalpur-Nizamuddin Express has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the time by which the attachment of above compartment will start again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to operational constraints.

(c) There is no proposal at present to restart the above mentioned service.

Cancellation of Trains in U.P.

5365. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the trains cancelled in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) the reasons for their cancellation;

(c) whether the Government propose to restore these trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Utilisation of Printing Machines

5366. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity utilisation and target set at the Government of India Presses during each of the last three years, Press-wise;

(b) the reasons for not achieving the targets during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to maximum utilisation of its capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No specific target for capacity utilisation has been set for the Government of India Presses. However, efforts are made to achieve 50-60 percent capacity utilisation every year.

A Statement indicating capacity utilisation in the Government of India Presses during the last three years is attached.

(b) The reasons for not achieving the desired capacity utilisation in the Government of India Presses are as follows:-

- (i) Erratic power supply/load shedding/low voltage;
- (ii) Natural wear and tear of machinery;
- (iii) Execution of short run jobs;
- (iv) Non-availability of every type of paper demanded by the clients.

(c) The steps taken for achieving the desired capacity utilisation in the Government of India Presses are as follows:-

- (i) Production of the Presses are monitored on a regular basis;
- (ii) Managers of the Presses are directed from time to time to ensure maximum utilisation of personnel and machinery;
- (iii) Efforts are on for modernisation of the Presses in a phased manner;
- (iv) Efforts are being made for providing adequate variety and quantities of printing paper to the Presses.

Statement

Capacity Utilisation in Govt. of India Presses

S. No.	Name of the Govt India Press	(Percentage)		
		Capacity	Utilisation	
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Minto Road (Letter Press)	33.96	49.69	42.69
2.	Minto Road (Photo Litho)	37.80	39.52	31.34
3.	Ring Road	27.02	49.92	41.41
4.	Nilokheri	45.36	36.39	31.19
5.	Gangtok	78.55	55.70	63.48
6.	Bhubaneswar	49.33	35.50	30.73
7.	Koratty	48.76	40.50	35.84
8.	Santragachi (Pub.)	19.78	28.34	17.33

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Santragachi (FU)	47.46	31.22	26.09
10.	Temple Street	50.48	45.35	30.43
11.	Aligarh	30.30	32.92	25.76
12.	Bombay	64.40	104.07	97.00
13.	Chandigarh	66.53	50.00	34.82
14.	Coimbatore	52.62	55.83	39.55
15.	Faridabad (Letter Press)	53.15	43.00	34.28
16.	Faridabad (Photo Litho)	34.49	28.43	17.01
17.	Mysore	50.68	45.71	44.16
18.	Nasik	44.55	40.35	29.74
19.	Shimla	49.45	52.07	57.49

Intractive Voice Response System

5367. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway Stations in Karnataka have been provided with Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS);

(b) whether the Government have fixed new norms for IVRS;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of Railway Stations proposed to be covered under the new norms of IVRS in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) One, Bangalore Railway Station.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The norms are:-

(i) the stations receiving more than 20,000 calls a day, there should be separate Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) for reservation related enquiries and for arrival/departure of trains;

(ii) the stations receiving less than 20,000 calls a day should have a combined IVRS for reservation and train running related enquiries.

(d) One, Mysore.

Autonomous Desert Council

5368. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to constitute "Autonomous Desert Council" is under consideration of the Union Government on the lines of the Council formed for North-Eastern Hill Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for discrimination with under-developed, backward and drought prone Thar Desert of Western Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGAUDA PATIL) : (a) So far as Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment is concerned, there is no proposal under consideration to constitute Autonomous Desert Council.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) To address special problems of desert areas, Desert Development Programme is being implemented in Rajasthan covering 85 blocks of 16 districts including Thar Desert areas. Therefore, question of discrimination does not arise.

Fund for Tanks

5369. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to allocate a substantial amount of funds for desilting the tanks in Kolar District of Karnataka during the current financial year 1998-99; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGAUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. A project proposal regarding desilting of tanks in Kolar district under the Innovative Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (Innovative JRY) at the cost of Rs. 300.00 lakhs has been received from State Government of Karnataka. No new project under innovative JRY have been taken up from 1997-98. However, the work of desilting of tanks is one of the permissible items, which can be taken up under normal wage employment programmes such as Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY) within the stipulated guidelines.

Freight Loading

5370. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are bearing the brunt of the economic slow down for the last one year,

(b) whether there has been a steady decline in the freight loading in the first quarter of 1998-99;

(c) whether 3000 wagons have been lying idle for the last three months; and

(d) if so, the steps Railways are considering to improve their freights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) During the year 1997-98 Indian Railways have almost achieved their loading target of 430 million tonnes set for the year by achieving a loading of 429.37 million tonnes of freight showing an incremental loading of 20.35 million tonnes over the previous year. Originating revenue earnings freight loading on Indian Railways in the 1st quarter of 1998-99 has registered a drop of about 7.24 million tonnes as compared to the target; and by 3.92 million tonnes as compared to the last year due to less offer of traffic from most of the core sectors of the economy.

(c) Due to less offer of traffic idling of wagons the level of which varies from time to time is inescapable.

(d) Drop in demand from the major core sectors of the economy which includes Power, coal, food grains, cement, fertiliser, steel and Petroleum has been responsible for the fall in the loading level. In this connection, Ministry of Railways is maintaining continuous close liaison both with the rail-user organisations as well as the concerned Ministries/Deptt. for maximising movement of traffic by rail. Also close monitoring is being done both at the field level as well as at the Railway Ministry to ensure smooth movement of freight traffic.

[Translation]

Corruption Case

5371. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :
SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI cases have been filed in the court of special Judge on the officers of BALCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the officer against whom the corruption case is pending in the Court has been assigned the additional charge of the Director (operation and Project) in BALCO;

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

(e) whether prior to 1989 the BALCO Plant was declared sick; and

(f) if so, the name of officer under whose directorship this plant earned profits and the years in which it got National & International Award?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 4 cases have been filed against the officers and sub-ordinate staff of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) relating to disproportionate assets and showing undue monetary favours through inflated/bogus measurements.

(c) and (d) No officer has been given additional charge of Director (Operation and Project). However, one charged officer has, as a part of general re-allocation of work and responsibilities for better performance, been given charge of the Korba Unit with some restriction on his financial powers.

(e) BALCO has never been declared sick.

(f) The Company has been earning profits consistently since 1987-88 and this is the result of team work.

[English]

Indian Airlines Flights to Foreign Destinations

5372. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign countries where Indian Airlines is operating its flights;

(b) whether the Government propose to further extend the Indian Airlines operations to foreign destinations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Indian Airlines is presently operating flights to Bangladesh, Bahrain, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan (through code-share), Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and UAE.

(b) to (d) Additional flights are mounted by Indian Airlines on the basis of their commercial judgement after

assessing the traffic requirements from time to time. The introduction of new/additional services will also depend on availability of traffic rights and the relative commercial benefit in inducting Indian Airlines or Air India.

IA Terminal at IGI Airport

5373. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether the opening of Terminal of IA at the Indira Gandhi International Airport has been postponed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the date by when the terminal is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The building has been commissioned on 2nd July, 1998 and is in use from 3rd JULY, 1998 onwards.

Private Airline on Mumbai Route

5374. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air service of private airlines on Mumbai route is completely unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints pertaining to cancellation of flights, punctuality etc. received by the Government during the last three years; and

(c) the result of the action taken/being taken by the government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) DGCA has not received any complaint regarding air services by private airlines on Mumbai route.

Pending Applications of Mining Lease

5375. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of applications for mining lease particularly iron and manganese in Orissa are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to clear those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Mining Leases are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder by the State Governments concerned. Proposals for approval of Mining Leases for

minerals specified under the First Schedule of the aforesaid Act which include both iron ore and manganese ore originate from the respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of by the Central Government as per provisions of law. All efforts are being made to expedite approval of Central Government. In certain cases the proposals received from the State Government are incomplete and consequently, in such cases, State Government are asked to furnish complete information/ additional information for disposal.

31 mineral concessions including 20 mining leases of iron ore and manganese ore pertaining to the State of Orissa were disposed off by the Central Government during the year 1997-98. As on 20.7.1998 eight (8) cases for grant of mining lease are pending for approval of Central Government including 4 mining lease cases of manganese ore and iron ore.

[Translation]

Fraudulent Recruitment in Army in M.P.

5376. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of rupees are being extorted from the unemployed youths in Jabalpur, M.P. for recruiting them in the Army in connivance with some defence personnel;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken or proposed to be taken to check such immoral practices?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A case of a defence personnel who is alleged to have accepted money from a civilian for enrolment in the Army has been reported to the Government. The matter is under investigation.

[English]

Increase of Passengers between Guwahati and Delhi

5377. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of passengers have increased manifold between Guwahati and New Delhi in the recent years; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. There

is only a slight increase in the number of passengers by 3.3% on an average, in last three years.

(b) In order to provide additional accommodation to passengers the loads of trains have been increased to feasible extent. The frequency of Rajdhani Express was also increased from once a week to thrice a week w.e.f 26.1.1996. Besides, special trains are also arranged during the summer holidays, festivals and other holiday seasons.

Powers to Panchayati Raj in Orissa

5378. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Government of Orissa has not given the total powers to the Zilla Parishad Member, Samity Member and Sarpanch for smooth running of Panchayati Raj;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps, the Government taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) Article 243G of the Constitution of India reads:

"243G. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level, subject to the conditions as may be specified therein, with respect to :

(a) the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice;

(b) the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule."

Devolution of powers to the PRIs is the prerogative of the State Governments. The States/UTs have devolved power in varying degrees and the process is a continuing one. The Government is aware that total powers have not been devolved to the panchayati Raj institutions at various levels. The Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment are persuading all the States/UTs to devolve powers to the PRIs as envisaged in the Constitution 73rd Amendment and Act 40 of 1996. This request has been recently reiterated in the conferences of Chief Ministers, State Ministers for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj and State Secretaries for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj held by this Ministry. This Ministry has also constituted a

high level Task Force to continually monitor the progress of devolution of powers upon Panchayati Raj institutions.

Crowd at Bangalore City Railway Station

5379. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of trains are departing from and arriving at Bangalore City railway station daily; and
- (b) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid heavy crowds at the Bangalore City railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) At present, 38 pairs of daily and 8 pairs of nondaily trains are arriving/ departing from Bangalore.

(b) To avoid heavy crowds, stoppages of trains have been provided at other stations within Bangalore suburban limits, such as Bangalore cantonment, Bangalore East, Yeshwantpur, Malleswaram and Krishnarajapuram.

Doubling of Kolar and Bangarpet Railway Line

5380. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the doubling of Railway line between Kolar and Fangarpet is still pending;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the above work is likely to be started and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. Doubling of Kolar-Bangarpet is not a sanctioned work.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Colonies in Agra

5381. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh State Government has submitted any proposal to the Union Government to provide financial assistance for the Development of Basties (Colonies) in Agra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any financial assistance in this regard during each of the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No proposal has been received by the Union Government from Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding financial assistance for the development of Basties in Agra.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Rent Dues Towards MP

5382. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether huge rent amount is outstanding against Members and Ex-Members of Parliament on account of the Government accommodation occupied by them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the date since when these arrears are pending; and
- (d) the steps the Government are taking to recover the dues with interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Cost of Production at R.S.P.

5383. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the cost of production per unit ton of steel prior to and after modernisation in Rourkela Steel Plant;
- (b) whether the production of steel by one labour is the lowest in Rourkela Steel Plant; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) A 19.25% reduction in the cost of production of Saleable Steel has been envisaged in the approved revised cost estimates (1992 Prices) of the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) Modernisation project.

(b) Among the four Integrated Steel Plants of SAIL, RSP's labour productivity is the lowest at present.

(c) The main reasons for low productivity in RSP, inter-alia, include excess manpower and low utilisation of the production capacity, etc.

The remedial steps taken in this regard include restriction in recruitment, retraining and redeployment of

manpower, introduction of productive work practices, introduction of a voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), and efforts for early stabilisation of modernised units for increase in capacity utilisation, etc.

Rural Youth Employment Training Programme

5384. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to start the Rural Youth Employment Training programme;

(b) if so, the names of States, where the above said programme is proposed to be started at first; and

(c) the number of youth likely to be benefited through this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) There is no proposal to start a Rural Youth Employment Training Programme. However this Ministry is implementing the Scheme of Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM). The Scheme aims at providing the basic technical and managerial skills to rural youth from families below poverty line to enable them to take up self employment and wage employment in the broad fields of agriculture and allied sectors, industries, services and business activities. Under this scheme assistance is also given to the States for setting up of Exclusive TRYSEM Training Centres (ETTCs) in blocks deficient in training infrastructure.

(b) TRYSEM Scheme is being implemented p 1 in all the States.

(c) The number of Youth benefited under TRYSEM Scheme during the last three years is given below:

Year	No. of Youth Trained
1995-96	2,91,450
1996-97	3,64,337
1997-98	2,46,353
Total	9,02,140

Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons

5385. SHRI UPENDRANATH NAYAR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that large number of people mostly tribals of district Keonjhar, Orissa

have been displaced from their original land due to major iron ore mines and other mines, and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to rehabilitate/compensate the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Extension of Lal Dora

5386. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced the extension of Lal Dora in rural villages of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Lal Dora has also been extended in village Kair, New Delhi-43;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have received representation from Scheduled Caste community of village Kair for not giving land to them against the common land of the "Gram Sabha"; and

(g) if so, the action taken against the erring officers responsible for not distributing the land to the Scheduled Caste people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected from the Government of NCT of Delhi and shall be placed on the Table of the House when received.

Rural Development Projects

5387. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased be state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any Rural Development projects for approval by the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the projects still pending with the Government;

(c) the reasons for their pendency; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA

PATIL) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Quota for the Members of Parliament
Under IAY**

5388. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has requested the Union Government to grant 30 percent quota for the Members of Parliament under the Indira Awas Yojna;

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is liked to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of Bihar has requested the Union Government to approve the different pending schemes of Bhagalpur district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Misappropriation of Fund

5389. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that vigilance raids have been conducted in Balasora district of Orissa

with regard to the misappropriation of funds from various Rural Development Works; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

[Translation]

Jeevandhara Scheme

5390. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided by the Union Government during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 to the farmers in Madhya Pradesh under the Jeevandhara scheme, district-wise;

(b) the number of wells, power pumps and electricity connections out of them provided; and

(c) if so, the details of number of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) The district-wise physical and financial performance under Million Wells Scheme (MWS) in respect of Madhya Pradesh during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in the statement I and II respectively. Energisation of wells, through pumpsets or electrification is not a permissible activity under Million Wells Scheme. Energisation of MWS wells under other programmes is not monitored.

Statement-I

Physical and Financial performance under MWS during 1996-97

State : Madhya Pradesh

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	District	O.B. as on 1.4.96	ALLOCATION			RELEASE			Expenditure	No. of wells Constructed
			Centre	State Share	Total	Centre	State Share	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Morelia	26.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.29	288
2.	Bhind	0.00	30.48	7.62	38.10	30.48	7.62	38.10	43.17	266
3.	Gwalior	21.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.83	90
4.	Datia	20.09	36.54	9.14	45.68	27.28	6.82	34.10	20.39	74
5.	Shivpuri	28.54	27.93	6.98	34.91	13.96	3.49	17.45	60.04	132
6.	Guna	57.81	143.60	35.90	179.50	71.80	17.95	89.75	35.33	369

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7.	Tikamgarh	11.99	106.10	26.53	132.63	86.04	21.51	107.55	51.49	153
8.	Chhatarpur	5.89	80.94	20.24	101.18	71.09	17.77	88.86	63.56	609
9.	Panna	28.20	19.92	4.98	24.90	9.95	2.49	12.44	22.84	134
10.	Sagar	4.45	191.71	47.93	239.64	95.85	23.96	119.81	85.67	738
11.	Damoh	0.00	92.31	23.08	115.39	92.31	23.08	115.39	94.87	221
12.	Satna	16.55	169.98	42.50	212.48	137.16	34.29	171.45	81.69	336
13.	Rewa	55.81	98.56	24.64	123.20	75.51	18.88	94.39	35.70	194
14.	Shahdol	0.00	181.10	45.28	226.38	181.10	45.28	226.38	124.67	717
15.	Sidhi	64.78	78.90	19.73	98.63	39.45	9.86	49.31	108.14	351
16.	Mandsaur	35.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.49	3
17.	Ratlam	149.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.60	158
18.	Ujjain	9.14	72.67	18.17	90.84	36.34	9.09	45.43	24.80	234
19.	Shajapur	0.00	81.47	20.37	101.84	40.74	10.19	50.93	62.59	214
20.	Dewas	9.85	70.32	17.58	87.90	55.28	13.82	69.10	52.58	188
21.	Jhabua	20.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.73	441
22.	Dhar	273.68	7.62	1.91	9.53	3.81	0.95	4.76	262.63	470
23.	Indore	8.67	77.41	19.35	96.76	66.01	16.50	82.51	56.42	52
24.	W. Nimar (Khargone)	65.29	156.86	39.72	196.08	87.79	21.95	109.74	80.99	917
25.	E. Nimar (Khandwa)	60.30	163.78	40.95	204.73	163.78	40.95	204.73	105.82	622
26.	Raigarh	45.04	65.76	15.44	82.20	32.88	8.22	41.10	65.50	79
27.	Vidisha	33.27	105.94	26.49	132.43	90.16	22.54	112.70	89.00	243
28.	Bhopal	36.22	41.14	10.29	51.43	20.57	5.14	25.71	45.71	224
29.	Sehore	25.17	91.13	22.78	113.91	91.13	22.78	113.91	24.47	170
30.	Raisen	0.00	134.30	33.56	167.88	134.30	33.58	167.88	53.95	305
31.	Betul	78.79	112.03	28.01	140.04	56.02	14.01	79.03	91.07	413
32.	Hoshangabad	32.98	138.79	34.70	173.49	138.79	34.70	173.49	133.61	487
33.	Jabalpur	7.10	91.15	22.79	113.94	54.80	13.70	68.50	137.50	465
34.	Narsimhapur	33.63	50.48	12.62	63.10	34.38	8.60	42.98	14.73	307
35.	Mandla	29.97	146.45	36.61	183.06	146.45	36.61	183.06	186.68	1255
36.	Chhindwara	41.93	204.26	51.07	255.33	197.20	49.30	246.50	75.26	638
37.	Seoni	80.89	77.94	19.49	97.43	45.32	11.33	56.65	130.80	299
38.	Balaghat	36.73	87.30	21.83	109.13	43.65	10.91	54.56	45.85	381
39.	Surguja	25.18	80.00	20.00	100.00	40.00	10.00	50.00	187.56	834

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
40.	Bilaspur	41.14	355.95	88.99	444.94	314.89	78.72	393.61	194.00	1073
41.	Raigarh	0.00	181.49	45.37	226.86	90.74	22.69	113.43	74.74	980
42.	Rajnandgaon	74.30	247.44	61.86	309.30	247.44	61.86	309.30	248.86	379
43.	Durg	53.34	122.02	30.51	152.53	122.02	30.51	152.53	54.85	331
44.	Raipur	75.32	146.35	36.59	182.94	133.66	33.42	167.08	153.95	794
45.	Baster	341.13	33.57	8.39	41.96	16.78	4.20	20.98	242.15	1030
Total		2067.41	4401.69	1100.42	5502.11	3436.91	859.23	4296.14	3864.37	18658

Statement - II

District wise Physical and Financial performance under MWS during 1997-98

State : Madhya Pradesh

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	District	O.B. as on 1.4.97	ALLOCATION			RELEASE			Expenditure	No. of Wells Constructed
			Centre	State Share	Total	Centre	State Share	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Morena	19.67	98.87	24.72	123.59	94.05	23.51	117.56	131.79	653
2.	Bhind	124.88	217.45	54.36	271.81	108.73	27.18	135.91	145.68	804
3.	Gwalior	53.79	116.87	29.22	146.09	156.65	29.06	185.71	190.03	432
4.	Datia	0.00	22.26	5.57	27.83	22.26	9.38	31.64	25.57	157
5.	Shivpuri	39.40	4.81	1.20	6.01	2.40	0.60	3.00	11.06	43
6.	Gunna	386.93	297.03	74.26	371.29	278.52	37.13	315.65	425.80	852
7.	Tikamgarh	32.90	73.65	18.41	92.06	65.11	16.27	81.38	75.91	676
8.	Chhatarpur	124.78	156.62	39.16	195.78	106.11	19.58	125.69	224.91	402
9.	Panna	26.42	86.96	21.74	108.70	86.96	21.74	108.70	115.66	664
10.	Sagar	21.22	32.112	8.03	40.14	16.05	3.70	19.75	36.65	230
11.	Damoh	86.65	50.648	12.66	63.31	43.03	15.79	58.82	137.50	484
12.	Satna	51.25	15.83	3.96	19.79	7.91	1.98	9.89	61.78	235
13.	Rewa	243.29	128.68	32.17	160.85	64.33	16.08	80.41	79.40	407
14.	Shahdol	0.00	78.44	19.61	98.05	99.66	19.60	119.26	83.97	301
15.	Sidhi	14.89	17.944	4.49	22.43	17.94	2.89	20.83	18.15	52
16.	Mandsaur	55.07	106.76	26.69	133.45	97.41	13.35	110.76	179.93	788
17.	Ratlam	17.85	22.656	5.66	28.32	20.40	11.79	32.19	27.82	4
18.	Ujjain	44.72	175.07	43.77	218.84	222.10	38.25	260.35	219.70	1149
19.	Shajapur	0.00	31.69	7.92	39.61	31.69	7.92	39.61	14.86	189
20.	Dewas	94.81	100.97	25.24	126.21	66.07	16.52	82.59	133.40	838
21.	Jhabua	218.92	25.416	6.35	31.77	12.72	3.17	15.89	141.88	538

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
22.	Dhar	100.26	242.42	60.61	303.03	198.83	49.70	248.53	198.86	827
23.	Indore	0.00	14.792	3.70	18.49	14.79	3.78	18.57	13.90	0
24.	W. Nimar (Khargone)	34.45	13.5	3.38	16.88	12.15	3.04	15.19	34.40	279
25.	E. Nimar (Khandwa)	27.55	52.45	13.11	65.56	39.01	9.74	48.75	39.50	215
26.	Rajgarh	19.54	19.59	4.90	24.49	13.03	3.26	16.29	16.38	175
27.	Vidisha	22.12	253.91	63.48	317.39	126.95	31.74	158.69	103.88	442
28.	Bhopal	68.95	287.12	71.78	358.90	143.57	35.89	179.46	203.31	1386
29.	Sehore	83.94	95.84	23.96	119.80	62.27	14.30	76.57	61.57	478
30.	Raisen	19.93	62.17	15.54	77.71	54.45	13.61	68.06	80.09	300
31.	Betul	38.97	214.93	53.73	268.66	214.93	48.77	263.70	109.20	467
32.	Hoshaniabad	136.96	14.296	3.57	17.87	7.15	1.79	8.94	19.77	57
33.	Jabalpur	70.42	94.94	23.74	118.68	47.47	11.88	59.35	19.50	56
34.	Narsimhapur	0.00	31.84	7.96	39.80	31.84	7.96	39.80	22.40	207
35.	Mandla	0.00	301.23	75.31	376.54	301.23	75.29	376.52	118.95	1214
36.	Chhindwara	37.82	171.43	42.86	214.29	85.72	33.50	119.22	118.52	403
37.	Seoni	68.63	85.232	21.31	106.54	53.11	10.65	63.76	112.51	409
38.	Balaghat	33.34	31.04	7.76	38.80	15.52	3.88	19.40	35.34	141
39.	Surguja	185.39	233.36	58.34	291.70	116.68	29.17	145.85	187.54	470
40.	Bilaspur	5.14	37.38	9.35	46.73	33.65	8.41	42.06	41.54	110
41.	Raigarh	0.38	52.93	13.23	66.16	52.93	13.24	66.17	65.74	241
42.	Rajnandgaon	110.32	89.92	22.48	112.40	44.95	11.24	56.19	100.16	480
43.	Durg	66.77	11.28	2.82	14.10	5.64	1.41	7.05	55.70	327
44.	Raipur	29.25	61.58	16.30	76.98	47.27	11.82	59.09	80.27	272
45.	Bastar	73.59	67.77	18.94	84.71	33.88	8.47	42.35	82.80	175
Total		2891.16	4401.688	1100.42	5502.11	3377.12	778.03	4155.15	4403.28	19029

[English]

**New Strategy for attracting Youths
Towards Army**

5391. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Armed Forces have prepared a new strategy called the Human Resource Development Doctrine to attract the youths and the best talents for army services;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Army has prepared a 'Human Resource Development Doctrine' to attract the youth to join the Army. No such Doctrine has been prepared by the Navy and the Air Force. The Army Doctrine has suggested refinement in the recruitment procedure, advertising and image building campaign and improvement in pre-induction training in various institutions. The Army has already launched Image Projection Campaign with a view to motivate youth to join the Army. Refinement in recruiting

procedure have also been undertaken. The other steps as are considered feasible and necessary are also being taken by the Army in pursuance of their Doctrine.

[Translation]

Additional Assistance and Foreign Aid for RDP

5392. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government of Bihar has sought additional central assistance and foreign aid for several rural development projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Bihar has requested the Union Government to accord approval for foreign assistance from Japan or any other country for development of deforested waste land in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the state Government of Bihar and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Approach Roads with World Bank Assistance

5393. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has formulated any scheme with the assistance of World Bank for providing basic facilities in the State;

(b) if so, whether approach roads would be constructed in all villages far away from the main roads in Maharashtra under this scheme; and

(c) if so, the latest position of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The Government of Maharashtra has submitted proposal to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance for seeking World Bank Assistance for strengthening of rural roads.

(b) and (c) The proposal had been submitted by Ministry of Finance to Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment for comments recently and is being scrutinised.

Sick Iron-Ore Mines

5394. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the sick iron-ore mines in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government propose to revive those mine; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) There is no provision in the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 for furnishing information by the mine owners on sick mines.

(b) and (c) Government has no specific scheme for revival of mines which have closed or temporarily discontinued. However, where the closure is due to lack of demand, it is felt that steps taken to liberalise the economy and increase in industrial production would result in increasing demand for minerals and to make operations of such mines economical.

Vikramshila Express between Bhagalpur-Delhi

5395. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a time-table had been brought out for running Vikramshila Express between Bhagalpur and Delhi and Intercity Express between Bhagalpur and Patna last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and how far the change in time table is meeting the demand of the public;

(c) whether the Upper India Express has been converted into Mughalsarai Passenger train;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether there is no train on this line to reach Delhi;

(e) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether three Deoghar bound trains running on Jasiddeh railway line have also been discontinued, causing inconvenience to the passengers; and

(g) if so, the steps being taken to re-start the said trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Upper India Express now terminates at Mughalsarai serving Mughalsarai and Sealdah as 3133/3134 Mughalsarai-Sealdah Express.

(d) 3483/3484 and 3413/3414 Farakka Express and 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail run via Sahibganj loop to Delhi.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[English]

Phasing out of MIG

5396. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ambitious upgradation programme of MIG from the 90's has been abandoned in view of the recent decision taken by the Government for phasing out MIG in future; and

(b) if so, whether New Aircraft are to be inducted in the airforce in place of MIG?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some old variants of MIG are, however, planned to be phased out in next 4-5 years. These are planned to be replaced by state-of-the-art multirole aircraft.

Aircraft Hanger Collapsed at IAF Station, Bangalore

5397. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aircraft Hanger under construction at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bangalore has collapsed;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted to find out the causes of the collapse; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) While construction of steel hangar comprising 15 steel trusses on reinforced concrete columns with steel sheet roofing was in progress at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, the first truss toppled on 18 June 1998, and came down pulling the second truss alongwith it. This accident caused damage to the supporting columns in turn. An order has been passed for fixing responsibility without delay for the structural collapse.

White Paper on Railway Projects

5398. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to issue white paper on the status of various projects being implemented by the Railways; and

(b) if so, the time by which the white paper is likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The white paper is proposed to be laid in both the Houses during the Current Session of Parliament.

Additional Forces in Tripura

5399. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tripura has requested the Union Government for deployment of additional forces in the State in view of the increasing activities of the extremists; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The deployment of forces in the Counter Insurgency Grid which has been set up to combat insurgency in the entire North East region is done in accordance with the assessment of threat and the determined priorities and depends on security situation obtaining in the region as a whole and the availability of the forces. Accordingly, the security forces have been made available to the State of Tripura to assist them to maintain public order, taking into account the overall situation obtaining in the entire North East region and the availability of forces. There is presently no plan to deploy additional forces in Tripura.

Compensation for Displaced persons of Sea Bird Project, Karnataka

5400. SHRI H. G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for rehabilitation and payment of compensation for displaced families of Sea Bird project of Defence in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to take up the work of rehabilitation of these displaced people soon, and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 25.3619 crores towards rehabilitation of Project displaced families (PDFs) and payment of compensation has already been paid in full by the Central Government to the State Government. In addition, a sum of Rs. 25.01 crores has also been paid to the State Government towards the cost of land being acquired. The work of rehabilitation has to be done by the State Government authorities which is under progress. Therefore, taking up the work of rehabilitation by Government of India does not arise.

Standard of Sainik Schools

5401. DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken to improve the standard of sainik schools and other Indian military colleges which are imparting training to the young officers for the army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : The Sainik Schools, the Military Schools and the Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun are meant to provide general education (upto Class XII level) to the boys and to prepare them for entry into the National Defence Academy. However, the boys are required to compete with other general candidates to get entry into National Defence Academy. The following measures have been taken to improve the standard of these institutions:-

- (i) introduction of computer education;
- (ii) in-service training programme for teacher;
- (iii) motivational visits to defence institutions; and
- (iv) special coaching for NDA examination.

Prior to their commission as officers in the army, cadets are imparted training at the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun and the Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai. At the IMA, cadets passing out from NDA and the graduates directly recruited for joining the Indian Army, are imparted training. Short Service Commission officers are trained at OTA. Some important steps undertaken to improve training at the precommission training institutions of the army are as follows:-

- (i) introduction of modern training aids.
- (ii) lectures by guest speakers;
- (iii) emphasis on adventure, motivation and leadership, and
- (iv) imparting cultural awareness to promote nation building among the cadets.

Development of Kochi Airport by A.I.

5402. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India proposes to invest in Kochi Airport;
- (b) if so, the details of the diversification plans;
- (c) whether any other airport is proposed to be taken over;
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India has a plan to invest Rupees 5 crores towards equity capital of Cochin International Airport Limited which is implementing the project of Construction, operation and maintenance of a new airport at Cochin.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Statement Correcting the Answer to Unstarred question No. 2398 dated 11.6.98 regarding out of turn allotment of DDA Flat asked by Shri Ramdas Athawale

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : In the statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Question Cited above, in reply to Part (a) of the Question, for the words:-

"DDA has reported that during the last 5 years, 524 flats were allotted on out of turn basis as per the area-wise details given below."

it may be read as under:-

"DDA has reported that during the last 5 years, 524 flats were allotted on out of turn basis as per the year-wise details given below."

2. The typographical mistake crept in inadvertently and the inconvenience caused to the Sabha is regretted.

Statement Correcting the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 3289 dated 9.7.98 regarding strength of Engineers in DDA

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : In the statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Question cited above, at S.No. 6, total number of Executive Engineer (C) was indicated as "17" in column 3 of that statement. The figure "17" may be read as "117".

2. The typographical mistake crept in inadvertently and the inconvenience caused to the Sabha is regretted.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Ltd. Mumbai for the year 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Limited, Mumbai, for year 1995-96.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Air India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1331/98]

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Railway Sports Control Board, New Delhi for the year 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Railway Sports Control Board, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Railway Sports Control Board, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1332/98]

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. New Delhi etc.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1333/98]

- (3) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 5 of 1998) for the year ended the 31st March, 1997 (Commercial) Hindustan Copper Limited, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1334/98]

Annual Reports, Annual Accounts and Review by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad for the year 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the national Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1335/98]

12.02 hrs.

**Re : Filing Appeal in the Supreme Court
against Stay Order of Calcutta High Court
on Calling of Army by CBI for making
arrest of the then Chief
Minister of Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier a question was raised before this house. The CBI had tried to take help from the Army to arrest the hon. Member Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav. A letter to this effect had also been written to the Army authorities. The Union Government had also initiated action against the officers concerned in this regard. After the verdict given by the Court it was submitted in this House that there was a need to seek legal opinion in this regard and file an appeal in the Supreme Court before 12th August. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had stated in the House that the House would be apprised in this regard after obtaining the legal advice. The legal advice is yet to be obtained in the case in regard to departmental action against Dr. Vishwas in pursuance of the verdict of the Calcutta High Court. As per the rules, an appeal can be made in this regard in the Supreme Court by 12th August 1998. The Government should take a decision in this regard at the earliest after getting the legal opinion in this case. So far as we know a legal opinion has since been received in this regard which favours making an appeal in the higher court. 12th August is nearing. So, the Union Government should take prompt action in this regard. If the Hon. Minister apprises this House of the factual position of the Government in this regard, that would help us in pursuing the matter.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, let us say something why we are concerned about it ... (Interruptions)

On the last occasion, when it was discussed on the floor of the House, we emphasised the importance of the principle involved, not the personality so much. Unfortunately, the over-emphasis on the personality involved is giving a wrong impression of the whole situation. But the principal question which is involved here is whether a civilian authority - and an investigating authority for that matter - without any constitutional or legal power, can summon the Military and whether a judicial authority like a High Court Judge can give supposed overall permission empowering the investigating authority to call the Army.

The use of the Army in a democratic country is left to very well-chosen, well-defined and well-identified people. Anybody and everybody cannot take recourse to the Army.

The Army is an institution. Specially, we are very happy and proud of the Indian Army. We have been saying for a very long time that it should not be utilised for purposes for which it is not meant. It is for defending us. We have very excellent and laudable examples when the Army people have come forward to help in cases of natural calamities and natural disasters.

The whole country has appreciated their efforts. Therefore, it is a matter of great concern and principle whether this can be done. Now, unfortunately, this question has become involved with the disciplinary proceedings. The Calcutta High Court has given a judgement on which this aspect has not been noted fully. With all respects to the Judges of the Calcutta High Court, just a casual observation has been made as if he has got the authority to call the Army.

Therefore, it is neat and proper that the highest Court of this country, the apex court should give its considered view on this matter. Unless the Government takes it, there is no other party to these proceedings. Unless the Government takes it to the Supreme Court, it will have no occasion to deal with this question. The Government said that they are taking the opinion. I think, they are taking the opinion of the Attorney-General. I do not know whether they like the views of the Attorney-General on this or of somebody else. Whatever we have come to know — I do not know whether it is right or wrong — that shows that the Attorney-General's opinion is to go in for an appeal. If that is so, it is the duty of the Government to accept the opinion or at least take the House into confidence about the Government's understanding of this situation. Do they permit for narrow political purposes, to prop up this outfit that they will ignore a very serious issue or a matter of principle? If that is so, then it will be a very sad day.

I am requesting the Government to please try to dissociate from the question of personalities involved and take this as a matter of high importance and principle. The Government, in any event, should have responded to our request on appeal. It is absolutely essential that the matter be tested. Last time, our former Home Minister Shri Gupta had made certain submissions. They still remain extremely important even today. Therefore, I request the Government to take a very positive decision on what is happening.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were constrained to raise this matter during the Question hour simply because the stipulated last date for making an appeal in this case is 12th August. I personally met the officials and the Minister concerned and made a request to them in this regard but they have not yet filed any appeal. That is why with a hope to get

justice through you, we were constrained to make interruptions during the Question Hour. You are requested not to take it otherwise. The Leader of Opposition Shri Sharad Pawar and Shri Somnath Chatterjee have stated all the points in detail. As this case is related to Shri Lalu Yadav, people might not have filed any appeal in this case. As barely two or three days are left for this session to conclude, we seek justice from you and we are hopeful that we will get justice from you.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make one more submission. This is not a question concerning Shri Lalu Yadav but despite my personal request they are not ready to file an appeal. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had stated that a legal opinion would be sought in this case and that opinion has since been obtained. We are sure about it and there are also reports that the Attorney General has already given his opinion to the Government that an appeal should be made in this case. Still the Government is not filing an appeal.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of seeking the help of Army is concerned, this proposal had come before me when I was the Defence Minister. The Army cannot be used for arresting any person in such cases. Shri Chatterjee had also mentioned this fact. Not only in India, but throughout the world our Army has acted in a respectable manner and took care of the human rights. It was never hesitant in safeguarding humanity and always upheld humane values.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I make an appeal to you to use your good offices and direct the Government to make an announcement that they would file an appeal before 12th August ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum) : It has been justified by the High Court of Calcutta ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is giving a reply, please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Sir, you should allow Members from this side also. It should not be from only one side ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) (U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this incident took place, it rented the air throughout the country and most of the people were of the opinion that the CBI officials transgressed their limits. This is also a fact that at that time the army officers had refused to accede to their request. This statement is also true that the Patna High Court had directed the CBI to seek help from the Army. Well, the officers of the army

were also of the opinion that it was beyond their competence. In these circumstances it was clear that one particular officer of CBI had crossed his limits. I am not aware of the decision given by the Calcutta High Court. I do not want to dwell upon their decision but the point which has been just now raised by Shri Somnath Chatterjee is more important. If the police personnel resort to taking the help of the army, then the whole set up of this country would crumble down. There are many other ways to seek the help of the army. In case the Chief Minister was not calling the army, the Governor was there to do so. The Defence Minister is there, The Home Ministry is there. This work could have been done through these channels but if any police officer directly approaches, the army, that constitutes an unpardonable offence. I do not know on what basis the Calcutta High Court maintained that they should not be awarded any punishment for doing so. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I urge upon the Government not to allow such onslaughts on the Constitution while dealing with certain people. All the people, be they politicians or bureaucrats, they should be made to act strictly within the frame work of the Constitution and in case there are any cases of violation of Constitutional provisions, such cases must be decided by the Supreme Court I am sure the hon. Minister Mr. Khurana will rise above all the trivial things and dwell upon the basic question.

[English]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, there are two issues involved. One is, as Shri Chandra Shekhar has rightly pointed out, whether the military should have been called or not. It is a debatable issue. There can be two different opinions on that.

There is a second issue, of filing an appeal. Daily in different High Courts, decisions are given where the Government of India is a party.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister is ready to give a reply. Please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, I am concluding.

Then we have to file an appeal. After the decision of the High Court, the case goes to the Attorney-General or the Solicitor-General. He gives his opinion. Till date, the information given by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav or the Leader of the Opposition, to my information and knowledge, is not correct. Till date, the Attorney-General or the Solicitor-General has not given his opinion ...*(Interruptions)*. Let me speak ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is present here. What is this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : We should not pressurise whether the appeal has to be filed or not. The decision should be taken on merits. Shri Chandra Shekhar has said that 'the military should not have been called'. But why does he not say this also that 'if the arrest warrants are issued against a Chief Minister, why should not the Chief Minister go and surrender peacefully? Why should he await an arrest?' ...*(Interruptions)*. These are also the important issues to be taken note of.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. friends said that *[English]* "there is no political motive." I, therefore, would like to make it clear that whatever has been said about the Army and the matter which we are going to decide here, is purely a legal matter.

[Translation]

The point is whether appeal should be made against the orders of the High Court. Contrary to what he said, as per my information the opinion of the Attorney General has not yet been received ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri) : Please obtain the report ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat, let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : As per my information the Attorney General has not yet given his opinion. The Government would take a decision only after they receive the opinion of the Attorney General. I know that the last date for filing an appeal is 12th August. The Government is aware of it. The Government will take a decision well before the last date on the basis of the legal opinion. It will not act purely on the basis of a political motive ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have not called you, I have called Prof. Rita Verma.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few days back ten people were killed and 13 seriously injured by Naxalites in Atkadeeh village of Girdeeh district which is adjacent to my Parliamentary Constituency in Bihar. But so far no action has been taken by Bihar

Government in this incident and due to that the people in that area are in terror. Still the Naxalites are openly declaring that that was only the first round of killing spree and soon a second round would start ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : On the one hand, while villagers are under the grip of terror and finding themselves totally unsafe, on the other some people are feeling restless and eagerly waiting for an opportunity to take a bloody vengeance. You can very well imagine as to what kind of situation would be created if people of both the sides resort to exchanging fire. The manner in which the Naxalites are accomplishing their gory feats one after another gives an impression that the Government machinery has totally failed there. It is said that two years ago the nexalites of this area had gone to Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh to receive training in blood shedding. Now they have come back and indulging in massacre ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

12.18 hrs.

At this stage Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jhaniaharpur) and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table of the House.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : On the other hand the Bihar Government has turned a deaf ear to all these incidents and doing nothing to give succour to the victims. The Police personnel deployed there to ensure safety of the people have proved totally ineffective and helpless to contain the situation ...*(Interruptions)*

The Police is incapable of protecting the people and it is also scared of Naxalities. The people are aware of the fact that the Police cannot protect them from Naxalites. In fact in Tundi region of Girdeeh district in Southern Bihar Naxalites are running a parallel Government but the Rabri Government which claims to be the champion of social justice is not paying any heed to this menace. In fact, jungle rule is prevailing there. The High Court is also of the opinion the jungle law is prevalent there.

*Not Recorded.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make an appeal to you to dismiss Bihar Government and impose the President's Rule there without any further delay, otherwise the people there will continue to live in terror with apprehensions of yet bigger massacre taking place there at any moment.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few days back a very indecent incident took place in this House wherein some Members joined together and insulted the hon. Speaker ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats ...*(Interruptions)*. You please go to your seats first. I am asking you to please go back to your seats. What is this? All the time you are disturbing the House. I am appealing to you to go back to your seats. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is this the way to behave in the House?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of that they are threatening to stall the proceedings of the House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the proceedings of the House stop simply because they are threatening to stall the proceedings. Sir, they should be expelled from the House ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to stall the proceedings of the House?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is this the way to behave?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

12.22 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jhanjharpur) and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, now it is for you and the House to decide as to how the proceedings of the House would be conducted if these Hon. Members continued going to the well of the House time and again. I humbly request these Hon. Members to avoid going to the well of the House, every now and then with a view to stalling the proceedings of the House. If they continue this practice, I tell them that we will not allow them to act on their fanciful impulses.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. I have allowed Shri Sharma to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I have allowed Shri Sharma to speak. After he finishes, I will allow you to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bills are passed in a democratic manner. They are free to voice their objections at the introductory stage. Even thereafter they can raise objections and give amendments while the bill is being passed. But it is not fair to give a clear cut threat that they would stall the proceedings of the House if the Bill is not brought in the shape they desire it. This year we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Independence, so at least this year, in order to save the dignity of the House we should stick to our commitments and respect the apologies we tendered. We should not back track from our commitments so that such indecent incidents do not take place every now and then. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a simple point. So far as coming to the well of the House is concerned. I do not consider it good ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I have given a notice to raise a very urgent matter. *(Interruptions)* I want to know what happened to my notice. Much of the time of the House is taken up by senior Members like Shri Lalu Prasad and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker Sir, who is forcing us to do this. One thing should be made clear that within one or two days the Government should take legal opinion and arrive at a decision and let us know

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

Khuranaji, you have been a Chief Minister and we have also been in the Government. If legal opinion is to be taken it can be taken within one hour. Therefore we should be told about it till tomorrow whether an opinion would be taken on it or not. If you do not tell us about it, then we would be forced to ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, let me make one thing clear ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker Sir, they are calling us indisciplined. Those who are themselves indisciplined, how will they teach discipline to others. They should be expelled from the House ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh, the hon. Minister in giving a reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh, please sit down. The hon. Minister is giving a reply. Please listen to him.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Shri Mulayam Singh ji has rightly said that I was the Chief Minister and he has been the Minister of defence and he is aware that legal opinion can be taken within one hour. But let me make clear that we will not take the legal opinion the way Mulayam Singhji used to take. We will take legal opinion according to the rules, so that nobody can challenge it later in the Supreme Court. Therefore I have said that we would take the legal opinion by 12th, as it is the last date. We will not budge under pressure that it should be given now ...*(Interruptions)* We will not do that, this is my submission ...*(Interruptions)*

12.26 hrs

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We are not saying that what we say ...*(Interruptions)* But we want to know whether the Government would take opinion by 29th or not ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : Do you not want that the Parliament should function ...*(Interruptions)* How many times will one Member speak ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak during the Zero hour. I want to draw your attention to the PIL writ petition against the Acting Director of Higher Education in our State ...*(Interruptions)* as his appointment has been in clear violation of Group A Service Rules, 1985. The

Director is making lot of irregularities in the appointments and promotions. This is in violation of the Government orders. Misuse of money is involved and casteist bias is also there due to which the standard of education is scaling down. The appointment and postings of Teachers in Government and private colleges are not being done in a fair manner ...*(Interruptions)* Rs. two lakhs were spent in the name of constructing chambers without issuing public tenders ...*(Interruptions)* In one degree college four English lecturers were appointed against one post ...*(Interruptions)* The High Court had issued orders in 1996-97 for the payment of salaries but the teachers have not so far been paid salaries ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is Zero Hour and not speech making hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, four lady lecturers of different colleges have been associated with various offices ...*(Interruptions)* Similarly, teachers with senior pay scales are being harassed by keeping them junior to others. I demand from the Government that a CBI inquiry should be conducted into the activities of the Director of Higher Education ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a State matter ...*(Interruptions)* This is not a Central Government matter ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have raised a very important matter ...*(Interruptions)* The Adjournment Motion should be heard first ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the notice for Adjournment Motion is hear first ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your notice for Adjournment Motion is under the consideration of the hon. Speaker. Therefore, I cannot say anything about it at the moment.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, before the sitting of the House commenced ...*(Interruptions)* Three notices for Adjournment Motion were given ...*(Interruptions)* They should be heard first ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is under the consideration of the hon. Speaker. I cannot say anything about it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : The Government ...*(Interruptions)* is going to sign the CTBT *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The question that we have raised ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajgani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want to speak ...*(Interruptions)* I will go by your order ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prabhunath Singh ji, the matter they have raised.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please listen.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has said about Adjournment Motion.

[English]

The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wanted to react. So, that is the first matter to be considered.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why I have said that your notice for Adjournment Motion is with hon. Speaker and I cannot say anything about it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Adjournment Motion ...*(Interruptions)* The Government of India is going to sign CTBT. I have also given a notice for Adjournment. The same has been given by Shri Mulayam Singh also.

Besides, there are notices from three other Members *(Interruptions)* I want to submit that on such an important matter which is related to the unity, integrity and the sovereignty of the nation, the Government without taking all the parties in confidence ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs want to say something about it but nobody is prepared to listen to him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : The adjournment motion is never delayed ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman Sir, I have to say only two things ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI AVSM (Garhwal) : Mr. Chairman Sir, will they waste the entire Zero hour like this ...*(Interruptions)* You have a long list of speakers for th Zero hour, when will they be allowed ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I was informed that the Adjournment motion, a notice for which was given by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had been disallowed by the hon. Speaker.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why had it been disallowed? We want to know that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Parliamentary Affairs Minister wants to say something.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : You have rejected his Adjournment Motion but what about my adjournment motion ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We want to know what transpired in that meeting. The House have every right to know that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Mohan Singh, will you all resume your seats? How can I conduct, when you do not want to hear me? First of all, please hear me.

The Secretariat has received only one notice for moving an adjournment motion. That notice was given by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and that very notice has been disallowed. No other notice for adjournment motion has been given to the Secretariat or received by the Secretariat. This is the position. That is the information that I have.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you not allow the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to Speak?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Chairman Sir, let me speak, the matter would be over ...*(Interruptions)* though the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of State of External Affairs have said categorically that there is no question of signing the CTBT under any pressure ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mohan Singh, please hear him fully and then you can ask.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Will you believe the media reports or what the Hon. Prime Minister say ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Prabhunath Singh, please resume your seat. Let him complete his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : The leader of Opposition has requested today morning that before the Prime Minister leaves, as he is to leave on Tuesday, there should be a discussion on the matters relating to Ministry of External Affairs. I have spoken to the Hon. Prime Minister and he has agreed to that. If the hon. Speaker allows we can have a discussion on Monday. We have no objection to it. You can fix the date. The entire matter can be discussed threadbare. But it is wrong to put pressure and say repeatedly that we are going to sign the CTBT under any pressure. We are not denying a discussion on that. We are not signing the CTBT under any pressure ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Khuranaji may say anything but the Minister of State of External Affairs has said in the presence of the Hon. Prime Minister that we can sign some of the provisions of CTBT ...*(Interruptions)* The Hon. Prime Minister has to go to Colombo ...*(Interruptions)* What are those provisions on which an agreement is there to sign it. This is an important question ...*(Interruptions)* We would like to know about those provisions. The Hon. Prime Minister should take the House in confidence before going to Colombo ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mulayam Singh you are a senior Member of the House. You are raising this matter in the Zero hour. The Zero hour cannot be converted into question hour. I have already told you about the decision of the hon. Speaker on your notice. I have a long list of Members who have to speak and they would lose the chance. Please allow them to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Prabhunath Singh

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Prabhunath Singh are you speaking. You had started before the interruptions.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had stood up to speak but I was asked to resume my seat thrice. Like this my time was wasted. Now please have some patience to listen to me. I want to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

I want to draw the attention of the Government and the House to a very sensitive matter. Illegal trade of human organs particularly kidneys is being done in the country. A person was taken from Ranchi to Mumbai and there his kidney was extracted in the hospital. When he approached the Mumbai police, they ignored his pleas for registering his FIR. Later he filed a case in a Court in Mumbai. The Mumbai police thereafter went to Ranchi and conducted a raid at Prasad Nursing Home there.

[Translation]

Ranchi police also reached there and arrested the doctor. After this arrest Samata Party activists resorted to agitation ...*(Interruptions)* I want to state that any enquiry has revealed that kidneys of eight helpless and poor persons were removed at Prasad Nursing Home in Ranchi in a deceitful manner and transplanted in the bodies of foreign nationals. This trade which is being practised in the entire country specially at Prasad Nursing Home has got protection of big-wings of Bihar. No action is being taken against other accused persons.

Through you, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the news item published in newspapers. I request for your permission to read it out. It mentions eight foreign nationals whose kidneys were transplanted ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please tell us about the action expected to be taken by the Government of India.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to check this illegal trade so that atleast humanity could be saved. I would like that Government should take action against accused persons operating in the entire country.

Sir, it is a very serious matter and the Government is not taking any action. In this matter, trade of Kidney is going on illegally. Khuranaji dances to the tune of Mulayam Singhji and comes out with a reply without your permission but while the trade of Kidney is flourishing in the country, the Government is sleeping ...*(Interruptions)* The Government should show its sensitivity and tell as to what step it is going to take. Please instruct the Government to respond in this regard. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is busy in chit-chat at the moment.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I just cannot ask him to react.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when a matter against a CBI officer is raised, the presiding

officer instructs the Government to respond and the Government makes every possible effort to respond but I have raised a serious matter regarding illegal removal of kidney from human body and selling the same. However, Government is not responding and turning the deaf ear to it. I request you to instruct the Government to come out with a reply in this regard ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a notice regarding the assurance made by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs in the House on June 11. Four days less than one and half month have passed since then. He had assured that after obtaining legal opinion ...*(Interruptions)* Almost one and a half month have passed, I have given notice to the Government and the legal opinion has been obtained ...*(Interruptions)* It is sitting on it. It is a matter regarding calling the army ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This matter has already been taken up. please conclude.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Supreme Court has opined that action should be taken but the Calcutta High Court has stayed it ...*(Interruptions)* The verdict of Supreme Court should be obeyed or that of Calcutta High Court ...*(Interruptions)* The Government should extend the legal opinion so that the Supreme Court can be approached ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter has already been discussed now.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahar) : How many hon. Members will raise the same matter? The remaining Members will not get chance as a result of it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I spoke on the direction of the Chair, I had given notice ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : I also want to speak something on this issue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : An explanation has already been given by Shri Reghuvansh Prasad Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. You utter it in just one sentence. I endorse it.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : I would like to state that it is not a question of any individual but a question

of dignity and protecting the rights of institution. The Government should seek the opinion on the matter at the earliest and apprise the House about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, Now, please sit down.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) (Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important issue. Recently, a Cabinet Minister of Bihar made an observation in Bihar Legislative Assembly. He uttered against a particular community* Sir, through you, I would like to state that the Statement by a responsible person in the House in such a manner.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Such indecent words should be expunged.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH :*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards a very important matter regarding farmers and weavers' loan. As per the Government policy to make farmers prosperous, they are provided loan for tractor. Weavers are also provided loan for the same objective. The Government under a policy has made an arrangement to provide loan to farmers and weavers in my Parliamentary Constituency in Mirzapur-Bhadohi. Unfortunately, instead of making the farmers prosperous, this system is pushing them into poverty. First, they do not get remunerative price for their produce due to which they fail to pay their instalments and as a result, their tractors as well as land mortgaged for obtaining the tractor are auctioned. It is a serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Due to this reason, you have been permitted to raise this matter.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : I want to draw your attention towards the fact that due to it, the farmer is pushed to poverty. I would like to state this for the purpose of drawing the attention of the Government and have it on record that this policy should be changed. It is a country of farmers and labourers. Schemes are made to make them prosperous by providing them loan but due to this system, they are pushed to poverty. Fifty per cent of the loan is exempted from repayment. I want to draw your attention towards this side. Managers usurp fifty per cent of the loan. Half of the loan is utilised in greasing the palm of the officials and half is deposited. The remaining half amount of the loan is never repaid since it is exempted from repayment. Thus, in bank system, recovery as well as distribution remain good as half of the loan which is exempted is not repaid. In this way, half amount is lost.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Virendra Singh]

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government of India towards this policy and that the Government of India should change this policy. Only fifty per cent amount of loan disbursed to poor people is realised from them and only this amount is deposited. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs present here to instruct the hon. Finance Minister to discontinue this arrangement of providing loan immediately, otherwise the loot of exchequer will continue. India finds itself in a situation where not only Multi-national companies but these people are also looting it which will make the country bankrupt. Therefore, I want that this system should be discontinued.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, he is mentioning about the Credit Policy for the farmers ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, you direct the hon. Minister for having a discussion on the Credit Policy for the farmers ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is responding on the issue ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. He is not responding.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Minister, the Credit Policy for the farmers could be discussed here. Why do you not find some time for that?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It is going to be taken in BAC.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, an important incident has taken place in the capital. The hon. Chief Minister of the capital and an hon. Member of this House were visiting the area on a scooter just for hypocrisy. A law has been implemented in Delhi that the driver and pillion rider of the scooter must wear the helmet. Yesterday, a fine of Rs. 100 was levied on each on them. Does a person who was charge sheeted while in office, has moral right to stick to the office? There could not be more shameful thing than this when a person entrusted with responsibility of streamlining law and order in the capital and to work as per the prescribed law, breaks the law in a dramatic manner just for public amusement and still sticks to his office. Therefore, I urge upon Khuranaji to relate the actual position. You resigned the Chief Ministership on mere allegation and a person who has been proved guilty and penalised ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you expect from the Government of India?

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : On every matter ...*(Interruptions)* The Treasury Bench is not reacting. I want the hon.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to say something in this regard. He should make a statement in this regard. I would also like to know as to what action is likely to be taken against the Chief Minister of his party or whether the Government propose to sack him ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, do you want to react to what he is saying?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister does not want to react. What can I do? I cannot direct him from here.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV (Kannauj) : Sir, India is a country of villages and the farmers living in villages depend on agriculture. Animal fair is organised in every state at village level where healthy animals are sent from every part of north India viz. Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh. Hybridization of animals and trade of healthy bulls, calves and cows have become an effective medium of prosperity for farmers. On the other hand, the Government has imposed ban on taking calves and good species of animals out of district. As a result, the trade of selling calves and buffaloes enabling them to earn their livelihood has been stopped.

Sir, I urge upon the Government of India to lift the ban imposed on high breed animals.

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN (Bahraich) : Thank you for permitting me to raise a matter of public importance. As a result of the refusal by the Central Government to accept the recommendations of the University Grants Commission, there is an unprecedented tension and unrest among the members of the academic community and the academic institutions throughout the country. UGC is a body which is empowered by an Act of Parliament and the practice in the past has always been that on the question of the pay revision of the teachers, the recommendations of the University Grants Commission are accepted by the Government. For the first time, by disregarding the law of the Parliament and the healthy past practice, the Government has created a situation where the academic community of the country has been forced to take to the streets. The day before yesterday they organised a march to Parliament in order to press their demand that the Government should accept the recommendations of the University Grants Commission.

I would like to add that the hon. Prime Minister, after Pokhran, had given a slogan of 'Jai Vigyan'. This can be possible only if we are able to retain talent in the academic

institutions. With the level of pay scale which is there today, there is bound to be flight of talent not only from the academic institutions to other fields but also the flight of talent from this country to other countries. So, on the one hand the slogan of 'Jai Vigyan' is being raised and on the other hand the academic community is asked to accept a lower status.

I demand from the Government to give up their stubbornness and accept the recommendations of the University Grants Commission so that this unrest among the academic community comes to an end.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I support what has been said by Shri Arif Mohammed Khan in regard to the revision of pay as recommended by the University Grants Commission.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, news of atrocities on Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are appearing daily in every newspaper of the country. In the recent past, a news was published that some Dalit women were paraded naked in Bijnaur. Unfortunately some Ministries are not discussed in this House and no discussion is held particularly on Welfare Ministry.

Sir, a meeting of SC/ST forum of all the parties was held recently in which we has urged upon the Business Advisory Committee. The report of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Commission—a constitutional body, the Chairman of which enjoys the status of Cabinet Minister is gathering dust. The Government has nothing to do in this regard, it has just to present the report in the House. Unfortunately, it has not been presented for the last 7-8 years. I would like to urge upon you that the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should get this report presented in the House. So that a debate can be held on it and the anger of people can be calmed. I think, it is not a matter related to any party. When you are replying to every question, the Government should ensure that Report of SC, ST Commission presented to the Government is placed in the House before the end of this Session. This report is only to be presented and you will get this report presented in the House.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has made two points. The first is regarding the report and the other is to hold a discussion on it. Their first issue is to hold a discussion on atrocities being committed on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the another one is about laying of the report. This issue has come up before me right now and at the moment I do not have detailed information in this regard. I would certainly enquire if the report has since been prepared and action plan is

also necessary for it. If the report is ready then I would consult the Minister concerned but I cannot give any reply in this regard at the moment. So far as discussion on this is concerned, you attend the meeting of Business Advisory Committee which is going to be held tomorrow. The Government does not have any objection on holding a discussion on this issue.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : If you allow discussion on the report then there will not be any need to hold a discussion in this regard separately.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as Shri Paswan has said, the report should be discussed in the House, it is quite necessary. The mistakes committed by the previous Government on the reasons due to which this issue could not be discussed ... (Interruptions). Now it is our Government ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House wants to know as to when the report is going to be laid in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Right now the Minister has assured that if the report is ready, it will certainly be laid.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : When you were in the Government, the report could not be laid, now our party is in power so the report will certainly be laid.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you talk like this, your turn will not come.

SHRI GAURI SHANKAR CHATURBHUI BISEN (Balaghat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, why did their Government not bring the report.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may say whatever you want to say when your turn comes, now you please take your seat.

[English]

DR. SAROJA V. (Rasipuram) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this August House a serious issue regarding which reports have been published in the newspapers over the last one week. A news item appeared in The Hindustan Times of 13-7-98 under the headline "TV SET CATCH DELHI COPS' SECRET MESSAGES". According to the report, secret conversations of the police force on wireless sets regarding VIP movements and other sensitive messages are in danger of being intercepted by the terrorists of Jammu and Kashmir. Senior police officers have confirmed that some TV sets pick up police wireless conversations because the frequency band used by the police is just a little over the civil band. TV and radio sets work on the same technique as that of wireless sets of Delhi Police, the Frequency Modulation. The wireless system of Delhi Police does not

[Dr. Saroja V.]

have encryption facility. As a result of this, the police conversations can easily be picked up.

The Government of India should take immediate steps to provide encryption facility on the wireless system of Delhi Police. I urge upon the Government of India to give a serious thought to this issue and take measures to ensure the security of the nation.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VEER SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising a very important but I request that you do not put a brake on my speech. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also raised this issue in the past. This issue relates to the question of life and death for 5200 people. There are three cotton mills of British India Corporation in Kanpur, namely Elgin Mill-I, Elgin Mill II and Kanpur Textiles. A notice to close these mills was given during the period of United Front Government But the time is being extended. Now, 31st July is the date fixed for their closure. After this, the workers would not get any salary and about 5200 people would be rendered jobless. In this regard I have requested the Prime Minister the Textiles Minister and the Home Minister to help them. I would like to ask as to why only these cotton mills are going to be closed when 124 mill of NTC are spending Rs. 400 crore annually on giving salaries to their

13.00 hrs.

employees without any work. Rs. 16 to 17 crore per year is required to be spent on these mills. My suggestion to the Prime Minister and the Textiles Minister is that these cotton mills should not be treated step motherly. Whenever the Government takes a decision regarding NTC, these three mills should also be considered alongwith NTC and these should not be closed. The Government should discuss this matter with the Finance Ministry and ensure timely disbursement of their salaries. I had raised this issue previously in the presence of Parliamentary Affairs Minister and he had said something about it also. The Government should make its stand known to us for which we shall be obliged.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am well aware of this issue. This issue had come up before the Cabinet. The Government is also aware of it and the workers would certainly be given justice.

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue. In 1969 a fertilizer plant of Fertilizer Corporation was installed in Gorakhpur. Due to the indifferent attitude of various Governments and negligence of officers this factory was closed on 10th June 1990 on

account of a very trivial accident. The Eastern Uttar Pradesh is already industrially backward and with the closure of this factory, the employees of the factory and the people of eastern U.P. are feeling disappointed. In view of the indifferent attitude of the previous five Government. The present BJP Government has proposed to set up a fertilizer factory of KRIBHCO there. I demand that the employees and officers of the fertilizer factory should be accommodated in the factory proposed to be set up there by KRIBHCO.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the canals from Chambal dam are meant to irrigate the lands of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh but the farmers of their States have to irrigate their lands with the help of tube-wells or wells. However, the Government of India had awarded the Highest yield prizes to farmers whose lands are near the canal. The reality is that the canals are diverted to some other direction while the farmers there have to irrigate their lands with the help of tube wells and wells. The farmers there are facing great difficulties. The canals there are never dredged and for this purpose no fund is being provided. People of the villages under Dind Tehsil have to face a lot of problem during rainy season as the desilting work of canals is not undertaken with the overflowing of water, Traffic is thrown out of gear. This situation prevails in many villages. If the canals are not desilted the farmers will have to take difficulties in getting water this year. In spite of the fact that Barabandi irrigation project is a major irrigation project under Chambal Master Plan for irrigation no water is being provided from it. Sometimes people fight among themselves on this issue. This also leads to law and order problem. The Government of India should provide fund for desilting of channels and canals from irrigated Area Development Fund. The huts of Jhadgaon village are in a very bad condition. The huts and Gram Panchayat of village building are submerged in water as the drains are not being dredged. Immediate action should be taken to provide them public amenities and a report in this regard should be sought immediately from the State Government.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important developmental programme in the region where my constituency is situated, that is, Malabar region of Kerala.

The Indian Oil Corporation has proposed to establish LPG Bottling Plant at Kannur in the erstwhile Malabar region of Kerala in the Ninth Five Year Plan and the proposal has been approved by the Government of Kerala.

Kannur District is comparatively backward and the proposed bottling plant would be able to meet the

requirements of cooking gas in the entire Malabar Region. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 20 crore and the production would be 22,000 Metric Tonnes per year.

The local Press has given wide publicity to this project and the people are eagerly awaiting the realisation of this project. The State Government is keenly interested in the project and has advanced to the extent of 40 acres of land required for this project. The Revenue Department is pressing the Indian Oil Corporation to take delivery of the land.

Now, it is reliably learnt that there is a move to drop this project. Any such move would be detrimental to the interests of the people of Kerala. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India, especially the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, to intervene in the matter and give necessary directions to the concerned authorities of Indian Oil Corporation to implement the project without any further delay.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention and the attention of this House towards a very important and serious issue. The population of Chhatisgarh area is 10 lac and most of the denizens of this area are suffering from sickle cell disease at present and there is no treatment available for the persons suffering from it. Not only the people of Chhatisgarh, the people of West Orissa and Vidarbha are also suffering from this disease. No arrangement has so far been made for diagnosis of this disease and there is no research centre to conduct tests on this disease. There is only one text centre to conduct tests on this disease. There is only one text centre in Burla Medical College. The disease is mainly prevalent among the agriculture workers belonging to backward classes such as Kurmis and Sahun. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled tribe people. This is telling on the health of the new generation as well.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request this Government through you that a research Centre should be set up by Indian Council of Medical Research and an arrangement should be made for the treatment of this disease.

SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH (Muzaffarnagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very important issue. The population of the country is increasing rapidly. I would like to say something about two towns of my Parliamentary constituency - Meerapur and Jansath. In these places people are having children in dozen like Sarfraz has 12 children, Sabban has 13 Children, Irfan has 14, Battan has 12, Magror has 15,

Keesarniyani has 12, Mahammad has 12, Janeed has 13, Irshad has one, Iqbal has 11, Shahid has 12, Liyaquat has 13, Yameen has 12 and Shamsi has 12 children. Where this country is moving towards. We have seen that the policy of appeasement has caused a great damage to this country. This country cannot bear the burden of 100 crore population. I would like to say that the Muzaffarnagar is 120 km. away from Delhi but there are frequent traffic jam on this route. A year before this distance used to be covered within three hours but now it takes more than four hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, what do you want the Government of India to do.

SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this country cannot bear the burden of 100 crore population. My request is that*. A legislation should be brought to control the increasing population. We have before us the example of China where there is a law to control the population. You have been a member of the Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee in which it was proposed to check the population growth. I request that in view of this rapid growth of population, the Government should give up the policy of appeasement.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, he cannot accuse a particular community like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All those objectionable parts would be removed.

[Translation]

DR. C.P. THAKUR (Patna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to urge that announcers of All India Radio are sitting on hunger strike. They want to get absorbed in the Government service. Supreme Court had given its decision in this regard in 1981. I request that those who are experienced may be inducted in service.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had given a privilege notice*...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The privilege matter will not form part of the record.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this House through you towards the fact that the ground water level is continuously receding. The scientists have also said that the ground water level had receded many meters down

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Not Recorded.

[Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria]

and it is a very serious matter. The government in its national agenda has assured that priority would be to providing water to the farmers of the country. Sir, this issue has been raised during question hour and also many a time in this House. I would like to draw the attention of this House towards my constituency in particular. Crores of acres of land is lying unirrigated in Agra near Kheragadh and Fatuhabad. Now a days that area is witnessing heavy rainfall but the rain water flows into the river. The Government should think over the fact that in this area and in the whole country the rain water flows into the rivers. This water should be stored by making dams, tube-wells should be set up and the canals should be repaired so that the lands of the farmers could be irrigated. The Government should give priority to the farmers. I am raising this issue for the third time but the Government is not taking up this issue in the right spirit. As this issue has been raised thrice in this House. I request the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to give some reply in this regard because this issue relates to the crores of poor farmer ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister does not want to react. How can I compel him? I cannot compel him to react.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I call upon Shri Mullapally Ramachandran to raise his matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the fall in prices of coconut in Kerala is a big problem. Hundreds and thousands of cultivators are suffering. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shri Mullapally Ramachandran to raise his matter. Please do not disturb him. After all, he comes from your State.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Khurana must say something on this issuing ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Katheria, you are a senior Member. If the Government to react to reach on this issue, they may. I can not compel them to do so.

[English]

Please do not interrupt him.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : I am only requesting. This issue is related to the farmers ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Mullapally Ramachandran says.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the State of Kerala has been ravaged by the recent floods, land slides and sea erosion. Large stretches of coastal belts have been eroded and my constituency, Cannanore is no exception. Thousands of hapless people, mostly belong to fishing community, are the worst affected by the recent sea erosion.

Sir, the practice of the Central Government is to allocate funds for the construction of sea walls in the coastal States. Unfortunately that practice has been stopped by the Government. I earnestly appeal to the hon. Minister for Water Resources to intervene in the matter and allocate sufficient funds to the coastal States so that sea walls are constructed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would substantiate it by saying that a large area of my constituency is also being affected by sea erosion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is enough if you say, 'I support it.'

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, crores of rupees are being spent both for the security and safety of the border areas. What about sea erosion?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GAURI SHANKAR CHATURBHUIJ BISEN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Government has taken a decision to carve out three new states in the country and according to the National Agenda, Chhatisgarh will be created as a separate State from Madhya Pradesh. In this regard, a Cabinet Committee has also been constituted. Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the proposed Chhatisgarh State, Bastar, Raipur, Raigadh, Bilaspur, Durg, Rajnandgaon and Sarguja would be included but Balaghat which is associated to these areas has not been included. My submission to the Government of India is that cultural, agricultural, industrial Balaghat district and the areas proposed to be included

*Not Recorded.

in the new State are similar. Besides this, Balaghat district is rich in forest and minerals wealth. All these things are in common with the proposed Chhatisgarh State. The local dialect of the people of this area is also the same. So, I propose that Balaghat should also be included in the proposed Chhatisgarh State.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chandramani Tripathi please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, I want to raise an important matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, your name will be called.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Hon. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to attract the attention of the Government of India towards the problems of contract labourers at Koteswar limestone located in Katni district. An agreement was concluded between SAIL and the Union wherein it was decided that there would be no contract labourer there. Whatever labour is required, it would be engaged on regular basic. After this, management approached the court. The court gave its decision in favour of labourers. But despite this development, even today contract labourers are leading an animal's life there. I demand from the Government of India that labourers there should get the benefit of the agreement concluded between Contract labour and SAIL. Management and the contractor in collusion have expelled labourers. Today, they are on the brink of starvation. Therefore, I demand the Government of India that contract labourers there should get justice.

[English]

KUMARI KIM GANGTE (Outer Manipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to raise a subject of urgent public importance, but I am sorry that we have too many speakers. A lot of time has been wasted. I am sure all the Members are aware of the epidemic that is believed to be sweeping across the country in the next five years. According to experts and doctors, it has been estimated that 2.5 million people in India are infected with HIV virus. Among all the States in our country, Manipur's case is the worst. A number of youths have committed suicide when they realised that they have been found HIV positive, they committed suicide without reporting of their condition to the Medical Board. According to 1991 census, there were 1.83 million HIV infected people in the age group of 10-19 years. According to NACO, that is, the National AIDS Control Organisation, HIV infection in India is about 77 per cent in the age group of 14-45 years. This indicates that the

country is on the verge of an explosion in AIDS case. It endangers the society, the economy and the nation as a whole. It is found that Rs. 174 lakh was kept aside in 1997 for control and prevention. This amount remained unspent. I would like to know the reason for this. The Government should look into the immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want the Government to do?

KUMARI KIM GANGTE : Sir, The areas which need to be looked into are, that there should be proper research support and properly managed counselling and training centres for the youth and the women.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Sir, IDPL is one of the largest Public Sector Undertakings under the Government of India. manufacturing life saving drugs. IDPL, the nucleus for pharmaceutical industry in this country, is now under the verge of closure. 7276 employees and their families are starving without pay for the last three months. If this industry were to be closed by any chance, may be, for the mistake of anybody, it is very likely that the prices of the medicines and the drugs will go up substantially and the multinationals are going to exploit this very seriously.

Multinationals are going to exploit this situation very seriously. So, I urge upon the Government, the Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers, the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister to approve a package for revival of this unit and save the country from the total exploitation because of sky-rocketing prices of the drugs. The employees may be given a package to retire through some voluntary retirement scheme with adequate compensation.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : I want to bring to your notice a matter which attracts attention all over the country especially in States where the BJP is ruling, about the attack on the institutions of the Christians. The other day my two colleagues raised this issue of an attack on the IP Mission Schools in Gujarat.

(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal) : You should not raise this issue again because it was raised yesterday.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Mr. Chairman has allowed me.

Only three months back the National Human Rights Commission had asked the respective police forces in Gujarat and Maharashtra to inquire into the attacks on minority institutions, especially Christian institutions. In this School, the I.P. Missions School in Rajkot 300 copies of

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

the Bible were burnt. This has become a practice and it is done by frontal organisations like the Sangh Parivar, Bajarang Dal and the Vidyarthi Parishad.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not fair.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : It was brought to the notice of the respective State Governments. This is a very serious issue. You should understand the sense of insecurity of the minority communities in the country. So, I request the Government to make a statement on this subject immediately in this House.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Yesterday the Minister said that he would collect the information and come to the House but he has not come up with that. We would like to know when that statement is going to be made.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Government would compile information and present it to the House. But you raised this matter yester, you are raising it today also and you raise it even tomorrow, it cannot be justified.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : This is not a simple thing.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI. AVSM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to attract the attention of the Civil Aviation Minister towards the air services available in my area. I came from Garhwal division and there is a place Jolly Grant in Dehradun for which an air service from Delhi to Dehradun used to be operated on daily basis but after the withdrawal of Vayudoot Service, this air service from Delhi to Dehradun has also ben discontinued.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dehradun and its surrounding area, the whole Garhwal division is a main centre of attraction for tourists. There is ONGC office at Dehradun, IAS Academy, Forest Research Institute, Wadia Institute and several other important institutes are situated in Dehradun. Besides this, pilgrims also visit the places like Kedarnath, Badrinath and Hemkund Dham situated there. Flower Valley is also there. Here, mountaineering is undertaken and mountaineers from within the country and abroad visit this area for this purpose. Several good tracks of snow are there attracting several national and international players for ice-scating. Besides, the mountaineers coming from within country and abroad, several other tourists visit this area but all domestic and foreign tourists have to face great inconvenience due to non-availability of air service from Delhi to Dehradun.

Chairman, Sir, through you, I request the Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister to pay immediate attention to this

matter and start air service from Delhi to Jolly Grant in Dehradun without further delay ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, I want to raise a very important matter. However, I am sorry to point out that I have not been given an opportunity to raise this matter. A son of a sitting M.P. has been kidnapped in Agartala ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rupchand Pal, why do you presume that I have not taken note of it? You will get a chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Sir, first of all, I raise my protest against the way the 'Zero Hour' is being conducted. Zero Hour is not an hour at all in the rules book. But in spite of that, hours are being consumed just for mentioning constituency matters.

My suggestion is, let Matters under Rule 377 be extended and many more MPs be allowed to raise Matters under Rule 377 which will cover all these matters which are now being raised to 'Zero Hour'.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will convey your views to the hon. Speaker.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Secondly, the State Bank of India has decided to shift the Foreign Exchange Department and the Dealing Office of the Foreign Exchange Department from Calcutta to Mumbai for no reason whatsoever. The Chief Minister of West Bengal discussed the matter with the hon. Prime Minister of India. He has assured that this will not be done.

In spite of that, instructions are being given and fax messages have come to us that instructions are being given from Mumbai office to set up the Dealing Office at Mumbai.

I urge upon the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to take up the matter with the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister concerned so that this is immediately stopped.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, lakhs of farmers in Madhya Pradesh are facing the problem of shortage of chemical fertilizer, urea because Madhya Pradesh Government have circulated an order violating central laws as a result of which farmers in Madhya Pradesh are facing difficulty in getting Urea fertilizers in the market. It is available at some limited points such as societies or cooperatives which are engaged in sale of fertilizer. I request the Union Minister to look into this matter. So that this crisis is resolves and farmers may get

Urea whenever they need it. He should compel Madhya Pradesh Government to withdraw the illegal order so that farmers do not face this crisis.

[English]

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : The insurgency has taken a new spurt in Tripura since the two Battalions of Army and Assam Rifles had been withdrawn by the Central Government. This spurt has taken a new shape..

As we all know, the Health Minister was killed by these extremist groups. Our MLAs are being killed. Our MPs are being threatened. Shri Baju Ban Riyan, who is a sitting MP and now sitting here, has also been threatened and his son has been kidnapped on 24th June. Till now, he is in the captivity of the militants in their underground camps. We, the three MPs of Tripura including the Member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha, have repeatedly requested the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, hon. Prime Minister and other hon. Ministers to look into the matter and for redeployment of the Assam Rifles and Army which were operating earlier.

We requested that they should not withdraw all the Army and the Assam Rifles personnel, and aspect for more forces but till this day no decision has been taken. Doctors and scientist are being targetted by these extremists. A tribal doctor has been kidnapped by some extremist group. We do not know whether both tribal and non-tribal extremist groups are raising their heads. The State Government is doing everything for the security of the people, with all its sincerity, but is it possible to do that only with the help of the State police? Those against whom offences under Cr. P.C. and I.P.C. are registered, they have to be arrested and brought before the court, but who will do that? Is it possible to do that without the Army? A total of 839 kilometers of border is open for the extremists. Every time from the other side, from the camps in the hilly Chittagong and the Silhat district, after getting training from ISI and other foreign agencies. they are entering our areas with AK-47, AK-56 and other sophisticated arms. The number of arms is increasing everyday. This is the position. We want to be explained why the Central Government, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Defence are not looking into the matter. Now, what is the latest situation in Kashmir? What is the situation today in Punjab? We want to know why this is happening in the whole of the North-East.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : This is a very serious matter, Sir. The Minister should react to this.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very serious matter wherein three MPs are involved

and they have been threatd ...*(Interruptions)* I want to say to the hon. Member that State government or Central Government cannot fight the problem of insurgency, separately. Coordination between the two Governments is very essential ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sometimes you should listen also.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I had to say so because you said that State Government is doing excellent job but Central Government is not acting similarly. It is not so. *(Interruptions)* If there is responsibility then both are responsible and if proper action is being taken then both are doing. So to say that State Government is taking adequate steps to fight against insurgency but Central Government is not taking such steps is injustice against the Centre. Can you tell us about the demands raised by your Chief Minister which have been rejected by the Union Government? The Government of India has formulated a clear cut policy to curb insurgency. We do not treat it as law and order problem ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : It is not a question of law and order, it is a question of insurgency. you have withdrawn all the Army and the Assam Rifles personnel. That is why these things are happening.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : That is what I am saying ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is what the hon. Minister is saying.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : It is not a question of law and order.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : That is what I am saying. I am saying about you. We do not treat insurgency as law and order problem whether it is in Kashmir or in Tripura *(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, please ask them to allow me to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Choudhury, if you do not want him to react, then I shall ask him not to speak. The Minister is reacting and you are not allowing him to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Whether this problems is there in Tripura or Jammu Kashmir, we cannot leave it on States by calling it law and order problem. We believe that there also, coordination between the two is

[Shri Madan Lal Khurana]

must to tackle insurgency. We should not blame each other. I will certainly inform the Minister about your feelings. Whatever you are saying, it would have been better if you had said that your State Government sought such and such things ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUP CHAND PAL : The Chief Minister has met ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I would certainly convey your feelings to the Home Minister. We will talk to the Chief Minister and see how maximum help can be extended ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : That will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR CHAIRMAN : You will be called. Why are you saying such things?

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Steel and Mines as well as the Members of this August House towards a very serious matter that about 800 employees of HSCL, Durgapur unit are not getting their salaries from March Onwards. They have already sent a fax message to the Minister of Steel and Mines on 15.7.98 and 18.7.98. They have to say with deep anguish and agony that nothing could be done till date. On 7.7.98, the trade union leaders of CITU, AITUC, INTUC, BMS etc. met the Minister of Steel and Mines for regularisation of salary of employees of HSCL Durgapur unit as well that of Bokaro, Bhilai, Roukela

It is a matter of great regret that after several discussions, even the CMD had assured the employees on 30th June with the consent of M.D. Steel that 15th July would be the due date. Finding no other alternative, they have sat on a *dhama*, relay hunger strike from 19th July. So, I urge upon the Minister of Steel and Mines as well as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, who is present here, to give orders to M.D. Steel to release the funds of HSCL, whatever their dues are, so that the employees can get their salaries. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name was about to be called. You created a scene without any reason.

(Interruptions)

*Not Recorded.

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government of India set up HSCL in 1964. I want to tell you that when steel plants were being set up in the country, its contribution was very positive. Today it is facing crises. This plant of such a huge structure is in danger today. Government of India intend to change its name or wind up this plant. More than 15 thousand labourers are on the brink of starvation. An agreement was made under which during the period from 1971 to 1978, if smaller or bigger construction agencies functioning through SAIL and HSCL failed to undertake work, then their work would be given to HSCL. Thus the works of companies failing in executing construction were given to HSCL. I regret to say that HSCL was assured that its employees also would be given jobs. This is the only undertaking in India which can take up setting up of large industries or large bridges. Today, it needs proper direction but its amount of Rs. 261 crores is outstanding against SAIL, its workers are on the brink of starvation because it is not being awarded contracts. Today, contracts are being awarded to private monopoly and multinational companies and a conspiracy is being hatched to close down such a large construction plant.

I demand from the Government of India that it should help HSCL in getting its amount due against SAIL and the HSCL should be given work orders as it is an effective institution.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, for some days, about 16,000 Group C and Group D employees of various hospitals of the Government of India are on strike.

Many of the Government hospitals in Delhi are almost paralysed. The Group 'C' and 'D' staff have got some grievances which they have brought to the notice of the Government. They have been called once or twice for talks. But at this stage, since they have just gone on strike, they are not being called or not being consulted as to how the strike could be called off.

I think, some of their demands are very genuine. As far as very low salaried employees are concerned, their demands should be looked into immediately. I would suggest that the Government may take a very serious note of this. I urge upon the hon. Minister of State of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as also the hon. Prime Minister to intervene in this matter and see that the health services, as far as the hospitals are concerned, are properly conducted.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Sir, I also support what Shri P.C. Thomas has said. The Government should react to this. Shri Khurana, you please intervene in this matter.

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, the attitude of the hon. Minister of State of the Ministry of Health and Family welfare is very indifferent towards the striking employees. That must also be taken into account.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Centre or State?

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip) : It is the same whether it is Delhi or Haryana. The Group 'C' and 'D' employees are on strike. But the Government is remaining silent. This is not good for the health of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It is not that the Government is silent on this issue. Govt. is worried about the condition of Delhi people. Patients are not getting proper treatment and it is but natural to worry about it. I will certainly tell my colleague, Health Minister to look into this matter ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not the concerned Minister. He will convey the feelings of the Members to the concerned Minister.

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA (Peddapalli) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of this August House towards an important matter relating to the United States' destructive gene which is a threat to the Indian traditional crops. A new plant gene, terminator III has been developed by the United States Department of Agriculture. Terminator allows seeds to self-destruct after producing a single crop. This terminators' self destructing traits could spread through cross pollination and cause gradual extinction of India's traditional crop varieties. It is nothing short of a biotechnological warfare.

India has responded to it by banning import of the seeds containing this gene. However, there is no way of ensuring that this gene does not cross Indian borders as this can happen by accident or by design.

The United States now plan to introduce this technology into cross pollination crops as well. This will have serious consequences for Indian farmers who produce 200 million tonnes of wheat, rice and sorghum annually which are traditional crops.

I would like to request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to take necessary steps to prevent this gene entering into our traditional crops and to take strict preventive measures.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you. I want to attract the attention of the Central Government towards the Huge loss caused by devastating floods in my area. My constituency has three districts: Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar and Kaithal. The crops of paddy and sugarcane in about two and half thousand acres land in these three districts have been totally damaged. The hapless farmers who depend on crops to earn their livelihood and make the future of their children, are on the brink of starvation today. Sir, through you, I earnestly appeal to the Central Government to grant compensation of Rs. Five thousand per acre to farmers. Besides this, I want to say that the Central Government should constitute a high level enquiry Committee to see whether farmers are being benefited by the compensation given for the damage caused to crops due to natural calamity. This committee should include the M.P. of affected areas also so that the M.P. may ascertain whether farmers are actually getting compensation or not.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA : Under the Sealdah Division of the Eastern Railway, there is a narrow gauge line from Shantipur to Nabadwip. The distance is only 28 kms, but this narrow gauge line remains undeveloped since the British period. In 1993, a Survey was conducted and the estimated cost was Rs. 35 crore.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the point. There are so many people and we will have to adjust them. Dr. Asim Bala, do not make a speech because we have to accommodate other Members also.

DR. ASIM BAL : It is a very important line. Thousands of tourists who visit this place daily are facing several hardships. It is a historical place because it is the birth place of Gauranga Mahaprabhu. That is why, this is a very important railway line and I urge upon the railway authorities to take up this project immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the excesses being committed against farmers of Himachal Pradesh. Apples, potatoes and unseasonal vegetables are grown in this State to strengthen the economic condition of Himachal Pradesh. These products are first looted by the purchasers there and later on in Delhi, Shimla, Sirmour-Solan, Kinnaur districts fall in my constituency. I demand from the Government of India to announce Rs. 10/- as support price for apple and also announce minimum support price for vegetables and other fruits grown in these far-flung areas. If Central Government extends help to Himachal Pradesh Government. I would be grateful.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Premchandran, please be brief. There are three or four more Members and we will have to accommodate them.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Finance regarding the crisis which is being faced by the coconut oil industry in our country. Sir, due to the policy of the Government of India to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of palm-oil and also because of reduction of excise duty on palm-oil to the extent of ten per cent, the indigenous coconut oil industry is affected very much.

MR CHAIRMAN : What do you want the Government of India to do? Please come to the point.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Through you, Sir, I would like the intervention of the Ministry of Finance regarding the import of 1.5 lakh tonnes of palm-oil and also 15 lakh tonnes of palm-oil under OGL by the private parties. It will adversely affect the indigenous coconut oil industry. I request urgent intervention of the Government in this regard.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, with great anguish, I am raising this matter. I want to know from the Government whether the Bengali speaking Muslims have any right to stay in this country or not. Many of those people who were licking the boots of the British imperialists are ruling the country. But the sons and daughters of those people who gave their lives in the gallows are being treated as foreigners. Rabindranath Tagore got the Nobel Prize for our country through his writings in Bengali. Today, if somebody speaks in Bengali, he is being branded as a Bangladeshi. What is happening? During the last ten days, barbaric things are happening in Mumbai.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum) : This is not correct. Action is being taken against the infiltrators and not against the Bengali speaking people.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : People of my constituency have nothing to do with Bangladesh. But they have been deported from Mumbai to Bangladesh. How long will it happen? If somebody speaks in Bengali language, the Maharashtra Government and the Police are catching them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mollah, what do you want the Government to do?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : The deportation should be stopped. Every year, it is happening. We know that there are some infiltrators. They must be stopped. But in the name of infiltration, you cannot deport genuine people

...(Interruptions). How Long the Indian citizens will be treated as foreigners in this manner? I urge upon the Government that such illegal deportation should be stopped. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can I compel the hon. Minister to react? I cannot do it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am on my legs. Please take your seat, Shri G.M. Banatwalla. The Chair has no authority to ask the hon. Minister to react even on a single matter raised during 'Zero Hour'. But every-one of you have raised this matter and the hon. Minister is kind enough to react.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : This is what is happening in my constituency also.

(Interruptions)

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur) : This is happening in my constituency also.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West) : A serious allegation has been made. The people of West Bengal are very much concerned and the news item is sometimes being projected in the newspapers also that Bengalis are being tortured and humiliated. The Bengalis who are coming from Bangladesh are being treated in a different way, in a very humiliating way. If it is really a fact, the Central Government should come out to protect the Bengalis and the State Government of Maharashtra should be immediately given proper instructions that such type of humiliations should not be allowed. No such attempt should be allowed to be made. The Bengali speaking people should be given full protection.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Chairman. Sir, as regards the allegation made by the hon. Member that Bengali speaking people or people of a particular community are being treated as foreigners and they are being tortured, I want to make the policy of Government of India clear in this regard. It is the solemn duty of the Government of India to protect the life and property of every Indian citizen irrespective of caste, religion, gender, region or language and to ensure that every citizen leads a respectful life in this country . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : But this is not happening . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear the hon. Minister. This is what I am telling you. The moment the hon. Minister speaks, you interrupt. How can the hon. Minister give his reply? Please hear the hon. Minister fully.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : If any hon. Member has got a complaint regarding what I have stated . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I have got a complaint.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I want to assure the house that if there is any complaint, we would certainly get an enquiry conducted into it and secure justice to the victim. If the person is a Pakistani or a Bangladeshi national . . . - (Interruptions). Please just listen to me . If a person is a citizen of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Parsi (Iran) or any other county . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Sir, no action is being taken against the people associated with the BJP. Only non-BJP people are being targeted.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I want to state that no foreigner belonging to any race or linguistic group would be allowed to stay illegally in India. I read a news item in which it was reported that Bangladeshis were deported from Sindh State of Pakistan. When I was in the opposition, the hon. Home Minister in reply to a question had stated in the House that over a lakh of Bangladeshis were residing illegally in India.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : That question related to those people who had got ration-card and certificates with them but their ration-cards and certificates were snatched and they were compelled to flee from there. However, they were the citizen of West Bengal. Here you are making a different point.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Wherever such cases are found in your constituency, you please give it in writing. Shri Hannan Mollah has said about it, You please write about it to the Home Minister. You may even write to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. They will take action.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : As I have said earlier, if there is any complaint, please give it in writing and it would be looked into.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I am talking of the people who are permanent residents of West Bengal and are not the Bangladeshis . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : We want that crores of foreign nationals residing illegally here should be deported.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : This is right but the question does not relate to them. The question relates to citizens of West Bengal. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Please give it in black and white and we would refer it to Home Ministry for enquiry.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You give it in writing. He says that if there is any such complaint. It will be judiciously gone through and enquired.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please direct the Government to take this matter seriously.

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : They raised the same question several times. But they failed to submit any proof any time. That is their position . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramdas, please resume your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : People belonging to West Bengal are residing in my constituency and they are being subjected to torture in the name of Bangladeshi. They have got ration-cards also. Still they are being arrested and harassed by the Mumbai -Police. The Government of India should direct the Mumbai Police not to take any illegal action against them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please give it in writing to the Minister.

[English]

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur) : Sir, there is a railway line running from Bangalore to Arasikere and onwards. There is a demand from the public that the train running from Bangalore to Arasikere and onwards be stopped at Rampura. In Tumkur District, there is one D. Rampura where a new station shall have to be installed in between Nittur Railway Station and Sampiga Railway Station. This is being pressed many times and it is pending for a very long time. People of the tail end areas are

[Shri S. Mallikarjuniah]

strongly agitating for opening a new railway station. Further some of the trains which are convenient to them be stopped there to help the travelling public of that area.

Secondly, I pray that the Nittur, Gubbi, Malasandra, Banasandra, Kardai as also the other stations like Kyatsundra and Hirenhalli be renovated. Water facilities, latrine facilities and sitting accommodation shall have to be made in these stations. This is pending for a very long time. I would request that it should be completed.

I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do thank you completing it in a very short time.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : I represent Madhubani parliamentary constituency of Bihar, which stretches along the Nepal Border. All border areas have their own problems. However, our problems is that the criminals across the border in Nepal infiltrate into India and indulge in criminal activities. The saddest thing is that these criminals get patronage of their Government. They are asked to commit crimes only in India and not in Nepal. That is why, incidents of theft, decoity, kidnapping and rape are taking place in the border areas of India. I know that the law and order is a state subject. But in respect of border areas where people crossing over the border and indulge in criminal activities, the responsibility of dealing with such activities should not be put on the State Government. I urge upon the Government to deploy Border security Force personnel along Nepal Border in Madhubani and other districts of North Bihar to check crimes.

SHRI BAIJNATH RAWAT (Barabanki) : There is a drain named "Rail" in Banikodar block of district Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh. It flows round the year. In the absence of a bridge over it, critically ill people and pregnant women die before they could be taken to hospital. Keeping in view this situation, work for the construction of a bridge at Bharmed Ghat was undertaken in 1991. However, this work is still lying incomplete for want of fund. Almost half of the work on both sides has been completed and the Pucca road has also been constructed. The Government is requested to direct the Uttar Pradesh Government to get this bridge constructed at the earliest. About 20 thousand people could be benefited from it.

[English]

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (Ottapalam) : Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government an important matter relating to women in the employment sector, especially Anganwadi teachers and helpers. Anganwadi

teachers are working with a motive to create a meaningful generation by giving the light of knowledge to the children in our great country. They have very much impressed the entire society with their unselfish social activity. But this Government has totally neglected them by not even providing their basic needs. The Government is exploiting them by not giving proper salary and allowances. They are paid an allowance of Rs. 600 per month. They are working even after accepting this shameful allowance. Even though they are doing a service to the Government yet they are not treated as Government employees.

Hence, I want this Government to stop this shameful approach and accept the Anganwadi teachers as Government employees. The Government should also increase their allowances so as to enable them to live under the present economic conditions.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I am raising a very important matter in so far as the State of Kerala is concerned. For a long time, we have a very effective public distribution system. Now the recent decision of the Central Government to denationalise the sugar industry will adversely affect the public distribution system in Kerala. So, I request the Central Government to allow the State to continue the distribution of sugar through the public distribution system because we do not produce sugar in Kerala. It is one of the few States where there is no production of sugar.

So in these circumstances, it is only just and proper that the State of Kerala be allowed to continue the distribution of sugar through fair price shops. I bring this matter to the notice of the Central Government. The Food Minister may take a decision in this regard. The Food Minister from Kerala had also raised the very same issue in the Conference of the Food Ministers . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want the Central Government to do?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The Central Government should maintain the status quo in this regard.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the contract labour system is still in vogue in many industries in spite of Contract Labour Abolition Act in force in the country. What is regretting is that even in the public sector undertakings and industries, labourers are being subjected to exploitation under this contract labour system. I appeal that this contract labour abolition Act should be implemented strictly and this system should be done away with.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Sir, I want to attract your attention towards the exploitation of labourers of Chhatisgarh region of M.P. working in Delhi. Shri Jamil

Aftab, proprietor of Delhi Puravanchal company, Palam society, Plot no. 7, Pappan Kalan, New Delhi is exploiting these labourers from Chhattisgarh. He engaged 70 labourers and got a building constructed, but he has not yet paid Rs. 80 thousand towards their wages. They have been paid half the wages only. They are being made to run from pillar to post to get their wages. These people of my area came to me. They are from Mugali and Nawagarh. These labourers are not being paid their wages. I talked to the proprietor on phone.

MR. CHARIMAN : What do you want the Government of India to do in this regard?

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am drawing the attention of the Government toward a serious problem and the way in which an M.P. is being treated by this person. When I talked to him on phone, he told that since I was not their master and only an M.P. I have got nothing to do with that business. I have even apprised the labour Minister of this fact. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want the Government to do, please tell that.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I urge upon the Government to save these labourers belonging to Chhatisgarh working in Delhi from exploitation and see that they get their wages. Further action should be taken against the proprietor of the plot situated in Palam.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the house stands adjourned to meet again at 3.00 P.M.

1406 hrs.

The lok Sabha Then adjourned for lunch till Fifteen of the clock.

1505 hrs.

The lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at five minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN :- The House will now take up matters under rule 377

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to enhance the relay capacity of Doordarshan Kendra, Urai (U. P.)**

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Doordarshan Kendra located in district headquarters Urai in district Jalaun under my Parallimentary Constituency is not functioning as per its relay capacity.

Geographically, this district spread over a radius of 60 Kms around Urai. At present only people of Urai township are getting the television transmission in my constituency. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to enhance the relay capacity of this Doordarshan Kendra by 50-60 Kms.

- (ii) **Need to open Post Offices in the radius of one Kilometre in Eroandol Parliamentary constituency, Maharashtra**

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL (Erاندol) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are three big villages having a population of about 5 to 6 thousand within one Kilometre radius of the Lone-Bone Tehsil Parola of my Parliamentary Constituency in district Jalgaon. There is no Post Office near these villages due to which the people of these villages are not enjoying Postal facilities. The policy of the Government is to provide at least one post office for a population of three thousand. These villages are within a radius of one K. M, Likewise, there are about 25-26 villages which do not have postal facilities. I, therefore, urge upon the Government that post office facility should be provided in all the villages of my constituency falling within the radius of one Kilometre.

- (iii) **Need to set up a New Suger Mill in Khurja Parliamentary constituency**

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the construction work of Jehangirpur sugar mill under my parliamentary constituency Khurja has been held up for the last several days. Due to this the local farmers are experiencing a lot of difficulties. The farmers are very often resorting to agitations and staging dharnas for the early completion of the construction of the mill and for commissioning the mill without delay. I have raised this demand during earlier terms of Lok Sabhas, but no progress has been made in this regard so far. Due to this, there is great resentment among the farmers.

In this regard, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that not a single suger mill is working in my parliamentary constituency, Khurja while large quantities of sugarcane are grown in the area.

Under the circumstances, I would like to request the Government once again that the construction work of the Jehangirpur Sugar Mill should be completed and the mill should be commissioned without delay. In view of sugarcane production in the area, permission should be accorded to set up one more suger mill in the area.

- (iv) **Need for Amicable solution to the Problem of increasing the Height of Mullaperiyar Dam**

[English]

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Sir, the Mullaperiyar dam was constructed over a century

[Shri Mullappally Ramachandran]

ago and it is supplying water to hectares of land both in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu has come up with a demand to increase the height of the dam to 152 feet giving little thought to the fact that if this demand is met, the century old dam will not be able to stand the force and is sure to collapse. The devastating effects of such a collapse would be that large areas of land including virgin forest land and thickly populated towns and villages are bound to be submerged. This fact is confirmed by the findings of experts in the field of dam construction.

A study team from Kerala has found that the Government of Tamil Nadu has, in addition to demanding an increasing in the height of the dam, also filled the mouth of the spillway with gravel and sand in their efforts to prevent water from flowing into Idukki in Kerala. It is also reliably learnt that the Government of Tamil Nadu is bringing in new generators to operate spillway shutters so that surplus water is diverted to Tamil Nadu. Under these circumstances, I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to immediately intervene in the matter and ensure that the issue is settled amicably. I also request that experts from the Central Water Commission should visit the site immediately and alert the Government of Tamil Nadu about the imminent danger that will be caused by any increase in the present height of the dam. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri T.R.Baalu, Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : When Matters are raised under Rule 377, other hon. Members are not allowed to speak. This is not 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

- (v) **Need to set up Nagpur Development Authority and Remove Green Belt restriction for Thirty Kilometre Area around Nagpur, Maharashtra**

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : As per recent Notification of the Government of Maharashtra, CIDCO has been appointed as Planning authority for long awaited 'Meghdoot' — Nagpur Satellite township project between Nagpur and Butibori. The Government is to acquire about 9,310 hectares of identified land in nearly 22 villages from Nagpur and Hingana Tehsils to provide housing to nearly seven lakhs to eight lakhs people with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 750 crore.

Similarly, Airport Authority of India recently proposed an ambitious plan of upgrading Nagpur airport as international cargo and passenger hub and have also

identified about 2,000 hectares of land adjoining Sonegaon Airport.

Both the proposals are commercial in nature and have received wide support of Nagpurians.

However, there is a simmering discontent among the farmers whose land has been identified for the projects and restrictions imposed on sale/purchase of the identified land. The farmers are also very much worried about the unrealistic rate of compensation and delay in payment in spite of the fact that the restrictions have come into force two years back. The current market price of the land identified for the project is many times higher than the Government's compensation rates.

The Government must ensure adequate, rational and reasonable compensation to the farmers for parting their only source of livelihood.

Hence, I seek the intervention of the authority of the Union of India. For catering to the balanced and planned growth of Nagpur, I strongly plead for setting up Nagpur Development Authority and removal of green belt restriction for thirty kilometre area around Nagpur to facilitate construction activities.

I demand that Government should make a firm commitment to safeguard the interests of farmers in project area to avoid confrontation and to mitigate farmers' genuine grievances.

- (vi) **Need to Instal LPT in Islampur, Walva Tehsil of Sangli District of Maharashtra**

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Islampur in my constituency is a Tehsil Headquarter. It is a fast industrialising town in the heart of sugar belt. It is presently not covered by any Doordarshan Transmitter. I request the Government to instal an LPT in Islampur, Walva Tehsil of Sangli District in Maharashtra.

- (vii) **Need to bring National Institute of Agricultural Marketing under the Administrative Control of the Ministry of Agriculture**

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr, Speaker, Sir, the transfer of agricultural marketing alongwith the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) and National Institute of Marketing (NIAM) from the Ministry of Rural Development to the Ministry of Agriculture is feasible and convenient for the following reasons:

1. The functioning of DMI and NIAM is not only different from the Ministry of Rural Development and Employment . But also there is no link between them.

2. *The Directorate of Agricultural Marketing* comes under the Ministry of Agriculture in almost all states and UTs.
3. Agricultural Marketing assumes great importance in all works sponsored by the department of agriculture.

I, therefore, request the Government that Agricultural Marketing be brought under the Ministry of Agriculture.

(viii) Need to provide Adequate Funds for early Completion of North Koel Irrigation Project in Aurangabad Bihar

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) (Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I represent the Aurangabad Parliamentary constituency of Bihar. It is a drought prone area. Due to drought the state of poverty is more than the average and a starvation like situation prevails there. Agriculture of the area is rain-fed.

An irrigation project called the North Koel Project in the area is under construction since 1975. With the completion of this project 60 per cent land of the district could be irrigated. Even after investing crores of rupees this projects remains incomplete for want of a few crore rupees.

Through you, I would request the Government to complete the North Koel Project at the earliest by providing required funds so as to remove starvation, poverty and unemployment in my area.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Approved text only will go on record.

(ix) Need to Explore on Rural Water Supply Programme

SHRI BHARTAHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack) : The provision of safe drinking water has important equity and development implications. Women often spend considerable time for collecting water and the consumption of contaminated water has an adverse impact on human health and productivity.

The Government in the past has quite ambitiously committed itself to the task of providing safe drinking water to all rural habitations in the next five years, yet this goal remains elusive.

The allocation for rural water supply programme has been increased from Rs.1302 crore in 1997-98 (revised estimates) to Rs.1627 crore in 1998-99. This enhanced outlay will cover about one lakh habitations. It is important to note that when the Government statistics claim that a very high proportion of villages have been provided with safe drinking water, it merely implies that handpumps or

standposts have been installed in these villages. It does not necessarily imply that water is being provided through these facilities or that the village community is utilising this water. There is need to focus attention on the repairs and maintenance of handpumps. A UNICEF commissioned study says that over half of the non-users of India Mark II handpumps said that the pumps were located at far away places, making their use inconvenient, and one out of every three non-users felt that the handpump water salty, rusty and had medicinal smell.

Even as we approach the new millennium, we have not been able to guarantee every Indian citizen one of the most fundamental human needs, that is, enough drinking water of sufficient quality.

I am sorry to state that the current Budget has not paid the desired attention to this issue, though there was a commitment to this aspect in the National agenda.

(x) Need to Raise the Income limit upto Rs. 2 lakh per annum for Eligibility under Creamy Layer due to Implementation of Fifth Pay Commission's Recommendations

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor) : Sir, the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission have been implemented. As a result, there is considerable increase in the salaries of Central Government employees. But I would like to draw the attention of the Government to another aspect of this pay hike. When recommendations of the Mandal Commission were implemented, the concept of creamy layer also came into force. Accordingly, a person, to become eligible for availing the benefit of OBC reservation should obtain a certificate that he does not belong to the persons/sections (creamy layer) mentioned in column 3 of the Schedule to the Government of India, Department of Personnel O.M. No. 36012/22/93-East. (SCT) dated 8.09.93. The annual income ceiling for obtaining such a certificate is Rs.1 lakh. But this has become meaningless due to the implementation of Fifth Pay Commission and consequent hike in salary. Therefore, I would request the Union Government to urgently raise the income ceiling for eligibility under creamy layer up to Rs.2 lakh instead of the existing Rs.1 lakh.

(xi) Need to Provide Central Assistance to the Government of West Bengal for overall Development of Sunderban Region

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Sir, Sunderbans area in West Bengal has the poorest population. Cultivation, fishing, felling trees in the forests or collecting honey have been the livelihood of the Sunderbans inhabitants for decades.

1552 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

[Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal]

Sunderbans Development Board was created by the State Government in 1973 for the formulation and execution of integrated programme for development of the backward Sunderbans region on the basis of assessment of the resources, endowment and the quality and coverage of the existing infrastructural facilities. Over the last two decades, the Sunderbans Development Board had formulated some schemes and programmes in this behalf. Since State funds were not adequate to tackle the basic problems of the Sunderbans region, the possibility of getting external assistance was explored and in collaboration with the World Bank sponsored International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a development plan with the object of bringing about substantial improvement in the economic conditions of the people, particularly for the small and marginal farmers, was launched. This project resulted in improvement of agricultural production potential through establishing irrigational facilities. The IFAD assisted project expired in June, 1989.

To keep up the tempo of development, the Sunderbans Development Plan Phase-I covering a period of five years and involving a capital outlay of Rs.67.5 crore had been forwarded by the Government of West Bengal to the Government of India last year for exploring the possibility of having external assistance, as the resources of the State Government were not sufficient to meet any part of the Plan expenditure.

Sir, I therefore, request the Central Government to consider the development of this most backward area by allocating special fund for the purpose.

(xii) Need to Strictly Implement the provisions of the Law Banning Dancing of Bears

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Sir, the World Society for Protection of Animals published a comprehensive report on the hardships suffered by dancing bears in India in its autumn issue of Animals, 1998. The article highlights, with photographs, how the bears in India are trained through a regime of pain and starvation. The unfortunate animals endure long hours in heat, dust and noise, all for the entertainment of visiting tourists and others. Most of them live brief and painful lives before dying due to disease. The journal claims that the dancing bears live a life of five to eight years whereas their wild counterparts live for 30 to 35 years.

Scores of animal lovers across the globe wrote to me in recent months and reminded me that a country like India which has rich traditions of compassion for animals can hardly afford the barbaric practice of dancing bears and they pleaded, most passionately, to ban this barbaric practice.

I make an earnest appeal to this august House and to the Government of India to not only ban this barbaric practice of entertainment, but physically see the bears back in the jungles and give alternate livehood to those who indulge in this cruel practice.

(xiii) Need to increase the Frequency of "Kapadvanj-Nadiad" train in Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI JAI SINHJI CHAUHAN (Kapadvanj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through this august House. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a number of very important problems connected with "Kapadvanj-Nadiad" train running in my Parliamentary constituency Kapadvanj (Gujrat). The "Kapadvanj-Nadiad" train leaves Kapadvanj at 8.25 a.m. and again at 18.45 leaves Nadiad for Kapadvanj. Due to only one time running of this train in 24 hours between these two stations, the people of my area remain deprived of train services. It may be pointed out that there is only one coach in this train and it has no stoppage in any other stations enroute. The stoppage of this train at Kathwala, Maihudha, Antroli, Toran, Veena, etc. is not only justifiable but very essential. Kapadvanj in my parliamentary constituency is not only a tehsil headquarters, but also a very important commercial centre. 'Dwivela' oil in large quantities is produced in my area. It is therefore necessary to provide goods train services with tanker facilities for transportation of 'dwivela' oil from this area. I, therefore, request the Government to run the above train at least 4-5 times in 24 hours, to increase the number of coaches in the train, to provide stoppage of the train at the above stations and to provide goods train service with tanker facilities from the above stations.

(xiv) Need to provide Adequate funds to State Government of Uttar Pradesh for the repair of Rajbah Canal at Mohammadpur in Uttar Pradesh for the benefit of Sugarcane Growers of the Area.

SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH (Muzaffarnagar) : The Rajbah (sub-canal) of the irrigation department of Uttar Pradesh passing through Muzaffarnagar and Haridwar districts is lying without any use due to a breach in it at Mohammadpur. Due to non-repair of the canal, sugarcane crop of the farmers in this area suffered extensive damage and the farmers also suffered huge losses on this account.

Through you, I would like to request the Central Government to direct the Government of UP to set the irrigational facility of the sugarcane growers right in Muzaffarnagar and Haridwar districts and release required funds for the same so that sugarcane crop of farmers does not suffer any damage. The Rajbah (sub-canal) should be repaired at the earliest and irrigational facilities be provided.

1528 hrs.

ELECTRICITY LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

Mr. Chairman : Now, we will take up the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill. Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we had held a discussion on this Bill in the past. At that time, I had told the Government to think in a wide spectrum for comprehensive development and not in a piecemeal manner. A comprehensive planning should be made by seeking the opinion of the Planning Commission. I would like to make a suggestion that all matters viz. irrigation, flood control, generation, transmission, distribution and electrification should be included. While talking about transmission, I had pointed out that transmission loss was caused not only in line, but also it is attributed to theft of electricity. The instance of Delhi Vidyut Board was given. In the Rajya Sabha the Government itself said that without making any change, the transmission loss has gone up to 48.5 per cent from 24.3 per cent. Steps should be taken to check it. This has happened during the regime of BJP in Delhi. It should, therefore, be checked with the co-operation of the Central Government and the State Government.

I would like to relate one of my agonies to you. A transmission line runs from Mou . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. There are many other Members who would also like to speak on this; then, the hon. Minister would also reply to the debate.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Sir, I would take only three minutes.

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA (Marmagoa) : Sir, we want to speak on the subject. We have been waiting for our chance . . . (Interruptions) Yesterday, I even did not go for my meeting due to this. I also want to speak on this subject . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : There is a proposal to lay a transmission line upto Mau in Bihar. I suggest that the line should be diverted from Muzaffarnagar. It will help the Government provide 400 KW electricity to Bihar. This will help remove our difficulties.

Electrification could not be done in the State, because the State Electricity Board had no money. The REC took a loan of Rs. 79 crore in 1989 which has gone upto Rs.

305 crore. Due to this the REC is not getting any further loan and electrification cannot be done in Bihar. I request the Government to waive the interests. Keep the repayment of the loan amount in abeyance for the time being and start providing loan to the State Electricity Board. (Interruptions) The Government may accept it or may not, but this is my suggestion. Otherwise rural electrification cannot be done and the Government will say that Bihar does not need electricity. The Government should consider my proposal.

I would like to make a submission about un-interrupted power supply. It is not possible to meet the requirement of power during peak hours from thermal power. According to Government figures, Bihar requires 64,882 MW of power during peak hours while only 56,252 MW of power is available. The difference is 13.2 per cent. The shortage can be met only when hydro-electricity is used along with thermal power. I, therefore, suggested that the Koel-Kavo, Kadvan, Kanhar and Shankh projects in Bihar should be taken up. This will help in supply 2000 MW of power. Besides, the hydro-power capacity should be increased by reaching an international agreement with Nepal. This will help North Bihar to get rid of floods and the Government supply adequate power during the peak hours.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI N.K.PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to express my views in respect of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

Sir, our country is giving much importance and prominence to the development of infrastructure. The power sector plays a key and an important role in the field of infrastructure. Out of the various components of power sector, electricity plays the most important role.

Sir, I would like to highlight the three grounds on which I oppose this Bill. Before coming to the points which I would like to oppose, I would like to submit that generation, transmission and distribution are the three major steps of power supply. But it is a sad commentary for this country that we are not able to distribute power or electricity which we produce.

We are now in the fog end of the 20th century. We are having the advanced technology. The figures in regard to distribution and transmission show that we are suffering a loss of 16-22 per cent either in distribution or transmission. I would like to say that this has to be rectified first. We are producing each unit of electricity by spending a huge amount. But even after spending a huge amount on production, we have not been able to utilize properly the electricity so produced. This is the fate of our country.

[Shri N.K. Premchandran]

This has to be rectified. This can be rectified with the help of advanced technology that we have.

This Bill seeks to make transmission a distinct activity. According to me, generation, transmission and distribution, all these three activities go together. The purpose of the Bill is to separate transmission from the other two activities, and to make it a distinct and independent activity. We have a structural formula in which we have the Power Grid Corporation at the Central and regional levels and the State Electricity Boards in the States. In addition, there are other Government agencies in this field. The argument of the Government may be, the Power Grid Corporation or the public sector undertakings owned by the Government of India or the State Electricity Boards are not in a position to invest in transmission or in infrastructure development in the power sector. So, private investment could be attracted by way of privatizing the transmission sector. Hence, there is a need to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and also the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

The question to be considered at this stage is, whether privatisation of the transmission sector will make good the handicap in our power sector, that is the loss of power. We have to consider whether that defect could be overcome by way of privatization. I think the answer is, 'no'. It will create more confusion and complication. We have a uniform network for the supply of power. I have already pointed out that the Power Grid Corporations both at the Central and regional level and the State Electricity Boards as also the Report of Shankeraguruswamy show that the present network of power supply has several advantages. The first and the foremost advantage is that multiplicity of contracts could be avoided. Responsibility can be clearly demarcated and the commercial rates would be much more simple. The Electricity Boards will get the requirements from the Power Grid Corporation and the State Electricity Boards will be getting their requirements from the units. Such a uniform system having a better coordination between all these agencies is available in our country. The question of better coordination was discussed in the Standing Committee also. This question has to be answered first.

What would be the result if the transmission sector is completely or partly privatized? I think the entire system will suffer. That is the first reason on which I oppose this Bill. By doing this, there will be lack of coordination and it will also create confusion and complication.

Secondly, the power supply can never be confined to commercial benefits. The power sector has to be given priority on social grounds also. If the multinational companies or other private companies come in the field of transmission, their main aim would be to earn profits.

So far as distribution of electricity is concerned, we are giving concessions to agriculture sector and weaker section of society. Persons belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe also are being given benefits out of this. One of the Government Secretaries desposed before the Committee that it is very difficult for the private sector to handle distribution. Privatizing the distribution sector is very very difficult. Investing money at the transmission stage and then controlling it by the authorities enunciated in this amendment is very easy. So, I cannot support that point because this is an important sector. It has to be given much more priority. It cannot be privatized in-toto. It cannot be made absolutely for commercial benefits and considerations.

The third point that I would like to make is regarding the impact on the consumer. What would be the impact of this Bill, if it becomes an Act and is implemented on the consumers? The evidence tendered by the officials of the Ministry before the Standing Committee on Energy clearly shows that there is going to be only a marginal increase of power. Here I would like to quote para 54 of the Nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Energy. It reads:

"Asked about the expected impact on the consumer due to segregation of transmission, Ministry of Power in a note stated that while the SEBs could continue with low returns, a transmission licensee would expect reasonable returns commensurate with the investment and risk involved. It is, therefore, inevitable that the transmission charges for the components of transmission system built by the private sector on Build, Own and Maintenance basis would be marginally higher."

That goes to show that there is going to be an increase in the unit price also. That will come upon the poor consumers and the middle class people.

Sir, because of the aforementioned three reasons — (1) element of commercial benefit because of privatisation (2) system suffering because of lack of coordination, and (3) the adverse impact on the common people — I oppose this Bill.

With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJARA (Patiala) : Hon. Chairman. Sir, I rise to support the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 1998 introduced by Hon Minister of Power. I felicitate the Minister for taking a serious view of the power crisis. It is true that power factor plays a very significant role in the development of the country and considering its importance he has taken this measure to boost the supply of power to cater to the power requirement

of the country. I think taking of this measure was an urgent need of the hour. So far as bifurcation of transmission is concerned, I think no change has taken place in the system. You have made a provision of a lump sum penalty of Rs. 3000 under Section 41 (A) but it would have been better if it had been fixed in proportion to the amount of the electricity bill. It has been seen that a fine is imposed on the farmers for theft of power but no penalty is paid by those who indulge in theft of power worth crores of rupees. Now when a penalty of Rs. 3000 is being imposed at an uniform rate, the big people can escape from the penalty. So this issue needs to be given more consideration.

15.43 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, if the system remains the same, no significant benefits would accrue from it. It would be better if the power sector is bifurcated in two separate sectors, i.e. the private sector and the public sector. In our country private as well as public sector is running transport services. The private transport companies create such conditions that the buses of public sector can not ply profitably on the roads. The same thing can happen in the power sector also. That is why it would be better if this bill is slightly amended. You have taken the transmission factor seriously. Similarly there are some factors related to the power sector which require serious attention. For example, plant load factor need to be given a serious thought. Our country has a capacity to generate 84,000 MW electricity but we are generating approximately 40,000 MW out of which theft of 30,000 MW electricity takes place. If electricity is generated to the full capacity, then the present power crises can be solved to a great extent. The application for tube well connections are lying pending for 13-14 years but still the power connections have not been given. To provide power connections to all these applicants it is necessary to run the plants to their full capacity. So far as transmission factor is concerned, some states have surplus electricity though they are short of power during peak season. For example, in Punjab, power stock remains surplus for eight months.

During the four months of paddy season, Punjab faces deficit of power. In case there is a good power transmission system power can be supplied to the deficit states from surplus states and this power crisis can be solved in the country. In our country power transmission loss is more than 21% which is the highest in the world. There is a need to improve the transmission system. There is a need to improve the efficiency of state electricity boards because 63 per cent electricity is generated in states whereas the Central Government generates only 25 per cent electricity. Therefore efficiency of state electricity boards needs to be improved.

The on-going projects have to be completed. In reply to my question dated 10th June it was stated that figures are being collected. In my question number 1619 I had asked the number of such projects which had been taken up but were not completed. I have come to know that there are more than 100 projects on which work is going on for the last so many years, but still these have not been completed. Work on Thein Dam was started many years ago with an original estimated cost of Rs. 85 crore. When this project was referred to the Planning Commission its cost was estimated to be Rs. 300 crore but by the time it was cleared by the Planning Commission it escalated to Rs. 680 crore. So far, Rs. 3000 crore have been spent on it but still it is not supplying electricity. Instead, on water is being released from it to Pakistan. Still, Rs. 167 crore more have to be given by the Centre Commission this project. The work on this dam was started 25 years ago and this year we are contemplating to celebrate its silver jubilee. Such ongoing projects should be completed at the earliest.

Comparatively cheap electricity can be generated in hydel project and we have very high potential for generating thermal power. The rivers originating from Himachal Pradesh cause floods which damage our crops and wash away houses and cattle. To avoid such losses, dams should be constructed in hilly region. The Chief Minister of that state and the Prime Minister has also made a statement in this regard. It is my humble suggestion to the Minister of Power that the states falling in the vicinity of power projects should also be made shareholder in the projects. Parvati dam of 3000 MW capacity has been constructed in Himachal Pradesh but that does not supply even a single Megawatt electricity to Punjab. Power generated from this dam is being shared with Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi but our states has not been given any share in it despite the fact that our roads provide transportation facility to them and our people bear traffic difficulties. Similar is the case of Koldam in Himachal. Therefore I suggest that the adjoining states should be made shareholder so that they also get benefits of such projects. In Nafta-Jakhari dam, the Centre has 75% share and Himachal has 25 per cent share but Punjab has not been given any share in it. These days, there are reports in the newspapers that tax will be levied on the power that is being generated and the water that is being used. In this regard I would like to tell the Minister of power that 12 per cent of the power generated in the state is being supplied free of cost. So they need not pay any royalty. If they are to pay the royalty, then they should not supply 12 per cent power free of cost. Such a policy should be framed as may help in solving the power crisis.

The Government has taken the transmission aspect seriously. Similarly, they should pay serious attention to

[Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajara]

power pilferage and generation of power. If it does so the power crisis can be solved for once and all and the country can stride on the path of progress. However, late is better than never. Atleast this Government has done something in this direction and that I felicitate them.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman Sir, Electricity Law(Amendment) Bill is a welcome step. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to section 27(c) on page 4 wherein it has been provided that :

"Until a Central Commission is set up, the Central Government and thereafter the Central Commission would under sub-section 4 of the provision provide licence for transmission to any person."

I would have congratulated the hon. Minister even more, had he made a provision that the Commission would be set up within 30days of the passing of this Bill. That would have made all other provisions of the Bill more effective. This Act has been in vogue since 1910. Later in 1948, for the benefit of States, the Electricity Boards were constituted. The Government wants to retain the authority for licensing. I do not have any objection to that. But electricity must be supplied at all costs. Unfortunately even today, 72 per cent people in the country live in darkness. They do not know anything about electricity.

Sir, I have been to Rameshwaram, a religious place, in the State from which the hon.Minister hails. On route there is a place Ramanathapuram where even today, women have to tread long distances to fetch a pail of water. It seems that the hon. Minister has come from Chennai. Besides Chennai, there are other areas which are predominantly inhabited by Adivasis, Dalits and Backward castes. Efforts should be made to provide them water and electricity. The government has made a commitment in the National Agenda for Governance to introduce electricity board water supply scheme in these areas. This would help in the smooth supply of water all sections of society. Probably they have forgotten that even after so many years of Independence, people have not been provided proper electricity and water facilities. Therefore there is an urgent need to formulate a water supply scheme. Unless electricity is made available, Water will not be available to the people. The government has also not provided water and electricity to hilly areas. Then why are they speaking of constituting Uttaranchal. In hilly areas, people live in remote areas. I would like to inform the Government that water and electricity facility should be provided to all these areas.

Sir, when this Act was enacted in 1910, electricity was supplied through copper cables. Later when cases of theft of copper wires came to light, use of iron wires was started for supplying electricity and now aluminium wires are in use.

The Rural Electrification Corporation has proved to be a white elephant as the figures pertaining to rural electrification are manipulated on papers only. Cable are laid but nobody is bothered whether proper connections have in fact been given or not. This has to be ensured by the Government. In my opinion the Rural Electrification Corporation is nothing but a white elephant. There is need for bringing about a change in it. If an amendment is brought and the system is changed, it can pave the path of progress.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, private parties may be engaged for more generation of electricity but more power generation does not necessarily mean that farmers would get more power. Most of the tubewells in UP and Bihar are closed. In most cases Government motor pumps are installed as the people themselves cannot afford the cost so that proper irrigation could be done. What has the Government thought about it ?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no mention as to how the revenue would be collected. If Rs. 5000 are outstanding against small marginal farmer, the Inspector snaps the electricity connection whereas there are many businessmen and industrialists against whom lakhs of rupees are outstanding, but no action is taken against them. Probably they get electricity from a private line on through underground wiring. They do not pay any electricity Bill also. Has the Government thought on this aspect? The Government is incurring huge loses on this account.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Kumaramangalam was in our party as a Member of CWC in Tirupati. We were AICC members from Bihar and he came to us for seeking our votes. We knew that he is a dynamic MP who raised public grievances in the House and is a son of a learned and renowned person, Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam. We had an opportunity to see his father but we fail to understand how the son of such an eminent person has gone astray. When he was on this side he was in the Government. He does not know what happens in government offices. Now steps are being taken to catch hold of the poor farmer whereas the police inspector, collector and the SDO consume electricity without paying for it. There is no meter for them and they are not charged for the electricity they consume. It seems there is nothing outstanding against them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what would be done in such cases. I would suggest to frame rules in this regard which should be laid on the Table of the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would conclude by giving one more suggestion. A task Force should be constituted which should enquire into the entire affair. It should enquire as to how much expenditure has been incurred in the name of Rural Electrification Corporation. How much has been spent for purchasing cables and poles. Whether transformers were

actually purchased and whether proper irrigation facilities have been provided to farmers. Whether drinking water

16.00 hrs.

facilities through motor pumps and pipelines have been provided. I am of the view that a welcome step has been taken. I am afraid that though this Bill provides for setting up a commission, but nothing much would be achieved. If a Task Force is set up, enquiry is conducted and follow up action taken, lot of things would improve. Action should be taken against the guilty, whether they are within the Secretariat or in the field and more generation of power should be ensured. More and more power grids should be set up in every state to ensure smooth supply of electricity.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, at 4 O'clock, we have to take up discussion under Rule 193. I want to take the sense of the House. Today, we want to complete the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill. Then, we can take up discussion under Rule 193.

SEVERAL MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : So, this is the sense of the House.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : About the strike in hospital in Delhi, I had said today morning that I would speak to the Minister concerned. We had sought permission to give a statement in this regard. The hon. Minister is ready to give a statement. If you allow him, he would make a statement on this matter . . . (Interruptions)

DR SHAKIL AHMED (Madhubani) : The Chief Minister of Delhi had to pay a fine of Rs.200. The hon. Minister should say something on this. We know you are happy but please say something in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare wants to make a statement.

16.01 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Strike by Group C & D Employees of Hospitals in Delhi

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : The Group C & D employees of hospitals

of the Central Government, Government of NCT of Delhi, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council, ESIC, etc; have under the aegis of the Joint Council of JACKHU, CHEF, ESI and AIIMS, have proceeded on strike with effect from 20.7.1998 with a notice for proceeding on an indefinite strike from 25.7.1998, if their demands are not accepted by the Government. Their major demands include:

- (i) Three time bound promotions to all the Health employees;
- (ii) Better Pay-scales to be given to all Group C & D employees;
- (iii) Night Weightage Allowance, Risk and Hazard Allowance, Washing Allowance to be paid to them.
- (iv) Patient Care Allowance prevailing in various hospitals/institutions be given at par to all Deprived Health Employees and PCA should be 25 per cent of the basic pay; and
- (v) All anomalies/disparities arising out of recommendations of 4th and 5th Pay Commissions be removed and uniformity in recruitment rules be brought out;
- (vi) Implementation of the agreement signed on 23.9.1997, between JACKHU and D.G.H.S.

In pursuance of the above demands, the unions adopted the following agitational programme:

May 22, 1998	Day long <i>dharna</i> from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at respective hospitals in the groups of 10-12 people.
May 25, 1998	Indefinite relay hunger strike at Nirman Bhawan.
June 4, 1998	Mass demonstration in front of Nirman Bhawan.
June 5-9, 1998	Wearing of black badges.
June 10, 1998	Mass demonstration at Nirman Bhawan by all affiliate units as well as mass <i>dharna</i> by outstation health employees too.
June 16-20, 1998	Two hour demonstration at each unit.
June 25-26, 1998	One day token strike-from 6.00 AM on 25th June, 1998 to 6.00 PM on 26th June, 1998.
July 9-10, 1998	48 hours token strike.
July 20-23, 1998	Indefinite strike if their demands are not considered.

[Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai]

Group of Ministers:

The Government have set up a Group of Ministers to examine these demands. The Group of Ministers consists of:

- (i) Shri Yashwant Sinha, Minister of Finance.
- (ii) Shri Dalit Exhilmalai, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.
- (iii) Shri K.R. Janarthanan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Banking, Revenues and Insurance).

Status of Negotiations:

Meetings with the representatives of the Joint Council have been held on 30th June, 7th July, 14th July and 22nd July, 1998 by the Director General of Health Services. I also held a meeting with them on 19th July, 1998.

The meetings of the Group of Ministers have been held on 13th July and 19th July, 1998.

In the last meeting taken by the Director General of Health Services on 22nd July, 1998, a substantial increase in the Hospital Patient Care Allowance (HPCA) and the Patient Care Allowance (PCA) was offered to the striking employees along with an assurance that the left out categories of employees connected with patient care will also get this benefit and also the washing allowance. This offer was not accepted by the employees who demanded that the increase in HPCA/PCA should be in proportion to the increase allowed in the Nursing Allowance to the nurses in Delhi Hospitals. They also demanded that there should be minimum three time-bound promotions for every Group C and D employee of hospitals.

These demands are being examined by the Government. The Director General of Health Services has also appealed to the Unions to withdraw their agitation and participate in the negotiations.

Precautionary Measures taken for Maintenance of Hospital Facilities:

Against this background, realising that all the measures which had been taken were not leading to a diffusion of the situation and further realising that the strike would not be confined only to Central Government hospitals but would involve the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and all the Delhi hospitals, including those under the National Capital Territory of Delhi, including those under the Municipal Corporation, etc., the Union Health Secretary called a meeting on 8th July, 1998 where the Chief Secretary of the Delhi Government, the Home Secretary,

the Principal Health Secretary and a senior representative of the Commissioner of Police attended. It was *inter alia* decided that:-

- (i) the police would see that security was mounted at major hospitals so that doctors and others are not obstructed. Further, it was noted that if there was any overt incidence of manhandling of staff, disrupting of critical work or sabotage of equipment, the police would make arrests on the basis of complaints to be registered by the Medical Superintendents;
- (ii) an appeal would be issued through Doordarshan so that all employees are informed that a Group of Ministers had been set up and that they should not take precipitating action;
- (iii) the Delhi Government will take steps to ask all private nursing homes to attend to casualties and emergencies;
- (iv) contingency measures would be adopted by individual hospitals to see that the least possible problems were caused to the public; and
- (v) specific tie up between designated hospitals and the police could be set in motion for conducting medico-legal work and *post mortem*.

Assistance is also being sought from the Railways for attending to emergency cases in their own hospitals.

Retired employees are being recruited to man various facilities in our hospitals.

However, I appeal to our Unions to call off their agitation in the interest of the patient care and resolve the differences by negotiations instead. 2fs

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Om Prakash will speak on the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Excuse me, Sir, two days back, the same Bill was going on but it was postponed and the discussion on Maruti Udyog was taken up at the time which was specified in the List of Business. May I know why this discrimination when the atrocities on women are to be discussed because nothing will be finished now?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, there is no discrimination at all.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, it should be taken up now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This Bill has been coming up for the last four days. After completing it, we will take up Discussion under Rule 193. There is no discrimination.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of discrimination. We will take it up today itself.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Om Prakash.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : This is discrimination.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no discrimination. We will take it up today. There is no problem.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Om Prakash.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, no disturbance please.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon): Sir, I am on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon): The Government has permitted the State to control the strike of the health employees.*(Interruptions)* People are dying and the dead bodies which are kept in the mortuaries are eaten away by ants. We do not want to hear from the Minister all these details of what meeting had taken place. What actual action has been taken? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, point of order please.

Shri Om Prakash.

16.12 hrs.

ELECTRICITY LAWS (AMENDMENT)
BILL- Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI OM PRAKASH (Ghazipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill-1998 introduced in the House by the hon. Minister of Power. I must say that not only the hon. Minister but all the officers of this Ministry must have taken this subject seriously and pondered a lot over it before introducing it in the House. The electricity today has become a part and parcel of

human life and without it life seems to be incomplete. Since it is related to the life of people, it should be considered seriously as to how the shortage problem can be solved and supply enhanced. We need to give a serious thought to it as to how the problem can be sorted out.

Sir, even after 50 years of independence, the villages and rural areas of the country are deprived of electricity and so every one from the village wants to migrate to the areas enjoying uninterrupted power supply but fields and barns in the villages still do not have electricity. At the time of independence of the country, it was thought that the power should be retained in public sector because people would not have enough money to run power in private sector. Therefore, much hue and cry was made to keep power in public sector and the proposal of private sector was rejected on the reason that it lacked resources to make this system effective.

Sir, the participation of private sector in this field has not been to the desired extent. Our ex-Minister of Power has disclosed that the desired number of private companies did not intend to join power sector. Now, power sector is being privatised. Therefore, we should pass this Bill only after seriously pondering over it, lest we should again bring it under public sector.

Sir, the hon. Minister admits himself that there is a theft of 47 per cent power in the country. When almost fifty per cent electricity is being pilfered, we should take stock of the entire system in an effective manner and find a solution to this problem. There are 20 power stations in Northern Grid comprising Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana. The maximum number of power stations are in Uttar Pradesh. Power supply failed thrice in a month and entire electricity department engaged itself in finding out the ways and means do away with the snags but till today, we have not been able to make any arrangement and find any solution to this problem. Even after the repeated enquiries, the Secretary and other Officers of National Thermal Power Corporation were not ready to tell clearly the reasons of such failure and measures to correct it. A Committee was constituted for this purpose but the said committee could not detect so far the technical fault leading to failure of Northern Power Grid.

A major part of the country at present is deprived of power. Even today, it is said in Sinman village that if the employees of electricity department are not paid salary and asked to work without salary, they will do it happily because of unchecked loot and corruption prevalent in the department. It is a household fact doing round there. Had the Officers of electricity department taken proper action, this problem could have been solved. Rajo Singh ji has just said that there is a large amount of dues outstanding

[Shri Om Prakash]

against several departments like irrigation department, Collectorate, Thanas and other big stations alongwith State Electricity Boards. I do not know whether the Government feels it or not that if it had paid attention, this problem would not have assumed such an alarming dimension and I can say that if it had paid attention, the problem could have been mitigated and then there had been no need of this Bill to be introduced.

At this juncture when this Bill has been introduced in the House. I would like to say that this is one of a serious problems of the country and it is to be taken seriously because the electricity has become a part and parcel of life. If we do not make any effort to find a solution to this problem, the problem will continue to exist even after privatisation. It is not that after privatisation, the problem of shortage of power will be solved all of a sudden. There is lack of determination and will power. If our officers on whom crores of rupees are spent, develop will power in them and get determined, even today this problem can be sorted out. The owners of big factories and hotels actually use 25 horse power engines while on paper they are permitted to use only 5 horse power engines and in place of one A.C., they use three ACs. The farmers hardly light a bulb. Though some of them run in an unauthorised way. Only some influential people of the village can manage to do this but the poor, the sufferer and the helpless farmer will never resort to power theft or illegal connection in the 'Inspector Raj'. Therefore, I must say that while bringing forward an amendment, our heart and mind should also be clean. We must be farsighted. If we are bringing amendment we must keep in mind the interest of villagers who are said to be the soul of this country. It is said that India is the country of farmers and villages but the farmer is the worst sufferer, distressed and helpless in the country. Urban people get their work done by exercising their influence but a farmer is scared of coming to office to get his work done and due to lack of confidence they cannot ventilate their grievances.

Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister to think over this serious matter because he is son of a great father. I have been familiar with him for the last 18-19 years. When I was a student of B.Sc. and union leader, he was incharge of the University. Then I had met him.....(Interruptions) A man is influenced by the company he keeps. The company instils good qualities in a person and at the same time casts negative effects on a man. I do not know how much he has been affected by their company during the last 4-6 months.

In the end, I would like to say that it is a serious matter and it needs to be pondered well over. Jai Hind.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I consider this Bill as a progressive measure. It is progressive because of two things. One is, for the first time, transmission is seen as an activity independent of generation and distribution. The second factor for calling it as a progressive measure is that my colleagues from the Left, for the first time, have evolved a consensus that any activity can go to the private sector. Even while watching from a distance, they do feel that it is good to put the transmission in the private hands. Therefore, this is a progressive measure.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): So, you concede that what we support must be progressive.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: You also support, sometimes, in silence. I have lived too long with you to understand these things. Anyway, I am very happy. I consider this Bill as a progressive measure. If Shri Kumaramangalam, I know his ability, had more time, maybe, he would have drafted the Bill better.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What was the hurry?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: It is because there are so many thefts, and there are so many weaknesses in the system. So, he feels that the transmission activity should be modernised, and we give him all support for this.

We, in Jammu and Kashmir, have suffered a great deal because even when the power was available in Salal we could not take it to Kashmir Valley. The Centre did not come to our rescue at all. But now, when this Government has come in the State, there is adequate electricity and, at the moment, we have no problem. But for the future, the transmission activity should not be left only to the State Government. From the Centre, this capable Minister must oversee the arrangements of transmission because a lot of talent is available around in engineers and other personnel. So, we should have good transmission lines because transmission is a very big problem in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

As far as thefts are concerned, you have already stated that it is horrible. There are thefts of two kinds. One is that the individuals do it. They do it in so many States. Then, there is the organised theft. There is theft because transmission system is not modernised or organised. We are a poor country and there is no doubt about it. But henceforth, wherever it is possible, is it not feasible to have an under-ground transmission as in other countries? I do not compare with America or the Europe. But I saw in some countries of the Middle-East, which have come up very recently, where the whole system of transmission is under-ground. Therefore, when the hon. Minister raises to answer

these points that we have raised, would he not like to say what he will contribute in the future? What is he going to do? Will he initiate some measures to put these lines underground? Once the transmission lines are under-ground, the thefts will be checked to a large extent.

Coming to the licenses, I think, they will go to the private sector. But arrangements will have to be made to see that these licenses are held by people who have not only the money but also the wherewithal. The private sectors first concern is profit, and profit is wanted by people who have money and who can invest it. Of course, these things will come in the rules, but in the Bill, he could have provided some broad qualifications. For the grant of transmission licenses to any person, we have to qualify it in the Bill. The rules will come later. Will it go to persons and companies on asking? Those companies should pass some tests and those tests have to be rigorous. Then we shall have no objection, but such a situation is not reflected in the Bill.

Then coming to punishment, Shri P. R. Kumaramangalam, I think, has not found time to see the punishment. I invite the attention of the hon. Minister to page 5, Clause 6, line 4 which reads as follows:-

"41A. Whoever, in contravention of the provisions of this Act or regulations or licence conditions, engages in the business of transmission of energy shall be punishable with fine which may extend to Rs.3,000".

What is the punishment? A fine of Rs.3,000 is no punishment. Even now, he will not make it as a point of prestige. During the last many times, the hon. Minister has accepted whatever good suggestions were given. If you are punishing a person or company or any entrepreneur, shall a fine of this meagre amount be imposed? If he continues to commit thefts or go against the law on a day to day basis, he will be charged Rs.300 per day.

I would request the hon. Minister to kindly consider this measure and this level of punishment. It must be raised. I would like to say that if it is a company, it should be Rs.1 lakh, if it is an individual Rs.10,000 and if that company or individual continuously violates law, they should be debarred because others will come. You say that there will be a daily fine which may extend to Rs.300/- . This is absolutely wrong and I think the hon. Minister will understand. He has a level of understanding. He should not give support to this measure even now. But sometimes Ministers miss because others prepare these things.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to enhance punishment. It should become a deterrent. There is no prevention of rules. I find certain ideas have been offered. I consider this measure very progressive.

I support this Bill but with the minor amendments which I have offered.

1627 hrs.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the Electricity Bill is concerned, I would like to raise the issue of the industries that are being shifted because of increase in power tariff. Maharashtra is one State which went in for privatisation in power sector for the first time. It has still to come in line. But there is one effect that has taken place. I think the hon. Minister has to look into it because it is going to create imbalance and that imbalance is that industries from Maharashtra are being shifted to Silvassa, Daman, and Gujarat. A few days ago, there was a meeting of the industries of Western Zone in which the tariff rates that are going to be fixed by the State Electricity Boards are going to be so high that they said that the conclusion would be either to shift the industries or to close down the industries. There are a few States which are more industrialised. Maharashtra is one of them. If the industries are going to feel the pinch of the increase of the new policy that has come, the other effect would be on the agriculture sector.

Apart from the agriculture sector, the other one is the consumers of the home industry which is there. That is also going to be affected. In the course of the reply, I would like to know from the hon. Minister why they are going in for the increase in tariff in respect of the whole things. I would also like to know whether they have taken into calculation this unbearable tariff in respect of the users and what are the consequences that are going to be there. If the consequences are going to lead to a situation where nobody would be in a position to afford it, then the question of the counter-guarantee that has been given by the Minister and by the Government comes in. What is going to happen to the Electricity Boards? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is going to be its effect on the Balance of Payments position.

Sir, these are the two important factors which, I think, the hon. Minister has to take into consideration. I do request him that even though he is making a distinction between production and supply, and the other things, the security angle also has to be taken into consideration. He has to take into consideration the vulnerability of the security angle also. I hope he will take this into consideration and reply.

1632 hrs.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that power saved is power generated. There are no two opinions about this. The amending Bill mainly aims at transmission, licences and certain other charges in the system of transmission. Unless and until we have enough power, the question of transmission comes next only.

[Shri Konijeti Rosaiah]

There are three distinct areas which are generation, transmission and distribution. Nodoubt, in almost all the States of this country, transmission losses are on the very high side. They may slightly vary from one State to another. As a matter of fact, so far, no concrete steps have been taken to bring down the losses in transmission. Of course, some attempts have been made by the respective Electricity Boards but they have not resulted in any tangible success. I am putting one question to the hon. Minister. What are the steps taken by this Government either in Delhi or in the States to steps up generation of power? Mr. Minister, are you reviewing the projects that are likely to come up in this country? Is there any systematic review?

I hail from Andhra Pradesh. A number of power projects have been awarded to the private parties there. But I am sorry to say that in respect of many of the projects, the people concerned have not even laid the foundation-stone for generation of power. For instance, as you are all very well aware, Visakhapatnam is a fast-growing city. From all angles, it is a very fast-growing city. There, the Hindujas were given a power project long long ago. But it is only on paper. The PPAs have been signed. The PPAs have been revised. Similarly, in Ramagundam of Andhra Pradesh, another power project was given to BPL in the year 1994. On 31st October, 1994, they signed the Power Purchase Agreement also. At that time, the estimated investment for the power projects of 500 MW was only Rs.1611 crore. Later on, the Government that come into power started saying that the estimate was on the high side. Criticising the approval given for Rs.1,611 crore, they revised the PPA and ultimately they agreed for an investment of Rs.2,384 crore. Similarly, in the beginning, when the Hindujas signed an agreement with the Electricity Board for setting up 1,000 megawatt power project in Vizag, the estimated investment was around Rs.2,200 crore. Now, I do not know whether it has touched the figure of Rs.6,000 crore or even crossed this figure.

If any power project proposal is properly examined, I am sure, the Minister will also agree that it is not moving in the right direction. It is not only that but what about the rates? The power rates hitherto were very low. I do not know when these power projects will start generation. When they go for generation, the power charges are going up horribly and beyond the reach of the common man. My appeal to the hon. Minister is that he should concentrate first on generation. Later on, he can think about transmission and at a later stage, think of distribution also.

No new connections are given to the agricultural community in many of the States. Similarly, SC and ST colonies used to get power in the past on a priority basis. Now it is not there. They are not electrified. I am sorry

to say that there are a number of SC, ST colonies that still remain without power. Some of the colonies have got the electric poles. Poles were installed some five, six years ago but no power connections have yet been given. My appeal to the Minister and the Government is to concentrate on generation and think about the transmission later on.

Simply by distinctly looking at the transmission, things are not going to improve. That is my apprehension. Unless you bring some radical changes as Prof. Soz has said, things are not going to improve. The penalty of Rs.3,000 is not a penalty at all. A man who is entrusted with the task of power transmission may say, "I do not have change to pay the penalty. I will commit another mistake and I will pay Rs. 6,000." The hon. Minister should look into these things if he really wants to improve the condition prevailing in the country with regard to power.

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA (Marmagoa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would rise here to congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward in such a progressive Bill. In fact, it should have been brought here much earlier. It is better late than never.

Today, power is the backbone for the development of the country. We have seen that some of the projects which were approved during the time of Eighth Five Year Plan have still not been completed. I know, recently, there was a meeting of the Power Ministers of various States called by the hon. Minister. I do not know what was the outcome of that meeting. My request would be that the Prime Minister has to intervene and call a joint meeting of all the Chief Ministers along with the Power Ministers so that if there is any hurdle in the generation of electricity from the various power projects that were approved during the Eighth Five Year Plan, they take off immediately.

In the Ninth Five Year Plan, some of the projects that have been earmarked have not even taken off because of various constraints. If you see the transmission and distribution aspect, it has further degenerated. Can you imagine that in some States and in some Electricity Boards like the DVB, the losses are to the tune of 48 per cent to 52 per cent?

I would request the hon. Minister to appoint a Task Force to immediately go through as to why such transmission losses are there. Actually, these are not the transmission losses. This is an illegal theft, pilferage. There cannot be pilferage without the consent of the officers who are there.

Sir, I was going through the punishment aspect in the Act. What is Rs.3,000/-? Let there be two types of punishment - one for domestic and one for industrial

pilferage. Along with the punishment, there should be imprisonment so that it is a deterrent for those people not to go for theft.

Sir, there is allocation of power to various States from the Central Grid. But we have seen that this allocation does not reach particular States. One of the victims is the States from where I hail, that is, Goa. The allocation for Goa from Ramagundam and Korba is 350 MW. But up till now, we can draw only 200 MW. What is the reason? Because, there is no line between Kolhapur and Konda.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister and like to ask for his assurance that the money required for this transmission will be allocated by them before transmission is passed on to the private sector because I know, after that, nobody will pay heed to this. It needs about Rs.150 crore. I would again request the hon. Minister to sanction this amount of Rs.150 crore so that the missing link which is there between Kolhapur and Goa can be easily made up and we can utilise the remaining 150 MW of power which have been allocated to Goa.

Today, Goa is going hungry. Our industries cannot compete with others because of the power-cut. Due to the power-cut, the industries work for only six to eight hours and on the other side, labour is also expensive in Goa.

I would congratulate the hon. Minister. I would request him and I would like to have his assurance that this gap of 150 MW, which is there, will be made up. The consumers in Goa will be happy that our hon. Minister has helped them in the way of transmission. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI K.K.O. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after independence, in 1950 power generation capacity of China was equal to that of our country. But, since then our country has been able to achieve only 90 thousand M.W. power generation capacity, while in China it has achieved a capacity of 2 lac 30 thousand M.W.. So far as this Bill is concerned, it is good but so far as power generation from hydel and coal is concerned, I think the Government should set up big thermal power projects at the places where there are coal reserves and hydel projects where water is available. Just now, one of our colleagues from Punjab was saying that their lands have been washed away by water. Has the Government of India ever thought of the hill areas like Himachal, Garhwal or Kashmir? The people of these areas are never given any compensation. People of Bilaspur had to suffer when Bhakhra Dam was constructed. Our people are also suffering due to construction of Beas Dam. All the projects of Himachal Pradesh have been asked to give power to Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. However, Rajasthan Government does not do anything except harassing our people. There are a large

number of poor people and Scheduled Caste people in Himachal Pradesh who are living below the poverty line and they are being harassed.

Sir, Himachal Pradesh has the potential to generate 20 thousand M.W. of electricity. We have imposed tax on it and this account, Punjab has to pay an amount of Rs.1200 crore. The Hon. Minister had visited Himachal Pradesh some days ago and I hope that this issue might have been brought to his notice. The BJP Government is there in that state as well as in the centre. Even votes in Himachal Pradesh were sought on the ground that in the event of BJP forming Government in the State it would bring prosperity. The outstanding amount of Himachal Pradesh should be paid to it. It is being conspired to waive off the previous outstanding amount. Pollution is also spreading in this State. Crores of rupees of the State electricity board are outstanding against big people and industrialists, but the Government is not paying attention towards this issue. The farmers of Himachal Pradesh have been demanding that they should be provided maximum electricity.

The Bill provides for granting licence but it does not indicate as to whom it would be granted. Further, what punishment would be given in case someone does something wrong after getting the licence? Will they bring a legislation afterwards? Framing of legislation in this regard would take a lot of time. It is not known whether this Government would last till then. Ms. Jayalalita has been holding out threats to this Government regularly. You have been a Minister in the Government of both the parties. You belong to a very noble family. You are a son of a freedom fighter. You should do something for Himachal Pradesh as this Government might crumble within a very short span. In the meantime, you should do something so that our purpose is served. It is being said that we would get 15 to 25 per cent electricity. Punjab is also demanding its share. What for they should be given a share? It has been stated that Punjab would get the total electricity generated from Jogindernager Power Project. This is not proper. Some amount is also outstanding against Haryana but this state is not ready to pay us that amount. We also moved the Supreme Court and the High Court. The Government should withdraw all the cases in this regard. The Government is headed by Shri Dhumal in Himachal Pradesh. So, please provide funds to this state so that Himachal Pradesh may move towards prosperity. With these words, I conclude . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.S.RAO (Machilipatnam) : Please permit two minutes each. There are some more Members, please give them also an opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER : No, please. We have to take up the discussion under Rule 193 also.

SHRI K.S. RAO : That is all right. You can restrict the time to two minutes each. You are not giving much time. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a discussion under Rule 193 regarding atrocities on women is also to be taken up . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If we do not take up the discussion under Rule 193, it will amount to discrimination against them.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : An hon. Member from your party has already spoken. Please cooperate. Next time I will allow you. Shri Rao, please take your seat.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sushil Kumar Singh, please cooperate with me this time.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGLAM) : I hope, it is not going to be an atrocity on the Minister of Power! . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, at least one more Party can be accommodated.

MR. SPEAKER : After the hon. Minister's reply, you can ask questions or clarifications.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I firstly thank you as well as the hon. Members of this House for having participated in this debate and, I must say, showing concern with regard to the power sector.

This has been one of the very useful debates. Whether it was fortuitous or it happened to be an accident, extremely interesting points have come up.

Before I reply to the points raised, I would like to quickly go into the background of the Bill, which I will mention and then deal with the issues.

Hon. Members will recollect that the Indian Electricity Act of 1910 had enabled electricity licensees to supply power in cities. In 1947, it was decided that power should be supplied to the rural areas along with the cities. Hence, came the 1948 Act. This integrated the State grid into an integrated grid and set up the State Electricity Boards. That was the first time the Electricity Boards came into being. It also set up the Central Electricity Authority.

Though licences were allowed in the 1910 Act, a clear scheme for fixation of tariffs was evolved only late in the

Sixth Schedule of the 1948 Act. In the 1960s, the Government decided that the States should be joined together to form regions and the grid should be integrated to the regional level. Hence the RLDCs and the REBs which have been referred to were set up. Surprisingly, they were only made legal in 1991. Though they actually started operations in the 1960s, it was at that stages that a need was felt to do that.

In the 1980s, a situation came up where we needed a national grid. It was then that the Power Grid Corporation was set up. This Act's primary duty seems to be to give a legal status to the Power Grid Corporation and to separate transmission as an independent activity. The Power Grid Corporation, surprisingly, is a generation company in terms of licences. Without this amendment, we would have a situation where a company, which is basically a transmission company is being treated as a generation company because the statute does not provide for looking at transmission separately.

Many of my hon. friends have mentioned that transmission is essentially an integral part of generation and distribution. I do not deny that because when we talk of power, we start with generation and end up with distribution and neutralisation of power. But they are both like what we often say in legal parlance, 'joint and several'. Transmission is severable because it needs that kind of an attention today.

Many hon. Members have pointed out that when we spend one rupee on generation, we should spend the other rupee on transmission and failure on our part to do this has caused a number of problems. In fact, today, we have a situation where the actual shortage of power from the point of view of demand and supply is only about nine per cent. But when one looks from the point of view of the user at the power cuts and the lack of quality power, it looks looming large at somewhere around 25 per cent to 30 per cent.

It is because the power is not ultimately utilized by the consumers. It is either going by way of theft or as transmission and distribution losses. It is going in various other forms. But it is not reaching the consumers ultimately. There is a desperate necessity to bring transparency in the power sector as rightly pointed out by the hon. Member, Shri Prakash Ambedkar. He has pointed out that the cost of generation in the power sector is causing worry as to what is going to be the ultimate tariff. I wish to tell him, through you, Sir, that one plant does not have to give us that much of worry. It has been historically seen that whenever privatisation is done in what is normally called, the Core Command Economy Monopoly Sector Area, in the initial flush, there would be lack of competition and prices would be high. The first couple of plants that come

up in the private sector will have high price. I have been criticized in the Press very recently when I have been voicing the same view, that the need of the hour is to have a competitively produced power to ensure that you get a reasonably priced power for the people of India. I have got a lot of buffeting from all over saying that I am doing day dreaming. But I can assure this House, through you, that I am confident that the methods that we are adopting has borne out of the experience of the last six or seven years. It is not that I have brought out a magic. They taught us that the price of even private power can be reasonable and can be competitive. In fact, in some cases, I am hopeful that they should be more reasonable than even public sector produced power. But that does not necessarily mean that public sector is inefficient.

Insofar as the Central public sector is concerned, I can say with authority that they have done yeoman service to the power sector. With just a mere return of twelve per cent of investment, the NTPC has been able to show a profit of over Rs. 2,000 crore. It is not a joke to achieve that level of efficiency. Private sector will find it quite difficult to reach those levels. Of course, there are various protections which you do not give to the private sector. It is an ever-continuing process. But I must say and point out that that this Bill does not privatise transmission. It has been repeated endlessly for the last six days that this Bill privatises transmission. No, it does not privatise transmission. This Bill provides that transmission will remain in what is called the Central sector and in the State sector it will remain with the SEBs. It has to be either the Government Board or the Government Company. What this Bill permits is, in addition to creating what is called transmission utilities, it allows to bring into existence that if somebody wishes to invest or come forward to invest for providing facilities, that transmission utility can make use of those services at a charge which is reviewable by the Regulatory Authority or the Commission. I think this is important for me to point this cut.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Who will provide land?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The Act provides for acquisition. As is provided in the Telegraph Act, emergency powers have been provided for acquisition. I can go provision by provision, but this is the situation. I must point this out.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : When you are saying that there will not be privatisation, you are saying that somebody will come with commitment. What is that?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Privatisation means the act of being responsible for transmitting power, managing

the transmission of power, managing the power to move from point 'A' to 'B', and being responsible for the quantity of power, the quality of power and it will be the utility.

Here, it is like taking on lease - if one puts it in normal term - a facility by a public sector company or a Government set up. It is not a case where we say that the building belongs to you and therefore, if the company takes it on lease, you have bought over the public sector company. It is just making available a facility. I want to explain that it is a facility of infrastructure.

This is to bring in investment without losing control. This is to bring in investment without losing control because the control of the grid, the management of the grid and the direction of the grid will remain with the central utility which is a Government company. I mean, we are beating about the bush. All that we are doing is that we are trying to bring in a concept in the power sector that anybody who has got money and can afford to build an infrastructure, will build an infrastructure and offer it to you. Of course, before he builds it, he would ask you to offer first. If the offer is acceptable to the utility, the utility would recommend it; then he is given a licence to build. Whatever rate he fixes as charges, in normal terms, it would be called lease; and that would be reviewed by the Regulatory Commission in an open hearing and nothing is going to happen behind the doors. What better transparency provision, I would like to know, can one make without losing control?

I must commend the Standing Committee for having done a yeoman service. It is not my work. The Standing Committee had gone into it in depth; it had given recommendations; it had specifically made recommendations saying that we have to maintain control over transmission; at the same time, ensuring the possibility of private participation and at the same time, ensuring that there is growth.

I think, this is one of the best Bills. It is not a Bill of mine, I mean, as soon as I became a Minister, I brought it. This is a Bill that has come to Parliament before; it has been considered by the Standing Committee; it has been debated and dissented also. But when I saw this Bill in depth, I felt that this is one of the best pieces of legislation that I have seen in the power sector and so, I brought it.

I would not take too long. But I would like to say that the first hon. Member who spoke, Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan, pointed out certain things very categorically. One of them was about the tariff that is payable for use of the transmission lines. He asked: why should it be determined, why did we give this exemption for determination, why should we allow the Government or the CERC to give exemption, etc.

[Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam]

I must also, through you, Mr. Speaker, inform the august House that actually today we have constituted the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the notification of its constitution would be issued today. I am also pleasantly surprised and at the same time, happy to inform this House that my own home State, that is, the State of Tamil Nadu, has been one of the first States to come forward with a notification — of course, after Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Orissa; and the hon. Speaker should not misunderstand. Andhra Pradesh has regulated its own Bill and it brought forward its own Act. So, in the case of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Orissa, they had brought forward their own legislations.

It was rumoured and said otherwise. In fact, my friend Shri Sultanpuri while speaking talked about our alliance party, AIADMK - with a certain amount of contempt and said that I did not have time for it.

But let me inform this House that the Government of Tamil Nadu has notified the application of the CERC/SERC Act. They have notified a Selection Committee and are going to constitute the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission. Similarly, I have over 12 States which have come forward and have applied for the Electricity Regulatory Commissions. There was a lot of criticism at that time saying that we have given option to the States, we have watered down the Act, and that the whole intention of the Act had gone. Sir, ultimately, time proves as to who is wrong and who is right. I am not saying that anybody is in the wrong. All I would like to say is that my trust in the democratic system and my belief in the compulsions of time have proved correct as regards these steps which we have been taking with regard to the Regulatory Commissions and now with regard to this Bill. I believe that over a period of time, with regard to amendments, we would come in to consolidate the reform process and by consolidating the reform process, I am more than certain that we would be able to hopefully meet, by the year 2007, the objective of ensuring that our nation is one of those modern nations where power is not a liability.

There was a question that had been raised by my good friend Prof. Saifuddin Soz to the extent that Salal Power Project gets power to the Valley and that the Government of India or the Power Grid did not help them. That was his allegation. I want to inform him, through you, that Salal Power Project gets supply to the Valley through a 220 KV double circuit Krishnapur-Pampore line of J&K Power Department. After commissioning of this hydro project, power supply in the Valley has significantly improved due to the Wagaon transmission, an establishment of the Zainkot sub-station. I am just keeping him informed. Some of the names needs a little practice in pronunciation.

With regard to the punishment, I would like to assure my hon. friend, Prof. Soz that it is a very good suggestion but unfortunately, this is an amendment which is coming as part of the existing Act of 1910. In the Act of 1910, Section 41(a) is being added to Section 41 which actually speaks in identical terms. We felt that when we bring the comprehensive Bill, we would bring specially the amending and upgrading penalties. We will do it together because we thought that the same punishment which is provided as punishment for non-licensees for giving supply would be appropriate for transmission also. Otherwise, there would be an imbalance in the Act. I would assure the hon. Members through you that when we would bring it, we would upgrade the punishment to make it more relevant to the times...(*Interruptions*)

But let me inform that punishment for theft is different. Punishment for theft is provided for under Sections 39 and 40. I am talking about non-theft. It is as if I have a private generator and I supply you power and there is a punishment for it. Now, you have a private transmission line also going on by the way in many private areas where a cable is taken directly from the sub-station and is transmitted to a few houses. The whole thing is a private network where no bills are paid and only expenses are paid. This is going on in some places. Some colonies have this system. It is there even in the most modern cities like Delhi. The point which is important to note is that it has provided penalties for theft. But even in such illegal supplies, I believe and agree with the Members that we need to upgrade it not only for one form of offence like transmission supply but also for generation and distribution. But it has to be done in a consolidated form. I can assure the hon. Members through you that we will come to the House.

I have taken enough time.

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA (Marmagoa) : The line from Kolhapur to Ponda is to be strengthened.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : With regard to that, I will inform you.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : The point regarding impact on consumers has not been answered.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : With regard to impact on consumers, I want to make out categorically that I do believe that there will be a small impact. If we delay the setting up of the transmission lines, what are the options with us? The option is : I say no private investment. I do not have money to invest. So, the line will not come up.

The nation does not have money to invest to the extent that we require. If they do not have transmission lines, the losses that we are facing in terms of backing up generation

in the Eastern region is 2000 MW of capacity. We are constrained to back up because there is no facility to evacuate that power. Today, to bring that power from Orissa to Tamil Nadu, you have to take power at Rs. 1.60. It runs all the way from the Northern zone and lands up to the Southern region. It costs almost 80 paise because the route it travels is large. It goes from the East to the North and from the North to the West and from the West to the South. I mean, they could not think of a more devious way of reaching! It is almost like trying to catch the none from the other side. This is because the lines are not available.

If we do not have the money to invest today, anyway, that line will have to be built tomorrow to facilitate at that particular stage. You will (a) today, be paying more price for the power that you are transferring; and (b) actually, you are going to end up in a situation where you are not even able to supply. So, a line is required. It should come at a time at which it is required. If you look at the economics, it will still be cheaper. That is why what has been done in the scheme is to ensure that transmission utility decides where and which segment will be made available for investment. It is not that anybody can set up a line anywhere and demand because it must come out of the circuit. It must be reasonably priced. It must not push the price beyond levels on which consumptions are possible. That is why the utility has been given the authority to recommend. The Regulatory Commission which shares a public hearing is the one which will approve the price. There is enough protection and transparency. I do not worry about that at all. I will say that has no impact. You have to weigh the impact of increase here *vis a vis* the cost today of bringing this power all the way around. If you do that, you will find it cheaper. But if you look at it *per se* and let us assume that you give me a Government grant or you give me a budgetary provision, of course, it will be cheaper because budgetary money does not have a price.

If I take private money, I have to pay interest. I have to pay return on investment. So, naturally, there will be a difference. But where is the money? How long are you going to wait for investment to come. These are real and serious issues to be addressed because we are not talking of Rs. 2000, Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 10,000 but we are talking of Rs. 100,000 and Rs. 150,000 crore. So, we have to devise novel, new and sharp methods by which we do not lose control. You maintain your objectives and you achieve the delivering party of people. That is why I said that this is no longer a sector to be looked at as an attempt to privatise or an attempt to nationalise. These are not the answers any more. Today, none of these magic words work. People want deliverance. They want power at their doorsteps at a price they can afford. That is how they are going to measure all of us.

I am sorry, I have taken enough time. But with regard to the Goa line, I want to say that there is also a 400 KVA line from Kolhapur to Goa. Let me tell you that this line, 160 kms in length, is geared by the CEA and is under construction. So, you will have it soon.

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Today, the people in Goa are blaming our hon. Minister of Power. But his hands are tied. Today, we are having only 200 MW while the consumption is around 300 MW.

Sir, it should be completed on a war footing.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I will again clarify the position to my friend.

Today, a 220 KV DC line from Kolhapur in the Western region and another 220 KV and 132 KV line from Supa in Karnataka from the Southern region is in place. So, for the future I can assure the hon. Member, through you, that for this 160 KM line, 400 KV advance AC line would be up. It has been cleared and I can assure the hon. Member that Goa would soon forget power shortage as a thing of the past and one of history.

Sir, with these words I would like to request the hon. Members of the House to pass this Bill. This, actually was a unanimous Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) (Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in respect of electricity, Bihar is facing the worst situation....(Interruptions) If you see a big black spot while travelling by air, you may conclude that it is Bihar....(Interruptions) Nothing has been said for that state in the commission....(Interruptions) Nabi Karim Super Thermal Power Project has been proposed for Bihar. Whenever, I talk to the Minister about Bihar, he holds his head in disappointment and asks if I am talking about Bihar....(Interruptions) About 10,000 M.W. power is being generated. Only 300 to 400 M.W. power is being generated in Bihar....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sushil Kumar, the hon. Minister is giving the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : There is no electricity even in five percent villages....(Interruptions) Please say something about a special package for Bihar....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the Members from the State of Bihar have spoken very strongly on the power situation.

MR. SPEAKER : Say something about Uttar Pradesh also.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGLAM : Sir, I do understand the inadequacy of the power sector in Bihar and there are multiple reasons for it.

Sir, with regard to the transmission, within the arena I could talk about, I would like to submit that the power shortage in North Bihar is on account of, what is called, sub-transmission problem - that is once from the main grid you step it down.

Sir, we have major problems in Bihar. The main problem in Bihar is that of 'white elephants' as has been pointed out by Shri Rajo Singh. I can say this much that the REC, when it gives a loan, is normally expected to supervise, at the end of the loan period or during the loan period, that a particular sub-transmission sector is put up. But what happens in Bihar is that when we go for, what is called, surveying, to check out the final clearance of a project, we are told that all the copper lines have left the transmission towers and gone to Nepal. Or, we are told that the cables have been cut off and made into ingots by thieves. We are having a major difficulty. It is very easy for the RECs to sanction money but after sanctioning monies to ensure that the work is done on the ground is a little of a 'white elephant', as has been referred to by Shri Rajo Singh.

Unfortunately, it is the responsibility of the Bihar State Electricity Board. We are having some discussions with the State Government. We are trying our best to improve the situation.

Sir, in regard to the Nabinagar project, I would like to assure my friends that this projects will soon be a mega project where they would have 2,000 megawatt of power being produced there. It is coming under the new mega project scheme which the cabinet is considering.

Sir, with these words, I would like to request the House to pass the Bill . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All are interested to know about the REC.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA (Sawai Madhopur) : A scheme named 'Nursery' is being run in Rajasthan under which the farmers are required to pay for electric poles. Is there any proposal to put an end to this scheme?

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGLAM : I would like to make one thing clear. Rural Electrification Corporation is basically a company that carries out three major activities. One of

the activities which it does is, it helps the States Electricity Boards to set up rural transmission network. Secondly, it talks about energizing pumpsets, that is providing an additional loan for the last kilometre as it is called, for the pumpsets in agriculture. Thirdly, it has got what is called the Kutir Jyoti Scheme under which we give Rs.1000 to any hutment to put up connection. These are all ultimately financial organisations and financial activity. The actual construction is done by the State Electricity Board. I think one should understand it. Many Members of Parliament have approached me saying that in their constituencies they need some rural electrification plan. Through you, I would like to assure them that if it comes through the State Electricity Boards, it will be given special attention and if a Member of Parliament has asked for it, it will be given even more special attention.

With regard to Himachal Pradesh, I would like to submit that Himachal Pradesh is already aware that for any new power project with regard to hydro, 12 per cent free power is made available to the State which is in fact an indirect way of generation of tax. The real problem is with regard to the famous BBMB. When it was constructed, there was no tax or free power available. Today, power is available from the wonderful generating station at 9 paise per unit. I think Shri Sharad Pawar, the Leader of the Opposition, would be taken back. That may be one of the reasons why Punjab can today talk of very low tariff for agriculture. We are having discussion of the four Northern Chief Ministers of the region. We plan to sort this out. Immediately after the Session, I think in the first week or as and when time is there, we will sit and discuss and sort out this problem.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : I would like to ask the Hon. Minister as to how he is going to deal the state of anarchy in the power sector which has pervaded in the country over past 50 years. At the same time, I would like to point out that there has been a fake rural electrification in the villages of my state. The rural people are facing difficulties as they are not getting new connections because it has been recorded on papers that so and so village has been electrified. It seems that it was done by the Government of India or State Government in order to get funds from World Bank but the rural people have been put to difficulties. Hence, would the Minister hold an enquiry to find out during which regime such fake rural electrification programme was carried out in the villages and whether officers responsible for it would be punished? At the same time, I would ask one more question by when Tehri Hydel Power Project is likely to be completed since it is lying incomplete and had it been completed in time it would have saved not only crores of rupees but it would have solved the power scarcity problem of the entire North India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, would you like to respond to the issues related to Uttar Pradesh?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : With regard to Tehri project, it is my hope that as per the programme, Tehri will start producing its 1000 megawatts of power by the year 2002. In regard to the rehabilitation problem which has been brought to the notice of the House, I assure the Members, that we would pay not only attention to it but I myself will be personally going across to Tehri to see what the problems are. The State Government has constituted a task force consisting of the local MLAs and the Members of Parliament. I have even told the State Government that if they have any difficulty in providing their share of equity, we would provide it but they would lose their share of power. I want to assure the hon. Members that the project will go on.

MR. SPEAKER : The questions is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 13 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 13 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 Title were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

1527 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Increasing Atrocities on Women

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up item No. 9 - Discussion under Rule 193, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I rise to initiate the discussion under Rule 193 on increasing atrocities on women, with a heavy heart. With a heavy heart because even after fifty years of our Independence, atrocities on women are on the increase; with a heavy heart also because this Discussion could not be taken up on time through the Discussion on the other two issues — flood situation and Maruti Udyog — could be taken up on time. This would send a wrong signal to the women in the country as to how Parliament feels about them.

Sir, before I go into the details of the discussion, I appeal to all Members of the House to look at this problem not from the point of view of politicising it and using it for political purposes. I am absolutely sure that only the united effort of all political parties rising above petty political considerations, the united effort of all the organisations of women, youth, students, *kisans*, labourers, agricultural labourers and other social forces and the goodwill of all people together can create an atmosphere in which atrocities on women will be effectively fought against.

We must admit that the situation as it exists now is not bad.

Let us all admit that we have not been able to do what we should do for women and for mitigating the atrocities against women. Why am I saying this? It is only with the feeling that if we approach this question in right perspective, maybe we shall be able to go somewhere and take some steps which really will mitigate, at least, the atrocities.

1730 hrs.

[DR. LASMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

Atrocities are of various types, viz. rape, gangrape, molestation, even of minor girls. Yesterday, I read in the newspapers that a Ninety-year old woman was raped. What is this going on? Just see, women of nine years, seven years and ninety years. Then parading women nude is a new phenomenon which is now growing. Sale of girls to brothels, sale of girls in foreign countries, sexual harassment of women at work places, physical and mental torture by husband and husband's family, torture for dowry, abandoning the wife in a helpless condition, etc. are increasing every year.

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

I would have given the statistics but I think, that it is not full. Even then what they reveal is really something about which we should all be seriously thoughtful. Just see the figures. Despite the fact that all the cases are not reported at all, particularly in the backward States, let us see the figures of rape cases. What is the situation?

The all India figures: 12,992 in 1995, 13,531 in 1996, and 14,215 in 1997. Every year it is increasing. Sir, these are not the complete figures as they are not always reported. Rajasthan : 1036 in 1995, 1162 in 1996, 1255 in 1997. Maharashtra : 1322 in 1995, 1408 in 1996, 1206 in 1997. Uttar Pradesh : 1800 in 1995, 1741 in 1996, and 1390 in 1997. Madhya Pradesh : 3023 in 1995, 3007 in 1996, and 3011 in 1997. Bihar : 907 in 1995, 859 in 1996, and 1189 in 1997 — obviously all cases are not reported.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : It is because all men are engaged otherwise.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Well, it is up to the men. As I said in the very beginning, it does not give good message to the country.

Then I come to Delhi, which is a much small State. As you all know, I need not give the figures. Everyday when you open the newspaper, there is a page on crimes committed in the State. Now, this is the situation that we are in. It is also true that sometimes some political party workers are also involved in such cases and unfortunately, they get protection. I am not saying about a particular party, they may belong to any party.

This must be stopped. This is the first step. to begin with, all the political parties have to stop this. You stop giving any protection to those criminals who go in for atrocities against women, who rape them, who molest them and who make them parade nakedly. You stop them at least.

Secondly, as I have already said, there should not be any politicisation of this issue. We have to rise above petty political considerations, and we all have to act together.

As far as the laws are concerned, there are some excellent laws to deal with cases of atrocities against women. They have been passed by this very Parliament. I came in 1980. From 1980 to 1985, passed plethora of excellent laws. For example, we have law on dowry death. There are a very few laws like that. Within certain years of married life, if some death takes place, the police has to take *suo motu* action. Do the police take *suo motu* action? No. I am sorry to say that in a very few cases, *suo motu* action is taken. Very often, the implementation of these laws is not only tardy but it is not done at all. What is the good of having excellent laws? What is the good of wasting the money of the public by discussion,

etc.? This is the situation. What is to be done about that? Moreover, if one goes to the court, what happens? If one goes to the court, he finds it that the procedure is so cumbersome. It takes such a long time that it leads to 'justice delayed is justice denied.' If a case goes on for 10 years, then what is the good of winning the case? After that, very often, the accused is let off. So, this is mostly the situation. If you compare it with the cases that are filed and the persons who are convicted, they are very few. This is a very sad situation.

Sometimes, the Government takes no care about these cases. Witnesses are threatened. Consequently, the case falls through. There are umpteen number of cases where the victims find it difficult even to lodge an FIR because the police is influenced either by bribe or by some other means. So, naturally, these things happen.

We have been demanding separate courts for women. But how many States have courts only for women? We have a very few. That is the position. So long as courts for women are not established, then, at least, do one thing. In the normal court, fix up a particular day where only cases of atrocities of all kinds against women should be taken up, so that these cases can be expedited. Even this suggestion has not been generally accepted. I am again putting it for your consideration.

As regards the question of implementation, everybody knows that the first job is to sensitize the police and bureaucracy. Of course, the first thing is to sensitize ourselves and then only police and bureaucracy. Sensitization of police and bureaucracy is absolutely essential.

More power should be given to the National and State Women Commissions because Women Commissions are correctly saying that they have really no power. They say that they can just hear and then, they can only request the Government. If the Government does not do anything, then, they are in no position to solve the problem. The Women Commission was formed with an idea of implementing the laws. Now, if this is the position in the Women Commission, how will they implement the laws?

It is very clear that the powers given at present to the Women's Commission are not at all enough. We should certainly think how we can give more powers to it so that it can also take some action. We have to think over it. I am not in a position to give a simple solution to do like this or like that. This has to be thought over.

Then comes the question of Women's Commissioners. A lot was talked about appointing them to it. That was also not put to practice. Even that has to be done. It may be done quickly, and powers may be given so that they also do something. That has never been done. Why has it not been given?

Then come women's cells in the Police Stations. How many Police Stations have women's cells? And then how many women. Police Stations exclusively are there? All this was talked about many times. But talking is one thing and doing is another. I am sorry that talking is more, doing is very little. That is the position.

About sale of children to brokers and other countries, seldom has there been any intervention on the part of the Government. In how many cases have the criminals been caught?. Some have taken them to Arab countries. Only a very few of them have been caught. Inside the country nobody has been caught. Practically nobody. They get away with impunity.

Then comes the media. Sensitisation is needed not only of bureaucracy but also of media. I feel that our media should cooperate in this, because they have a powerful way of sensitisation and I must thank the electronic media and now the print media for the way they have given us support for the Women's Reservation Bill. I hope that in future also they will do the same for atrocities against women.

Then about sexual harassment in workplaces, everybody knows that whether it is brick kilns or offices, hundreds of cases come to us. I am sure that our other sisters also know how in workplaces women are sexually abused. Unless they sexually please their bosses, they are either downgraded or some case is started against them. Or some victimisation is there. Of course, this is a very very serious situation because in our country, though women have not become economically independent or self-sufficient, in the villages a lot of women work in small industries, in the informal sector. There molestation and that kind of sexual abuse is very much there; it is there also in the upper sections of the work, be it Government or be it any other private organisation.

In this connection I would like to remind the House that the hon. Supreme Court had in its judgement delivered on August 13, 1997 directed all employers including the Centre, the States, public sector undertakings and enterprises to create suitable mechanism and take appropriate steps for preventing sexual harassment of women in workplaces.

They delivered a 23-page judgement. I am not going to⁴ read all the 23 pages but I quote one paragraph :

It shall be the duty of the employer or their responsible persons in workplaces or other institutions to prevent or determine commission of acts of social harassment and provide the procedure for resolution, settlement, of prosecution of acts of sexual harassment by making all steps required."

But what has been done after that? It is an absolutely clear judgement. Has the Government done anything? It has done nothing. Have the PSUs done anything? They have done nothing. Regarding the private enterprises, the less said the better. Who is going to catch them? Therefore, the harassment is going on as earlier. Should the Government not have evolved some mechanism after the judgement? Should it not be done now at least without delay? But it is better late than never. Now, at least, please take some steps according to the judgment so that something can be done about it.

Now, let us take the question of dowry deaths. I have said that despite the excellent law, a very few cases are dealt with successfully. Apart from sensitising the administration for promptly taking up the cases, according to the law, the biggest necessity is of setting up example by not taking and giving dowry. Do the politicians try that? Mostly not. Can we not take a vow that we shall try our best not to take or give dowry? We can adopt a resolution to that effect in Parliament. (*Interruptions*). I would like to say that black money in dowry should not be practised. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I would suggest that a plan of action be prepared which can coordinate all the aspects in which the Government and the popular organisations can cooperate.

Last but not least, the way you have dealt with the Women's Reservation Bill, by not letting it even being introduced in the House, has roused this question among various people whether this is also not a piece of atrocity on women. Therefore, I would request that in order to give proper signal to the people, you kindly get the Bill introduced in the next week.

Sir, with these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Discussion Under Rule 193 on 'increasing atrocities on women' initiated by Smt. Geeta Mukherjee and I endorse the views expressed by her on this burning topic. I believe that in a country like India where women constitute 50 per cent of its population unless we treat the women with equality, unless we give them a respectable status in the society, unless they are treated at par with men this country as well as the society do not have a good future.

Points which have been made reveal different facets of atrocities committed in varied forms and manner. There may be social atrocities, atrocities inflicted by physically and

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

mentally, service related atrocities, atrocities committed by media and even in education field atrocities are being committed. The figure quoted here compel us to think that on one hand we are marching ahead on the path of economic development, making effort to provide education to all and on other hand the incidents of atrocities on women in the society is on the increase at different places. Having heard all these things when I analyse the situation, I feel this problem should not be seen in such a manner as to which party is in power in which state. It is right that one party may be ruling at present in a state, then other party may come to power tomorrow but if you go through the figures presented by Smt. Geeta Mukherjee you would know the gravity of the situation towards which I must draw the attention of the House.

The incidents of [English] Rape, Kidnapping, dowry deaths, torture, molestation, sexual harassment and crimes under special laws have risen by 56 [Translation] per cent in the last 5 years in the country. These incidents are higher in many states. We need to pay more attention towards some of the states like Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Karnatka.

AN HON. MEMBER : Also Orissa.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Probably, report from Orissa has not come but the condition of these areas appears very serious vis-a-vis other States. National Crime Research Bureau, an institution of Government of India, has given certain figures to the Government according to which rape is committed in the country after every 50 minutes, one dowry death occurs after every two hours, one kidnapping is committed in every 40 minutes, one case of molestation is committed in every 27 minutes and one incident of eve-teasing is committed in every 50 minutes. After every thirty minutes, an incident of misconduct against women takes place in this country. These figures indicate the increasing seriousness of this problem. The first point is this that unless we are able change the viewpoint of 50 per cent men about women, I do not find chances of improvement in this scenario. We do not view women in right perspective. Even today, some people believe that women are their property. After going through the history in this regard, I do not want to mention here name of any person or saint but our history says that there was a great man who ruled over a vast kingdom, he left his wife to serve the poor. We find in the history that when any woman was doubted, she was ordered to undergo fire test. I have never read in history or come across any instance wherein any man

underwent fire test and I also do not have any information in this regard. But Sita had to undergo fire test in the country. Such mentality is wrong. Today women's condition in our society is worse. Present day's society is not ready to accept their independent existence. A woman may be someone's daughter or wife or mother. But our society does have the concept of her independent personality. You can see anywhere, even today in our country maximum labour is done by women. There is an organisation called Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in the world. It has collected some figures regarding the share of persons engaged in agriculture labour. These figures show that women contribute 70 per cent labour in producing foodgrains in the world whereas they get just 12 per cent share out of the total production of foodgrains achieved by their labour, it means we have given the whole responsibility of doing labour to women but we are not ready to give them their share in the fruit of labour particularly in developing countries. It is also a different type of atrocity against women. I believe that we need to initiate many steps in this regard. We need to take steps in the field of education. You can go through books of any language, we teach the new generation through these books and although we feel proud of women but at several places we mention women in such a way that education does not help in developing the mentality of 'equals thoughts for women' in the minds of new generation.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As we are discussing an important issue and several hon. Members want to participate in this discussion and hon. Sharad Pawar ji's speech is still incomplete, so if the House agrees we may take up this discussion tomorrow and Sharad Pawar ji may continue his speech tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, there should be no 'Zero Hour' tomorrow so that this discussion could start again immediately after the Question Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 24, 1998/ Shravana 2, 1920 (Saka).