Thirteenth Series, Vol. V, No. 20

Wednesday, April 19, 2000
Chaitra 30, 1922 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. V contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, April 19, 2000/Chaitra 30, 1922 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

REFERENCE BY SPEAKER

[English]

Massacre of Persons by Armed Militants in Anantnag District, Jammu and Kashmir

MR. SPEAKER: As the hon. Members are aware, 35 persons were massacred by heavily armed militants on the intervening night of 20th/21st March, 2000 in Chittisinghpora village, Anantnag District, Jammu and Kashmir.

We deeply mourn the loss of lives and the House may place on record its deep sense of grief on this tragedy.

Members may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect of the memory of the departed souls.

11.01 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. The connection of electricity and water supply of the accommodation of the members of Parliament has been cut off. It was decided in the meeting held at your place that water and electricity will not be cut at any cost. In the entire history of the country till date, the electricity and water supply connection has not been cut. If the water and electricity conections have been cut while the session is going on, how will they aquaint themselves with facts before presenting them in Parliament and how will they be able to do their work?...*(Interruptions)* The Municipal Committee cut off the electricity connections of parliamentarians if some dues are pending regarding electricity bills but the company running hotel Le-Meredian kept on delying the payment of licence fee and an amount of Rs. 115 crore is outstanding against it. This has been reflected in the report submitted by CAG yet the electricity connections of the hon. Members are being cut-off....*(Interruptions)* Our house rent as well as furniture rent is deducted from our salary and now even the electricity connection has been disconnected....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received two or three notices, and also notices for Privilege Motion, on the same subject. They are under my consideration.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 361, Dr. M.P. Jaiswal.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter....*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Privilege Motion should be brought for it and the Chairman of NDMC* should be called here and it should be asked from him as to why the members are being humiliated like this...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, this is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 361, Dr. M.P. Jaiswal.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say two things. Firstly, the electricity of the M.Ps. is disconnected and secondly overbilling is done. I was sent a bill of Rs. 3,40,000. You will accuse that I am not paying the bill despite being leader and due to this reason, I accepted the bill of Rs. 3,40,000. But if you investigate it, the bill cann't exceed Rs. One lakh but the bill is sent three to four times of the normal for M.Ps. and the electricity is disconnected. How can they do so....*(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can mention it in the 'Zero Hour'. I have already received privilege notices on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is a very serious matter. If you keep on thursting bureaucratic norms, then it is not right. How can you make Mulayam Singh to follow your point. The industrialists, in connivance with bureaucrats and the police are consuming electricity without making payment for it. Crores of rupees are outstanding against each of the industrialist yet their electricity has not been disconnected. Rs. 17 crore are outstanding against an industrialist any you are disconnecting the electricity supply of the Members...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a Question Hour. Please understand this.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is a question of the contempt of the Members and of the privilege of the Members...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I have already received two-three Notices on this issue. They are under my consideration. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Whether the electricity supply of the industrialists has been disconnected? Should we frame rules for it? How many times you have said that we will try to make special provision for ensuring the uninterrupted supply of electricity for members. We want electricity and water.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please do not disturb the Question Hour.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can the proceedings of the House take place?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should give the permission to raise this issue after the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you can raise this matter during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Raghuvanshji has used typical abusive language during his speech, I am afraid that it might go on record. It should be expunged from the record...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is Question Hour. How can you speak this way?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Raghuvanshji has used abusive language in his speech. It should be expunged from the record....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If everybody raises issues like this in the Question Hour, how can the Questions be taken up? There is a procedure to follow? You can raise it in the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Shri Madan Lal Khurana is speaking about the unparliamentary language used by the hon. Member.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, hon. Member Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has met me before the assembling of the House. He was here till late last night when the sitting of the House continued up to 10 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): You are encouraging this practice by replying. Please realise it. We junior Members are very disappointed with what is going on here. Please allow the Question Hour to continue. We want to learn from the senior Members. They are lecturing like this everyday. This is not a correct practice. Please do not encourage this practice....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mahajanji, you speak whatever you want to speak. Who are they to stop you....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. You are disturbing the House like this again and again.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Question Hour.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 364. Shri Uttamrao Dhikale.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

*364. SHRI UTTARMRAO DHIKALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interest accrued on the funds released under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme is used for developmental works;

(b) if so, the interest accrued on such funds so far. State-wise and the manner in which the Government propose to use the said amount;

(c) whether any reivew has been conducted regarding implementation of the MPLADS;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*Not recorded.

Statement

(a) and (b) The interest accrued on the MPLADS funds deposited with the nationalised Banks may be used at the recommendation of the MP concerned for the same purpose for which the basic amount has been allocated. The details regarding interest accrued on the MPLADS funds are available with the respective District Collectors.

(c) to (e) Implementation of the scheme was reviewed by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, whose report for the year ending March 1997 (Report No. 3 of 1998, Union Government-Civil) was laid on the Table of the Parliament on 11.6.98.

A new evaluation study of the MPLADS has been entrusted to the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my first question is that is to how much amount is deposited in banks and how much interest is accrued on it every year? According to the information which I have received. 50 percent of the amount always his with banks. I would like to know the statewise amount of interest incurred on this principal amount.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, there are two points. Firstly, of the total amount which has been released for the MPLAD scheme, almost Rs. 1,800 crore are lying unutilised. On this amount of Rs. 1,800 crore, the interest which has accrued is about Rs. 107 crore. I can give the year-wise statement.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Could you please give us the State-wise figures?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The State-wise figures are available. It will take a long time to read. But if you want, I can certainly read them out to you.

Sir, there is a utilisation table....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the State-wise figures should have come along with the written answer in the form of an annexure....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb. Let him answer.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: When the hon. Minister gives his reply in written form, it is a general practice that all the relevant information in provided along with the written answer in the form of an annexure. But this is a new practice that we are now being confronted with...*(Interruptions)*...If any hon. Member seeks some information in the House, that information ought to be provided in the House itself.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Let me just mention ....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please direct the Government to give correct answer in a right way in future.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I will read out the figures....*(Interruptions)*...May I read out the figures?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: To say that MPLAD scheme, the figures are available with the respective district collectors...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this is a serious matter....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply first.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this is a fundamental question....*(Interruptions)*... That has been the practice for the last fifty years....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, he is giving the State-wise figures. Please allow him to speak.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I will give the State-wise figures.

In Andhra Pradesh, from 1993 to 2000, the amount that has been released is Rs. 403.45 crore. The amount for which works have been sanctioned is Rs. 363.83 crore. The sanctioned amount is 90 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, these figures could have come along with the written reply also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, this is a very bad practice....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking the Minister. You are disturbing me also. What is this?

SHRI A.C. JOS: This should have come along with the statement....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am also asking the same thing to the hon. Minister. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire reply should have come with the statement....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister should give the reply....*(Interruptions)* The Question which was asked has not been replied....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: You apprise the House about statewise information. All are eager to get the information....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, with your permission, I want to make a suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, please direct the Minister to correct the answer. Let it come next time....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Please, let me just explain.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please direct the Minister to correct the answer. Let it come next week.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He has given the reply. We have the reply before us. But that is incomplete.

MR. SPEAKER: He has not completed his reply. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It is the most unsatisfactory reply....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the question relates to the interest. The figure relating to that interest is not available State-wise. What we have State-wise is the amount that had been released, the amount for which works had been sanctioned and the amount which has been utilised. That figure is available State-wise. That is not asked for in the question.

The question was about the interest accruing to each amount. That is not available State-wise.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am of the opinion that this portfolio too should be given to Mahajanji.

[English]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: I want to ask a supplementary question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I have a request to make to the hon. Members. Everybody sitting here has an interest of asking a question. I would request more especially Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to know that we could reach Q. No. 364 only because hon. Members who were to put Q. Nos. 361, 362 and 363 were not available. If you take it next week, then naturally one is not sure whether the first three people will be there or not and this question may not come. Thank God, it has come. Let us spend half-an-hour on it. Let us ask a question and get answer....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: I want to ask a supplementary question....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Please listen to me. I have a question.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker Sir, my second question is that whether this scheme is reviewed or not? If so, what are the details thereof. If it is revealed after review that the scheme is good then whether the government contemplate to increase the amount of the scheme to Rs. 5 crore from Rs. 2 crore?

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: As you know, the Comptroller and Auditor-General audited the scheme in 1998-99. He passed very severe strictures on the scheme and that report was laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, wrong reply is being given. The audit was for 1997.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, please listen to him. Please let him complete his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The Auditor-General completed his Report for the year ending 1997. It is given there. It came to very adverse findings. These were brought to the attention of the Collectors, the State Governments and also the MPs.

Secondly, the Standing Committee on Finance had given a very strong recommendation at three places in its Report that there should be a sample survey to assess the effectiveness of the Scheme. Those are very strong strictures of the Standing Committee on Finance. For this reason, the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission has instituted a survey in randomly selected constituencies of 57 Members of this hon. House and 28 Members of the Rajya Sabha, in their nodal districts. In these cases, the collection of data was begun in March. It will be finished by June 2000 and the Report of the PEO, the Programme Evaluation Organisation, will be available by the end of the year.

Thirdly, after demands were raised in this august House that the amount should be raised, I am informed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General that he has instituted yet another study of the MPLADS, independent of the work being done by the Programme Evaluation Organisation.

[Translation]

As regards to your question regarding review, these three measures have been taken.

[English]

The second point is of raising it from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 4 crore or Rs. 5 crore. Given the fact that already

the unutilised amount....*(Interruptions)* Please see the seriousness of this matter. The unutilised amount, which means the amount that has been released from here but has not been utilised, is Rs. 1,800 crore....*(Interruptions)*

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

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not do so, you sit down please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please complete your answer.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Given the fiscal situation of the Central Government, these are borrowed funds and the Government is paying an interest of about Rs. 200 crore on the released but unutilised amount. There are causes for this. The main cause, it seems, is the slow pace of implementation....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask your Supplementary, but not disturb like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He is giving wrong reply....*(Interruptions)* Wrong reply is being given....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you want you can ask a Supplementary.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: There is a difference ....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. Please understand.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: There is a difference. On the amounts released but not utilised, the Central Government pays interest because they come from the general finances. But on the MPs' account, as I mentioned earlier, around Rs. 107 crore have accrued as interest. You are not differentiating between the two.

The third point I would just like to bring to your attention is that there are, at the moment six writs pending in different High Courts.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please understand. It is almost 25 minutes now.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: I will ask some clarifications.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The constitutional validity of the scheme is under consideration in six different writs, filed in different High Courts and in the Supreme Court....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: He is explaining the position. Why are you shouting? You are disturbing the House....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: At the moment, I can assure you that the view of the Government is that the amount will not be increased from Rs. 2 crore to any other amount....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We should be allowed to speak. You sit down, please.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have every sympathy to the distinguished hon. Minister who has more exposure to the Media in his professional journalism and who is not realising that professional journalism in the Media and articulation on the floor of Parliament are altogether two different things.

Anyway, I just want to know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider the fact that the MPs in their respective constituencies are not responsible for the backlog of the work, and it is the delay in releasing the funds and the non-cooperation of the Collectors in most of the places, which are holding up the whole thing....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: MPs are also equally responsible for that. Please understand that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister give a categorical direction to the Collectors so that there would be bi-monthly meeting with the MPs on a fixed agenda on the programme; secondly, the Collectors would invite officials for those meetings to be present before the MPs, to discuss about the implementation of the programme? The passbooks should also be given to the MPs so that the MPs would understand how much money has been spent and how much interest has accrued, etc. and monitor the whole thing.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The hon. Member has made two very important suggestions, firstly on the release of funds and secondly on the question of implementation by the Collectors. I will give the facts.

On the release of funds, we give a statement each to the hon. Speaker's Office, to the Chairman's Office and to the Library also every Monday morning showing the amount that has been released for each MP. We place that statement there....*(Interruptions)* It is a thick book; you can see it in the Library. It is there. ...*(Interruptions)* I am trying to assist you. Every single Member of Parliament is informed both at his address in Delhi and at his address in his Constituency ....*(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, we can have a half-an-hour discussion on this. Mr. Minister, do you have any objection?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: No. We can have it.

Production of Foodgrains

*365. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual foodgrains production fell short of the target for the year 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the target fixed for the production of foodgrains;

(c) whether per-capita availability of foodgrains is declining every year despite satisfactory south-west monsoon for the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to increase the production of foodgrain in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of foodgrains during 1999-2000 is likely to be 201.56 million tonnes as against the target of 210.00 million tonnes as per details given in the following table:

(million tonnes)

Crop/Crop-Group	Targets 1999-2000	Production 1999-2000*
Rice	86.00	88.55
Wheat	74.00	70.10
Coarse Cereals	34.50	29.36
Pulses	15.50	13.55
Total Foodgrains	210.00	201.56

* Advance Estimates as on 27.03.2000

(c) and (d) Per capita net availability of foodgrains during 1999 at 470.1 grams per day, though lower than that of 1997 at 509.3 grams per day, is higher than that of 1998 at 450.4 grams per day.

(e) To increase production and productivity of foodgrains in the country, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in rice/wheat/coarse cereals Based Cropping System Area, National Pulses Development Project etc. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Research is also being continuously undertaken of develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of foodgrains in India. Field demonstrations on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers is being organised for effective transfer of technology.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, I got the reply for the question that I asked. I have gone through the details given in the written reply. It is stated that incentives have been given to farmers for production. The question that I am going to ask is a very serious one. Foodgrains sector is important for two categories of people, *viz.* one is the farmer, and the other is the people who are living below the poverty line.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subodh Mohite, you need not give all these explanations. Ask the supplementary question. The Minister will give the reply.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Whenever there is surplus of food grains, it should be exported immediately. Likewise, whenever there is deficit, people who are living below the poverty line should get food grains at reasonable prices and reasonable quantity.

Is there any Response Time System to control and balance all these surpluses and deficits? I would like to cite the example of FACT. When the FACT was facing deficit, it took four months of import the commodities. In the meantime, the price of onions went up. So, my question is this. Is there any Response Time System to balance the surplus and deficit of foodgrains?

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Sir, the question relates neither to production nor to consumption. It is for the Commerce Ministry to answer.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, my question has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has stated that the question relates to the Ministry of Commerce.

Now, what is your supplementary question?

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: My supplementary question is this. What is the system of balancing surplus and deficit of the food grains?

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Sir, I have already stated that the matter relates to the Ministry of Commerce....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is giving the reply. Please sit down.

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Sir, the job of my Ministry is to produce and supply the food grains. If there is any surplus, we cannot export the food grains. So, it is for the Commerce Ministry to export or restrict imports as the case may be.

Actually, there was no difficulty. Cereals were sufficient. While our rice and wheat production was more, the production of pulses was less. I have given a statement to that effect.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The population of our country is growing by leaps and bounds. The food production has come down. The rate of growth of food production has come down to 0.8 per cent. Enough funds are not provided for constructing the irrigation dams. The funds provided are not being utilised properly. The agricultural credit facility is also not reaching the farmers. The Government provides that 18 per cent of the loan given by the banks should go to the agriculturists. We have the figures which show that only 8 per cent of the loan given is reaching the farmers. Enough funds are not being utilised on research and development in agriculture. In view of these facts, what is it that the Government is going to do to see that enough food-grains are produced and they are made available to the people in the country? The people should get the required quantity which each individual, each citizen, in the country should get. We would like to know from the Government what plan do they have and in what fashion they want to achieve this objective.

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: The foodgrains' requirement is 195 million tonnes. Against this requirement, the actual production this year is 200 million tonnes. So, there is no shortfall. The estimated target of production was 210 million tonnes. There is a shortfall in that by 8 tonnes and odd and it is due to the climatic conditions and severe cyclone in Orissa. We have sufficient foodgrains. The deficiency is only in pulses and oilseeds. Some oil is being imported. There is also the factor of minimum price in that. The production of pulses has come down because of the drought condition in some parts of the country.

As far as evolving a scheme is concerned, we are giving all attention to it. Whatever assistance the State Government asks, we are giving them.

MR. SPEAKER: For augmenting the foodgrains production, what steps the Government is taking?

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: To increase production and productivity of foodgrains in the country, the Government is implementing Centrally-sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in rice, wheat and coarse cereals. Based Cropping System Area, National Pulses Development Project, etc. Under these programmes, incentives are provided to the farmers for use of high-yielding varieties of seeds....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: In the written reply, that answer has already been given by the Minister. Why is he reading it again?

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Research is also being done. There is no shortfall.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there has been less production in all respects except rice where the production has been more by only 2.55 million tonnes. There has been a reduction in the availability of food grains also. The per capita availability of foodgrains in 1997 was 509.3 grams and it came down to 450.4 grams in the year 1998. He has compared it with 1998 but not with 1997. I would like to know whether it is a fact that there has been less production of food grains due to deceleration in the consumption of fertilisers because a number of urea production units have been closed down, and the price of fertiliser has been increased.

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Sir, the price of fertiliser has been increased only recently which has no effect on that. Actually the production has come down only in cereals because of the drought conditions prevailing especially in Rajasthan where the oilseeds and pulses are produced. Agriculture is not only dependent on Government support but it is also dependent on natural conditions. The natural conditions also help the farmers to increase the production. Actually, we have no shortfall in cereals but we have surplus stock.

As regards pulses, we are taking proper action and we will become self-sufficient in regard to pulses also....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied that it is not due to fertiliser price rise.

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, two things are required for boosting agricultural production the first is that farmers should get remunerative price of their produce so that they are encouraged to produce more, secondly there is need to create awareness and for it agricultural channels are required. I would like to know as to whether the Government have paid any attention towards it for boosting agricultural production? Farmers will be encouraged to boost their agricultural production when they get remunerative price. Through various agricultural channels and various programmes, awareness could be created among farmers for use of appropriate pesticides to save the crops from various diseses. Not only farmers but the whole country suffers when the crop fails. I would like to know from the Government whether any attention has been paid towards it?

[English]

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Sir, the Government has advised the farmers to go in for commercial crops which are needed in the market. But sometimes the farmers may take up their down farming. Even then we step in to buy their crops at a Minimum Support Price. We always try to help the farmers. We are making the farmers to be always attentive during cultivation.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, the hon'ble Minister is saying that agricultural production decreases or increases due to natural calamities. Not only your Government but all the previous Government kept on blaming nature for decline of agricultural production and praise themselves for increase in agricultural production. I would like to say that this tradition should be stopped.

Secondly, the hon'ble Minister has stated that cyclone in Orissa has affected the production adversely. Every year some areas are affected by flood, some by drought and some by cyclone, but whether any measures have been taken to check.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is whether the Government is taking any steps to control natural calamities.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are right. A report was presented in this regard. A Britisher got a survey conducted in this regard. This report is regarding clearance of flood water and providing water to farmers during drought. If there is any such report, we have not been able to lay our hand on it whether the Government will implement this report if it is found. My second point is that Orissa and Andhra Pradesh were affected of cyclone but I would like to know that whether agricultural production has increased in those states which were not affected by flood and cyclone? I would like to cite an example of Uttar Pradesh. Please tell whether agricultural production has increased or decreased in Uttar Pradesh and if it has decreased, the reasons therefor? You cannot shirk your responsibility merely by saying that Orissa and Andhra Pradesh were affected by cyclone but there are some areas which did not suffer any natural calamity and even then agricultural production has decreased. The hon'ble Minister should tell the reasons for it.

[English]

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: In Uttar Pradesh the situaton is not alarming. It has not come down; it is being maintained. The hon. Member says that the Government should not take credit for increase in production. The Indian farmer is very attentive. Whatever

increase in the foodgrains production is there, the credit goes to him first. We have to honour the farmer for all the trouble that he is taking. Climate has to help him. The Government is supporting him and giving him the new methods of farming, oil seeds and fertilizers. Subsidies were also there so far.

In Uttar Pradesh the situation is not alarming. There is no cyclone or flood in the State so far. As compared to last year, the climatic conditions are more or less bad this year. Last year the climatic conditions were very good. There is a saying in agricultural communities that we have to average the things for five years. In five years time any climatic change may take place. So, the average income of the farmer has to be calculated for five years. That is the saying among all the village communities. So, we have to see the conditions of the last five years. Last year the climatic conditions were very good.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, in view of the natural calamities, is the Government having any permanent solution in mind?

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: About the natural calamities, the Government takes prompt action. As soon as a State Government sends its report, we are sending our experts team and they recommend the assistance. We give money in the proportion of 75:25. We have already sent it to all the States. Some are still pending and they will be dealt with immediately.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU: We heard a statement from the hon. Minister that there is no shortfall of foodgrains in the country. He has given figures that as against the requirement of 195 million tonnes, the production in the country is 201 million tonnes. I am quiet sure that there is no coordination among different Ministries in giving answers being asked in Parliament. Last month, there was a question which had been categorically answered that about seven to ten per cent of foodgrains that have been produced in this country were being wasted in the storage. Even if it is taken for granted that the production of foodgrains is 201 million tonnes, if you deduct the loss in the storage at the rate of seven per cent, the net available quantity for consumption is only about 186 million tonnes. As against that, the hon. Minister has told that 195 million tonnes is required. What is the basis of this calculation? Is it based on the total nutrition that is required per head per day? What is the basis for calculating 195 million tonnes as the requirement?

Sir, 39 per cent of the population in this country do not have adequate accessibility to foodgrains. This is a serious and important situation. How are they giving this calculation? What is the basis of this calculation?

MR. SPEAKER: You can straightaway aks the Minister as to what is the basis of this calculation. The Minister will give all the details.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU: He said that 195 million tonnes are required. Again, you look at the figures that have been given. You may find that the *per capita* availability of foodgrains has fallen down.

MR. SPEAKER: On the one side you are saying that the Minister is reading the statement and on the other side, you are also doing the same thing.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKTESHWARLU: I am trying to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that the availability of foodgrains has falleh down from 509 grams per day per head to 470 grams. Is it not a serious situation? Actually, the lacuna lies in the defective seeds, adulterated seeds and pesticides, inadequate application of fertilisers, inadequate supply of credit. These are all the areas which have to be addressed in a collective manner. He has said that 195 million tonnes is the requirement of the nation. It is a self-deceiving figure. I would like to ask the Minister as to whether he is going to amend the Seeds Act and Pesticides Act and also withdraw the hike in the prices of fertilisers so that higher quantity of fertilisers can be obtained. What is the basis of the calculation of 195 million of foodgrains requirement?

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Sir, the foodgrains required for consumption is 165 million tonnes. The foodgrains required for seed production and to meet the wastage comes to 33 million tonnes. So, the total is 198 million tonnes. We have a production of 200 million tonnes and the surplus is 3 million tonnes which is available now. So, based on the calculation given by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, it is 185 million tonnes per year.

[Translation]

Minimum Support price for Agricultural Crops

*367. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the various crops for which support prices were fixed during the last three years and the details of support prices;

(b) whether any gradation was fixed for purchasing agricultural produce at the support price; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) are fixed for 24 major agricultural crops and the details of support prices fixed during the last three years are enclosed as Annexure.

(b) and (c) The MSPs are fixed for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of the agricultural crops. However, Paddy/Rice are procured in two groups viz., Grade 'A' & Common. Kernel having length & breadth ratio 2.5 and above are classified as Grade 'A' and Kernel having length & breadth ratio less than 2.5 are classified as Common. In the case of Jute, the Government fixes the MSP of TD-5 Grade of raw jute and the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) fixes the MSPs for other grades based on the market price differentials of the main grade. In the case of Cotton, the Government fixes MSP for two main varieties viz., F-414/H-777/J-34 & H-4 and the MSP for other varieties are fixed on the basis of normal market differentials with the basic variety by the Cotton Corporation of India. Similarly, in the case of Tobacco, the Government fixes MSP for two grades viz., L-2 & F-2, and the MSPs for other grades are, fixed by the Tobacco Board, on the basis of normal market price differentials with the basic variety.

ANNEXURE

Minimum Support Prices (According to Crop year)

(Rs. Per quintal)

S. No.	Commodity	Variety	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Paddy	Common	415	440	490
		Grade 'A'	445	470	520
2.	Jowar		360	390	415
3.	Bajra		—	—	—
4.	Ragi		—	—	—
5.	Maize		360	390	415
6.	Wheat		510x	550	580
7.	Barley		350	385	430
8.	Gram		815	895	1015
9.	Arhar		900	960	1105
10.	Moong		900	960	1105
11.	Urad		900	960	1105
12.	Sugarcane@		48.45	52.70	56.10
13.	Cotton	F-414/H-777	1330	1440++	1575++
		H-4	1530	1650	1775
14.	Groundnut-in-shell		980	1040	1155
15.	Jute		570	650	750

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Rapesed/Mustard		940	1000	1100
17.	Sunflower seed		1000	1060	1155
18.	Soyabean	Black	670	705	755
		Yellow	750	795	845
19.	Safflower		910	990	1100
20.	Toria		905	965	1065
21.	Tobacco (VFC)	Black Soil (F2 Grade)	20.50	22.50	25.00
	(Rs. Per kg.)	Light Soil (L2 Grade)	23.50	25.50	27.00
22.	Copra	Milling	2700	2900	3100
	(Calender Year)	Ball	2925	3125	3325
23.	Sesamum		950	1060	1205
24.	Nigerseed		800	850	915

x Including a Central Bonus of Rs. 55.00 per quintal payable from 01.04.98 to 30.06.98.

++ For J-34 variety also.

@ Statutory Minimum Price linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% with proportionate premium for every 0.1% increase in recovery above that level.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Sir, I would like to say that at the support price announced last year, no soyabean or wheat was procured due to Fair Average Quality (FAQ). I would like to say as to whether in future also only 'A' grade foodgrain will be procured at support price and different support price will be announced for 'B' grade foodgrain because last years farmers were exploited due to non-announcement of support price for 'B' grade foodgrain.

[English]

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Sir, last year, the announcement of the support price was a bit delayed due to elections and all that and so, we could not take immediate action. I assure the hon. Members that in future, the support price will be announced in time.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Sir, my question is that at present support pirce is announced for 'A' grade foodgrain only and agencies procuring it rfefuse to procure even good quality foodgrain in support price by finding some fault in it.

I would like to say that whether support price for two categories would be announced. Supposedly, for 'A' grade Rs. 550 and for 'B' grade or general Rs. 525, so that the objective of announcing support price could be achieved and farmers could not be exploited. That is what I want to ask.

[English]

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: There are two grades mostly in respect of rice. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GHELOT: It is not only for rice but also for everything.

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: The price for the second grade is announced whenever there is a need. Actually, we are making the price equal. But the benefit is not going to the farmers. We will see to it that in future the farmers get the benefit whenever there is any increase in respect of 'B' grade variety...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I wish to know from the hon. Minister if his Ministry has understood the fact that the fall in foodgrains production is due to the changes in the crop pattern, and more and more farmers are opting for cash crops because they get a higher return in respect of the cash crops *vis-a-vis* food crops. There are no incentives given to the farmers who cultivate food crops. To add to their burden, there is no special intervention by this Ministry when the foodgrains farmers in the entire country are suffering due to extreme drought conditions, hike in pesticides rates, hike in freight rates, hike in electricity rates for the small farmers, and due to the peculiar State Government policies which want to put meters on the motors. There is non-availability of power to the small farmers. There is also no incentive to them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if he has conducted a study in order to find out how many of our foodgrains farmers have now adopted cash crop production in our country.

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Actually, the hon. Member is enamoured of the commercial crops. In fact, the farmers are having a lot of difficulties in disposing of commercial crops. We see this about tobacco, chillies, cotton, maize and all those things.

About food crops, the market is steady. Of course, the prices may vary a little bit from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50. That is all. The steady income is only in respect of food crops.

About the scarcity of electricity and all these things, they are dealt with by the State Governments. These will be looked into by the State Governments...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Today, the Treasury Benches and the Opposition Benches are giving a lot of trouble to the Chair also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Food crop is safe for cultivation. Where there is no regular water supply, people go in for commercial crops. Whenever water is fully supplied, they convert it into food crops....*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Floriculture and aromatic plant cultivation has increased and multiplied....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Q. Nos. 365 and 367 are co-related, I would like to put a common question in this regard. When will the Government come up with the new Agricultural Policy for the country which will eventually go and help the farmers? I would like to know about this first. Secondly, excessive use of the terminator seed has spoiled production of foodgrains. Thirdly, regarding procurement of paddy, in Orissa, today in respect of the *swarna* paddy variety, which is a fine variety, the Food Corporation of India is procuring this variety at the rate given to coarse varieties. Will the hon. Minister inquire into this matter?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: We are aware of it. We are not allowing the import of terminated seeds.

We have formulated a National Agriculture Policy. It will be submitted to the Cabinet and then the same will be placed before the Parliament.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Spaker, Sir, in view of the fact that the hon. Minister has told us that foodgrains production has not reached the target they had set for it; in view of the fact that there has been a decline in the *per captia* availability of foodgrains; and in view of the assurance the hon. Minister has given to this House that the Government gives incentives to farmers, I want to know as to whether the hon. Minister considers a 15 per cent reduction in the fertilizer subsidy as an incentive to the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: This question relates to the minimum support price for the agricultural crop.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you permitted the previous speaker to link Q. Nos. 365 to 367. In exactly the same way, I am asking as to whether the reduction in the fertilizer subsidy constitute an incentive to the farmers.

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Sometimes the minimum prices may be fixed at a lower rate. If there is a need, the Government gives more price. We have done it....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any incentive to the farmers?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: We have done it in the case of paddy and rice....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: Very good. The Government is hiking the prices as an incentive to the farmers!...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Compulosry Retirement of Officers Invloved In Corruption

*361. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to compulsorily retire Government officers and other employees involved in the cases of corruption;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down therefor;

(c) the details of the All India Service Officers found involved in corruption cases and have committed gross irrgularities and dereliction of duty; and

(d) the action taken against these officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Central Civil Services (Classification Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 governing Central Government servants, and corresponding rules governing officers of, All India Services, Railways, Foreign Service etc. provide for 'compulsory retirement' as one of the major penalties. This penalty can be imposed on a Government servant for good and sufficient reasons after following the prescribed procedure by the disciplinary authority. However, the said Rules stipulate that in every case in which the charge of acceptance of illegal gratification is established, the penalty of removal or dismissal from service should be imposed.

(c) and (d) Under the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969, the State Government as well as the Central Government, depending as to where the officer was working at the time of committing the misconduct, can initiate disciplinary proceedings against a member of the service. State Governments are also competent to impose all the penalties prescribed under Rule 6 of the said Rules, except the three major penalties of dismissal, removal and compulosry retirement which can be imposed only by the Central Government. Sanction of the Central Government is also required for initiating departmental proceedings against a member of the All India Services after retirement. Further, sanction under section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 in respect of members of the All India Servives can only be the Central Government. Department of Personnel & Training exercises the powers of the Central Government in respect of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) as cadre controlling authority. For the other two All India Services i.e. Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFS), the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Environment and Forests are the cadre controlling authorities respectively.

The information regarding action initiated/penalties imposed by the State Governments on members of the All India Services (other than the three major penalties) is not centrally maintained or monitored. The number of cases where the sanction for prosecution was granted, disciplinary proceedings initiated and penalty imposed against officers of All India Services during the last five years (i.e. 1995 to 1999) as per the available information is as follows:

Category	IAS	IPS	IFS
Sanction for prosecution granted	29	8	2
Disciplinary proceedings initiated	28	27	60
Penalty imposed	14	12	1
Case closed	2	8	—

[English]

Water Management

*362. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether per capita availability of water is falling sharply in the country on account of increasing population and shrinkage of Himalayan glaciers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete and scientifc steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to augment and harness the water resources in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOY CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The annual availability of water in the country is more or less constant. However, due to increase in the population, the per capita availability of water in the country has reduced from 5177 cu.m. in

1951 to 1869 cu.m. at present. Although the studies carried out by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) on Gangotri Glacier in Himalayas have indicated that the glacier is receding gradually but it has no proven significant effect on the overall availability of Water Resources in the country.

To harness available water resources and augment water supplies, about 3600 large dams & reservoirs have been constructed to provide a total live storage capacity of 177 BCM by 1995. An additional live storage capacity of 75 BCM will be created on completion of the dams, which are under various stages of construction. Proposals to take up additional dams to create a live storage of 132 BCM are also under formulation/consideration. The State wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

Government of India is also promoting Watershed Management Programme, Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and Roof-Top Rain Water Harvesting for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial recharge of ground water.

Statement

Statewise Storages

Unit. M. Cum

Sl. No.	State	Live Storage Capacities			
		Completed Projects	Projects Under Construction	Total	Projects Under Consideration
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24851.42	7123.27	31974.69	1726.97
2.	Arunchal Pradesh	—	—	—	45500.00
3.	Assam	—	1054.32	1054.32	1023.90
4.	Bihar	4660.93	4352.73	9013.66	3583.13
5.	Goa	44.30	674.45	718.75	—
6.	Gujarat	14919.07	7248.38	22167.45	258.00
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	356.40
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13806.44	109.55	13915.99	14.95
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	96.69
10.	Karnataka	21556.07	3013.31	24569.38	1948.57
11.	Kerala	4617.81	1615.69	6233.50	8091.28
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18580.13	21633.14	40213.27	5174.83
13.	Maharashtra	22095.71	1298.88	35014.59	16315.00
14.	Manipur	396.50	124.58	521.08	508.94
15.	Meghalaya	697.96	—	697.96	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	1220.00	1220.00	21864.08
18.	Orissa	14286.77	3304.63	17591.40	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Punjab	24.75	2344.00	2368.75	1800.63
20.	Rajasthan	8323.15	1591.48	9914.63	—
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	6719.51	36.55	6756.06	—
23.	Tripura	312.00	—	312.00	20160.16
24.	Uttar Pradesh	16347.36	7057.56	23404.92	171,44
25.	West Bengal;	1475.15	—	1775.15	—
26.	A. & N. Island	—	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
28.	D. & N Haveli	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadeep	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	13.79	—	13.79	—
	Total in M. cum	173728.82	75422.51	249151.33	132323.89
	Total (BCM)	173.73	75.42	249.15	132.30

Note: Projects having a live storage capacity of 10 M. Cum and above only are included. An additional live storage capacity of 3 Cubic-km (approx.) is estimated to be created through medium projects each having a capacity of less than 10 M. Cum. Thus making a total live storage capacity of 177 Cubic Km. in completed Projects.

[Translation]

Clinton Visit

*363. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various agreement signed between India and the USA during the visit of U.S. President Bill Clinton here;

(b) whether, Indo-Pak relations, Terrorism, South Asia's Security Scenario, Sanctions, Patents, CTBT, India's claim for permanent seat in the Security Council, Kashmir among other subjects came up during discussions;

(c) if so, the observations of Bill Clinton thereon;

(d) the extent to which the observations are in tune with Indian perceptions on the said issues;

(e) the estimated expenditure incurred on the welcome and stay of his entourage;

(f) whether both the countries have agreed to establish a hot line;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the extent to which the visit boosted the bilateral relations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) During the visit of the US President to India from March 21-25 2000, PM and President Clinton signed a Joint Statement on 21st March in New Delhi, outlining their vision of a closer and qualitatively new relationship in the 21st Century and the

architecture of regular, wide-ranging institutional dialogue between India and the United States. India and the US also signed a Agreement to set up an Indo-US Science and Technology Forum to facilitate scientific contacts and collaboration between the two countries. The two sides also issued a Joint Statement on intensifying co-operation in Energy and Environment and a Joint Statement setting out the terms of reference for the Commercial Dialogue. In addition, several agreements and MOUs were also signed between the private sectors of the two countries.

(b) The visit of President Clinton provided the two sides the opportunity to discuss all bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern, in a warm, friendly and constructive atmosphere.

(c) and (d) The Vision Statement signed by Prime Minister and President Clinton on 21st March expresses the views on a range of bilateral and international issues. It emphasises the commonality, the shared values and shared interests between the two countries.

The two sides expressed their determination to intensify co-operation in combating terrorism. Prime Minister and President Clinton shared concerns over the setback to democracy and growing extremism in Pakistan. President Clinton also acknowledged that there are elements within the Pakistani Government that have supported those who engaged in violence in Kashmir. They also agreed that problems between the two countries in South Asia should be resolved by the countries themselves through peaceful bilateral dialogue. President Clinton stated that the US will not mediate on Kashmir. He also asked Pakistan to help create conditions for a bilateral dialogue to succeed. There is now a better appreciation by the United States of India's restraint in dealing with persistent cross-border provocation.

India and the United States also agreed to strengthen the international security systems, including the United Nations and support its peacekeeping efforts.

The two sides also assessed positively their ongoing dialogue on disarmament and non-proliferation issues and agreed that this should continue for further increasing mutual understanding and narrowing differences on these issues. President Clinton acknowledged that India alone can take decisions on its security needs and recognised that the decision on CTBT will be based on the outcome of our democratic process.

President Clinton stated that he was impressed by all that he had seen and heard in India.

(e) The bills for the expenditure incurred by Government have not been received so far.

(f) and (g) As part of the architecture of regular, wide-ranging institutional dialogue between India and the United States, the two sides have agreed that the Prime Minister of India and the President of the United States will hold regular bilateral 'Summits' in alternating capitals or elsewhere, including on the occasions of multilateral meetings. They will remain in frequent contact on telephone and through letters.

(h) Prime Minister and President Clinton agreed to chart a new and purposeful direction in bilateral relations and to create a closer and qualitatively new relationship, based on equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit.

They agreed to enhance bilateral co-operation in trade and commerce, finance and investment, information technology and other knowledge-based industries, energy and environment, science and technology, and health and to work jointly for the promotion of peace and prosperity in the world in the 21st Century. The architecture of regular, wide-ranging institutional dialogue established during the visit is geared towards meeting these objectives. In addition to regular bilateral 'Summits' between Prime Minister and the US President, there will also be regular dialogue on foreign policy and security matters at the ministerial and official levels. An institutional framework for dialogue on economic and commercial issues, counter-terrorism, energy and environment, and science and technology has also been established.

[English]

Issuance of Passport without Police Scrutiny

*366. SHRI R.S.PATIL:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of State FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of passports are being issued by the Regional Passport Offices in the country without police scrutiny;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which came to the notice of the Union Government during the last three years till date, location-wise, State-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of criminals who have been issued passport due to late submission of police reports, State-wise; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that passports are not issued to the criminals and without completion of due formalities?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (c) Passport are normally issued after due police verification. Short validity possports of an urgent nature can be issued on condition of issue verification certificate issued by an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Secretary to the Government of India. In some cases passports are issued on police report "overdue" basis if the police report is delayed for more than four weeks. In cases where a negative police report is received subsequent to issue, such passport applicants are contacted for clarification and where necessary their possports are revoked/impounded.

(b) All cases are treated as normal passport issue cases and a separate tally of post police verification cases or passports issued on police report overdue basis is not maintained.

(d) As such information is not ordinarily kept in centralised form it will be collected.

(e) Government has strengthened the scrutiny of documents submitted in support of passport applications, as well as the police verification process.

[Translation]

Employees Provident Fund

*368. SHR BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount lying accumulated in the Employees Provident Fund during each of the last three years in each State;

(b) whether the Government propose to invest the above fund in the nationalised banks;

(c) if so, the procedure being followed in this regard; and

(d) the amount of interest earned by the Government thereon during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The total accumulated investment of provident fund as on 31st March, 1999 was Rs. 70,000.99 crore out of which Rs. 41,309.57 crore was in the unexempted sector and Rs. 28,691.42 crore in the exempted sector. The requisite information about the employees provident fund invested in State Government securities is given in the statement attached.

(b) and (c) The EPF contributions not required for immediate disbursement are invested as per the pattern perscribed by the Ministry of Finance. Accordinly, 40% of PF money is invested in Government securities, 40% in public financial institutions and the remaining 20% has been left at the discretion of the Board of Trustees for investment either in Government securities or in public financial institutions. The Board of Trustees subject to their assessment of risk return prospects have also been given an option to make investment upto 10% out of 20% in private sector bonds/securities having investment grade rating from at least two credit rating agencies.

(d) The amount of interest earned from investments made in various instruments during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 was Rs. 3351.47 crore, Rs. 3794.66 crore and Rs. 4363.66 crore respectively. Of this, the amount of interest earned from investment made in State Government securities during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 was Rs. 104.44 crore, Rs. 127.90 crore and Rs. 117.97 crore respectively.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	59.97	70.34	117.18
Assam	47.54	55.13	73.04
Bihar	197.01	221.02	268.27
Gujarat	29.44	34.58	60.30

1	2	3	4
Goa	—	0.76	0.76
Haryana	6.77	6.77	14.14
Himachal Pradesh	1.67	1.67	1.67
Jammu & Kashmir	2.29	4.82	9.84
Karnataka	34.14	36.66	40.76
Kerala	33.24	41.44	44.17
Madhya Pradesh	52.42	56.45	64.44
Maharashtra	19.29	60.98	81.96
Manipur	11.43	10.52	10.52
Meghalaya	5.10	5.10	5.10
Mizoram	1.50	1.50	1.50
Nagaland	20.85	19.67	20.00
Orissa	58.88	61.15	66.41
Punjab	7.97	9.97	21.94
Rajasthan	23.35	28.33	43.08
Sikkim	5.57	5.57	5.57
Tamil Nadu	54.66	56.69	70.26
Tripura	19.91	18.48	13.47
Uttar Pradesh	244.89	299.12	331.86
West Bengal	71.66	71.68	56.85
Grand Total	1009.52	1178.40	1423.09

[English]

Regularisation of Daily Wagers

*369. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government regarding regularisation of daily wagers engaged in Government Departments/Semi-Government Organisations;

(b) the number of daily wagers engaged at Delhi by various Ministries/Departments/Other Organisations under the control of Ministries and duration of their continuous service;

(c) the number of daily wagers regularised during the last three years by each Ministry;

(d) whether the Government are aware of removal of daily wagers from services even after putting in more than 18 months to 5 years of continuous service without break in service;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Government had issued instructions dated 7th June, 1988 that persons on daily wages should not be recruited for work of regular nature and recruitment of daily wagers may be made only for work of casual, seasonal or intermittant nature of work. However, serveral Departments/Cadre-specific schemes were

approved by the Government for regularisation of casual labour who fulfil the conditions laid down under various schemes.

(b) to (e) These are not Centrally maintained as all Ministries/Departments are expected to monitor such information at their own level.

(f) Government are at present only regularising casual labourers who fulfil all the conditions laid down in the schemes applicable to them.

Second Labour Commission

*370. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of First Labour Commission have been incorporated in the assumptions of Second Labour Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the priorities, postulates and assumptions of Second Labour Commission have been fixed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) The terms of reference of the First National Commission on Labour set up in December, 1966 were so formulated that they had a direct bearing on the working and living conditions of labour, changes which had taken place since independence, the extent to which constitutional and legal provisions had contributed to the workers' earnings, standard of living, health and safety, efficiency, training and welfare. The Commission was also required to review the adequacy and effectiveness of the industrial relations mechanisms like Code of Discipline, Joint Management Councils, Wage Boards etc. and make appropriate recommendations. The recommendations of the First National Commission on Labour have been taken into account in the areas of wage policy and minimum wage, improving and strengthening efficiency of employment services, vocational training, labour statistics, research and workers' education. A lot of changes have taken place between the date the First National Commission on Labour submitted its recommendations in August, 1969 and the date the decision to constitute the Second National Commission on Labour was taken by the Government on 24th December, 1998. The changes have taken place in the industrial climate, labour market, employment relations status of industrial enterprises by way of merger and amalgamation and overall changes in the scenario of industrial relations in the wake of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation. The terms of reference of the Second National Commission on Labour have been fixed keeping these changes on view. Under the approved terms of reference the Commission is required to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector and to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector. The Commission is required to make its recommendations within 24 months from the date of notification in the Gazette i.e. by 15.10.2001.

Irrigation Projects

*371. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the irrigation projects are still awaiting clearance of the Union Government since the beginning of Second Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the estimated cost and present escalated cost of each such project and reasons for inordinate delay;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government for expeditious clearance of these projects; and

(e) the time by which all such projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) No irrigation project is awaiting clearance of Union Government since beginning of Second Five Year Plan.

Trade Union Act, 1926

*372. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI RAJESH VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Trade Union Act, 1926; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Labour have proposed amendments to the Trade Unions Act, 1926. The thrust of the amendment proposals is aimed at reducing multiplicity of the trade unions, promoting internal democracy, rank and file leadership of trade unions and facilitating their orderly growth and regulation.

[Translation]

Ambedkar Gram Yojana

*373. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified areas for implementation of Ambedkar Gram Yojana;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have no such scheme.

(b) and (c) The Question does not arise.

[English]

Indo-Lankan Ties in IT

*374. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a MOU to boost Indo-Lankan ties in IT and electronics has been signed between Electronic Computer Software Export Promotion Council of India and Sri Lanka Export Promotion Board;

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

(c) the total export likely to be made during the coming years in IT and electronics under this MOU; and

(d) the steps being taken to boost the export of electronic and IT to SAARC countries?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The terms and conditions of the MOU are as under:

- Exchange of information
- Receiving incoming delegations to promote their Business Missions
- Assistance in Trade Fair Participation, Buyer Seller Meet
- Organise/Participate in Seminars and Workshops
- Advisory Services on Industry Status & Prospects

(c) The MOU is expected to provide an impetus to the two way trade in Electronics and Information Technology between India and Sri Lanka. Besides, it will also help in bridging the communication gap between the Sri Lankan trade and industry circles and their Indian counterparts. Consequently, there is likely to be an increase in India's exports from this sector to Sri Lanka.

(d) Measures taken by the Government of India to boost the export of IT Sector to other countries including SAARC countries are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Incentives to IT Sector

1. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalised and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty. Units in electronics and software sectors have option to apply for EPCG Licence to the competent authority on the basis of self-declaration regarding the nexus between the CG to be imported with the items to be exported.

2. Foreign investment of upto 100% is permitted in units set up solely for exports on automatic route. Various incentives are available for export-oriented units, which include duty free imports of capital goods, ray-materials, components and other inputs, tax holidays against export and access to the domestic market. Such units can be set up under any of the schemes, viz., Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP), Software Tehcnology Park (STP), Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and 100% Export

Oriented Units (EOU). The EHTP scheme has been designed to meet the specific requirement of a globally-oirented electronics sectors. Software Technology Park Scheme is an export oriented scheme for the development and export of computer software using data communication links or in the form of physical media, inlcuding export of professional services.

3. EHTP and STP schemes are implemented under the aegis of the Ministry of Information Technology through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).

4. Powers of approval of the Designated Officers of MIT for implementation of STP/EHTP schemes have been further enhanced, vide Para 9.37 of the Ministry of Commerce Handbook of Procedures (Vol. I), 1997-2002 (incroporating amendments made upto 31.3.2000). They can now approve setting up of STP/EHTP units where foreign exchange required for import of capital goods (net of taxes) is upto US$ 20 million.

5. As per Exim Policy, 1997-2002 (incorporating amendments made upto 31.3.2000) Special Economic Zones shall be set up hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. The units in these zones shall be treated as being outside the customs territory of the country. The units in these Zones shall not be subjected to any pre-determined value addition, export obligation, input output/wastage norms. Sale in Domestic Tariff Area by the units in these Zones will be permitted only on payment of full Customs Duty.

6. Import of second hand capital goods which are less than 10 years old will be allowed to be imported obtaining any licence, on surrender of SIL.

7. A special stock option scheme for Indian Software Companies linked with ADR/GDR offerings by these companies, as an instrument to enable these companies to provide incentives to retain their highly skilled professionals, has been notified vide Reserve Bank of India (RBI) A.D. (M.A.) Circular No. 25 dated 7.8.98.

8. RBI has framed Guidelines dated 8.8.98 for sanction of working capital finance to information technology and software industry.

9. A National Venture Fund for Software and IT Industry (NFSIT) has been set up with a corpus of Rs. 100 crores, out of which MIT shall contribute Rs. 30 crores.

10. Provision for issue of Sweat Equity by companies has been introduced in the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999.

11. Accelerated depreciation norms for computers and computer peripherals for electronic units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP) enhanced in the Exim Policy applicable w.e.f. 1.4.2000. These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years instead of around 5 years earlier.

12. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for electronics hardware units under EOU/EPZ/EHTP schemes and the software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes. Broadbanding is permitted in the DTA sales of Hardware manufactured by EHTP units for items covered in the Letter of Permission.

13. The procedures for operation of the units in the EHTP/EOU/EPZ/STP schemes have been simplified considerably and a number of operations have been permitted on the basis of self certification, as per Chapter 9 of Ministry of Commerce Handbook of Procedures (Vol. I), 1997-2000 (incorporating amendments made upto 31.3.2000).

14. Manufacturers-importers of Electronics goods having investment of Rs. 3 crores and above and units in EPZs/EHTP and STP are eligible for fast-track clearance of goods imported by them vide Ministry of Finance (CBEC) Circular No. 56/98 dated 3.8.98.

15. Post-export duty free replenishment licence scheme for enabling import of inputs on the basis of input-output norms introduced in the Exim policy applicable w.e.f. 1.4.2000. The Scheme would be available for more than 5000 such items where input output norms exist and on the basis of uniform value addition of 33%.

16. Value addition norms for Rupee exports of Russia reduced from 100% to 33% under Advance Licensing Scheme, as per Para 7.10 of the EXIM Policy, 1997-2002 (incorporating amendments made upto 31.3.99).

17. The Depreciation on Computers has been allowed @ 60%.

18. In the 2000-01 Budget, Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals has been reduced from 20% to 15%. The Customs duty on all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, Date display tubes and Deflection components of colour monitors has been reduced to NIL rate.

19. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs Duty.

20. EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units set upto 31.3.2000 are exempted from payment of Corporate Income Tax for 10 years.

21. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act has been widened to include transmission of data.

22. Benefit of section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.

23. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) has been extended to the IT sector.

24. Computer systems are freely importable.

25. The donation of computers, imported duty free by EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units to recognised non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc, two years after their use by the said units has been permitted vide Ministry of Finance Notification No. 47/98-Customs dated 16.7.98,

26. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools have been exempted from customs duties, vide Ministry of Finance Notification No. 18/99-Cus. dated 11.2.99.

27. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venutre Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to inlcude the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.

28. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.

29. Under policy on protfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendable upto 30% subject to approvals. This limit has been raised from 30% to 40% in the Budget 2000-01.

30. Under the Employee Stock Option Scheme, income tax payable on income from GDRs purchsed in foregin currency by a resident employee of IT software and service companies, shall be at a concessional rate of 10%.

31. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.

Educational Standard in Agricultural Universities

*375. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of Research and Development and the falling educational standards in various Agricultural Universities during the recent years;

(b) whether any assessment has been made by the Expert Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan formulated to restructure and reorient Agricultural Educational Institutions and Research and Development to provide strong support to Agricultural Revolution in cooperation with the developed countries during the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) No, Sir. Agricultural Education is a State subject and the universities are established by State Governments and primarily funded by the State Governments. Therefore, State Government has the authority and responsibility for research and development of State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). ICAR functions

like UGC for Agricultural Universities. Therefore, it is providing Development grants for strengthening agricultural education.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) During the year 2000-2001 following specific action plan have been developed.

- Renovation and remodelling of old equipment in SAUs.
- Modernisation of lecture halls with latest educational tehcnology equipments.
- Women technological empowerment by constructing 5 additional girls hostels.
- Global competitiveness attracting foreign students to be trained in India in view of academic strengthening in SAUs. It is proposed to place more than 200 foreign students in SAUs. This will bring much needed foreign exchange.
- Implementation of UG and PG academic regulations in SAUs.
- Development of instructional material and multi-media for computer.
- Introduction of Rural Awareness Works Experience as an integral component for Undergraduate teaching programmes in all disciplines of agricultural and allied sciences.
- Implementation of revised courses curricula at UG and PG level.
- Examination reforms.
- A performance link support to universities.
- Enforcing norms and standards for quality education.
- Prepare for Distance education and vocational education.

Deployme . of Missiles by Pakistan

*376. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "N-tipped Pak missiles trained on cities in India: Report" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 15, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the news report, which is based on the publication of satellite photographs on the Internet by the Federation of American Scientists a non-governmental organisation based in the USA. The photographs, showing Pakistan's special weapons facilities at Kushab and the missile base at Sargodha, were released as part of the FAS's Public Eye project.

(c) Government closely monitors all developments including the deployment of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery by Pakistan. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its threat perception.

Quota For NRI's in Government/Public Sector

*377. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a comprehensive policy in relation to the NRIs;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to fix quota for NRI's seeking job opportunity in Government/ Public Sector in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) On the basis of discussions held at the meeting of the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry, the Government has on 14.12.1999 constituted a Special

Subject Group on "Harnessing the Wealth and Talent of Indians Resident abroad for Development" to consider and recommend implementable action points in this area.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Failure of Crops

*378. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States are facing serious situation due to failure of crops;

(b) if so, the States affected by such failure;

(c) the total loss in terms of money incurred by the agricultural sector particularly due to loss of Rabi and Kharif crops during the last three years including the current year;

(d) whether the State Governments have requested the Union Government for immediate assistance to combat the failure of crops;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the the Union Government thereon; and

(f) the reasons for delay in approval of grant and release of funds to the concernerd States?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to spatial and temporal aberrations in the rainfall distribution, some of the States faced the failure of kharif crops. The groundnut crop was affected seriously in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. The kharif coarse cereals suffered in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Due to super-cyclone, the paddy in Orissa was also damaged. However, in spite of these setbacks the overall foodgrains scenario in the country satisfactory.

(c) No data in terms of money loss is maintained.

(d) to (f) 15 States had submitted memoranda for assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of various natural calamities, which also affected crops. Assistance from the NFCR was provided to 13 States. In respect of the remaining two States it was felt that the State Governments would have been in a position to manage the situation from the funds available under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF).

Investigation by CBI

*379. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has commented adversely upon the C.B.I. and its capacity as an investigation agency for the delay in completing the HDW Bribe case as appearing in the 'Dainik Jagran' on March 8, 2000.

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in the finalisation of the investigation in the HDW case and the time by which the investigation is likely to be completed; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to remove the burden of investigation not strictly falling under the charter of duties of CBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Delhi High Court while hearing Writ petition Civil No. 2141/97 (filed for expediting investigation in the HDW case) on 7.3.2000 perused the status report on the investigation submitted by the Central Bureau of Investigation. Subsequently on the hearing held on 27.3.2000 the Court directed the CBI to pursue the matter with German and Swiss authorities for the execution of Letters Rogatory.

(b) Investigation within India has been completed. However a large part of investigation was to be carried out in Switzerland and Germany which depends on the execution of the Letters Rogatory issued to the concerned authorities. Though matter is being persued with them, no time limit for completion of the investigation, therefore, can be specified.

(c) Cases having inter-state and international remifications and other categories of cases specified in the CBI Crime Manual are generally taken up by the CBI for investigation. The powers and jurisdiction of the CBI are extended by the Central Government to the area of a State, for investigation of an offence in that State, under section 5 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, after obtaining consent of the concerned State Government under section 6 of the Act. The Supreme Court and the various High Courts also entrust cases for investigation to the CBI.

Munich Conference

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

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the decisions taken at the 36th Munich Conference relating to world peace and security environment in the South Asian region held in Feburary, 2000; and

(b) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Munich Conference on Security Policy is organized each year by the Herber. Quandt Foundation, Munich. Traditionally to decisions are taken nor is any communique issued by the Conference.

[Translation]

Payment of Pension Through the Banks

3889. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been made compulsory that the Union Government pensioenrs would be provided pensions through the banks and the Government treasuries of Uttar Pradesh have stopped payment of pensions to the Union Government pensioners;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the banks are also not making payment of pensions in hilly areas particularly in Garhwal of Uttar Pradesh to the Union Government pensioners;

(d) if so, the instructions/guidelines issued by the Union Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Union Government pensioners are likely to be paid their outstanding pension amount with interest thereon; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has intimated that while the system of payment of pension through the treasuries has not been stopped, the State Government has, however, issued instructions stopping disbursement of pension to Central Government pensioners by the treasuries. This has been done in pursuance of the orders of the Accountant General (AG), Uttar Pradesh pointing out financial loss because of the time-lag in receiving reimbursement from the Central Government of the pension amounts being disbursed by the State treasuries.

(c) and (d) The designated banks in UP have been disbursing pension to the pensioners in the hilly areas also. However, because of the implementation of AG's orders and transfer or authorisation from the treasuries to the banks, certain difficulties have surfaced. These are being covercome by allowing pensioners to draw pension through the treasuries as a temporary measure in cases where the changed authorisations have not been received.

(e) and (f) Remedial actions have been taken to mitigate hardship of pensioners in this region. Under the existing pension rules, interest is not payable on delayed payment of pension.

Iron ore and Lime Stone for Steel Plant

3890. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the iron ore and lime stone from Babupur iron ore mines located in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh were considered best in quality and were used to supplied to Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) whether a separate railway line was laid and machines and equipments worth crores of rupees were purchased for the said mines; and

(c) if so, the reasons for closure of the said mines and the number of labourers and employees likely to be affected by its closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) It is a fact that limestone produced at Ispat Limestone Quarry (ILQ) situated at Babupur, Distt. Satna was being supplied to Rourkela Steel Plant. The quality of limestone available at Satna is not regarded as the best quality available in the country.

(b) ILQ, Satna Mine was developed in the year 1961 and it has been working since then. A private siding was constructed at Satna for the despatch of limestone produced at ILQ, Satna. The above mentioned railway siding was modified to provide engine escape line for safety reasons and to accommodate 58 Box N wagons. The sanction cost for this modification was Rs. 1.91 crores. A new crushing and screening plant at a cost of

Rs. 6.40 crores was constructed during 1991-95 as a part of Rourkela Steel Plant Modernisation.

(c) The production and despatch from the said mines has been gradually tapered off. The quality of limestone available at Satna is presently not acceptable for iron & steel making due to technological changes that took place at Steel Plants. During earlier years, RSP was making steel with both Open Hearth furnaces and LD convertors. Now RSP has changed to LD convertor route only. Satna Limsetone was suitable for the Open Hearth process route. It is not suitable for LD process due to high percentage of silica. Presently there is no demand for Satna limestone.

No employee/labourer has been retrenched. 174 employees of the mines opted for voluntary retirement under SAIL VRS-98 Scheme. Again, another 280 employees of the mines opted for voluntary retirement under SAIL, VRS-99 Scheme. Remaining employees have given their option for redeployment to other mines/units of SAIL. Accordingly, action is being taken for the same for their gainful utilisation.

[English]

Cost of Production

3891. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of production in Salem Steel Plant has become costlier;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Alloy Steel Plant and Salem Steel Plant are reciprocal units; and

(d) if not, the effect of viability of Alloy Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cost of production in Salem Steel Plant has risen due to high interest and depreciation charges on account of the setting up of a new hot rolling mill.

(c) and (d) It was originally envisaged to roll stainless steel slabs from Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur at Salem Steel Plant. However, the cost of slabs from ASP is higher than that of imported slabs. Therefore, it is not financially feasible to roll slabs of ASP at Salem Steel Plant.

Heavy Import Duty

3892. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cultivators of dry copra (coconut) in the State of Karnataka particularly in Tiptur are facing great hardships due to fall in price of copra:

(b) if so, whether State Government of Karnataka has urged to the Union Government to impose Heavy Import Duty on this product to control its coconut imports; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYNA RAO): (a) The price policy for Copra for 2000 season is under consideration of the Government. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED) has been directed to procure Copra at the MSP rate of 1999 of Rs. 3100 per Qtl. for milling and 3325 per qtl. for Ball copra until MSP for copra for the current year is announced. The market prices for Ball copra at Tiptur is ruling well above the MSP declared for the year 1999.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has so far not received any representation from the Government of Karnataka to impose heavy import duty on the product to control coconut imports. As per the existing EXIM policy, coconut oil and its products are canalized through State Trading Corporation (STC) and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation (HVOC). Copra is attracting the tariff rate of 35% with a surcharge of 10% in addition to the basic duty of 35%. In respect of coconut oil, whether crude or refined, the effective rate is 35% with Surcharge @ 10%. 4% Special Additional Customs Duty (SAD) shall be charged to both copra and coconut oil whether imported for further processing or trading.

National Cattle Research Institute

3893. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 100 MPs has submitted a Memorandum for setting up of Indian Council of Veterinary Research (ICVR) in 1995-96;

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

(c) the action taken or propose to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The memorandum was submitted to the then Minister of State (Indepedent Charge) of Animal Husbandry and Dairying during August 1996. It included details of livestock distribution among rural household, contribution of livestock to the total Gross Domestic Product self employment opportunities and the existing system of veterinary education & research in the country. The memorandum inter-alia emphasised the need to establish a separate Indian Council of Veterinary Research for development of the livestock sector.

(c) The proposal is being resubmitted to the Government for a decision in the matter.

Curruption Charges

3894. SHR P. MOHAN:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has received a complaint from the Employees Union of Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Ltd., on corruption against Chief Vigilance Officer and other officers of the Corporation;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) A complaint against the Chief Vigilance Officer of the ET&T and some other officers of the Corporation was received from the Central Vigilance Commission. The same was sent to CMD, ET&T who has reported that President of ETTDC Employees Union has denied having written and signed the complaint.

(c) No action was taken on the complaint, as the existing instructions stated that no action is to be taken on pseudonymous complaints.

Vacancies Reserved for SCs/STs

3895. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI BUTA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of backlog vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs as on date;

(b) the action taken by the Government to clear the backlog; and

(c) the number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs which remained unfilled as on date in the grade of Class, I, II, III and IV, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Information relating to backlog of reserved vacancies for SCs/STs is not centrally maintained at present.

In terms of the existing instructions, all Ministries/ Departments are required to take action for timely filling up the reserved posts and to make all out efforts to fill the reserved posts in the same year.

Bureaucrat In Government

3896. SHRI BUTA SINGH:
SHRI RAM SAJIVAN:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts of Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Secretary under the Central Government, autonomous bodies, sub-ordinate and statutory organizations and the number of SCs/STs officers working against such posts as on January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000 and their percentage as compared to the total posts;

(b) the nature and composition of the Committee/ Board which empanels persons for such associating persons belonging to the SCs/STs on such committees/ Boards; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Posts at the level of Under Secretary and above in various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are filled under the Central Staffing Scheme. Since caste is not one of the criteria for appointment to posts under the Central Staffing Scheme, the data on the number of SC/ ST officers holding posts at different levels under the Scheme are not maintained separately. Number of officers who held posts of Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Secretary and equivalent as on 1.1.1996 and 1.1.2000 is given in the statement attached.

(b) and (c) Officers belonging to the IAS and other Central Services Group 'A' are empanelled for holding the posts of Additional Secretary or Additional Secretary equivalent in the Government of India, with the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), on the recommendation of a Special Committee of Secretaries which consists of the Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, Home Secretary and Secretary (Personnel). All these members of the Committee are ex-officio.

Empanelment for holding posts at the level of Joint Secretary or equivalent is done with the approval of ACC on the recommendation of the Civil Services Board (CSB). The CSB consists of Cabinet Secretary, Secretary (Personnel), one Secretary to Government of India nominated by Government for a year at a time and the Establishment Officer and Additional Secretary.

There is no system of empanelment of All India Services/Group 'A' services officers for holding posts at the level of Director and Deputy Secretary. Names of eligible and willing officers sponsored by the various Cadre authorities are considered for appointment at those levels, subject to their suitability for specific posts.

Statement

Information about the number of officers who held posts at the levels of Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Secretary as on 1.1.1996 and 1.1.2000

Date	Number of officers who held posts at the level of:			
	Additional Secretary	Joint Secretary	Director	Deputy Secretary
1.1.1996	74	344	356	396
1.1.2000	107	454	526	441

Irregularities in ICAR

3897. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have detected irregularities involving purchases and other aspects in Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) during the last three years;

(b) whether some investigations/Audit observations are made during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have set up any enquiry committee in this regard; and

(d) if so, the findings of the enquiry and the action taken by the Government against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the statement of outstanding Audit Paras received from four zonal Offices of Principal Director of Audit (Scientific Department), the zone wise position of outstanding paras against ICAR Institutes/PDs/NRCs is as under:-

Zone	Reports	Paras
North Zone (as on 30.9.99)	95	648
South Zone (as on 31.3.99)	59	314
East Zone (as on 30.9.99)	79	272
West Zone (as on 31.3.99)	20	101

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Legal Cases

3898. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) details of the legal cases filed and pending during the last four years against Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited;

(b) the details of the amount spent and the present status of the each case; and

(c) the steps being taken to reduce the legal expenses?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The details in this regard are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Efforts are made to reduce the legal expenses and settle disputes expeditiously by:

(i) resorting to mutual discussions and avoiding litigation in cases.

(ii) resorting to arbitration.

Statement

Details of the legal cases filed and pending during last four years (1995-2000)

SL. NO.	Particulars	Date of Filing	Amount	Status	Amount sepnt on account of Legal fee (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	(a) Welfare Association of ET&T Officers Vs. ET&T (Intermediary pay scale)	149/95 (Delhi High Court)	NIL	In 1992 ET&T introduced new pay scales effective from April, 1992 Association filed petition for strike down the illegal pay scales introduced and frame fresh pay scales in consultation with the permission of DPE, so as to make them at par with the pay scales of other PSUs. The above referred Writ petition came up for hearing before Justice Nandi on 20-1-2000. ET&T submitted that the entire petition had become infructutous since the prayers sought for in the writ petition had already been acted upon by ET&T itself. The petitioners were represented by a proxy council and, therefore, the Court directed the final hearing to be listed for 16th May, 2000.	52,745.00
	(b) Welfare Association of ET&T Officers Vs. ET&T (Wage Revision)	705/1998 (Delhi High Court)	NIL	Officer Association filed case for wage revision of pay scale effective from 1-1-92. In the last hearing on 31-3-2000, the Court disposed off the matter and directed Govt. of India to convey their decision in the matter within two months.	fee included in above legal fee.
2.	Garden Reach Ship Building Corp. (GRSE) Vs. ET&T	412/1998 (Delhi High Court)	3.50 crore	In June, 1990 GRSE gave an inter-corporate loan of Rs. 5.0 crores, ET&T repaid Rs. 1.50 crores, GRSE filed a writ petition for winding up of ET&T on the ground of non-payment of balance debts. The case is pending up with Delhi High Court.	17,270.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	M/S Punjab Communication Ltd. (PCL) Vs. ET&T	1998 (In the Court of additional Civil Judge (Senior Division) KHARAR	2.00 lacs	PCL has filed a case against ET&T for recovery of Rs. 2.00 lacs. Both the parties reconcile their statement of accounts, it was found that as per ET&T the claim should be for Rs. 21,979.95 the Court directed PCL to file counter statement the above figure. The Party has to file reconciling statement.	20,000.00
4.	SCOPE Vs. ET&T	1996 (Delhi High Court)	5.86 crores	SCOPE filed winding up petition for for non-repayment of its loan. SCOPE was directed to file memorandum of understanding to show whether they are public sector enterprise. Pending with Delhi High Court.	35,230.00
5.	M/S J.S. SARNA Vs. ET&T	825/1994 & 1354/1996 (Delhi High Court)	NIL	Petitioner filed two writ petitions against ET&T for mis-using of their premises given to ET&T for residential purpose and vacating of the same. Pending with High Court.	21,950.00
6.	Shri Munilal C/o Delhi Mazdoor Union, Delhi Vs. ET&T	78/99 (Labour Court Delhi)	77,849/-	The petitioner filed the case against ET&T for illegal termination of his job, though he was a contract worker. Final order copy awaited.	8,910.00
7.	Workmen C/O General Mazdoor Union Delhi Vs. ET&T	I.D. NO. 788/95 (Labour Court, Delhi)	NIL	The petitioner filed industrial dispute between ET&T and them for illegal termination of their contract basis job and for reinstatement of employment. ET&T has filed an application for seting aside of their application.	6,880.00
8.	Shri C.K. Mohandas Vs. ET&T	3788/2000 (Madras High Court)	NIL	The petitioner who is ET&T Chennai employee has filed against ET&T for transfer order given to him. His transfer from Chennai to Ahmedabad. The Court has passed interim stay order upto 6-4-2000.	Case is yet to come up in the Court.
9.	Shri D. Damodhar Rao Vs. ET&T	974/2000 (A.P. High Court)	NIL	The petitioner is ET&T's employee and he has filed case against company for his non-promotion. Matter to be listed at A.P. High Court.	-do-
10.	DG (I&R) MRTP Commission	1997 (MRTP)	NIL	Case taken by DG (I&R), MRTP for MRTP practice followed by ET&T Education & Training Centre, on 22-5-98, MRTP Commission disputed the application of the DG holding that Computer Education does not come within purview of MRTP Act.	26,480.00
11.	Dr. Lalit Kumar ET&T Computer Education & Training Vikaspuri, Delhi	1999 (Delhi High Court)	NIL	The petitioner filed the case on the ground that he had signed the licensees agreement without knowledge. This petition has been dismissed by the Court.	16,670.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Shri Kota Poornachander Rao, Gudiwa, A.P.	1997 (Su-ordinate Judge Court, Gudiwada)	1.83 lacs	This is the case of HUNDI singed by ET&T Secunderbad on account of Sita Electronics for ID Cards project, extended by ET&T Bangalore office. As per the approval of H/O HUNDI was signed for Rs. 1.50 lacs and party has gone to the Court, since we have not accepted the HUNDI submitted by them. As per Court order Security Bond for Rs. 1.83 lacs was given by us. The above petition was dismissed by the Court on 31/12/97, with cost in favour of ET&T. We have also collected back the Security Bond given by us for Rs. 1,83,648/- from the Senior Civil Judge Court, Gudiwada, Case is posted for trial on 12/6/2000 against OS 64/97.	3,737.00
	Total				2,09,872.00

Setting up of Scientific Laboratories

3899. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish Scientific Laboratories or Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the country;

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

(c) the details of facilities proposed to be made available in these laboratories for the farmers;

(d) the manner in which the farmers are likely to be benefitted by establishing these laboratories; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in the country. The state-wise details are indicated in the statement attached- I. The Council have a proposal to strengthen the existing Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take up the additional functions of KVK in 53 locations. The state-wise details are indicted in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) Besides, the infrastructural facilities and staff already available in these Research Stations, there is a provision for providing critical support which includes, additional staff, farm machineries, contingency for taking up the activities of KVK, and trainees' hostel wherever needed.

(d) The farmers are likely to be benefitted through skill training on modern agricultural practices, on-farm testing to identify location specificity of technologies, and frontline demonstration on improved technologies to establish production potentials on farmers fields.

(e) The proposal for strengthening these ZARSs is likely to be made operational during the IXth Plan Period.

Statement-I

Distribution of KVKs in different States

S. No.	States/UTs	Total
1	2	3
1.	A&N Islands	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4.	Assam	4
5.	Bihar	21
6.	Delhi	1
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	10
9.	Haryana	12

1	2	3
10.	Himanchal Pradesh	8
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	4
12.	Karnataka	11
13.	Kerala	9
14.	Lakshadweep	1
15.	Madhya Pradesh	20
16.	Maharshtra	23
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Meghalaya	1
19.	Mizoram	2
20.	Nagaland	1
21.	Orissa	12
22.	Pondicherry	2
23.	Punjab	10
24.	Rajasthan	31
25.	Sikkim	1
26.	Tamil Nadu	16
27.	Tripura	2
28.	Uttar Pradesh	30
29.	West Bengal	9
	Total	261

Statement II

Districts Identified for Strengthening of Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take the additional Functions of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)

S. No.	State	No. of Districts Identified
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Assam	6
3.	Bihar	3
4.	Himachal Pradesh	3
5.	Karnataka	8
6.	Kerala	2
7.	Madhya Pradesh	4
8.	Maharashtra	4
9.	Orissa	2
10.	Tamil Nadu	3
11.	Uttar Pradesh	8
12.	West Bengal	1
13.	Gujarat	3
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
15.	Punjab	1
16.	Rajasthan	1
	Total	53

Bhimkund Irrigation Project

3900. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhimkund Irrigation Project in Kenojhar district of Orissa has been pending for Central clearance since long;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) the total hectares of land likley to be brought under irrigation on completion of the project;

(d) the areas likely to be submerged due to implementation of this project; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government for early clearance of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVATRY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Government of Orissa has not submitted detailed project report of Bhimkund Irrigation Project taking into account the observations made by Central Water Commission and indicating inter-alia details

of Irrigation benefit and areas likely to be submerged, for clearance of the Union Government.

Death of Haj Pilgrims

3901. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian Haj Pilgrims expired in Saudi Arabia during their visit during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the reasons thereof and the assistance given to their dependents by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The following number of deaths of Haj pilgrims were reported to Consulate General of India, Jeddah:

Year	No. of deaths
1998	221 (189 natural deaths, 32 stempede in Mina)
1999	184 (178 natural deaths, 6 road accidents)
2000 (till 13 April)	256 (252 natural deaths, 4 road accidents)

In all the above cases steps were taken to inform the next of kin, to return to India the belongings of the pilgrims and to arrange their proper burial in Saudi Arabia.

Kendriya Bhandar

3902. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2447 dated December 15, 1999 and state:

(a) whether the sales have gone down drastically in the Kendriya Bhandar in each of the months from November 1999 to March 2000 in comparison to the sales in the same period last year;

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

(c) whether the overall sales of the Kendriya Bhandar can be compared with the NCCF & Super Bazar Including the profits earned during 1999-2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The overall sales during the period November 1999 to March 2000 were more than the sales in the corresponding period of 1998-99 even though in certain areas the sales for some months during this period had gone down.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The accounts of Kendriya Bhandar for 1999-2000 are yet to be finalised. However, comparsion of overall sales of Kendriya Bhandar with the NCCF and Super Bazar is not likely to be relevant as the areas of operation, etc. of the aforesaid three organisations are not totally similar.

[Translation]

Employment Exchanges

3903. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered with Employment exchanges in Bihar at present; and

(b) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with employment exchanges in Bihar at the end of December 1999 was of the order of 31.80 lakh.

(b) The number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe job-seekers registered with employment exchanges at the end of December 1997 (latest available) was 4.60 and 2.49 lakh respectively. The corresponding figure for total number of job-seekers at the end of December, 1997 was of the order of 33.5 lakhs.

[English]

EPF and ESIC Act

3904. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of defaulters in the State of Karnataka against whom action has been taken by the Government under EPF and ESIC Act for not depositing dues during each of the last three years; and

(b) the number of labour disputes pending in the State as on March 31, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Details of EPF and ESI defaulters in Karnataka are as under:-

Years	No. of EPF defaulters	No. of ESI defaulters
As on 31.3.1998	889	701
31.3.1999	753	1074
31.3.2000	591	1290

(b) According to available information as on 30.6.1997 there were 16,674 industrial dispute cases pending in various State Labour Courts/tribunals in Karnataka.

Information Technology professionals

3905. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Information Technology professionals in developed countries of the world;

(b) the number of Information Technology professionals required in India in the next 5 to 10 years;

(c) the cost of educating Information Technology professionals in the country; and

(d) the manner in which gap between demand and supply of Information Technology professionals would be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No data is maintained by the Government in respect of Indian I.T. professionals working in developed countries.

(b) The IT Task Force has set a target US$ 50 billion of Software export by the year 2008 and this target has been accepted by the Government. The Mckinsey report has estimated that a total of 2.2 million professionals would be required in the IT sector by the year 2008 to achieve the above target.

(c) The cost of educating information technolgy professionals in the country varies both in the formal and non-formal sector depending upon the type of the course and its duration.

(d) The issue here is mainly one of quality and not that of numbers and it is the endeavour of the Government to continuously upgrade the quality of the education.

Failure of Chilli and Cotton Crops

3906. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chilli and Cotton farmers of some districts of Andhra Pradesh have incurred heavy losses owing to unseasonal rains during the month of February, 2000;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the compensation provided to the affected chilli and cotton farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. In respect of chilli, farmers of Andhra Pradesh have incurred lossed due to unseasonal rains in February 2000, whereas in cotton, no damage was reported.

(b) As per the report of the State Government, an area of about 6000 hectares of chilli crop at different stages of maturity were damaged in Prakasam, Guntur, Nellore and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) No compensation has been provided. However, Tarpauline sheets have been provided at subsidised rate through Spices Board for chilli growers.

[Translation]

Raising of ISI issue

3907. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have raised the issue of ISI's involvement in the internal matters of the country on different international forums or lodged their reaction in this connection with Pakistan during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Government have appropriately and effectively brought to the notice of the international community, Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism and continued attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India. The facts regarding Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism have been brought before several international fora and have also been raised at high-level bilateral discussions with world leaders. Government have also taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan.

The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, and elsewhere in India, and the impact this has on the security of our country and the region. This greater awareness is being reflected in the statements of offical spokesmen of several governments and in the international media coverage on Pakistan.

[English]

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

3908. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has been referred to B.I.F.R.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the strategy proposed for its revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has only reported to the BIFR under Section 23 (a) (i) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 (SICA), as it has incurred net losses eroding 50% of its net worth.

(b) and (c) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), Visakhapatnam Steel Plant had submitted a comprehensive turn around proposal for its revival which inter-alia included waiver of losses. The Disinvestment Commission has recommended writing off the entire accumulated losses of the company as on 31.3.1999 alongwith disinvestment of not less than 51% of its remaining equity to a strategic buyer. No final decision has yet been taken on these recommendations.

Common Facility Centres by KVIC

3909. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has decided to set up 50 Common Facility Centres in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of rural/village industrial units which availed of the service provided by the Common Facility Centres during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the places where Common Facility Centres are likely to be set up during the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The objectives of setting up of the Common Facility Centres (CFCs) are to promote clusters of village industries units with a view to create employment opportunities and develop exports; to provide forward and backward linkages as well as common services to the satellite cluster units and to make available tehcnological back-up services to the units in the cluster.

So far, six Centres have been sanctioned and all the rural and village industries units could avail of the services provided in these Centres.

For the year 2000-2001, the KVIC proposes to set up 20 CFCs in various parts of the country.

Agricultural Research

3910. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) report for Indian Agriculture Statistical Research Institute (IASRI) under Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) for the year 1987-95) recommended for the discontinuation of any course in IASRI;

(b) if so, the details of the name of the course, reasons for the above recommendation; and

(c) the action taken by the ICAR thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Quinquennial Reivew Team (QRT) recommended the discontinuation of M.Sc. Computer Application Degree Course.

The QRT has pointed out the following reasons:-

(i) The intake capacity for the degree course had declined.

(ii) The curriculum had become outdated.

(iii) There was shortage of particular faculty.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is of the view that since NARS requires qualified and trained professionals in computer applications in agricultural sciences M.Sc. degree in computer applications should be continued in IASRI. However, steps will have to be taken to recruit qualified staff, provide advanced training to existing staff and up-date the curriculum on the lines of MCA as approved by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE).

Skilled and Unskilled Labour

3911. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been made by the USA, Germany and other countries to allow more foreign workers, a good proportion of which is Indian;

(b) if so, the names of such countries alongwith the fileds of which the demand has been made; and

(c) the criteria Government has followed in sending the skilled/unskilled labour to the USA and other European countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983, a foreign employer can make recruitment of Indian workers either directly on the basis of a permit issued by the competent authority or through the Recruiting Agents registered with the Government under the Emigration Act, 1983. Neither is any demand from any foreign employer routed through the Government nor is the Central Government directly involved in the business of making recruitment of Indian workers for overseas employment.

Directions with Regard to Issuance of Passports

3912. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in certain passport offices in the country there still does not exist any system for checking the number of passports to one person under different names or identity;

(b) if whether the Government have issued some fresh directions after reports came of two of the five hijackers of the IC-814 Indian Airlines flight having managed to get their passports from Mumbai and one of them was reportedly issued even two passports; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) All passport offices follow a system of issuing passports with a check of documents and records as well as a police verification report. The Police Verification Report, inter alia establishes the name as well as the identity of the applicant.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have tightend procedures so as to prevent criminals from obtaining passports on the basis of incorrect particulars. These include a more intensive check of original documents submitted at the time of application, and a more rigorous police verification.

[Translation]

Ranthambour National Dam Project

3913. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages affected due to execution of Ranthambour National Dam Project;

(b) whether the farmers whose land has been acquired under this project have neither been rehabilitated nor provided employment;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which all affected farmers are likely to be rehabilitated and provided employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) No proposals for the construction of Ranthambour National Dam Project have been submitted by the State Government to the Central Government. However, irrigation being a State subject, rehabilitation and resettlement of affected persons, including farmers due to implementation of irrigation projects is done by the concerned State Governments themselves.

National Trust for Mentally Retarded

3914. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple disability;

(b) if so, the objective thereof and facilities likely to be provided to children who are 50 percent mentally retarded in particular and hostel facilities for life long for such children;

(c) the areas identified therefor and the number of persons benefited thereform, State-wise;

(d) the financial assistance provided to each State during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 has come in to effect from 30th December, 1999.

(b) Objectives of the Trust and facilities to be provided to children with mental retardation are given in the attached statement.

(c) to (e) As the National Act has come into force only recently, the programmes have not been launched and therefore it is not possible to give number of beneficiaries or financial assistance provided under the Trust.

Statement

Objectives of the National Trust fro Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities

(a) to enable and empower persons with disability to live as independently and as fully as possible within and as close to the community to which they belong;

(b) to strengthen facilities to provide support to presons with disability to live within their own families;

(c) to extend support to registered organisations to provide need based services during the period of crisis in the family of persons with disability;

(d) to deal with problems of persons with disability who do not have family support;

(e) to promote measures for the care and protection of persons with disability in the event of death of their parent or guardian;

(f) to evolve procedure for the appointment of guardians and trustees for persons with disability requiring such protection;

(g) to facilitate the realization of equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of persons with disability; and

(h) to do any other act which is incidental to the aforesaid objects.

Facilities likely to be provided to children with mental retardation-

(a) Counselling and training of family members

(b) Setting up of adult training units.

(c) Setting up of individual and group homes.

(d) Programme of respite care and of foster family care.

(e) Day care services for persons with disability.

(f) Setting up of self help group of persons with disability.

(g) Setting up of local level committees to grant of approval of guardianship.

[English]

Uranium Reactors

3915. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of uranium reactors in the country at present alongwith the locations thereof;

(b) the number out of them functioning and from which source the uranium requirement of these reactors are met;

(c) whether these reactors have achieved optimum electricity generation capacity during the last three years;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) At present, there are twelve nuclear power reactors using uranium as fuel, under operation in the country, as follows:

Name of the Station & Location	No. of Reactor Units
Tarapur Atomic Power Station, (TAPS) Maharashtra	2
Rajasthan Atomi Power Station, (RAPS) Rawatbhata, Rajasthan.	3
Madras Atomic Power Station, (MAPS), Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu	2
Narora Atomic Power Station, (NAPS) Narora, Uttar Pradesh.	2
Kakarpar Atomic Power Station, (KAPS) Kakrapar, Guajarat	2
Kaiga Atomic Power Station, Kaiga, Karnataka.	1
	12

(b) All the above reactors are functioning. Out of these, two reactors (TAPS-1&2), based on Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) technology, use slightly enriched uranium as fuel. Remaining ten reactors based on Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) technology, use indigenously available natural uranium as fuel. The requirement of fuel for TAPS-1&2 is met from imports. The requirement of natural uranium is met from imports. The requirement of natural uranium is met from indigenous sources.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Subsidy for Cold Storages

3916. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for grant of subsidy under Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for construction of cold storages received by the National Horticulture Board during the last three years;

(b) the organisation who have been granted the subsidy as on date; and

(c) the number of proposals still pending with National Horticulture Board as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) 134 proposals have been received for grant of subsidy under Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme which was launched in December, 1999 for implementation through National Horticulture Board (NHB) during the three years (1999-2002) of the Ninth Five Year Plan. Of the 134 proposals, 66 have been received by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), 47 by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and 21 directly by National Horticulture Board (NHB) for grant of subsidy. The Scheme envisages back-ended subsidy to the promoters/ beneficiaries after completion of the project through respective commercial/cooperative banks. The subsidy released by the NHB is operated by the NABARD in the case of projects financed under NABARD re-finance Scheme and in the case of cooperative projects financed by the NCDC, by NCDC. Also, NHB provides capital subsidy directly on completion of the project to such units where term loans are not raised from institutional sources and projects are funded through internal resource generation. NHB has so far released subsidy amounting to Rs. 28.00 crores under the Scheme to NABARD and NCDC. As per the guidelines, the proposals are required to be appraised technically and financially. The proposals received by NABARD and NCDC are appraised by respective organizations. The proposals directly received by NHB are also appraised by NCDC. Hence, 21 proposals directly received by NHB are under appraisal.

Notifications on Internet

3917. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any progress in making available its Orders, Notifications, Letters and Memoranda etc. of various Ministries to the public through Internet;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith web-sites of each Ministry;

(c) if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said information will be made available on internet?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministries/ Departments of Central Government have established web sites hosted in NICNET which keeps all the information inlcuding Notifications, Acts, Orders and other documents relevant to the public. A list of websites established by these Ministries and Departments of Central Government is given in the statement enclosed. These websites are also hyper linked to www. nic. in and can be accessed easily.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DIRECTORY OF OFFICIAL WEB SITES

Cabinet Secretariat.

Indian Parliament

President of India

Primes Minister's Office

Supreme Court of India

- Central Public Works Department (CPWD)
- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)
- Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- Department of Atomic Energy
- Department of Ocean Development
- Ministry of Agriculture
  - Coconut Development Board
  - Department of Agriculture and Co-operation
  - Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

(Currently it can be viewed using IE Browser Only)

- Veterinary Council Nominations
  - Department of Food Processing Industries
  - Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)
- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
  - Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals
  - Department of Fertilizers
- Ministry of Civil Aviation
  - Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
  - Department of Commerce
  - Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Eximple) UPDATED
  - Department of Explosives
  - Department of Industrial Development
  - Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion
  - Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices
  - Secretariat for Industrial Assistance (SIA)
  - Department of Supply
  - Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals (DGS&D)
  - National Test House
- Ministry of Communications
  - Department of Telecom
  - Draft National Frequency Allocation Plan (Ministry of Communications)
  - India Post
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution
- Ministry of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports
  - Department of Culture
  - National Culture Fund
  - Department of Youth Affairs & Sports
  - Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIPE)
  - National Archives of India (NAI)

- Ministry of Defence
  - Indian Armed Forces
- Ministry of Environment and Forests
- Ministry of External Affairs
  - Consular Passport & Visa Division
- Ministry of Finance
  - Controller General of Accounts
  - Department of Economic Affairs
    - Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction
  - Department of Revenue
    - Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction
  - Department of Revenue
    - Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)
    - Central Bureau of Narcotics
    - Income Tax Department, Delhi
    - Indian Agencies fighting Economic Crimes (CEIB)
  - Economic Survey 1999-2000 NEW
  - India Budget 2000 NEW
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
  - Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha (CCRAS)
  - Department of Indian Systems of Medicines & Homeopathy
  - National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)
- Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
  - Department of Heavy Industries
  - Department of Public Enterprises
- Ministry of Home Affairs
  - Department of Official Language
- Ministry of Human Resource Development
  - Department of Education
    - Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) NEW
    - National Council of Educational Research and Training NEW
  - Department of Women and Child Development
    - Women Empowerment NEW
  - Rashtriya Mahila Kosh
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
  - Directorate of Adverstising and Visual Publicity (DAVP)
  - Directorate of Field Publicity
  - Directorate of Film Festivals
  - Press Information Bureau (PIB)
  - Publications Division
  - Song and Drama Division
- Ministry of Information Technology (MIT)
  - National Informatics Centre
- Ministry of Labour
- Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs
  - Department of Company Affairs
  - Indian Courts
    - Law Commission of India
- Ministry of Mines and Minerals
  - Department of Coals
  - Department of Mines
  - Indian Bureau of Mines
- Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources
- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension
  - Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
  - Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
    - Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM)
  - Public Enterprises Selection Board
    - Staff Selection Commission (SSC)

- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation
  - Department of Programme Implementation
  - Department of Statistics
- Ministry of Power
- Ministry of Railways
- Ministry of Rural Development
  - Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART)
- Ministry of Science and Technology
  - Department of Bio-technology
  - Bio-Technology Information System
  - FARM Project

  Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
  - National Information System for Science & Technology (NISSAT)
  - The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Ministry of Small Scale Industries & Agro and Rural Industries
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
  - Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) NEW
- Ministry of Steel
  - Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel
- Ministry of Surface Transport
- Ministry of Textiles
  - Asia Pacific Textiles and Clothing Forum
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Tirbal Affairs
- Ministry of Urban Development
- Ministry of Water Resources
  - Central Water Commission
- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- National Task Force on Information Technology & Software Development
- Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)
- Planning Commission
- Prime Ministers Councils
  - Group on Telecommunications
  - Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry
  - Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council
- Taskforce on Infrastructure

[Translation]

Oustees of Sardar Sorovar Project

3918. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided funds to any beneficiary State Government viz. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra for rehabilitation and resettlement of the oustees of Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds provided to each beneficiary State Government for the purpose during the last three years;

(c) whether any irregularity in execution of rehabilitation and resettlement work and diversion of such funds for other purpose has come to the notice of the Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Extradition of Accused Running Into Rough Weather

3919. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the extradition of four persons accused in the Goa child abuse cse from the United Kingdom, Australia, Sweden and Germany respectively has run into rough weather;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for the expeditious extradition of the accused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Information available with the Government is as follows:

New Zealand: The New Zealand Government has extradited accused E.C. Mcbride, who has been brought to India in November 1999 and is in judicial custody facing trial in Goa.

France: Arrest warrant and Letter Rogatory were sent to France. However, in the meantime, the accused Dominique Sebire landed in Delhi and was arrested. He is facing trial in Goa.

United Kingdom/Thailand: Both UK and Thailand have informed that Raymond Andrew Varlay, a British citizen residing in Thailand, could not be located in their countries. Therefore, a Red Corner Notice has been got issued through INTERPOL to all the countries to trace and arrest the accused.

Australia: On the basis of the warrant of arrest sent to Government of Australia, the accused Werner Wulf Ingo, has been kept observation by the Australian Government. Draft extradition papers have been sent to the Australian Government.

Sweden: Arrest warrant, along with Letter Rogatory, against accused Nils Oscar Jonson has been sent to Government of Sweden. Swedish authorities have informed that according to their law they can not extradite their citizen to another contry but would initiate prosecution against him in the Swedish Court. Accordingly, all relevant papers have been sent to the Swedish authorities. They have informed that according to their law the evidence available is not sufficient to make out a case against the accused.

Germany: On the basis of the Letter Rogatory sent through diplomatic channel and INTERPOL channel, the accused Zell Jurgen Andreas has been traced and questioned. As per the German Law, a German citizen can not be extradited to another country. Relevant papers and documents for initiating prosecution against the accused in Germany have been sent to the German authorities.

[Translation]

Women Workers

3920. SHRI MAHESWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the number of women workers in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have ascertained the number of women working in factories and Bidi workers separately; and

(d) if so, the details of facilities being provided to them in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) According to 1991 Census, the total female work force in the country, including women labourers is 8,97,67,563. State-wise numbers of these workers are indicated in the attached statement.

(c) As per available information, 6,76,868 women workers were employed in factories during the year 1997. The number of total beedi workers in the country was 43,99,644 in the year 1998. It is estimated that women in the factory workers category and home workers category constitute about 50% and 68% respectively of the total number of workers engaged in beedi making.

(d) Under the Factories Act, 1948, women cannot be employed in hazardous processes in factories. The Act also provides for creches in factories employing more than 30 women workers ordinarily and maternity leave upto 12 weeks with wages.

The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 which is being implemented by the State Governments, contains sufficient provisions to safeguard the interests of women workers engaged in beedi making. Apart from this, the Government is implementing various welfare facilities in the fields of health, housing, education and recreation under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund, for the benefit of beedi workers including women workers.

Statement

Statewise Number of Female Workers (1991 Census)

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	No. of workers
1	2	3
	India	89,767,563
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,252,643
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	149,789

1	2	3
3.	Assam	2,324,535
4.	Bihar	6,116,974
5.	Goa	117,977
6.	Gujarat	5,180,886
7.	Haryana	821,299
8.	Himachal Pradesh	888,985
9.	Karnataka	6,472,816
10.	Kerala	2,347,268
11.	Madhya Pradesh	10,430,890
12.	Maharashtra	12,617,454
13.	Manipur	350,134
14.	Meghalaya	302,853
15.	Mizoram	143,964
16.	Nagaland	215,722
17.	Orissa	3,241,991
18.	Punjab	418,646
19.	Rajasthan	5,744,129
20.	Sikkim	57,790
21.	Tamil Nadu	8,236,872
22.	Tripura	184,333
23.	Uttar Pradesh	8,019,310
24.	West Bengal	3,662,855
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16,584
26.	Chandigarh	29,443
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	32,944
28.	Daman & Diu	11,584
29.	Delhi	314,076
30.	Lakshadweep	1,906
31.	Pondicherry	60,911

Note:- Census was not held in Jammu & Kashmir in 1991

[English]

Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

3921. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the directions of the Supreme Court to implement the interim award of the Cauvery Waters Disputes Tribunal are being implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the measurements of flow of water are being made at Billingudlu in Karnataka or at the Mettur Dam reservior in Tamil Nadu;

(d) whether the week-by-week flow since August 1998 has been in accordance with the stipulations of the interim award;

(e) if so, the week-by-week details thereof; and

(f) the date by which the final award of the Tribunal is expected to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) In pursuance of Order of the Supreme Court dt. 9.4.1997 Central Government has constituted a Cauvery River Authority under Section 6 (A) of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 with the Prime Minister as the Chairman and Cheif Ministers of the Cauvery Basin States as its Members. The Cauvery River Authority is assisted by a Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary Water Resources and Chief Secretaries of the Cauvery Basin States and Chairman, CWC as its Members.

(c) Central Water Commission maintains the Hydrological Observation Site on river Cauvery at Billigundulu on Karnataka Tamil Nadu border and about 60 km upstream of the Mettur Reservoir, where flow measurements are being made on a daily basis. Mettur Reservoir is under the administrative control of the State of Tamil Nadu and data about in flow in the reservoir is being observed and maintained by the State of Tamil Nadu.

(d) to (f) Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in its interim order of June 25, 1991 has directed the State of karnataka to release water from its reservoirs so as to ensure that 205 TMC of water is available in Tamil Nadu Mettur reservoir in a year from June to May. It has further directed that State of Karnataka shall regulate the release

of water in a particular monthly pattern. In respect of particular month, the release are to be made in four equal instalments. If in a particular week, it is not possible to release the required quantum of water, the said deficit shall be made good in the subsequent week. The Tribunal has further clarified that their order dated 25th June, 1991 clearly spells out that the deficiency in a particular week has to be made good in a subsequent week and not necessarily within a particular month in which the deficit occurs. Until the deficit is made good, the deficit would accumulate. In a particular year, shortfall or excess in releases would have to be adjusted in an appropriate manner before the close of the particular season. The weekly flows into the Mettur reservior in Tamil Nadu during the period August, 1998 ot March 2000, as informed by the Government of Tamil Nadu are available in the enclosed statement. The Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 does not specify any time frame for adjudication of water disputes by the Tribunals.

Statement

Weekly Flows 1998-1999 (TMC)

Month	Required Flows As per CWDT Interim Order	Inflows received at Mettur (As informed by Tamil Nadu Govt.)
1	2	3
Aug-98		
I	12.356	10.580
II	112.356	4.727
III	12.356	12.475
IV	17.652	12.946
Total	54.720	40.728
Sep-98		
I	6.851	7.027
II	6.851	5.951
III	6.851	9.203
IV	8.808	16.622
Total	29.361	38.803
Oct-98		
I	6.831	10.381
II	6.813	10.855
III	6.831	13.577
IV	9.732	8.861
Total	30.171	43.674
Nov-98		
I	3.745	9.368
II	3.745	9.837
III	3.745	5.200
IV	4.815	5.607
Total	16.050	30.012
Dec-98		
I	2.342	4.441
II	2.342	5.882
III	2.342	4.122
IV	3.345	3.370
Total	10.371	17.815
Jan-99		
I	0.567	1.334
II	0.567	1.334
III	0.587	0.916
IV	0.810	1.293
Total	2.511	4.877
Feb-99		
I	0.543	1.212
II	0.543	0.718
III	0.543	1.084
IV	0.543	1.012
Total	2.172	4.026
Mar-99		
I	0.542	1.299
II	0.542	0.974
III	0.542	0.668
IV	0.774	2.258
Total	2.400	5.199

1	2	3
Apr-99		
I	0.541	0.605
II	0.541	0.701
III	0.541	2.313
IV	0.696	2.443
Total	2.319	6.062
May-99		
I	0.454	3.045
II	0.454	1.887
III	0.454	3.051
IV	0.648	2.940
Total	2.010	10.923
Weekly flows 1999-2000 (TMC)		
Jun-99		
I	2.371	1.211
II	2.371	2.865
III	2.371	1.283
IV	3.048	5.077
Total	10.161	10.436
Jul-99		
I	9.655	0.989
II	9.655	0.956
III	9.655	4.271
IV	13.794	17.894
Total	42.759	24.110
Aug-99		
I	12.356	19.829
II	12.356	23.968
III	12.356	6.669
IV	17.652	5.413
Total	54.720	55.879

1	2	3
Sep-99		
I	6.851	3.279
II	6.851	2.026
III	6.851	0.884
IV	8.808	4.017
Total	29.361	10.206
Oct-99		
I	6.813	13.807
II	6.813	9.313
III	6.813	11.958
IV	9.732	46.874
Total	30.171	81.952
Nov-99		
I	3.745	12.667
II	3.745	6.415
III	3.745	4.765
IV	4.815	15.590
Total	16.050	39.427
Dec-99		
I	2.342	6.071
II	2.342	4.490
III	2.342	4.196
IV	3.345	5.325
Total	10.371	20.082
Jan-00		
I	0.567	2.145
II	0.567	1.958
III	0.567	1.426
IV	0.810	1.660
Total	2.511	7.189

1	2	3
Feb-00		
I	0.543	0.872
II	0.543	1.000
III	0.543	0.862
IV	0.543	1.616
Total	2.172	4.350
Mar-00		
I	0.542	1.733
II	0.542	1.099
III	0.542	
IV	0.774	
Total	2.400	

Water Management

3922. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the World Bank report that a 10 percent improvement in the efficienty of water use in India would add 14 million hectares of land to the gross total irrigated area;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any effort to improve use of existing irrigation facilities;

(c) whether the World Bank has offered any financial assistance to achieve this improvement in use of existing irrigation structures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, particularly for the projects proposed for financial existence from the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Irrigation projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Government through their own resources and as per their priorities. The State Governments have taken up Extension, Renovation and Modernisation (ERM) schemes for improving the performance of existing irrigation projects. Government of India is also facilitating the State Governments in availing World Bank Assistance for implementation of Water Resources Consolidation Projects. At the end of Eighth Plan out of 89.56 million hectares of irrigation potential created 80.75 million hectare was being utilized. To bridge this gap Government of India is continuing with extending support through Sponsored Command Area Development Programme. All these programmes are helping in improving the use of existing irrigation facilities.

(c) and (d) The World Bank is extending financial assistance for improving the use of irrigation facilities by implementation of Water Resources Consolidation Projects in the States of Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Orissa. Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project III and Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation Component) are also being implemented with the World Bank assistance. The details of these projects are:

(Amount in Million US$)

S. No.	Name of the Project	Amount of Assistance	Date of Agreement/ Completion	Utilisation upto Feb, 2000
(i)	Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project-III	325.00	03.06.1997/ 31.01.2003	76.828
(ii)	AP Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation component)	142.00	30.01.1999/ 31.03.2004	30.00
(iii)	Haryana Project Consolidation Project	258.00	06.04.1994/ 31.12.2000	138.958
(iv)	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	290.90	05.01.1996/ 30.09.2002	130.385
(v)	TN Water Resources Consolidation Project	282.90	22.09.1995/ 31.03.2002	86.725

The Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project and Rajasthan Water Resources Consolidation Project has been proposed for the World Bank assistance.

[Translation]

Administration Structure

3923. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the administrative structure has been expanded during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of expansion in the administrative structure made during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 alongwith the names of the posts;

(c) the number of posts of Cabinet level Ministers, Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Assistant-Secretaries created during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 till date; and

(d) the additional expnediture on account of creating the above said additional posts in these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUNLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) The number of sanctioned (civilian) posts in the Central Government as on 31 March, 1996, 31 March, 1997 and 31 March, 1998 was 42.18 lakhs, 42.18 lakhs and 41.93 lakhs respectively. There was a marginal decrese of the order of about 25,000 in the number of sanctioned posts as on 31 March, 1998 compared to 31 March, 1996. Against the above mentioned sanctioned strength, the actual number of employees in position was 38.93 lakhs on 31 March, 1996, 38.95 lakhs on 31 March, 1997 and 38.47 lakhs on 31 March, 1998.

2. The number of Cabinet Ministers during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 22, 22 and 29 respectively. During 1997-98, the number had increased by 1 over the previous year (i.e. 1996-97). There was no increase during 1998-99. The number increased by 7 during 1999-2000. Thus the overall increase in the number of Cabinet Ministers during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 8.

3. The requisite information with respect to increase in the number of officers serving at the Centre on the posts of Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Secretary or equivalent level posts on tenure basis, and the Central Secretriat Officers for whom tenure rules are not applicable, during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 has been given in the following Table:

TABLE

Post	As on			
	1.4.97	1.4.98	1.4.99	1.4.2000
Secretary	110 (38)	116 (37)	137 (47)	149 (49)
Addl. Secretary	98 (42)	106 (52)	106 (53)	103 (47)
Joint Secretary	368 (152)	400 (182)	438 (221)	454 (232)
Director	399 (96)	462 (122)	477 (140)	531 (183)
Dy. Secretary	396 (118)	411 (127)	395 (133)	455 (159)
Total	1371 (446)	1495 (520)	1553 (594)	1692 (670)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate equivalent level posts and are included in the total.

The information given in the above Table is exclusive of the number of posts of the level of Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Secretary in respect of various Organised Group 'A' Services/Cadres which are administered by the respective Ministry/ Department and with respect to which the required information in this regard is not centrally available.

4. The additional expenditure on account of increase in the number of Cabinet Ministers during the years 1997-

98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 on account of pay and allowances was approximately Rs. 3 lakhs, Nill and Rs. 21 lakhs respectively. The overall additional expnediture on account of increase in the number of posts of the level of Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Secretary (mentioned in the Table above) during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was approximately Rs. 2.70 crores, Rs. 1.59 crores and Rs. 2.81 crores respectively.

[English]

Project Report of Kovalam-Nadayara T.C. Canal

3924. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a project report from the State Government of Kerala to revamp the stretch of Kovalam-Nadayara T.C. Canal of the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

UPSC Exams

3925. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make certain changes in the examinations system followed by the Union Public Service Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce Hindi as a medium of examination in place of English; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Review of the system of UPSC's examinations is an ongoing process. The Commission reviews the system of examinations from time to time in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments keeping in view the requirements of services/posts filled through these examinations.

(c) and (d) The question of introduction of Hindi and other languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, was considered by Dr. Satish Chandra Committee appointed by the UPSC. Efforts are on to arrive at a consensus on this sensitive issue, based on the recommendations of the Committee.

[English]

Non-Core Assets

3926. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the present market value of those non-core assets in SAIL identified for disinvestment by Government as on February, 2000; and

(b) the quantum of returns expected by selling of those assets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The market value of the non-core assets identified by SAIL for divestment would be known after an assessment by the Merchant Bankers. Further, the expected quantum of returns to be raised from the divestment process would be known only after the receipt of bids and the completion of negotiations.

[Translation]

Developmental Works

3927. SHRI JAWAHAR LAL JAISWAL:
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the developmental works undertaken in Navgarh and Ramnagar lime stone mines in Chandauli District of Uttar Pradesh and Bhavnathpur lime stone mine in Gadhawa district of Bihar under peripheral development scheme during the last three yers;

(b) whether the responsibility of development of 8 km. Peripheral mine range lies with the material division of the SAIL;

(c) if so, the allocation made and the amount spent under the peripheral development scheme during the last three years;

(d) the reason for not undertaking developmental works in the 8 km. Peripheral of Navgarh and Bhavnathpur lime stones; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) SAIL only has Bhawanathpur Limestone Mines in Garhwa district of Bihar, Peripheral development activities are undertaken by SAIL in and around its steel townships. The details of peripheral development work in Bhawanathpur are as under.

1997-98: Installation of Hand Pumps, Distribution of medicines in surrounding villages, during cholera epidemic.

1998-99: Distribution of medicines in surrounding villages.

(c) The allocation made and amount spent under the peripheral development scheme during the last three years is as below:

Year	Amount allocated (Rs.)	Amount spent (Rs.)
1997-98	1,00,000	1,00,000
1998-99	90,000	90,000
1999-00	Nil	Nil

(d) and (e) In Bhawanathpur, peripheral work was undertaken in 1997-98 and 1998-99. Due to advancement in technology and modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL), which has led to improved production process, the quality parameters have become more stringent. This has led to decrease in despatch of limestone from Bhawavathpur Limestone Mines to BSL over the past few years.

Presently, more than 600 employees are rendered surplus and as such, SAIL Management is forced to bear expenditure on account of salary and wages for the employees. As such, SAIL is not in a position to bear any additional expenditure for peripheral development work.

[English]

Solution to Kashmir Problem

3928. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "No peace till Kashmir resolved" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated December, 20, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the report appearing in the Hindustan Times of 20.12.1999.

The increasingly strident statements made by Pakistan leaders underline Pakistan's active encouragement and sponsorship of cross-border terrorism.

The entire State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation. India is committed to resolve all outstanding issues with Pakistan in accordance with the Simla Agreement. Pakistan needs to demonstrate its adherence to the agreement through an abandonment of its cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India and its hostile propaganda against India.

Government remains firm in their resolve to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

[Translation]

Cryogenic Engine

3929. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ISRO has tested fully indigenously developed Cryogenic engine for the Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) for the first time; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes,

Sir. ISRO has commenced the testing of an indigenously developed cryogenic engine to be used in the Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). This marks the beginning of a series of ground qualifaction trials of the engine.

(b) On February 16, 2000, the first flight version of the Cryogenic Engine, employing liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen, was ignited at Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre test complex at Mahendragiri in Tamilnadu. This test had several accomplishments as given below:

(i) fabrication, assembly and integration of the complete cryogenic engine;

(ii) validation and commissioning of the test stand;

(iii) chill down trials of the engine and associated system;

(iv) production of cryogenic propellants to required specifications and;

(v) validation of appropriate safety procedures besides collection of valuable data for the test duration.

However, the test had to be aborted at 15 seconds instead of the planned duration of 30 seconds. Preliminary analysis indicate that an inadvertent leakage of hydrogen caused a flame outside the engine which has resulted in the premature shutdown of the test. The data obtained from the test by the elaborate instrumentation during the test is being analysed to pinpoint the anomaly during the test and to take suitable corrective action.

Registration of Milk Units

3930. DR CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of milk units registered by the Union Government and State Government after issuance of Milk and Milk Product Order, 1992;

(b) the policy of the Government for scrutinising the applications received for registration of such milk units;

(c) whether M/s. S.M. Milkos and M/s. Sterling Agro Industries which are under Gwalior Milk Co-operative and 'Permier Nutrition' which is under Indore-Ujjain Milk Co-operative have been registered by the Union Government despite refusal by the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether a large number of milk Co-operatives in Madhya Pradesh are running in losses due to the short supply of milk as against their handling capacity;

(f) whether these milk Co-operatives would not face a closure from the dairy units wihch are being run under private sector; and

(g) if so, the measures being taken by the Union and State Government to check such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The number of milk units registered by Government of India and State Governments after issuance of Milk and Milk Product Order in the year 1992 as on March, 2000 are as under:-

i. Number of Registration granted by Central Registering Authority = 261.

ii. Number of registration granted by State Registering authority - 258

(As per avilable record).

(b) The applications received are scrutinised by Concerned Registering Authority as per the provisions of Milk and Milk Product Order (MMPO) 1992.

(c) and (d) M/s S.M. Milkose and M/s Sterling Agro Industries', are not under Gwalior Milk Cooperative and also "Premier Nutirition" is not under Indore Ujjain milk unions/cooperative unions. However the registrations were granted by the Central Registering Authority to M/s S.M. Milkose and M/s Agro Industries', only after confirming that marketable surplus of milk was available in the proposed milkshed area. No registration has been granted to M/s Premier Nutrition Indore.

(e) It is fact that a number of Co-operative Milk Unions in Madhya Pradesh are running in losses. However, this is not attributed to short supply of milk but to various other internal and external factors, including less quantities of milk actually procured by the Unions.

(f) and (g) Dairy Units which are being run in the private sector after obtaining registration under MMPO are not permitted to procure milk from those villages, where village diary cooperatives are functioning. However, the Madhya Pradesh Co-operative Dairy Federation has reported that illegal operations of private dairy units have affected milk procurement of the co-operative dairy plants. The Government of India has empowered the Milk Commissioner of the Government of Madhya Pradesh

and the District Collectors of the State to exercise powers under para 15 of the Milk and Milk Product Order (MMPO)-1992, enabling these officers to check illegal activities.

[English]

Command Area Development Programme

3931. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes launched by the Union Government during the last year in each State under the Command Area Development Programme particularly in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether the targets fixed for land irrigation have been achieved under these schemes during the above period;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to involve public representatives, Members of Parliament for effective and smooth implementation of these schemes to achieve the targets;

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) A Centrally Sponsored Command Area Developement Programme is already under implementation since 1974-75 in the country. Presently, it covers 23 States including Jammu & Kashmir and 2 Union Territories.

(b) and (c) Targets are fixed for On Farm Development Works, namely Construction of Field Channels, Field Drains, Land Levelling and shaping and enforcement of Warabandi, besides taking up innovative activities related with efficient water management. As a result of efficient water management through these activities, irrigation efficiency is increased, which helps in increasing the irrigated area and the agricultural productivity etc.

(d) to (f) Public representatives including Members of Parliament are involved for efficient and smooth implementation of the Command Area Development Programme in the country through different meetings which include Consultative Committee of the Members of Parliament for the Ministry of Water Resources, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture etc. The suggestions given in these meetings are suitably carried out by Government.

Officers on Deputation

3932. SHRI RAM SAJIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the posts in various ranks/grades under the Ministries/Departments and other autonomous, statutory, subordinate attached offices are filled by the Department of Personnel and Training by deputing officers from different services and organisations;

(b) if so, the nature and composition of selection committee/Boards constituted for selecting persons for such deputation posts; and

(c) the total number of persons deputed to the above referred posts in the grade of Deputy Secretary/Director, Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary and Secretary and the numbcr of persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Appointments to senior administrative posts at the centre, excluding posts which are specifically encadred within the organised Group 'A' services or filled by recruitment through the Union Public Sercice Commission, are made under the Central Staffing Scheme, by the Department of Personnel and Training, by borrowing officers from the All India Services and Group 'A' Central Services, on deputation basis. Appointments to posts in autonomous bodies and statutory organisations are made by the concerned Ministries/Departments and those are governed by the rules, regulations and procedures presoribed for such appointments.

(b) Appointments to the posts of Deputy Secretaries, Directors and Joint Secretaries/equivalent levels under the

Central Staffing Scheme are based on the recommendations of a board called the Civil Services Board, which consists of:-

(a)	Cabinet Secretary	:	Chairman (ex-officio)
(b)	Secretary (Personnel)		Member (ex-officio)
(c)	One Secretary to the Government of India (to be appointed for a year at a time)		Member
(d)	Establishment Officer		Member-Secretary (ex-officio)
(e)	Secretary of the Administrative Ministry/ Department concerned.		Co-opted Member

Appointments to these posts are made on the basis of vacancies reported by each Ministry/Department of the Central Government and the officers available on offer for deputation from their respective cadre authorities.

(c) As on 1.4.2000, the following number of officers at the level of Deputy Secretary, Director, Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary and Secretary were working in various Ministries/Departments.

Secretary & equivalent	:	149
Additional Secretary & equivalent	:	103
Joint Secretary level	:	454
Director level	:	531
Deputy Secretary level	:	455

Since caste/tribe is not a criterion in making appointments to the aforesaid posts, the statistics in respect of the number of SC/ST officers appointed to posts at the above-mentioned levels is not maintained separately.

Rawatbhata Atomic Power Project

3933. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Unit I and II of Rawatbhata Atomic Power Project have been derated from 220 MW each of 100 MW and 200 MW respectively;

(b) if so, whether both these units have been under repairs and even after their recommission supply of power from these two Units have been extremely erratic;

(c) whether the industrial and agricultural development of Rajasthan has been adversely affected due to inadequate supply of power in the State;

(d) if so, the Govt. of Rajasthan in order to get compensated for the deration of RAPP Units I and II has asked the Union Govt. to dedicate RAPP Units III and IV to the State for smooth and better supply of power in the State; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Union Government intend to dedicate these Units to the State Government of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. However, RAPS-I is presently authorised by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board to operate up to a power level of 150 MWe.

(b) Both the units have been operating satisfactorily during 1998-99 and 1999-2000. RAPS-2 achieved capacity factor 69% and 80% in the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000. RAPS-1 achieved capacity factor of 63% and 71% (w.r.t. 150 MWe power level) during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(c) Does not arise as nuclear power is not the only source of electricity supply to Rajasthan.

(d) and (e) Government of India had received a request from the Government of Rajasthan for dedication of the entire power from RAPP Units 3&4 to Rajasthan. Allocation of power from regional power stations to the States in a region is decided in accordance with the formula applicable to Central Generating Stations. Therefore, the entire power from RAPP 3&4 cannot be allocated to Rajasthan alone. Allocation of power from RAPP-3&4 to the Constituent States in Northern Region has already been done by the Ministry of Power, based on the prevalent formula.

Special Courts for SCs/STs Cases

3934. SHR RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up special courts for the disposal of cases relating to the crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

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

(c) whether a large number of cases are still pending in courts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) All States/UTs (except Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland) have specified existing Sessions Courts for each district as Special Courts under Section 14 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Special Courts (numbers shown against them) have also been set up in the six States namely Andhra Pradesh (5), Gujarat (3), Karnataka (4), Madhya Pradesh (25), Rajasthan (17) and Tamil Nadu (4) for trying cases under the SCs & STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

(c) and (d) The number of cases under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 pending in Courts at the end of year 1997 and 1998 are as under-

Year	No. of cases pending
1997	1,26,666
1998	1,12,253 (provisional)

(e) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Central assistance is released to the State Governments (50:50) and Union Territory Administration (100%) to support measures undertaken by them from effective implementation of the Acts which includes the provision of adequate facilities including legal aid, the appointment of officers for initiating or supervising prosecution setting up of Committees and Special Courts, conducting periodic surveys, identification of atrocity prone areas and providing relief and rehabilitation to the victims/dependents of atrocities etc.

Ministry of Home Affairs in their letter dated 12.11.1998 addressed to Chief Secretaries of States/UTs as requested them to accord higher priority in the framing, implementation and monitoring of the policies/schemes under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and to consider an appropriate mechanism for this purpose.

For speedy disposal of cases, the Ministry has requested to Chief Ministers of States *vide* D.O. letter dated 5.1.99 to set up more special courts, where pendency of cases is large.

[Translation]

Computer Education in Rural Areas

3935. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to impart computer-education in the rural areas;

(b) the number of Government owned computer institutes in the rural areas of the country;

(c) the number of new computer-institutes proposed to be opened;

(d) whether the Government would consider to open a professional college for computer and electronics trades in Bilaspur district or in other parts of Madhya Pradesh on the pattern of Regional Engineering College;

(e) if not, reasons therefor; and

(f) the number of students likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Ministry of Information Technology has a Employment Generation Training Scheme (EGTS) for the North-East and also for SC/ST and OBCs for other regions in the country. The overall objective of this Scheme is to harness the potential

of Electronics and Information Technology in providing "employment Oriented Training" for educated youth to fill up the shortage of trained personnel in the North East and other regions.

(b) There are no such institutes under the Central Government in the country.

(c) There is no proposal to open new computer institutes under this scheme.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Gravity Waves

3936. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has started intensive scientific campaign involving 'Rohini' sounding rockets to study gravity waves in the atmosphere;

(b) if so, the aims and objects thereof;

(c) the ground-based observations and findings of this study; and

(d) the expenditure involved in this study and cost-benefit ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objectives of the campaign are:

(i) To delineate the equatorial waves in atmospheric winds and temperatures for the heights ranging from 2 to 70 km in the troposphere and mesosphere regions of the atmosphere.

(ii) To estimate the vertical momentum fluxes of these equatorial waves in the above height range.

(c) The ground based observations invlude operation of Mesosphere, Stratosphere and Troposphere radar and a Light Detection and Ranging system (LIDAR) from the National MST Radar Facility at Gadanki.

The wind, temperature and related data collected from the series of rocket and balloon experiments as well as from ground based observations are being analysed to determine the characteristics of equatorial waves and to compute the momentum fluxes at various stages of their propagation through the atmosphere upto mesospheric altitudes.

(d) The cost of the rocket and balloon launchings and the operation of ground based experiment adds up to about Rs. 65 lakhs. The results will be very valuable for validating atmospheric models over the tropical region which would help in improving our understanding of various linkages between the lower atmospheric weather and climate variability and the middle/upper atmospheric phenomena.

[Translation]

Employment to Handicapped Persons

3937. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the registration of the number of handicapped persons in Employment exchanges is increasing continuously during the last two years;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate a specific scheme to provide employment to such persons; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to provide employment to the handicappec persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Jobs have been identified in the Public Sector for persons with various types of disabilities and the employers are to fill-up the posts in accordance with the reservation prescribed.

[English]

Territorial Planning Board

3938. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a Territorial Planning Board; and

(b) if so, the scope and functions of the proposed Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STAE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Norms for Items/Supplies of Kendriya Bhandar

3939. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any norms for the selection of items and suppliers of these items in Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said norms have been violated by the authorities of Kendriya Bhandar;

(d) if so, the number of such cases detected during the last three years;

(e) the action taken by the Government against those found responsible for this;

(f) the details of the rules/norms laid down under which action against a supplier who is registered in the Kendriya Bhandar can be taken including taking no supplies from him;

(g) whether many registered suppliers of different items to Kendriya Bhandar are not being provided with supply orders; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Kendriya Bhandar being a Consumer Cooperative Society follows its own norms mainly based on the experience and demands of the customers including the Government Departments. Selection of consumer items is done on the assessment of demands through a number of Purchase Committees for different items. These goods conform to Kendriya Bhandar's specifications which are stricter than Prevention of Food Adulteration Act specifications and they are subjected to laboratory tests with higher specifications. As regards branded items, market survey is carried out to ascertain the popularity of the product, sale potential and prevailing rate in the market.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Registered suppliers of Kendriya Bhandar are required to supply goods as per agreed specifications/ samples, delivery period and other terms and conditions. In case of non-compliance, Kendriya Bhandar is within its right to take action against them including forfeiture, discontinuation of supplies for some period banning etc. For purchases of pulses from registered suppliers, rating system for Quality Control has been introduced to maintain the quality of pulses. The suppliers having poor ratings are warned to improve their performance.

(g) and (h) Yes Sir. Whenever any supplier's offer is not as per norms of Tender Enquiry of Kendriya Bhandar, such as specifications, delivery schedule, payment terms, past performance sale potential etc., supply orders are not placed on such suppliers.

Kaiga Atomic Power Project

3940. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kaiga Atomic Power Project in Karnataka has not yet been completed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any cost-overrun due to delay in completion of the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The construction of the Kaiga Atomic Power Project got delayed mainly due to delamination incident of Unit-1 reactor dome in May 1994. However, unit-2 of the Project has now been completed and commenced commercial operation with effect from 16.3.2000. The anticipated criticality date of Unit-1 is September, 2000.

(c) and (d) There is a cost-overrun of Rs. 621 crore from the latest approved cost of Rs. 2275 crore, mainly due to increase in Interest During Construction (IDC) and escalation and overhead expenditure resulting from the time over-run.

(e) Unit-2 has already been completed and commenced commercial operation on 16.3.2000. The anticipated criticality date of Unit-1 is September 2000.

Sardar Sarovar Dam

3941. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the work of Sardar Sarovar Project has come to a standstill;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the financial loss suffered as a result of stoppage; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to re-start the work on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The work on various component of the Sardar Sarovar Project is in progress except the construction of the Dam which is constrained due to Civil Writ Petition filed by the NBA in Supreme Court in 1994. Supreme Court in its interim order on 5.5.1995 directed to maintain the effective height of the dam at RL 81.5 meters and on 18.2.99 permitted to raise the height of the Dam upto RL 85 meters excluding humps required for safety of the Dam.

(c) and (d) At present the issue of further raising of the Dam is *subjudice* in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. A definite construction schedule is necessary to estimate loss due to delay in the construction of the dam, which depends on the final verdict of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

[Translation]

Handicapped Persons

3942. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of unemployed handicapped youths are increasing continuously in the country and the Government are not able to provide employment to them;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide unemployment allowance to them;

(c) if so, by when alongwith the amount thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Government is not providing any unemployment allowance to the job-seekers (including handicapped job-seekers) registered with the Employment Exchanges; one of the important reasons for this is the paucity of resources to sustain the demand.

[English]

Fall in the Production of Oilseeds

3943. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Edible oil production presaged falling 13%" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated March 14, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the area under oilseeds has also declined in various States during the current rabi season;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to increase the area under oilseeds production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of oilseeds during the year 1998-99 was 252.10 lakh tonnes whereas during the year 1999-2000, the production is estimated to be 215.39 lakh tonnes only resulting in a fall in the production by 14.56%

(c) and (d) On account of scanty rainfall in various States in the country during Rabi 1999 season, the area under oilseeds during current Rabi season has fallen short about 4.86 lakh ha. A statement of area under oilseeds during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 Rabi seasons, is given in the enclosed statement attached.

(e) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in 25 States covering 395 selected districts to increase the area and the productivity of Oilseeds in the country. Under the programme, financial assistance is being provided for the critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implement, gypsum/pyrites, micro-nutrients, rhyzobium culture etc. to the farmers through State Governments. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmer's fields to disseminate the improved production and protection technologies.

Statement

State-wise area under oilseeds during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 Rabi season

(area in 000 ha.)

S. No.	State	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	601.2	542.0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.6	—
3.	Assam	299.0	329.0
4.	Bihar	177.1	181.0
5.	Goa	1.0	—
6.	Gujarat	465.0	462.0
7.	Haryana	554.0	530.0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13.7	14.0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	63.8	64.0
10.	Karnataka	954.5	846.0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1092.6	1100.0
12.	Maharasthra	822.0	794.0
13.	Manipur	1.4	—
14.	Meghalaya	6.9	—
15.	Mizoram	2.2	—
16.	Nagaland	17.2	—
17.	Orissa	100.4	99.0
18.	Punjab	158.3	99.0
19.	Rajasthan	3011.3	2950.0
20.	Sikkim	5.7	—
21.	Tamil Nadu	307.2	385.0
22.	Tripura	3.8	—
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1274.8	1247.0
24.	West Bengal	380.2	446.0
25.	Others	4.8	65.0
	ALL INDIA	10338.7	9853.0

Production of Kharif Crop

3944. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for the production of Kharif Crop during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the target fixed for production of Kharif Crop;

(c) the State which is being provided grant-in-aid during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that this grant-in-aid actually reach to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The following targets have been fixed by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for production of Kharif Crops during 2000/2001.

	Quantity Million tonnes
Rice	76.3
Coarse Cereals	17.1
Maize	10.0
Pulses	6.0
Total Foodgrains	109.4
Oilseeds	16.5
Cotton	14.5*
Jute & Mesta	10.0**

* Million Bales of 170 kg each
** Million Bales of 180 kg each

(c) Grants-in-aid is being made available to all the States depending on the crop being grown in that state, and participation in the scheme.

(d) There is a regular system of monitoring the progress of implementation of plan schemes in the states by the Department. They are also subject to periodical audits and submission of utilization certificates prescribed thereunder.

Regional Passport Offices

3945. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Passport Offices and Passport Application Collection Centres in the country, State-wise, and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a new Regional Passport Office at Coimbatore;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) There are 28 Passport Offices and 16 Passport Application Collection Centres in the country. Their location State-wise is as under:

State	RPOs/POs	Collection Centres
Andhra Pradesh	PO Hyderabad PO Visakhapatnam	Tirupati Vijayawada
Assam	RPO Guwahati	
Bihar	PO Patna	Dharbanga Ranchi
Chandigarh	RPO Chandigarh	
Delhi	RPO Delhi	
Goa	PO Panaji	
Gujarat	RPO Ahmedabad	Surat
Himachal Pradesh	NIL	Shimla
J & K	PO Jammu PO Srinagar	
Karnataka	PO Bangalore	Mangalore
Kerala	RPO Cochin PO Kozhikode PO Trivandrum	
Maharashtra	ROP Mumbai PO Nagpur PO Pune PO Thane	Aurangabad
Manipur	NIL	Imphal
Madhya Pradesh	PO Bhopal	
Meghalaya	NIL	Shillong
Mizoram	NIL	Aizwal
Nagalnad	NIL	Kohima
Orissa	PO Bhubenshwar	
Punjab	PO Jalandhar	Amritsar
Rajasthan	RPO Jaipur	
Sikkim	NIL	Gangtok
Tamil Nadu	RPO Chennai PO Trichrapalli	Madurai
Tripura	NIL	Agartala
Uttar Pradesh	PO Lucknow PO Bareilly PO Ghaziabad	
West Bengal	RPO Calcutta	

(b) There is no proposal at present to set up a new Regional Passport Office at Coimbatore;

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The average number of applications received per annum during the last three years from Coimbatore and adjoining areas was 23074. The opening of a new passport office is governed by certain criteria such as the location of existing offices, volume of applications from a particular region and the recommendation of the Standing Committee of Parliament of the Ministry of External Affairs that there should be at least 50,000 applications per annum from an area where a new passport office is to be opened. In view of this, opening a passport office at Coimbatore is not being considered, at present.

Memorandum from B.C.R.D.F.

3946. SHRI MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhartiya Cattle Resource Development Foundation has submitted memorandum to the Union Government regarding cross breeding of cattle and buffalo in August, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken on said memorandum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Major suggestions contained in the memorandum are (i) phasing out cross-breeding in next 10 to 15 years, (ii) conversion of all cross-bred cattle farms into farm for indigenous breeds, (iii) integration of Gaushalas for breeding of indigenous cattle breeds and financing such programmes, (iv) educating farmers on benefits of indigenous breeds, (v) promotion of draught power, uses of dung and urine etc.

(c) Last of the above suggestions is not in the purview of this Ministry. Rest of the suggestions are in tune with the proposed Ninth Plan Scheme National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding which strives to strike a balance among rising demand for milk, requirement of draught power and need for conservation of indigenous breeds.

[Translation]

Production of Steel

3947. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of steel during the year 1999-2000;

(b) whether fresh steps are being taken to increase the production of steel;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The total production of finished steel during the year 1999-2000 has been provisionally estimated to be 26.48 MT.

(b) to (d) After the liberalisation of the steel industry, the main producers of steel in the public and private sector plan their production of steel based on demand projections.

Agro-Information Technology

3948. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for development of agro-information technology and its application in modern farming in view of its crucial role in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) No separate scheme as such for development of agro-information technology has been formulated. However, concerted efforts are being made to promote information technology in agriculture sector through following schemes/ programmes:

(i) Agricultural Research Information System (ARIS) launched by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) envisages connecting all the major research centres of ICAR, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). It is a network for exchange of information in agricultural research, education and extension across the country through the use of computers, networking equipment and telecommunication. As of now there are 235 ARIS Cells, however, at full growth there would be a total of about 832

ARIS Stations by the end of IXth Plan period. The latest information on agricultural research and extension will be widely and rapidly disseminated to farmers through the ARIS System.

(ii) Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of NATP provides for intensive computerization of various institutions involved in the project implementation in 24 districts in 6 Project States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab. This computerization through block level institutions of Farmer Information and Advisory Centres (FIACs) and district level Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) would help in rapid dissemination of latest and uptodate agricultural technology to the farmers.

(iii) A Central Sector Scheme on Information Technology apparatus in the Headquarters National Agriculture Informatic Centre and Early Warning Information System is being implemented during the 9th plan period.

[English]

Golden Handshake Scheme

3949. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to offer golden handshake scheme for the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) Rule 48-A of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules enables a Government servant to seek retirement at any time after he has completed 20 years qualifying service. A Government servant who seeks retirement under this Rule is entitled to get weightage of not exceeding 5 years qualifying service subject to the condition that the total qualifying service does not exceed 33 years and it does not take him beyond the date of superannuation. The existing Voluntary Retirement Scheme adequately meets the requirements.

Setting up of Steel Plants

3950. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some new major, medium and mini steel plant in the country, during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the break-up thereof both private and in public sector, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) According to the new industrial policy announced in July, 1991 "Iron & Steel Industry" has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and also exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing. No Industrial Licence is, therefore, required to set up Iron and Steel production/processing facilities, except for certain locational restrictions. Entrepreneurs are, therefore, free to set up such facilities anywhere in the country based on their commercial judgement. At present, the Union Government do not propose to set up any new steel plants in the country.

[Translation]

IAS/IPS/IFS Officers

3951. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers belonging to Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and Indian Foreign Service in the country and in foreign countries as on date;

(b) the number of women officers working at present out of them.

(c) the number of these officers belonging to General, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Categories; and

(d) the number of new appointments made in these services every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The number of officers belonging to these services i.e., Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Serice (IPS) and Indian Foreign Service (IFS), in the country and abroad respectively is as follows:

	IAS	IPS	IFS
In India	5111	3163	432
Abroad	86	56	177
Total	5197	3219	609

(b) Number of women officers working at present is as under

IAS	IPS	IFS
538	108	72

(c) Number of officers belonging to various categories is as follows:

	*IAS	IPS	IFS
General	3281	2325	421
SC	551	417	127
ST	261	227	44
OBC	107	250	17

*In addition there are 997 IAS officers appointed by Promotion/ Selection, the details regarding whose category are not available.

(d) The number of new appointments during the last three years is as follows:-

(i) Recruitment through competitive examination.

Year of Examination	IAS	IPS	IFS
1996	76	91	14
1997	55	80	16
1998	55	34	10

(ii) Appointment by promotion/selection.

Year of recruitment	IAS	IPS	IFS
1996-97	202	79	—
1998	62	39	—
1999	82	51	—

[English]

Payment of Money to Taliban Authorities

3952. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government paid a hefty sum to the Taliban authorities by way of parking charges, cost of food etc. during the stay of the IAC Plane at Kandahar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No Sir.

(b) However, the Taliban have forwarded bills amounting to US $ 1,11,324 towards food, fuel and other services rendered to the hijacked Indian Airlines Flight IC-814 at Kandahar. Government have intimated the matter to the UN Sanctions Committee in view of UNSC Resolution No. 1267, imposing sanctions against the Taliban.

[Translation]

Software Parks

3953. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request for setting up electronic and software Technological Park in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the present status of each project;

(c) the financial assistance sought and granted for each project separately;

(d) whether the Government have drawn any special scheme for setting up an Electronic and Software Technology Park in Backward areas particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Madhya Pradesh Government and Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), a Society under the Ministry of Information Technology, to provide High Speed Data Communication facility in Indore that will provide nodes at Gwalior and Bhopal. The remaining areas can be connected to this facility through the optical fibres wherever available. A STP at Indore will start once the High Speed Data Communication facility is commissioned.

(f) Does not arise.

Flood Control

3954. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:
SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
SHRI RASHID ALVI:
SHRI MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several parts of Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are severely affected by the flood and water logging caused by the river Ganga, Brahmaputra and Bagmati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the long-term and short-term measures taken by the Union Government to control the regular flood in above States, during the last three years;

(d) the funds demanded by these States and released by the Union Government to each State Government for the purpose during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(e) the number of proposals in regard to flood control received by the Union Government from each State Government; and

(f) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Several parts of Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are affected by floods and water logging caused by the rivers Brahmaputra and Ganga and their tributaries. As per reports of Rashtriya Barh Ayog, area liable to floods in the States of Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are 3.15 million ha., 4.26 million ha. And 7.34 million ha. respectively. There are 30 identified pockets of drainage congestion in the State of Assam. Areas in Kosi & Gandak commands as well as Mokamah Tal areas are the severe drainage congestion area in the State of Bihar. Parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh also experience drainage congestion.

(c) Flood Management work is a State subject and the long term and short term measures to control floods are executed by the States as per the priorities fixed by the states out of their own plan fund allocated by the Planning Commission. Central Government as per existing procedure provides technical advice and conducts appraisal of schemes when referred by the State for their clearance. Government of India has set up the Ganga Flood Control Commission in 1972 for preparing comprehensive master plans for flood management in Ganga basin. The master plans prepared by Ganga Flood Control Commission have been sent to the concerned Ganga Basin states including Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for their implementation. Similarly, Government of India has set up Brahmaputra Board in 1980 for preparing the master plans for the Brahmaputra, the Barak and their tributaries. The Master Plans prepared by Brahamputra Board have been sent to the basin states including Assam for their implementation. All these master plans contain the recommendations for both short term and long term measures of flood control. In the wake of the severe flooding during the monsoon of 1998 particularly in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh the Govt. of India at the request of the State Governments constituted an Expert Group in November, 1998 headed by Chairman, GFCC and members representing the states of UP & Bihar to identify schemes for giving reasonable protection to vulnerable areas in these states and prepare an action

plan for implementation. The recommendations of the Expert group containing the specific schemes to be implemented along with suggestion on schedule of their implementation have already been sent to the respective states. The States have to implement the measures suggested therein expeditiously.

The Union Government has released to the Govt. of Bihar during the last three years an amount of Rs. 1.8 crore for raising & strengthening of embankment along river Lalbakya in Bihar and Rs. 8.85 crore for maintenance of flood protection works of Kosi river in Nepal. An amount of 0.93 crore has been released to Govt. of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years for maintenance of flood protection works of Gandak river in Nepal. An amount of Rs. 51 crore has been released as Central Loan Assistance to the Govt. of Assam for flood management during the last three years.

(d) Details about funds released to Assam, Bihar & UP by the Planning Commission in flood control sub sector during the last 3 years ie. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) and (f) The number of proposals in regard to flood control received by the Union Government from the States of Assam, Bihar & Uttar Pradesh during the last three years (i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000) for technical examination are 131, 79 & 9 respectively and of which, 73, nil & 2 respectively have been cleared by the Ministry of Water Resources.

Statement

Details of Annual Proposed Outlay & Approved Outlay for Flood Control during the last three years for Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.	Name of States	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Proposed Outlay	Approved Outlay	Proposed Outlay	Approved Outlay	Proposed Outlay	Approved Outlay
1.	Assam	19.92	21.42	NA	20.27	27.57	27.57
2.	Bihar	42.28	44.00	55.00	43.00	110.00	110.00
3.	U.P.	18.15	27.00	50.00	45.90	23.53	23.53

Drinking Water for Livestock

3955. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have fixed the criteria to sanction the scheme of 70 litre water per day including drinking water for individual livestock in 12 desert district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the progress achieved in this regard and the reasons for not providing such facilities to all the districts of the State; and

(c) the manner in which Government proposed to meet the drinking water demand for the livestock in all the districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. However the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing Central assistance to plan and implement individual Water Supply Schemes under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Norms suggest 30 lpcd (litres per capita per day) for animals in hot and cold desert/eco systems in 227 blocks of 36 DDP districts already identified in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka and Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) A sun of Rs. 36.52 crores was provided to 'Rajasthan during 1999-2000 for Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme. Out of a total of 104066 rural habitations 65433 rural habitations are fully covered, 35577 are partially covered, by the scheme.

Reservation in Private Companies

3956. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Government or in those private companies where the Government has nominal participation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of requests received in this regard from Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other social organizations during the last three years; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) Central Public Sector Undertakings follow reservation policy formulated by the Central Government (Department of Personnel & Training) and provido reservation to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. There is no provision for reservation in Private Companies.

Incentives by Khandi and Gram Udyog Commission

3957. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission provides incentives for setting up cottage industries in rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where units of the cottage industries have been set up with the incentives provided by the Commission by the end of December, 1999 alongwith the number of such industries set up;

(d) the State-wise number of people employed in these cottage industrial units; and

(e) the number of sick cottage industries, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Margin Money Scheme, the KVIC provides incentives for setting up cottage industries in rural areas. Under this scheme, the subsidy on project cost is given at the rate of 25% (30% in case of SC/ST/ OBC/Women/Physically Handicapped/Ex-Servicemen and Minority Community beneficiaries/institutions and for hill, border and tribal areas and North Eastern Region) of the cost of the project upto Rs. 10 lakhs and additional 10% of the project cost above Rs. 10 lakhs but upto Rs. 25 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The KVIC encourages setting up of village industries in all the States and Union Territories. The State-wise number of people employed in these cottage industries is given in the the attached statement.

(e) The detail of sick cottage industries is not maintained centrally.

Statement

Statewise Employment-1998-99

S. No.	States/Union Territories	Khadi	Village Industry	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.33	3.26	3.59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	*	*	*
3.	Assam	0.27	0.98	1.25
4.	Bihar	2.54	1.26	3.80

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Goa	0	0.05	0.05
6.	Gujarat	0.46	0.55	1.01
7.	Haryana	0.52	0.39	0.91
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.14	0.69	0.83
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.35	0.88	1.23
10.	Karnataka	0.46	1.96	2.42
11.	Kerala	0.15	1.93	2.08
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.14	1.15	1.29
13.	Maharashtra	0.18	4.47	4.65
14.	Manipur	*	0.42	0.42
15.	Meghalaya	*	0.11	0.11
16.	Mizroam	0	0.15	0.15
17.	Nagaland	*	0.19	0.19
18.	Orissa	0.03	1.95	1.98
19.	Punjab	0.77	0.96	1.73
20.	Rajasthan	1.04	3.29	4.33
21.	Sikkim	*	0.06	0.06
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.62	10.54	11.16
23.	Tripura	0	0.23	0.23
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5.18	5.33	10.51
25.	West Bengal	0.63	3.42	4.05
	Total-I	13.81	44.22	58.03
Union Territories				
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	*	*
27.	Chandigarh	0	0.03	0.03
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
30.	Delhi	0.03	0.15	0.18
31.	Lakshdweep	0	*	*
32.	Pondicherry	0.01	0.04	0.05
	Total-II	0.04	0.22	0.26
	Grand Total-I+II	13.85	44.44	58.29

*Less than 500.

[English]

Closure of Small Scale Industrial Units

3958. KUMARI UMA BHARATI:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of small scale industrial units are closed in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of units so closed, State-wise;

(c) the number of employees retrenched as a result of closure;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revive these closed units; and

(e) the proposals cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board for setting up industries which were under SSI reservation till, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The major reasons for the closure of the small scale industrial (SSI) units are inadequacy of credit, marketing problems, managerial inadequacies, technological obsolescence, etc. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintains data on sick SSI units and not for closed units. As per the latest data compiled by the RBI, the number of sick SSIs at the end of March, 1999 was 3,06,221. The State-wise data on sick small scale industries as at the end of March, 1998 is given in the statement enclosed. The State-wise data on sick SSIs at the end of March, 1999 has not been released by the RBI. The data on number of employees retrenched as a result of closure of SSI units is not maintained by the RBI.

(d) The Government is fully seized of the incidence of industrial sickness amongst SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which inter-alia, includes institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter Institutional Committee, special rehabilitation cells in banks and State financial institutions and, elaborte guidelines issued by RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units.

(e) During the period from August 1991 to December 1998, total number of 143 foreign collaboration approvals have been granted by the Government for manufacture of SSI reserved items.

Statement

State-wise data on sick small scale industries.

State/Union Territory	At the end of March 1998
1	2
Assam	15774
Meghalaya	4076
Mizoram	615
Bihar	24935
Arunachal Pradesh	456
West Bengal	53617
Nagaland	1386
Manipur	1919
Orissa	1889
Sikkim	33
Tripura	2011
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	45
Uttar Pradesh	14294
Delhi	3580
Punjab	2376
Harayana	2149
Chandigarh	163
Jammu & Kashmir	1627
Himachal Pradesh	735
Rajasthan	15655
Gujarat	6808

1	2
Maharashtra	17925
Daman & Diu	5
Goa	670
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2
Madhya Pradesh	8348
Andra Pradesh	12074
Karnataka	6680
Lakshadweep	0
Tamil Nadu	12289
Kerala	8969
Pondicherry	431
Total	221536

[Translation]

National Commissions

3959. SHRI MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National Minority Commission, National Commission for Women, National Backward Commission and National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constituted to bring the minorities, women, backwards and Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes of the country in the mainstream of the country during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) whether the aforesaid commissions have deviated from its objectives;

(c) if so, whether the Government contemplate to make a comprehensive review of all these Commissions to make them more effective; and

(d) if not, the details of the efforts made by the above said commission to minimize the social, economic and educational inequalities, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) National Commission for Minorities, National Commission for Women, National Commission for Backward Calsses and National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were set up/constituted by the Govt. of India with their headquarters at New Delhi to Safeguard the interest of the target groups. Details about these Commissions are given in the statement attached.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The National Commissions keep a watch on the formulations of policy for the target groups and investigate, monitor and evaluate the performance of various schemes meant for the target groups to ensure that social, economic and educational inequalities are minimised.

Statement

I. National Commission for Minorities,
Lok Nayak Bhavan,
Khan Market,
New Delhi.

Composition of the National Commisson for Minorities (as notified on 21.2.2000)

Justice Mohammed Shamim	Chairperson
Shri Tarlochan Singh	Vice-Chairperson
Lt. Gen. (Retd.) A.M. Sethna	Member
Shri T.K. Lochen Tulku	Member
Shri John Joseph	Member
Mr. Shamim Kazim	Member
Mr. Vijay Kumar Dar	Member

II. **Naylonal Commission for Women,**
4, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg,
New Delhi-11002.

Composition of the Commission (as notified on 8.2.2000)

1.	Smt. Vibha Parthasarthi,	Chairperson
2.	Dr. Syeda S. Hameed	Member
3.	Smt. Vijay Daksh,	Member
4.	Dr. Poornima Advani	Member
5.	Smt. K. Santha Reddy	Member
6.	Km. Anusuiya Uike	Member

III. National Commission for Backward Classes
Trikoot-I, Bhikaji Cama Place,
New Delhi.

Composition of the Commission (as notified on 6.4.2000)

Shri M.S. Matharoo	Member
Shri C.T. Benjamin	Secretary (NCBC)
Posts vacant	Members-2 Chairperson-1

IV. National Commission for SCs and STs
Vth Floor, Lok Nayak Bhavan,
New Delhi

Composition of the Commission (as notified on 30.6.1999)

Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria	Chairperson
Shri Kameshwar Paswan	Vice Chairperson
Ven. Lama Lobzang	Member
Shri Harinder Khalsa	Member
Shri Chotray Majhi	Member
Shri M. Kannan	Member (He has resigned. Resignation is yet to be accepted).
Smt. Veena Nayyar	Member

Branch Offices:

S.No.	Location	Jurisdiction
1		2
1.	Agartala	Tripura
2.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat, Dadra & Nagar Haveli
3.	Bangalore	Karnataka
4.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
5.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa
6.	Calcutta	West Bengal, Sikkim
7.	Chandigarh	Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, J&K and Himachal Pradesh
8.	Guwahati	Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland
9.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
10.	Jaipur	Rajasthan
11.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
12.	Madras	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry
13.	Patna	Bihar
14.	Pune	Maharashtra, Goa, Daman & Diu
15.	Shillong	Meghalaya & Mizoram
16.	Thiruvanthapuram	Kerala & Lakshadweep

[English]

Ban on Harmful Pesticides

3960. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRIMTI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
DR. SANJAY PASWAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleascd to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have identified the harmful chemical/pesticides which are being used by the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend certain provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968 to protect the interests of farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Registration for import or manufacture of pesticides is granted by the Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 after satisfying about all the relevant norms on safety and their efficacy. The Committee also lays down statutory guidelines like dosage, safety interval etc. in order to avoid any harmful effect or registered pesticides in their use by the farmers. The question of continued use or otherwise of pesticides is also reviewed, having regard to their health hazards to human being, animals and environment, through the Expert Committees constituted by Government from time to time. Based on such reviews, 21 chemical pesticides have been banned so far as per details in the statement attached.

(c) and (d) The Insecticides Act (Amendment) Bill, 2000 is proposed to be introduced in the Lok Sabha during the current Session. This seeks to provide for stringent penalties for violation of provisions of the Act, speedier trials of court cases and also to make certain provisions of the Act more effective in order to ensure availability of quality pesticides to the farming community.

Statement

Pesticidies Banned

1. Aldrin
2. Benzene Hexachloride (BHC)
3. Calcium cyanide
4. Chlordane
5. Copper Acetoarsenite
6. Dibromochloropropane (DBCP)
7. Endrin
8. Ethyl Mercury Chloride
9. Ethyl Parathion
10. Heptachlor
11. Menazon
12. Nicotine Sulphate*
13. Nitrofen
14. Paraquate dimethyl sulphate
15. Pentachloro nitrobenzene (PCNB)
16. Pentachlorophenol (PCP)
17. Phenyl Mercury Acetate (PMA)
18. Sodium Methane Arsonate (MSMA)
19. Tetradifon
20. Toxaphene
21. Methomyl 24% Formulation

*This pesticide is manufactured in India for export only.

Employees Provident Fund Scheme

3961. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the minimum pension amount now offered under Employees Scheme considerably;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to consider those cases who were subscribing under the Scheme from its inception i.e. 1972 onwards but retired after 1993 and offer the benefits to them also; and

(d) whether the Government propose to review the pension amount periodically taking into consideration the cost of living index as done in the case of other pension schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 came into force with effect from 16.11.1995. Accordingly, the Scheme applies to the persons who were/are in the employment on or after 16.11.1995. However, the cases of members of the ceased Family Pension Scheme, 1971 who retired or died during 1.4.1993 to 16.11.1995 are also covered for pension under the new Scheme on an optional basis.

(d) Under the Employees Pension Scheme there is a provision for valuation of the Pension Fund and review of pensionary benefits on an annual basis. Accordingly, on completion of the first annual valuation, an increase of 4% on pension in payment has been sanctioned to the beneficiaries with effect from 16.11.1996. On completion of second annual valuation, additional relief of 5.5% has also been sanctioned to the pensioners with effect from 1.4.1998. The Employees' Pension Scheme is a contributory Scheme with limited resources. As such, it is not considered actually feasible to burden the scheme with unlimited liability which may arise by linking it to the cost of living index.

OBC List

3962. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have added some new castes to Central List of OBCs recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of new castes;

(c) the number of persons likely to be benefited as a result thereof;

(d) whether these castes have been included on the recommendations of National Commission of Backward Classes;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith main recommendations of the said Commission;

(f) whether the Government plan to include 'Khandayats' of Orissa in Central OBC List since the State Government has already done so; and

(g) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (e) Recently, certain inclusions/ amendments in the Central list of Other Backward Classes have been brought out vide Gazette of India Notifications No. 241 dated 27.10.1999 and No. 270 dated 6.12.1999.

The National Commission for Backward Classes has been set up as per provisions under the NCBC Act, 1993. The Commission examines the requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as backward class in the Central List of OBC and hears complaints of over-inclusion or under-inclusion of any backward class in the list and tenders such advice based on criteria covering social, educational and economic aspects of backwardness to Central Government as it deems appropriate. As per section 9 (2) of the NCBC Act, the advice of the Commission is ordinarily binding the Central Government.

(f) and (g) The National Commission for Backward Classes has considered the proposal to include 'Khandayats' of Orissa in Central List of OBCs and has recommended rejection of the request for its inclusion.

Reservation of Jobs

3963. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has widened the O.B.C. List for reservation purposes in the Government jobs;

(b) whether the Government have rejected a recommendation of a National Commission on SC/ST for providing job reservation to SCs, STs and OBCs in Defence, Scientific establishments and Judiciary;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Recently certain Inclusions/ amendments in the Central list of Other Backward Classes have been brought out vide Gazette of India Notifications No. 241 dated 27.10.1999, No. 270 dated 6.12.1999. and No. 71 dated 4.4.2000. Government of India has provided for 27% reservation for OBCs subject to exclusion of such socially advanced persons (Creamy Layer) in the direct recruitment for the civil posts and services under the Government as per Department of Personnel and Training OM No. 36012/22/93-Estt. (SCT) dated 8.9.1993.

(b) to (d) The National Commission for SCs & STs, in its Fourth Report has stated in Recommendation No. II.8 that: "there is no reservation in Defence forces, scientific establishments, judiciary etc. After 50 years of independence, when enough qualified SC/ST candidates are available. Commission sees no reason for keeping these sector out of the purview of reservation, denying opportunities to SCs/STs."

The Government after due consideration of all aspects including the view held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Indira Swahney Judgement are of the view that it is neither advisable nor permissible to accept this recommendation of the National Commission for SCs/STs.

Promotion and processing of Ginger

3964. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production and area under the cultivation of ginger during each to the last three years; State wise;

(b) the assistance provided and steps taken to increase the production of ginger;

(c) whether the processing of ginger has been taken up in commercial State;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up such unit in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The details of production and area under the cultivation of ginger during each of the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) In order to increase the production and productivity of ginger the following programmes are being implemented:-

(i) Production of quality seed rhizomes of improved varieties.

(ii) Establishment of demonstration-cum-seed multiplication plots in the farmers field.

(iii) Distribution of minikits of improved varieties.

(iv) Popularising plant protection measures.

(v) Encouraging area expansion of export oriented varieties.

(c) Yes Sir, the major processed product of ginger are dry ginger, ginger powder, ginger oil and ginger oleoresins which are produced on commercial scale. Currently there are 33 units with a production of 15 thousand metric tonnes per annum of all spice oil and oleoresins including ginger.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal with the Central Government to set up such a unit in Kerala.

Statement

Details of production and area under the cultivation of ginger during the last three years

State	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Area (000 ha.)	Prodn. (000 tonnes)	Area (000 ha.)	Prodn. (000 tonnes)	Area (000 ha.)	Prodn. (000 tonnes)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	2.41	8.96	1.91	6.77	1.91	6.77
Arunachal Pradesh	3.33	24.34	4.19	32.08	4.34	31.09
Bihar	0.79	1.13	0.63	0.89	0.71	0.98
Gujarat	0.56	2.24	0.65	2.60	1.19	4.76
Haryana	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.01
Himachal Pradesh	1.43	0.69	1.54	0.74	1.81	0.87
Karnataka	4.41	5.81	3.62	4.75	3.94	5.26
Kerala	12.81	48.47	14.10	49.75	14.57	49.95
Madhya Pradesh	3.70	5.36	4.01	5.34	3.86	5.57
Maharashtra	1.06	1.01	1.24	1.19	1.27	1.21
Manipur	0.74	1.22	0.54	0.83	0.59	0.97
Meghalaya	7.31	46.18	7.36	45.26	9.55	49.06
Mizoram	4.37	21.79	4.49	22.18	4.10	20.50
Nagaland	0.47	7.20	0.65	5.20	0.76	6.60
Orissa	9.83	10.56	13.18	25.86	13.52	26.91
Rajasthan	0.28	1.09	0.32	0.65	0.30	0.42
Sikkim	4.60	4.00	4.94	2.18	2.49	4.32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tamil Nadu	0.60	14.50	0.58	18.22	0.60	19.01
Tripura	1.01	1.85	1.10	2.19	1.20	2.40
Uttar Pradesh	1.32	7.00	1.00	5.41	1.07	6.41
West Bengal	8.85	17.94	9.14	18.85	9.40	18.81
A&N Islands	0.38	1.16	0.39	1.16	0.39	1.17
Total	70.29	232.51	75.57	252.11	77.61	261.17

Handicapped Youths

3965. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of SCs/STs/OBCs and handicapped unemployed registered in the Employment Exchanges of Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) the number of these persons provided jobs during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, category-wise;

(c) whether the quota reserved for the handicapped persons have been filled-up;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Statement is enclosed.

(c) to (e) Jobs in the Public Sector have been identified for persons with various types of disabilities and the employers are to fill-up the posts in accordance with the reservation prescribed. Employment Exchanges sponsor the names of the job-seekers as per the requisition received from the employer.

Statement

Statement Registered and Placed by Employment Exchanges in Gujarat & Maharashtra.

(IN THOUSANDS)

Cate-Gory	Number of Live Register as on 31.12.1997		Number Placed in Employment During 1996		1997	
	Gujarat	Maharashtra	Gujarat	Maharashtra	Gujarat	Maharashtra
SC	200.4	573.1	2.1	4.4	3.0	4.0
ST	94.5	139.1	6.2	1.2	6.8	1.3
PH	16.4	28.9	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5

Note: 1. All the job-seekers registered with the employment exchanges are not necessarily unemployed.
2. Information on OBC category is not maintained.

Floods in Assam

3966. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether devastation caused by Brahmaputra in Assam and other surrounding areas every year;

(b) if so, the details of loss of life, property, crops and livestocks and other damages suffered during 1997-98, 1998-99 and the current year; and

(c) the flood control and flood prevention measures taken by the Government every year and the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Brahmaputra affects the ecology and life of people in its course every year.

(b) A statement indicating the details is enclosed.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake appropriate measures. However, Government of India renders Central assistance to the State Government of Assam for taking up short-term flood control measures. During the last three years, the assistance provided to the State for flood management under the State Plan as well as from Central Government is as under:-

(Rs. In crores)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Approved outlay under State Plan	19.92	20.27	27.57
Central assistance from budget of Ministry of Water Resources	18.00	18.00	15.00

The State Government has undertaken short-term flood control measures from the above provided funds.

Statement

Damage due to floods in Assam

Year	Human life Lost	Damage to houses/huts (Nos.)	Damage to crop area (in lakh ha.)	Animal/Livestock (Nos.)	Other damages
1997-98	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1998-99	105	30399	2.89	7814	Nil
1999-2000	3	126	1.06	Nil	Nil

Pak's Strategy on Kashmir Issue

3967. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Musharraf urges OIC to exert pressure on India" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated March, 6, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Pakistan habitually and routinely indulges in hostile propagandist statements against India especially in OIC fora and with member states of the organisation to promote anti-India sentiments. Government have effectively and appropriately brought to the notice of the international community, including member countries of the OIC, facts regarding Pakistan's support to terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India. There is a greater appreciation in the international community, including amongst the OIC countries, of Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India.

[Translation]

Ban on Recruitment

3968. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recruitment in the various Government offices has been banned in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which this situation is likely to be prevailed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Government have not issued any general orders putting a total ban on recruitment for Government jobs. However, keeping in view the need for fiscal prudence and austerity, instructions have been issued by the Ministry of Finance requesting all Ministries/Departments etc. not to fill up vacant post until a review was done by the concerned Administrative Ministry/Department in consultation with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). Copy of these instructions have been endorsed to all the State Governments with the request to consider issuing similar instructions.

[English]

Distribution of Land to SC/ST

3969. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Forum of SC/ST Parliamentarians' in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on 17.12.1996, 01.09.1997 & 23.07.1998 have demanded allocation of funds for the development of SCs/STs proportion to the population of this community from Ninth Five Year Plan onwards;

(b) if so, the details of the funds demanded, allocated and released by the Union Government for the procurement and distribution of land of SCs and STs families in the First (1997-98) Second (1998-99) and Third Annual Plans (1999-2000) of the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the reasons for not meeting the demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. In the Memorandum submitted by the Forum to the Prime Minister on 17.12.96, 1.9.97 & 23.7.98, demand was made for the allocation of funds for the development of SCs and STs in proportion to their population.

(b) and (c) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is primarily responsible for sustainable agriculture production. Through implementation of various schemes, the Department promotes agricultural development, supports soil and water conservation schemes towards agricultural expansion and consolidation, promotes expansion and strengthening of agricultural infrastructure. These activities benefit farmers of all categories including SC/ST. As the schemes are area specific and production oriented in nature, funds are not demanded on the basis of population of SC/ST. However, wherever possible Special Component Plan (SCP) for SCs and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for STs are carved out of the annual plans.

[Translation]

Setting up of an Irrigation Fund

3970. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a fund with an amount of Rs. 3,500 crore to extend financial assistance to the irrigation sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified the sources to mobilise the funds for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the heads under which loans/financial assistance is propose to be granted out of the above fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) There is no proposal before the Government to set up a fund of Rs. 3500 crore to extend financial assistance to the irrigation sector in the country. However, with a view to supplement the Plan allocation so that more and more land may come under assured irrigation, Government of India is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Governments to enable them to complete selected ongoing major & medium irrigation projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) which was launched in the year 1996-97. According to the latest revised funding pattern with effect from the financial year 1999-2000, the CLA is being released in 3:1 (Centre: State) ratio to the Special Category States comprising the North-Eastern States, hilly States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim as well as Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa whereas, the ratio is 2:1 for other General Category States. So far CLA amounting to

Rs. 4026.14 crore comprising Rs. 3963.43 crore for major & medium projects and Rs. 62.71 crore for minor irrigation schemes has been released to various States. Moreover, under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) launched in 1995-96 and managed by NABARD, Rs. 3500 crore was allocated during 1999-2000 from the Banking sector for RIDF-V for financing rural infrastructure projects which include irrigation projects and flood control. During this year 2000-01, the corpus of RIDF-VI is proposed to be increased to Rs. 4500 crore and the interest charged on this lending is to be reduced by half a percent.

[English]

List of Agro and Rural Industries

3971. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have drawn a list of Agro and Rural Industries entitled to various benefits/ concessions and loans in especially after the super-cyclone in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of beneficiaries and the total amount of loans granted under each category; and

(d) the number of applications pending for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) A Relief Package comprising of assistance from Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Small Industries Development Bank of India and National Small Industries Corporation has been announced. The package, inter-alia, include the following:-

— Re-construction programme in 5 major clusters and marketing support to local institutions by Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

— Extension of additional re-finance facility of Rs. 50 crores to Orissa State Financial Corporation and Rs. 20 crores to Industrial Promotion and Investment Company of Orissa Limited by Small Industries Development Bank of India.

— Re-schedulement of principal and interest in respect of loans to Orissa State Financial Corporation and Industrial Promotion and Investment Company of Orissa Limited.

— Deferment of loan repayment of affected units by National Small Industries Corporation for a period of 2 years.

— The number of loan applications is not centrally monitored.

RAPP

3972. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of workers employed at Rajasthan Atomic Power Station are suffering from cancer;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey to find out the cause of increasing cancer in these workers;

(c) if so, the finding of the survey; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Govt. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The cross-sectional survey conducted at Rajasthan Atomic Power Station by the Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) and by the SMS Medical College and Hospital, Jaipur has shown that there is no statistically significant excess in the prevalence of cancers in radiation workers observed as compared to the general public. The survey further indicated that the workers were healthier than the general public and they experienced lower risks for cancer and other diseases ("healthy worker effect"). The observed cancer cases at RAPs have not been attributed to the radiation exposure but these are found to be due to the personal habits and life styles of the individuals.

(d) Does not arise.

Stagnation in CSS

3973. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a stagnation in promotion of eligible Central Secretariat Services Officers to the grade of Under Secretary and Deputy Secretary;

(b) if so, whether the Government have temporarily upgraded certain posts of Section Officer and Under Secretary by granting *in situ* promotion;

(c) if so, the time by which the eligible Section Officers as on July 1, 1999 are likely to be promoted;

(d) whether the officers appointed on ad-hoc basis in CSS are eligible to avail of the benefits as regular officers in this service; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Owing to protracted litigation in CAT and Supreme Court on inter-se seniority of Section Officers, panels of CSS officers for promotion to Under Secretary (US) and Deputy Secretary (DS) levels could not be finalised after 1986 for US and after 1993 for DS. This resulted in stagnation in the grades of Section Officers/Under Secretaries. Following Supreme Court's directions dated May, 9 1997, a Common Seniority List of Section Officers was notified on 3.12.1997. Subsequently, orders were issued in September, 1998 and August, 1999 to upgrade 'temporarily' a specified number of posts from the grades of Section Officers/Under Secretaries to that of Under Secretaries/Deputy Secretaries for giving upgradation on personal/in-situ basis to the eligible officers as one-time measure.

(d) and (e) The officers appointed on ad-hoc basis in Central Secretariat Service are entitled to the benefits as admissible under the CSS Rules/Instructions issued by the Department of Personnel & Training.

Clearance to Irrigation Projects

3974. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the projects cleared, returned to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and kept pending for clearance;

(b) whether the projects returned to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for modification etc. have been received back by the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The required information is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Irrigation being a State subject to the responsibility of planning execution and implementation of the projects lies with the State Government.

Statement

Project Accepted by Technical Advisory Committee subject to certain observations since December, 1991.	Projects Returned to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.	Projects under correspondence with the State Government.
1	2	3
Major Projects		
1. Pulichintala Irrigation Projects	Telegu Ganga Project	Vamasdhara Project Phase-I Stage-II

	1	2	3
2.	Krishna Delta Sys. Modern.	Sri Sailam Left Bank Canal	
3.	Bhima Lift Irrigation	Galeru Nagari	
4.	Sriram Sagar Stage-II	Polavaram Project	
5.	Flood Flow Canal from SRSP.	Inchampally	
6.	Jurala Project	Gundlakamma	
7.	Chagalnadu Lift Irrigation Project	Godavari Delta System Modernisation	
8.	Vamsadhara Project Stage-II	Yeleru Reservior Phase-I	
9.	—	Pennar Delta System	
10.	—	Veligonda Project	
Medium			
1.	Pedderu Reservoir	Janjhavati	Yalligalli Reservoir
2.	Palemvagu	Bahuda Barrage	Suddavagu
3.	Yerravagu	Bhupatipalem	Peddavagu
4.	Surampalem Reservoir Scheme	Peddagudda	Kovvadakalva
5.	—	Modikuntavagu	

[Translation]

Waiver of Loans

3975. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of IDBI and Mckinsey report of Ministry of Steel on waiver of loan outstanding against SAIL;

(b) the criteria of waiver of loans outstanding against Public Sector Undertakings;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any policy for waiver of loans outstanding against other Public Sector Undertakings in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), based on March, 98 final accounts, had recommended a financial restructuring package comprising of, inter alia, write down of SDF/GoI loan amounting to Rs. 4809 crore. IDBI also suggested the conversion of balance SDF loan of Rs. 1622 crore into capital reserve thereby waiving the total outstanding dues to SDF of Rs. 6069 crore as on 31st March, 1998.

(b) to (e) No policy or criteria has been laid down regarding waiver of Government loans to PSUs. As a general rule, Government loans are not written off. However, PSUs often propose waiver of Government loans as part of their restructuring/turn around proposals. Waiver is then considered on a case to case basis taking into account the financial and business circumstances of the particular undertaking and in the context of the need to revive the undertaking and make it viable.

Reservation in Promotions

3976. SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restore reservations in promotions to the staff belonging to the SCs/STs;

(b) whether the Government propose to issue necessary orders in this regard with immediate effect with a view to compensate the loss suffered by the officers/ staff due to withdrawal' of reservation in promotions at present;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the orders issued and the measures taken in this regard so far and the time by which the reservation in promotion is likely to be restored completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Reservation in promotions for SCs/STs in posts and services under the Central Government has not been withdrawn.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Prime Minister's Visits Abroad

3977. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries visited by the Prime Minister of India during the last two months;

(b) the achievements thereof; and

(c) the details of the agreements signed with the concerned countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Prime Minister visited Mauritius from 10-12 March, 2000, on an invitation of the Prime Minister of Mauritius as the Chief Guest at their Millennium Independence Day celebration.

(b) and (c) Three agreements in the field of trade, information technology and line of credit and a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of oceanography were signed during this visit. The agreements and MoU were signed by Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Small State Industries, Agro & Rural Industries.

[English]

Training in I.T. Industry

3978. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANGA:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any Information Technology training scheme or Development programme for rural and urban areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received proposals from State Government particularly from Kerala in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(e) the time frame worked out therefor;

(f) whether any NGOs are involved in these schemes; and

(g) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information Technology has a Employment Generation & Training Scheme (EGTS) for the North-East and also for SCs/STs and OBCs for other regions in country. The

overall objective of this Scheme is to harness the potential of Electronics and and Information Technology in providing. "Employment Oriented Training" for educated youth to fill up the shortage of trained personnel in the North East and other regions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

Kashmir Issue

3979. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "France too says situation in Kashmir dangerous" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 19, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the visit of the French Foreign Minister to India in February 2000, the two sides reviewed bilateral, regional and international issues and developments in the neighbourhood, including their common concerns on terrorism, narcotics and arms trafficking. It has been clarified that Jammu & Kashmir was not discussed.

Minimum Need Programme

3980. DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the fund allocated by the Union Government under Minimum Need Programme during the year 2000-2001, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): The Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) was replaced by the Basic Minimum Services (BMS) Programme in 1996. Planning Commission has allocated Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for BMS to the States and UTs since 1996-97 in order to complement the resources of the States and UTs for the BMS Programme.

However, it has been decided to introduce a new initiative in the form of Pradhan Mantri's Gramoday Yojana (PMGY) in the year 2000-2001 in order to achieve the objective of sustainable human development at the village level. PMGY will have two components namely, Rural Roads and Other Programmes of PMGY. The later include Primary Health, Primary Education, Rural Shelter, Rural Drinking Water and Nutrition. An Allocation of Rs. 5000 crore as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) has been made for PMGY. Each of the two components would have an allocation of Rs. 2500 crore of ACA. The Ministry of Rural Development will be responsible for the Rural Roads component of the PMGY. In so far as the other components of PMGY is concerned, the ACA for BMS, is being replaced by the ACA for other Programmes of PMGY to be given to the States and UTs. The State and UT-wise allocation worked out by the Planning Commission is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Allocation of ACA for PMGY 2000-01

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	ACA 2000-01
1	2	3
Non Special Category States		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14206
2.	Bihar	28725
3.	Goa	78
4.	Gujarat	6479
5.	Haryana	1678
6.	Karnataka	7513
7.	Kerala	6908
8.	Madhya Pradesh	11377
9.	Maharashtra	9913
10.	Orissa	9855
11.	Punjab	4040
12.	Rajasthan	9640

1	2	3
13.	Tamil Nadu	10479
14.	Uttar Pradesh	34891
15.	West Bengal	16782
	Total	172564
Special Category States		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	6817
2.	Assam	17957
3.	Himachal Pradesh	7061
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	17158
5.	Manipur	4856
6.	Meghalaya	4059
7.	Mizoram	4041
8.	Nagaland	4113
9.	Sikkim	2811
10.	Tripura	5083
	Total	73956
Union Territories		
1.	NCT of Delhi	1105
2.	Pondicherry	477
3.	A & N Islands	1027
4.	Chandigarh	456
5.	D & N Haveli	132
6.	Lakshadweep	177
7.	Daman & Diu	106
	Total	3480
	Grand Total	250000

Essar Steel Industry

3981. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Essar Steel has incurred losses during last two years;

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

(c) the outstanding amount payable by Essar Steel to Financial institutions as on date;

(d) whether the financial institutions have refrained from funding the company further;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The details of profit/loss (-) of Essar Steel during last two years are as under:

Year	Profit/Loss (Rs. Crores)
1998-99	-496
1999-2000 (April-Dec'99)	-395.56

Dumping of Steel from neighbouring countries, demand stagnation in major consuming sectors, rise in the inputs cost and high cost of finance have been attributed for the losses incurred by the company.

(c) According to the available information, as on 31st March 2000, the outstanding amount towards Rupee/Foreign Currency term loans and Debentures availed by Essar steel from Financial Institutions is Rs. 1662 Crores.

(d) to (f) As per the information furnished by the company, except for seeking restructuring of the existing loans, they have not sought for any funding from the Financial Institutions in the recent past.

In order to address the problems of the on-going steel projects as well as the problems being faced by the existing steel plants in the country, Government have constituted a Project Co-ordination Group under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State for Steel. The first meeting of this Group was held on 13.03.2000, wherein, the heads of Financial Institutions also participated. In this meeting the issues raised by various companies including Essar Steel were discussed.

Adequate Powers to Chief Vigilance Officer

3982. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:
SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKNANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give adequate powers to Chief Vigilance Officers, including powers of police and to confiscate the properties to deal with corruption cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chief Vigilance Commission has also made any proposal or representation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the CVC had taken up the issue with the Law Commission for preparation of a draft of an Act on the lines of the Public Disclosures Act of the United Kingdom;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which the said Act is likely to be drafted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) There is no proposal, received from Central Vigilance Commission, under consideration of the Government to give police powers to the Chief Vigilance Officers.

(e) to (g) The Central Vigilance Commissioner, in August 1999 had suggested to the Chairman, Law Commission to consider drafting a Whistle Blowers' Act on the lines of Public Interest Disclosure Act, 1998 of United Kingdom to encourage honest public servants to expose corrupt practices. No formal proposal has been received by the Government.

Dairy development project from M.P.

3983. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any new proposals from the States for Integrated Dairy Development Projects particularly from Madhya Pradesh and Maharahstra;

(b) if so, the details of each proposal received during the current year and their status thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and released for phase-I and phase-II projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted a proposal for a pilot project for Integrated Cattle Development programme in Sidhi District of Madhya Pradesh in February 2000. The proposal had not been prepared according to guidelines and the State Government was requested to submit a revised proposal as per guidelines. No revised proposal has so far been received.

No new proposal has been received from Maharashtra during the current year.

(c) Funds allocated and released for earlier projects sanctioned for Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are as under:

(Among Rs. in lakh)

Name of Projects		Total approved Outlay	Fund released upto 31.3.2000
(a)	Madhya Pradesh Project-I, II & III (approved in 1993-94)	781.06	665.00
	Project-IV (approved in 1995-96)	599.85	163.00
(b)	Maharashtra Project-(approved in 1995-96)	1985.235	1985.235
	Project-II (approved in 1997-98)	1941.55	475.26

(d) In view of (a) and (b) above, question does not arise.

Promotion of Officers

3984. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers in Central Secretariat Service belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes category were promoted to the posts of Under Secretaries on the basis of Departmental Limited Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission in 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these officers are promoted as Deputy Secretaries on regular basis on completion of the prescribed 5 years service as Under Secretary;

(d) if not, the number and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these officers are likely to be appointed as Deputy Secretaries on regular basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) A list of 14 officers belonging to scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe categories was recommended by the UPSC for inclusion in the select list of Grade I (Under Secretary) of Central Secretariat Service for the year 1986. Accordingly, the names of these officers were included in the select list and they were promoted as Under Secretaries.

(c) to (e) The Select Lists (SLs) of Under Secretaries form the basis for promotion to the Deputy Secretaries grade of CSS. Such lists for the years 1984 to 1986 were set aside by the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal by its order dated 31.8.88 in the matter of Amrit Lal & Ors. As a result, these could not be acted upon. The lists are presently under review on the basis of the Common Seniority List of Section Officers issued on 3.12.97, pursuant to the Supreme Court's order dated 9.5.97 in Surjit Singh's case. It is not feasible to indicate precisely the time by which the officers are likely to be promoted as Deputy Secretaries on regular basis.

ISI Role

3985. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI ABDUL HAMID:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention to the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ISI fomenting terrorism in Assam, says U.S. State Dept" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated March 11, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether this matter was discussed with U.S. President, Bill Clinton;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the news item referred to in Part [a] of the question.

(b) The news item is based on a report that appeared in a US newspaper, the Washington Times on 10th March. The US newspaper quotes an unnamed US State Department official as saying that the ISI is helping the militants in Assam.

(c) Government takes every opportunity to draw the attention of the international community to Pakistan's support and sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in India. Government has also initiated co-operation with a number of countries on measures to combat terrorism. A Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism has been set up with the United States to intensify co-operation in this area. There is growing international recognition of Pakistan's support and sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in India, as evidenced in the above quoted report.

(d) Yes, Sir. Regional issues, including the problem of cross-border terrorism, were discussed with President Clinton during his visit to India.

(e) The two sides expressed their determination to intensify co-operation in combating terrorism. President Clinton acknowledged that there are elements within the Pakistani Government that have supported those engaged in violence in Kashmir. He also asked Pakistan to help create conditions for a bilateral dialogue with India to succeed.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sanjay Sarovar Jal Pariyojana

3986. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether execution work of Inter-State Sanjay Sarovar Jal Pariyojna in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh has been completed;

(b) if not, the progress made thereon and reasons for non-completion of Pariyojna; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Sanjay Sarovar (Upper Wainganga) Jal Pariyojna is an ongoing major irrigation project. An amount of Rs. 194.71 crore has been spent on the project against the latest estimated cost of Rs. 249.72 crore (1998 price level) and an irrigation potential of 76398 hectares has been created against the ultimate irrigation potential of 105253 hectares upto June, 1999. The main reasons for non-completion of the project are the inadequate funding to the project by the State Government and enlarging the scope of the project by including the Roomal and Bargoor Pick up Weirs alongwith their canal systems.

(c) The Project is likely to be completed by June, 2002 as reported by the Project Authorities.

[English]

Sale of Salem Steel Plant

3987. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sale the Salem Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a merchant bankers has been appointed for the above purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The financial and business restructuring package for Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) that has been approved by the Government includes, *inter alia*, formation of Joint Venture for Salem Steel Plant (SSP), while protecting the jobs of existing employees.

SAIL has been exploring the possibility of a Joint Venture for SSP through which steel making and slab casting facilities can also be made available to it because SSP has been incurring losses continuously. Addition of these facilities would need substantial investments. However, due to financial constraints, SAIL is unable to fund the large investment requirements of SSP.

(c) and (d) M/s. JM Morgan Stanley Ltd. (JMMS) have been appointed as Financial Advisor for restructuring of Salem Steel Plant.

Fodder Famine in Gujarat

3988. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Gujarat Fodder Famine: Cattle Starve to Death" appearing in 'Indian Express' dated March 25, 2000;

(b) if so, the matter reported therein alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) whether the Union Government proposed to provide any assistance to the State to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India has already delegated to the Government of Gujarat the powers to issue an order, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 banning the movement of grasses/fodder out of the State.

(c) Central assistance already provided to the Government of Gujarat for feed and fodder development during 1999-2000 are

— Assistance to State for Feed and Fodder Development. Rs. 137 lakhs

— Number of Central Minikits of Fodder Crops supplied to the State for the farmers.. 18500.

In addition to above, an amount of Rs. 54.58 crores was approved by the National Calamity Relief Committee in the meeting held on 27.3.2000 and the said amount was released to the Government of Gujarat by the Ministry of Finance on 31.3.2000. This was in addition to the allocation of Rs. 161.40 crores to the State under the Calamity Relief Fund for the Year 1999-2000.

Fish Production

3989. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production of fish during the last three years and the current year in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the present fish production capacity is sufficient in the State; and

(c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to taken by the Government to increase the fish production and storage capacity and marketing facility in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The annual production of fish during the years 1996-97 to 1998-99 and upto December, 1999 are as follows:

Annual Production of Fish	(In lakh Tonnes)
1996-97	5.90
1997-98	5.80
1998-99	5.20
1999-2000 (from April to Dec., 99)	3.81

(b) and (c) Government of Maharashtra has taken steps to stock fingerlings/fish seed as per optimum requirements in ponds/reservoirs to enhance inland fish production. The breeding grounds in inland sector are also being protected. In marine sector, the State is implementing Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1981 to ban fishing by mechanised fishing crafts during the monsoon season (Ist June, to 15th August or Narli Pornima whichever is earlier) to protect/conserve the marine fishery resources. The State Government is also implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Coastal Aquaculture" and "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture" with the objective of encouraging scientific fish farming which, *inter alia*, results in increased fish production capacity.

Government of Maharashtra proposes 3 cold storages and 3 ice factories for construction which will increase the cold storage capacity and marketing facility in the State.

Ichampally Dam

3990. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to allow the State Government to raise the height of Ichampally Dam; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Ichampally is an Inter-State Joint Project of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to be taken up with height of the dam as may be agreed to by these States.

Policy of Steel

3991. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken series of policy measures in the light of Memorandum received from the Steel Industry in terms of targets set and achieved by standard norms during the last year and current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with their impact on performance of steel sector so far;

(c) the second generation reforms proposed/under consideration for making steel sector globally competitive and cost effective; and

(d) the performance of steel PSUs during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The Government has taken several policy measures in the past 2-3 years for the growth and development of Steel Industry. These interalia include the following:

1. Enhanced allocation for infrastructure development, housing, power, highways in the last two budgets.

2. A National Campaign has been launched to increase the consumption of steel, particularly in Rural and Agro-based Industrial Sector.

3. A Steel Exporters' Forum has been constituted to boost export to steel.

4. An Empowered Committee has been set up for Research & Development activities in steel sector.

5. An Institute for Steel Development & Growth for promotion of intensive usage of steel in construction sector has been established.

6. Some of the measures taken up to facilitate exports include:

(i) Full convertibility of exports earning at market rate of exchange;

(ii) Facility available to Exporters to import their requirement of raw materials duty free under the Advance Licensing Scheme;

(iii) Refund of the duty paid on any imported or excisable material used in the manufacture of export goods;

(iv) Rationalisation of duty credit rates under Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme on most of the iron and steel items to encourage export of iron and steel;

(v) Imposition of Anti-dumping duty on import of HR coils from Ukraine and Russia to check cheap imports.

(vi) Enhanced Project financing to steel sector by All-India financial Institutions and relaxation of ECB norms has been strongly recommended;

(vii) Exclusion of freight and handling charges for computation of Excise Duty on steel despatched from stockyards of integrated steel plants;

(viii) Reduction in duty on raw materials used in steel making; and

(ix) Floor prices were fixed for certain items of finished steel to restrict cheap imports.

As a result of these measures the Steel Industry has started showing signs of revival after a slow down in growth for 3 years.

(c) In pursuance of Government's commitment to early implementation of the second phase of the economic reforms and with a view to further liberalizing the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) regime, Government has recently placed all items/activities including Iron & Steel under the automatic route for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)/Non Resident Indian (NRI) and Overseas Corporate Body (OCB) investment subject to certain conditions. This is expected to facilitate flow of modern technology as well as foreign investment in the iron & steel sector. Further, the new Steel Plants set up or being set up in the post liberalisation era have adopted/been adopting modern, cost-effective, state-of-the-art technologies for manufacture of Iron & Steel products which are expected to help the steel plants to produce quality steel at competitive cost and also to become competitive in the international market.

(d) The Production Performance of Steel PSUs during the last 3 years in terms of saleable steel is as below:

('000 Tonnes)

Year	SAIL	VSP
1997-98	9043	2250
1998-99	8602	1933
1999-2000	9530 (Provisional)	2382 (Provisional)

Development of Fishing Harbour

3992. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had allocated Rs. 90.00 Lakh for development of fishing-harbour at Vanakbara-Diu and Fishing Landing Centre at Ghoghla, Diu during 1997-98;

(b) whether the survey of the harbour has been completed; and

(c) if so, the amount actually released and utilised for this purpose and the amount which had remained unutilised alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey of the harbour has been completed by the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery (CICEF), Bangalore.

(c) The Government of India had released Rs. 50.00 lakhs for construction of Fish Landing Centre at Ghoghla and Rs. 40.00 lakhs for Fish Landing Centre at Vanakbara, Diu during 1997-98. As per the report received from the Union Territory Administration, they could not utilise the funds due to lack of time. As the funds released have lapsed by the end of the financial year 1997-98,

the UT Administration have since been requested to submit a fresh proposal for release of funds. Proposal from the UT is awaited for released of funds.

Welfare Schemes for Handicapped Women

3993. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 6 percent of total population are disabled and handicapped women;

(b) if so, whether any policy or scheme is under consideration for implementation for the welfare of disabled and handicapped women;

(c) if not, whether this will tantamount to denial of fundamental rights to the disabled women; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) conducted a National Sample Survey 47th Round. July-December, 1991 to collect information on the number of persons with disabilities. Based on sample survey, about 1.9% of the total population in the country suffers from one or more physical disabilities. Another 3% of the estimated population suffers from delayed mental development. Thus, about 5% of the population suffers from one disability or the other. The prevalence rate for females is 1.7% in rural areas and 1.8% in urban areas. Between two sexes, the prevalence of physical disability is marginally higher among males than among females.

(b) A number of schemes are being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for benefit of persons with various disabilities including women. The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is providing soft loans to persons with disabilities. Extra 2% rebate in interest is given to women availing loan from the Corporation.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

National Agriculture Insurance Scheme

3994. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the States where this Scheme has been undertaken during the last two years;

(d) the amount provided by the Government under this Scheme for the said period, State-wise;

(e) the crops covered under this scheme at present in various States; and

(f) the proposed expansion of the scheme for the current and next three years and the amount provided for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) has been introduced from Rabi 1999-2000. States/UTs implemented the NAIS during Rabi 1999-2000 are-Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Pondicherry.

No State-wise allocation of funds is made. Government of India released an amount of Rs. 46.68 crore for implementation of NAIS during 1999-2000.

(e) and (f) At present all the food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds and three annual horticultural/ commercial crops i.e. sugarcane, potato, cotton are covered under the scheme. All other annual horticultural and commercial crops will be placed under insurance cover within the next three years subject to the condition of availability of past yield data.

In view of the voluntary nature of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), nine States/UTs have implemented it during Rabi 1999-2000. Six more States/ UTs are likely to join from Kharif 2000 season. As the scope of coverage of the new Scheme in terms of farmers, crops and risk has been sufficiently enlarged recently there is no proposal at present to expand the coverage in the near future.

Drug Addiction

3995 SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that addiction particularly, amongst the youths is spreading day by day in the country;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the number of persons, State-wise;

(d) whether the United Nations has also extended its co-operation and assured India of financing and providing technical assistance in combating the spread of drug addiction in the country;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) the manner in which the Government propose to utilize the said assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) With reference to the drug addiction amongst youth of the country, the Ministry sponsored a multi-centred study in 1975-76 and a repeat study in 1985-86 to assess the prevalence of drug abuse amongst university students. The studies covered representative major cities of the country and the findings include inter alia higher prevalence of drug addiction amongst the male youth from the urban background. The findings of a nation-wide study conducted in 33 selected cities/towns and border areas in 1990 also indicate to the age group of 16-35 years as worse affected from addiction. This is also confirmed from the reports received by the Ministry from the organizations under its Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abouse.

(d) to (f) The Ministry has launched two major projects on alcohol and drug demand reduction in collaboration with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

(1) Community Wide Demand Reduction and Workplace Prevention in India

(2) Community Wide Demand Reduction in the North-Eastern States of India

The projects to be implemented during the four year period from 1999-2003, in four phases will have an aggregate external financial contribution of US$ 5.60 million over the entire project period, to be shared between UNDCP and ILO. The Government of India, through its ongoing programme, shall also contribute US$ 16.35 million towards the projects. To briefly summarise, the projects shall strengthen the delivery of services for prevention and rehabilitation in the NGO sector, develop trained rehabilitation professional; sensitise legislators, administrators and community functionaries; and specifically address the vocational rehabilitation of the youth in the Northeast States of the country.

[English]

Fake Seeds and Fertilizers

3996. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Seeds and Fertilizers companies booked for the last three years for supplying of low quality fake seeds and fertilizers to farmers in the State of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against these companies;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has suggested amendments to the Indian Seed Act, and Insecticide Act to check exploitation of poor farmers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) No specific complaints have been received by this Ministry about sale of fake/spurious fertilizers/seeds in Karnataka State, under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, and the Seeds Act, 1966. State Government is adquately empowered to take necessary action against Dealers who violate these legal instruments. The action taken on account of non standard fertilizer samples and seed samples during

the last 3 years taken by the Government of Karnataka is as follows:

Fertilizers:

Year	Certificate of Registration Cancelled	Disposed U/CL. 23 of FCO, 1985	Seizure stop sale	Prosecution action	Other action
1996-97	1	5	0	22	275
1997-98	7	0	0	4	244
1998-99	25	16	20	16	286

Seeds:

Year	No. of cases Filed in the Court of Law	No. of cases decided by the Court of Law in which fine and/or imprisonment awarded	No. of cases pending in in the Court of Law
1996-97	88	9	79
1997-98	15	2	13
1998-99	32	—	32

(c) No Specific suggestion have been received for amendment in Seeds Act and Insecticide Act.

(d) Question does not arise.

A.I.B.P. in Orissa

3997. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of recent super cyclone in Orissa, the Union Government propose to bear the total cost of irrigation projects being executed in the State under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Union Government cannot bear the total cost of irrigation projects as per existing Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) norms.

Budget Allocation for Child Labour Projects

3998. SHRI ABDUL HAMID: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budget allocation made for child labour projects during the current financial year is quite adequate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to meet the budgetary requirement for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The Budget Estimate for child labour projects during the current financial year i.e. 2000-2001 is Rs. 35.9 Crores. The Scheme wise details are as under:

(1) Scheme of National Child Labour Projects — Rs. 35 Crores,

(2) Shceme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations - Rs. 0.90 Crores,

Actual releases under the above schemes during the year 1999-2000 was Rs. 37.90 Crores. Additional funds can be asked for at the Revised Estimates stage.

Setting up of Alcohol Fuel Plants

3999. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantity of stock of molasses in sugar factories in Karnataka State;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has requested to the Union Government to accord permission to set up alcohol fuel plants as a substitute to petrol; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

ESI Hospitals

4000. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of poor donditions and inadequate facilities in ESI hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allocate adequate funds for modernisation of such hospitals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The provision of medical care under the ESI Scheme is being administered by the State Governments/UT Administrations except in Delhi and NOIDA where it is being administered by the ESIC direct. However the Corporation sees to it that the insured persons do get proper medical care under the ESI Scheme. For this purpose the Corporation has prescribed norms/guidelines with regard to staffing and equipping of ESI hospitals/dispensaries. The Corporation constructs hospitals/dispensaries at its own cost and also meets 7/8 of the expenditure incurred on ESI medical care. There have been sporadic complaints about non-availability of doctors, shortage of medicines, equipments, dressings etc. in ESI Hospitals. Such complaints as and when received are forwarded to the concerned State Government for taking remedial measures. In Hospitals/ dispensaries, the ESIC has recently formulated an Action Plan and forwarded the same to the State Governments for implementation in consultation with the ESIC. The Action plan includes, inter-alia, provision of modern equipments in hospitals, establishment of Regional trauma centres, establishment of super-speciality services, blood banks, cancer prevention centres, development of indigenous system of medicines, provision of necessary equipments in dispensaries etc. The ESI Corporation has already sanctioned an amount of Rs. 16.34 Crore to various State Governments for upgradation and modernisation of ESI hospitals/dispensaries. For improving resource position of the State Governments in administration of ESI medical care the ceiling on expenditure on medical care has been enhanced from Rs. 500/- per insured person per annum to Rs. 600/- per insured person per annum with effect from 1.4.1999.

[Translation]

Economic Sanctions

4001. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of economic sanctions imposed by the foreign countries excluding USA and Japan after Pokhran nuclear tests; and

(b) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by them to lift the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) After India's nuclear tests in May 1998, besides the USA and Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland and Australia imposed certain restrictive economic measures against India. The measures mostly related to developmental assistance or concessional loans. Some of these countries have variously exempted assistance related to humanitarian programmes, poverty alleviation, food and basic human needs from those measures.

(b) The Government continues to be engaged in dialogue with key interlocutors at various levels with regard to be lifting of the restrictive economic measures.

[English]

Development of KVIC

4002. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any new proposal for the development of Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the fresh schemes proposed for the Labourers working under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Medical stores/counters Run by Kendriya Bhandar

4003. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kendriya Bhandar is not running any medical store/counter in the capital;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to open some medical stores/counters under Kendriya Bhandar as being run by Super Bazar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) At present, Kendriya Bhandar is not running any medical store in the capital as it is yet to acquire necessary experience, infrastructure as well as qualified staff for retailing of drugs and medicines. It is, however, arranging bulk supplies of medicines, surgical and allied items to a few Government institutions/hospitals and does not stock medical items.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Food Processing Industries

4004. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals for setting up of food processing industries are pending with the Union Government;

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

(c) the number of proposals cleared by the Government as on April 1, 2000;

(d) whether the Government are considering any proposal for setting up of any cheap soft drink plant for the poors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Proposals numbering 109 seeking financial assistance under various Plan Schemes are pending with the Department of Food Processing Industries.

(b) A statement indicating the details of these proposals seeking financial assistance Statewise is attached.

(c) During 1999-2000, the Department provided financial assistance in 94 cases.

(d) The Government does not directly set up any food processing units. However, no proposal seeking financial assistance for such a project has been received by the Department.

Statement

Details of Proposals seeking Financial Assistance for setting up Food Processing Industries

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of the Proposal	Purpose
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Setting up food processing and training centre (FPTC)
2.	Bihar	4	-do-
3.	Gujarat	1	Cold Storage
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	-do-
5.	Kerala	3	One for FPTC and Two for sea food processing.
6.	Maharashtra	7	Six for (FPTC) and one for setting up food processing industries
7.	Manipur	3	Fish processing
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1	FPTC
9.	Meghalaya	1	FPTC
10.	Nagaland	9	Four FPTC and Five Cold Storage
11.	Orissa	22	All FPTC.
12.	Punjab	2	Food Processing Units.
13.	Tamilnadu	1	FPTC
14.	Tripura	2	Fish Processing
15.	Uttar Pradesh	48	All FPTC
	Total	109	

Overseas Cultural Centres

4005. SHRI RAMAKANT ANGLE:
SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of cultural centres set up abroad so far;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up new cultural centres abroad during 2000-2001; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has set up 14 Indian Cultural Centres abroad. These Centres are located at Georgetown (Guyana), Paramaribo (Surinam), Port Louis (Mauritius), Jakarta (Indonesia), Moscow (Russia), Berlin (Germany), Cairo (Egypt), London (UK), Johanneshburg (South Africa), Durban (South Africa), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tabago) and Colombo (Sri Lanka).

(b) and (c) The ICCR has in hand several proposals for opening new cultural centers which are being examined in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs. These centres will be opened depending upon the assessent of their requirements and the availability of additional funds.

Samakoi Barrage Project

4006. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Samakoi Barrage (Irrigation Project) in Angul district is pending with the Central Water Commission for clearance since long; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government for expeditious clearance of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Government of Orissa submitted modified project report of Samakoi Barrage Project during September, 1999. The clearance of the Project is linked with the compliance of observations of various central appraising agencies by the State Government.

[Translation]

Additional Funds for Slum Development

4007. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought additional amount under the National Slum Development Programme; and

(b) If so, the details of amount demanded and provided for the purpose to M.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Planning Commission has not received any request from the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh for additional funds under National Slum Development Programme.

(b) National Slum Development Programme was launched in the country during 1996-97. Under this programme Planning Commission allocates Additional Central Assistance to States/UTs on pro-rata basis of slum population in the States/UTs. The basic objective of the programme is to improve/upgrade living conditions of the slum dwellers through provision of basic amenities like water supply, swerage, electricity, pavement of street etc. and shelter upgradation Planning Commission has allocated following amount of ACA for 1996-2001 for the State of Madhya Pradesh:-

Year	Amount
1996-97	14.80 crores
1997-98	18.98 crores
1998-99	18.98 crores
1999-2000	20.88 crores
2000-2001	20.88 crores (tentatively)

[English]

Lectures Organised for Senior Officers

4008. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Administrative Reforms has been conducting series of lectures on "Ideas that have worked" to the senior level Government officers only;

(b) if so, the philosophy behind it;

(c) the level of officers who have been invited to attend these lectures and their percentage of turn-out; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to make it more effective by conducting such programme on working days to improve the attendance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Lecture series on 'Ideas that have worked' is being jointly organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India, Civil Services Officers' Institute and Government of Andhra Pradesh. The object behind organising this series of lectures is to acquaint the participants with the ideas and experiences of distinguished personalities in their areas of excellence, and to cause officers to build on successes. Besides senior officers of the Government of India, members of the Civil Services Officers' Institute and nominees of Government of Andhra Pradesh, Heads of a few selected Public Sector Undertakings, distinguished Media personalities, faculty members and trainees of the apex central training Institutes etc. have also been invited to attend. No data relating to the turn-out of the invitees has been maintained.

(d) The lectures are being organised on Saturdays with a view to ensuring availability and taking into account the convenience of eminent personalities as well as of the invitees.

Dave Committee

4009. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dave Committee interviewed some experts before finalizing its recommendations;

(b) if so, the names of the Experts and their designations;

(c) whether any one from the Ministry of Lobour of Central Trade Unions were invited to appear befcre the Committee; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the names of the Experts and their designations is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Central Provident Fund Commissioner, Late Shri R.S. Kaushik was a Member of the Project OASIS Expert Committee. The Secretary (Ministry of Labour) was invited to participate at all conferences and seminars where the other experts were invited.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Shri/Smt./Kum.	
Maneka Gandhi Minister of State (IC)	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Government of India
Asha Das Secretary	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Government of India
B.K. Chaturvedi Special Secretary—Insurance	Ministry of Finance, Government of India
D.R. Mehta Chairman	Securities and Exchange Board of India
Devi Dayal Special Secretary (Banking)	Ministry of Finance Government of India
G.P. Gupta Chairman	Industrial Development Bank of India
Lakshmidhar Mishra Secretary	Ministry of Labour Government of India
N. Rangachary Chairman	Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority Government of India
Late R.S. Kaushik Central Provident Fund Commissioner	Ministry of Labour
P.S. Subramanium Chairman	Unit Trust of India
Aodiiti Mehtta Joint Secretary to the Prime Minister	Prime Minister's Office Government of India

S.A. Dave Chairman	Project OASIS Expert Committee
Y.V. Reddy Deputy Governor	Reserve Bank of India
A.P. Kurian Chairman	Association of Mutual Funds of India
Jaimini Bhagwati Joint Secretary Department of Economic Affairs	Ministry of Finance Government of India
A.P. Singh Director (Savings Bank)	Ministry of Communications Government of India
S.C. Pandey Director (Budget)	Ministry of Finance
Ajay Shah Assistant Professor	IGIDR
Ashok Lahiri Director	National Institute of Public Finance & Policy
Basudeb Sen Exective Director	Unit Trust of India
Ajay Srinivasan Managing Director	Prudential ICICI AMC
Ajay M. Kaul President & Country Manager	Alliance Capital Management
Anand Bordia Project Manager	UNDCP-India
Richard P. Hinz Director-Office of Policy & Research Pension & Welfare Benefits Administration	U.S. Department of Labour
Ashok Desai Consultant Editor	Business Standard
C.B. Bhave Managing Director	National Securities Depository Limited
C.S. Rao Joint Secretary (Insurance)	Ministry of Finance
D.N. Raval Executive Director	Securities and Exchange Board of India
Euan Ross Macdonald Executive Vice Chairman	HSBC Securities India
G. Krishnamurthy Chairman	Life Insurance Corporation of India
G.V. Nageshwar Rao Managing Director	IDBI Capital Market Services

Girija Pande Director, Head of Funds Management	ANZ Grindlays Bank
Hemant Sahai Partner	J. Sagar Associates
Juan Costain Economist	The World Bank
Juan Yermo Consultant	OECD
M. Vijayanunni	Registrar General & Census Commissioner (India)
Mukul Asher Professor of Finance	University of Singapore
Peter Thorman Program Officer	USAID
Pravin Visaria Director	Institute of Economic Growth
Prithvi Haldea Managing Director	PRIME Date Base
R. Ravimohan Managing Director	CRISIL
R.H. Patil Managing Director	National Stock Exchange of India
Rajendra P. Chitale Managing Partner	M.P. Chitale & Co.
M.K. Tandon Managing Director	General Insurance Corporation of India
Robert Palacios Economist	The World Bank
S.H. Bhojani Executive Director	ICICI Limited
Sanjay Sachdev Global Manager India	Principal Financial Group
Surjit Bhalla President	O[x]us Research & Investment
Susan Thomas Assistant Professor	Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research
T.S. Laschar Additional Economic Advisor	Ministry of Finance
Urjit R. Patel Executive Vice President	Infrastructure Development Finance Co.
Y.H. Malegam Managing Partner	S.B. Billimoria & Co.
Ajay Mahal Principal Economist	National Council of Applied Economic Research

Ajit M. Sharan Joint Secretary (Insurance)	Ministry of Finance, Government of India
Alok Kumar Director (Banking)	Ministry of Finance, Government of India
Ashok K. Jha Regional Urban Development Office	USAID
Atul Chaturvedi Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Government of India
B.N. Som Member (Operations) Postal Services Board	Ministry of Communications Government of India
Babni Lal Joint Director (NSAP)	Ministry of Rural Development Government of India
Brian Arrighi Head of Group Policy Development	Prudential Corporation Plc
Dileep Madgavkar Chief Investment Officer	Prudential ICICI AMC
Deepak Satwalekar Managing Director	HDFC Limited
Dharmendra Deo Joint Secretary	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Government of India
Gautam Bhardwaj Managing Director	Invest India Economic Foundation
Hemant Rustagi Head-Marketing	ING Investment Management
K. Subrahmanyam Actuary	Insurance Regulatory Development Authority
Nihal Kothari Head of Taxation	Hindustan Lever Limited
Nroman R. Sorensen President	Principal International, Inc
P.S. Subramanyam Chairman	Unit Turst of India
P.C. Gupta Executive Director (Actuarial)	Life Insurance Corporation of India
R. Renganath Director (Insurance)	Ministry of Finance
Raj Pratap Singh Director	Prime Minister's Office Government of India
Richard Monteverde Financial Economist	Asian Development Bank

S.N. Mathur Consultant	Asian Institute of Transport Development
Shigeko Hattori Financial/Capital Market Specialist	Asian Development Bank
Ajit Ranade Economist	ICRIER
Ashok Wadhwa Managing Partner	Ambit Corporate Finance
John Bowman Group Head of Pensions Development	Commercial Union
Nalin Thakor Member	Project OASIS Expert Committee
Sudha Pillai Joint Secretary	Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment Government of India
Kalpana Morparia General Manager	ICICI Limited
P.M. Bhujang Medical Director	Harkishondas N. Hospital and Research Centre
Richard Overton Managing Director	ITC Threadneedle
Tim Beardsall Life Actuary	Commercial Union
Vinod Kumar Member	W.H.O. Expert Advisory Panel
C.R. Karode General Manager	Mahindra & Mahindra
N. Nagarajan Advisor	Reserve Bank of India
Alberto Musalem Pensions Economist	The World Bank
Rajiv Vij Chief Executive	Templeton AMC
S. Kuppuswami General Manager	Unit Trust of India

Cultivation of Maize

4010. SHRI ANANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a vast scope to increase area under maize cultivation in the country particularly in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to increase the area of land under the production of maize during the year 2000-2001; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds earmarked during the last three years of Ninth Five Year Plan for the production of maize?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Maize has a big potential in

the country including in the State of Orissa. Therefore, the Government of India is implementing Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP) in all the Maize potential districts of 23 States including Orissa in the country since 1995-96 under which the support is being provided for production and distribution of good quality seeds, technology transfer through demonstrations and trainings etc. Government do not fix targets for increase in area under maize. However production targets are fixed. The details of area and production of maize in Orissa and the Country and the funds earmarked and released during the last three years of 9th Five Year Plan and targets for 2000-2001 under Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP) are as under:

Years		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000*		2000-2001	
	Details	Orissa	All India	Orissa	All India	Orissa	All India	Orissa	All India
1.	Area (In lakh ha)	0.52	63.08	0.51	60.83	0.50	65.11	No Targets fixed	
2.	Production (Lakh tonnes)	0.64	108.54	0.66	106.78	0.66	107.76	0.90	110.00
3.	Funds Allocated (Government of India Share (Rs. in lakhs)	43.58	1000.00	45.87	1000.00	35.18	890.00	11.22	700.00
4.	Funds Released (Rs. in lakhs)	31.50	650.00	63.00	495.00	35.18	510.00		

*Estimated as on 31.3.2000.

Suppliers of Kendriya Bhandar

4011. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of ill-will and favours being done by the authorities of Kendriya Bhandar towards the suppliers of different items to Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if so, the number of cases which have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against those who are responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Only one case of an alleged favour towards the supplier had come to the notice of Kendriya Bhnadar during the said period.

(c) The concerned officer who was a deputationist has since been repatriated to the parent department.

[Translation]

Central Sponsored Schemes

4012. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Central sponsored schemes being implemented in Bihar to increase Agro produce during the current year;

(b) the details of the results achieved therefore so far; and

(c) the financial assistance rendered to Bihar Government during the current year for implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (c) A list of centrally sponsored schemes for which funds are released to the Government of Bihar during 1999/2000 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The total production and productivity of foodgrains is estimated to have increased as follows during 1999-2000 as compared to 1998-99:

Year	Area (000' hac)	Production (000' tonnes)	Kg/Ha
1998-99	8958.5	12908.8	1441
1999-2000*	9079.0	13404.0	1476

*Advance Estimates

Statement

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes under implementation in Bihar during 1999-2000

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Releases during 1999-2000
1.	Special Jute Development Programme	43.27
2.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System	53.78
3.	Integrated Programme for Development of Spices	14.30
4.	Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilisers	5.00
5.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among small farmers	44.10
6.	Agri. Credit Stabilisation Fund	36.50
	Total	196.95

[English]

Alloy Steel Plant

4013. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to release Rs. 50 Crore to Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur for installing A.O.D. to reduce the cost of production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to release Rs. 50 crore to Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur.

Observation on Juvenile Homes

4014. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a number of proposals from various State Governments for setting up Observation Homes (for girls) and Juvenile Homes under the Schemes of Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and present status of each project, State-wise;

(c) the number of homes so far opened and total amount paid by the Union Government, State-wise;

(d) whether State Government are also contributing for opening of such homes;

(e) if so, the ratio between Centre and State in this regard; and

(f) the time by which pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement-I showing the details of the proposals received from various State Government during the last three years for setting up observation Homes/Special Homes/Juvenile Home under the scheme of Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment renamed as 'A Programme for Juvenile Justice' is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) A statement-II showing the number of Homes so far opened in various States/UTs and total amount paid to the State Governments/UT Administrations as grant in aid since the inception of the scheme in 1986-87 and upto 1999-2000 by the Union Government is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Under the said scheme, the ratio of Central Government and State Government is 50:50. In other words, the State Governments are required to provide 50% of the expenditure on setting up Homes.

(f) The pending proposals will be cleared as soon as the requisite informations/clarifications are received from the concerned State Governments subject to availability of fund under the said scheme.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of proposals received during 1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Present Status
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	4 OHs at Warangal, Visakhapatnam, Tirupathi and Kurnool	Nil	Rs. 54. 18 lakhs was released during 1998-99.
2.	Assam	Nil	1 Jh each at Boke and Silchar	Nil	Rs. 10.00 lakhs released during 1998-99
3.	Gujarat	Nil	1 OH at Palampur	Nil	Rs. 9.03 lakhs has been released during 1998-99
4.	Haryana	Nil	1OH at Rewari and 1 JH at Rewari	Nil	Rs. 19.37 lakhs was released during 1998-99
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	1 OH at Una 1 JH at Sunder Nagar	Nil	The proposal ws incomplete and the State Govt. was requested to send certain clarifications and requisite information, which are still awaited.
6.	Kerala	1 JH (Girls) at Ernakulam @	1 OH at Thallasary #	1 OH at Idukki $	@ Rs. 12.50 lakhs released. # Rs. 9.03 lakhs released. $ Certain clarification awaited
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	1 SH at Seoni* 1 OH at Seoni* 7 OHs for girls at Indore, Ujjan, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Sagar, Raipur and Bilaspur* 1 JH each at Sagar and Indore*	3 OHs at Chhatarpur, Surguja and Guna.#	* These proposals were received during 1998-99 and were processed but the grant could not be released due to non-availability of funds during that year. During 1999-2000, the State Government was requested to intimate the stage of construction of homes and the actual expenditure incurred by that Government during 1998-99 for this purpose. They have also been requested to confirm the budget provision made by the State Government during 1999-2000. The requisite information is still awaited from the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. # This proposal was received in the last week of February, 2000. After initial scrutiny, the State Government is being requested to confirm availability of matching provision of funds in the state budget.
8.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Setting up a new OH at Tura in a rented building	Rs. 1.77 lakhs was released
9.	Orissa	Nil	1 JH at Dayavihar, Puri Dist. by an NGO named 'Nilanchal Seva Pratisthan'	Nil	The proposal was incomplete and the State Govt. was requested to send certain clarifications and requisite information, which are still awaited.
10.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	West Bengal	1 JH at Katwa, run by an NGO, Anand Niketan (proposal was received during 1996-97)	3 OHs at Purulia, Kishalaya and Midnapore	Nil	Rs. 8,12,700/- was released during 1997-98. Rs. 27,09,000/- was released during 1998-99.

OH stands for Observation Home
JH stands for Juvenile Home
SH stands for Special Home

Statement II

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Homes opened so far					Amount Paid by Union Government from 1986-87 to 1999-2000
		Observation Home	Juvenile Home	Special Home	After Care Institution	Total Homes	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	5	2	1	17	140.56
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	—	2	14.14
3.	Assam	7	25	1	1	34	96.49
4.	Bihar	10	8	5	2	25	241.53
5.	Goa	2	2	2	—	6	62.52
6.	Gujarat	25	5	2	14	46	358.01
7.	Haryana	3	3	1	1	8	75.96
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	1	1	—	2	6.9
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	1.64
10.	Karnataka	22	19	—	11	52	300.02
11.	Kerala	12	5	2	—	19	221.23
12.	Madhya Pradesh	22	2	3	1	28	633.47
13.	Maharashtra	45	101	3	3	152	1237.26
14.	Manipur	1	2	1	—	4	7.27
15.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—	1	32.72
16.	Mizoram	3	3	—	—	6	77.83
17	Nagaland	—	1	1	—	2	27.61
18.	Orissa	12	2	—	—	14	83.56
19.	Punjab	7	2	1	2	12	189.71
20.	Rajasthan	11	4	1	—	16	91.36
21.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	1	15.88
22.	Tamil Nadu	14	17	3	3	37	459.18
23.	Tripura	1	1	—	—	2	13.36
24.	Uttar Pradesh	59	10	1	—	70	647.76
25.	West Bengal	7	19	4	6	36	593.65
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	1.64

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	Chandigarh	1	1	1	—	3	2.00
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	0.0
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	1.64
30.	Delhi	3	11	—	—	14	43.59
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	1.64
32.	Pondicherry	1	1	1	1	4	3.83
	Total	280	251	36	46	613	5683.77

[Translation]

Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula

4015. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have demanded to make amendments in Gadgil-Mukherjee formula with regard to providing Central assistance to States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the meetings between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Ministers of States at the time of finalisation of Annual Plan 1997-98, some Chief Ministers suggested that the Gadgil-Mukherjee formula may be reviewed. Broadly, States like Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra and Punjab suggested that greter weightage should be assigned to performance in the allocation of Central Assistance. On the other hand, States such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh suggested that backwardness and poverty should be given higher weightage.

[English]

Recommendations of ILO

4016. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has 125 million kids employed in hazardous jobs;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that International Labour Organisation sent a list of recommendations to the Government of India to end the worst forms of child labour; and

(d) if so, the immedite measures taken by the Government to abolish child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Authentic information on child labour in the country is generated by the decennial census. According to the 1991 census, the number of working children in India is 11.28 million. The State-wise number of working children is given in the attached statement.

(c) The 87th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) held in June 1999 unanimously adopted a new ILO Convention No. 182 and accompanying Recommendation No. 190 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Government has already initiated action for ratification of the Convention.

(d) Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual, progressive and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour. So far National Child Labour Projects for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work have been sanctioned in 92 child labour endemic districts in the country.

Statement

State-wise Distribution of Working Children According to 1991 Census

.....1991.....

State/Union Territories		Main Workers	Marginal Workers	Total Workers
	1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,537,293	124,647	1,661,940
2.	Assam	259,953	67,645	327,598
3.	Bihar	795,444	146,801	942,245
4.	Gujarat	373,027	150,558	523,585
5.	Haryana	89,030	20,661	109,691
6.	Himachal Pradesh	30,771	25,667	56,438
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	**	**	**
8.	Karnataka	818,159	158,088	976,247
9.	Kerala	28,590	6,210	34,800
10.	Madhya Pradesh	997,940	354,623	1,352,563
11.	Maharashtra	805,847	262,571	1,068,418
12.	Manipur	13,478	3,015	16,493
13.	Meghalaya	30,730	3,903	34,633
14.	Nagaland	16,106	370	16,476
15.	Orissa	325,250	127,144	452,394
16.	Punjab	132,414	10,454	142,868
17.	Rajasthan	490,522	283,677	774,199
18.	Sikkim	5,254	344	5,598
19.	Tamilnadu	523,125	55,764	578,889
20.	Tripura	13,506	2,972	16,478
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1,145,087	264,999	1,410,086
22.	West Bengal	593,387	118,304	711,691
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	758	507	1,265
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	11,632	763	12,395
25.	Chandigarh	1,839	31	1,870
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2,677	1,739	4,416
27.	Delhi	26,670	681	27,351

	1	2	3	4
28.	Daman and Diu	741	200	941
29.	Goa	3,938	718	4,656
30.	Lakshadweep	17	17	34
31.	Mizoram	6,391	10,020	16,411
32.	Pondicherry	2,565	115	2,680
	Total	9,082,141	2,203,208	11,285,349

** Census could not be conducted.

NB: Figures for 1991 relates to workers of age group 5-14 years.

Ad-hoc Research Schemes

4017. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani has submitted certain ad-hoc research schemes to the Indian Council for Agricultural Research, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for delay in approval of the schemes and providing grants for the same; and

(c) time by which the Ad-hoc Research Schemes are likely to be cleared by ICAR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per enclosed statement.

Statement

	Ad-hoc Research Schemes	Status
1.	Characterization, evaluation and conservation of Marathawada Buffaloes.	The scheme has already been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 31.61 lakhs and 1st Year grant has been released. There is no delay in its approval.
2.	Economics of Production, Processing & Marketing of Turmeric in Hingoli and Parbhani Distt. of Marathawada Region.	The scheme is already under active consideration of the Council. The decision will be communicated by end of the year, 2000.
3.	Food and Fibre Crops-Studies on Nutritional functionality, shelf life quality attributes flow and pasting behaviour of Pearl Millet flow and its utilization in Roti making and other food stuffs.	The comments of the referees are awaited.
4.	Wilt of pigeonpea: Etiology, Epidemiology & Integrated Management.	-do-
5.	Epidemiology and management studies on sigatoka leafspot disease on Banana caused by Cercospora Musae/zimm (mycospharella Mueicola).	These schemes were considered but did not find support for funding under A.P. Cess Fund of the Council.
6.	Utilization of whole mango in mango based products and byproducts.	-do-

In-Situ Promotions

4018. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers of Central Secretariat Service who have been inducted on the basis of Civil Service Examination, 1982, 1983 and 1984 have been granted in-situ promotion to the grade of Deputy Secretary;

(b) whether the members of the similarly situated service AFHQ Civil Serivce under Ministry of Defence have been denied in-situ promotion to the equivalent grade to Deputy Secretary thus disturbing the batch parity between the two services;

(c) if so, the reason therefor; and

(d) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Officers of Central Secretariat Service who were appointed to the Service on the basis of Civil Services Examination, 1982, 1983 have been appointed to the grade of Deputy Secretary on personal upgradation basis. However, the officers who were appointed through the Civil Services Examination, 1984 have not been appointed to the grade of Deputy Secretary.

(b) to (d) The proposals relating to in-situ promotion of Civilian Staff Officers to the level of Senior Civilian Staff Officers in AFHQCS was examined by the Department of Personnel & Training. However, it was noted that circumstances under which upgradations were allowed in CSS were not relevant for AFHQCS. Therefore, the Ministry of Defence was advised to take remedial measures like cadre review, organisational study etc. which were expected to provide long lasting solution to the problem of stagnation.

Underground Water

4019. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ground water bed in and around Hosur Industrial town near Bangalore has gone down in recent years due to indiscriminate tapping of ground water through bore wells for industrial use;

(b) if so, whether many units in this industrial hub are facing closure due to non-availability of water;

(c) if so, the steps contemplated by the Central Ground Water Board to augment water supply and recycling of waste water;

(d) whether the Central Ground Water Board has drawn up any contingency plan for industrial areas all over the country facing such problems; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Central Ground Water Board do not have any reports showing closure of units due to non-availability of water around Hosur industrial town near Bangalore.

(c) Water being a State subject, action to augment water supplies and recycling of waste water is to be taken by the concerned State Government.

(d) No, Sir. However, the Central Ground Water Board is implementing a Central Sector scheme on "Studies on Artifcial Recharge of Ground Water" on pilot basis with a view to assess the efficacy of various recharge structures in some "Over-exploited" and "Dark" blocks of the country.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indira Gandhi Lift Irrigation Scheme

4020. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Lift Irrigation Schemes are being funded in the country by the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether Indira Gandhi Lift Irrigation Scheme at Rameshwar Ghat on Chambal river has been accorded approval;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the amount of funds propose to be provided for this scheme; and

(d) the time by which the work on the scheme is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes Sir, the Centre has been providing Central Loan Assistance inter-alia to some lift irrigation schemes under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 1996-97.

(b) to (d) No proposal for the construction of Indira Gandhi Lift Irrigation Scheme has been submitted by the State Government to the Central Government.

[English]

Adoption of Children

4021. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's plan to encourage adoption of children in the country have so far failed due to cumbersome procedures involved therein;

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to improve the situation on this front;

(c) whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure involved and also to involve voluntary organizations in this field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Presently inter-country adoptions are governed by the Revised Guidelines for adoption of Indian children issued in 1995, which are based on the directions/ guidelines issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Adoption of children in India is done under the Hindu Adoption & Maintenance Act, 1956. The Ministry has circulated instructions to the State Governments for uniform guidelines to be used all over the country for facilitating in-country adoptions.

A large number of Voluntary Organisations are also involved in the field of adoption and the Ministry also runs a scheme known as Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Homes (Shishu Greh) for Infants for Promoting in-country Adoption.

Government Employees in RSS

4022. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of the Gujarat cadre on deputation or placement with Central Government services and the United Nations and its allied agencies as also with other international agencies;

(b) whether consequent to the Gujarat Government having revoked the restriction barring employees from participating in the activities of the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh, there is contradiction in Central Government service rules and Gujarat Government rules as the Central Rules bar Government employees from associating with RSS;

(c) whether the Government would terminate the deputation of these employees in view of the sensitive contradiction as mentioned in (a) above; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) As per the information available, 38 officers of the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and Indian Forest Service, borne on the Gujarat cadre, are on deputation to the Central Government. In addition, 2 officers of these Services are on deputation to the United Nations and its allied agencies as also with other international agencies.

(b) to (d) In terms of the Circular issued by the Government of Gujarat on 8th March, 2000, the employees of the State Government are once again prohibited from participating/associating in the activities of Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh and there is, thus, no contradiction in the matter between the instructions of the Central Government and those of the Government of Gujarat .

Water Management

4023. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission had formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development in the country;

(b) if so, the major components of the plan; and

(c) the provisions made in the Ninth Five Year Plan to realise the goals envisaged in the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) The National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development, which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilization of water resources, comprises two main components viz. (a) Himalayan Rivers Development, and (b) Peninsular Rivers Development. An outlay of Rs. 65.00 crores has been made in the Ninth Five Year Plan in respect of National Water Development Agency (NWDA), which has been established in July 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of National Perspective Plan and to prepare feasibility report of the links.

Decline in Poverty

4024. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first India Rural Development Report released in the month of February, 2000, indicates a decline in poverty;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of percentage of decreased/increased, State-wise, with special reference to Central and Eastern region; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to further reduce the poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS. (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India Rural Development Report 1999 published by the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, gives the State-wise percentage of population below the poverty line in rural areas for five points of time. These are the official estimate of poverty as released by the Planning Commission in March 1997. Quoting this, the Reports states that percentage of persons living below the poverty line in rural areas has declined from 56.44% in 1973-74 to 37.27% in 1993-94. The Report has also quoted other estimates of rural poverty made by individual researchers as well as the World Bank at national level. The estimate of the percentage of people below the poverty line in rural areas in 1973-74 and 1993-94 and their increase/decrease during this period at state level are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (a) acceleration of economic growth, (b) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (c) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

Recently the programmes for direct attack on poverty in rural areas have been strengthened. IRDP and allied programmes, alongwith Million Wells Scheme have been restructured into single self-employment programme called the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with the primary objectives of focussed approach to poverty alleviation. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has also been restructured as Jawahar Gram Smridihi Yojana (JGSY) with the primary objective of creation of demand driven community village infrastructure including durable assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objective is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. Employment Assurance Scheme has also been strengthened from 1.4.1999 as single wage employment programme. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty Lines (BPL) families.

Statement

Percentage of People Below the Poverty Line in Rural Areas

S. No.	State/UT's	1973-74	1993-94	Increase (+) Decrease (–)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48.81	15.92	–32.49
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52.67	45.01	–7.66

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	52.67	45.01	–7.66
4.	Bihar	62.99	58.21	–4.78
5.	Goa	46.85	5.34	–41.51
6.	Gujarat	46.35	22.18	–24.17
7.	Haryana	34.23	28.02	–6.21
8.	Himachal Pradesh	27.42	30.34	2.92
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	45.51	30.34	–15.17
10.	Karnataka	55.14	29.88	–25.26
11.	Kerala	59.19	25.76	–33.43
12.	Madhya Pradesh	62.66	40.64	–22.02
13.	Maharashtra	57.71	37.93	–19.78
14.	Manipur	52.67	45.01	–7.66
15.	Meghalaya	52.67	45.01	–7.66
16.	Mizoram	52.67	45.01	–7.66
17.	Nagaland	52.67	45.01	–7.66
18.	Orissa	67.28	49.72	–17.56
19.	Punjab	28.21	11.95	–16.26
20.	Rajasthan	44.76	26.46	–18.30
21.	Sikkim	52.67	45.01	–7.66
22.	Tamil Nadu	57.43	32.48	–24.95
23.	Tripura	52.67	45.01	–7.66
24.	Uttar Pradesh	56.53	42.28	–14.25
25.	West Bengal	73.16	40.80	–32.36
26.	A & N Island	57.43	32.48	–24.95
27.	Chandigarh	27.96	11.35	–16.61
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	46.85	51.95	5.10
29.	Daman & Diu	—	5.34	—
30.	Delhi	24.44	1.90	–22.54
31.	Lakshadweep	59.19	25.76	–33.43
32.	Pondicherry	57.43	32.48	–24.95
	All India	56.44	37.27	–19.17

Selling of Share of Power Plants

4025. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell shares of power plants of Bokaro, Durgapur and Rourkela belonging to SAIL; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the jobs of existing employees are likely to be protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has initiated the process of formation of Joint Ventures for the following power plants:-

- 2x60 MW Captive power plant-II at Rourkela Steel Plant and the Central Power Training Institute at Rourkela
- 2x50 MW Captive power plant-II at Durgapur Steel Plant
- 122 MW (2x55 MW + 12 MW back pressure turbine) Captive Power Plant—I, 3x60 MW Captive Power Plant-II and steam generating capacity of 660 MT/hour at Bokaro Steel Plant

(b) The following preconditions have been stipulated by Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) for the selection of Strategic Alliance Partner (SAP):

(i) Personnel working in power plants and related assets shall be absorbed.

(ii) Service conditions of the employees will not be inferior to the present conditions in SAIL.

(iii) Present benefits enjoyed by the employees, like housing, medical etc. shall continue to be made available.

[Translation]

OBC'S In IPS/IAS/IFS

4026. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of candidates belonging to Backward Classes who have secured top positions in Indian Police Service/Indian Aministrative Service/Indian Foreign Service examination during this year; and

(b) the names of the States to which these candidates belong to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) On the basis of Civil Services Examination, 1998 (results declared on 25th May, 1999), 17 candidates belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) have been allocated to the Indian Administrative Service, 3 candidates to the Indian Foreign Service and 10 candidates to the Indian Police Service.

(b) The 17 candidates allocated to the Indian Administrative Service belong to the States of Andhra Pradesh (1), Assam (1), Bihar (5), Kerala (1), Madhya Pradesh, (2), Maharashtra (2), Rajasthan (1) & Uttar Pradesh (4). The 3 candidates allocated to the Indian Foreign Service belong to the States of Bihar (1), Karnataka (1) & Punjab (1). The 10 candidates allocated to the Indian Police Service belong to the States of Andhra Pradesh (1), Bihar (3), Kerala (1), Madhya Pradesh (1), Tamil Nadu (3) & Uttar Pradesh (1). The figures in the bracket indicate the number of candidates belonging to respective States.

[English]

Pak's Nuclear Capability

4027. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned Pakistan can N-tip misslies better; Expet appearing in the 'Times of India' dated January 18, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Government have seen reports to this effect quoting a US based analyst in whose assessment Pakistan has a better capacity to put nuclear warheads on missiles.

(c) Government closely monitors all developments related to research, development and acquisition of armaments, including weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its threat perception.

[Translation]

Loan to Milk Federations

4028. DR. CHANRAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of milk federations in Madhya Pradesh which have been given short-term loans under the Operation Flood scheme and terms and conditions for repayment of these loans alongwith the period for which these have been given;

(b) the extent of loan, interest and balance amount outstanding against these Milk Federations as on March 31, 1999;

(c) whether the sick Milk Federations are likely to repay the loan and interest thereon as per the rules of the National Dairy Development Board and the steps taken by the Government to keep them finacially stable;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to give any assistance to these Milk Federations to meet their financial liabilities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is only one Milk Federation in Madhya Pradesh and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has not given any short term loan to it.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

[English]

IAS Officers Selected Against OBC Quota

4029. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of selected IAS officers against Other Backward Class quota have not been offered jobs by various Ministries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, Ministry-wise and batch-wise; and

(c) the date by which all the selected IAS officers belonging to OBC are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The extant scheme under which appointments on deputation at Deputy Secretary and above levels at the Centre are regulated is detailed in the Central Staffing Scheme. Central Staffing Scheme provides for selection and appointment of officers to various posts on the cardinal principle that officers so borrowed will serve the Government of India for a stipulated tenure on deputation, and thereafter, return to their parent cadre. The needs of the Central Government are of paramount consideration where due regard is given to seniority, merit, competence and the specific suitability of the officer for a particular vacancy in the Central Government. While adjudging the suitability of the officers for appointment to various posts, caste is not one of the criteria kept in view and no distinction is made between officers belonging to Other Backward Classes and General or Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes. Hence, statistics on the number of officers belonging to Other Backward Classes who have been appointed or might be appointed to these posts to the Government of India on the basis of their seniority, merit and competence, is neither maintained nor required.

Reservation of Jobs

4030. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation of 15 percent jobs for people belonging to Scheduled Castes in Government service as well as for seats in Public educational institutions in Andhra Pradesh will be rationalised;

(b) if so, details thereof and steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether SC categorisation has been introduced in the country for the first time; and

(d) whether the same has been accepted by National Commission for SCs and STs now and the manner in which this decision will be helpful to the SCs and STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservations) Ordinance, 1998 has been promulgated by Government of Andhra Pradesh to ensure that the benefits of reservations are available for an equal and equitable enjoyment by all the Scheduled Castes and give effect to the Constitutional mandate by rationalizing the reservations to Scheduled Castes, without in anyway touching upon or interfering with the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 as amended by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1976.

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes has not accepted the proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for Categorisation of the Scheduled Castes.

Scholarships to SC/ST/OBC Students

4031. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI SURESH RAM RAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Educational Scholarships extended to the students of the SC/ST and OBC at Secondary/Graduation level, State-wise;

(b) the number of students benefited thereform and the amount actually disbursed towards scholarship during last year, State-wise;

(c) if so, the rates of scholarship last fixed;

(c) whether keeping in view the increased GDP and Per-capita income Government propose to enhance the rates of scholarship;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government to include the students of minority community who are below poverty line in scholarship category;

(g) if so, the details thereot and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the new schemes being introduced to promote educational facilities particularly for the higher education, for the students from SC/ST and OBC categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) These are four Centrally Sponsored Educational Scholarship Schemes for the welfare of SC, ST and OBC students at Secondary/ Graduation level. These are:

(i) Pre Matric Scholarship for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations;

(ii) Post Matrix Scholarship Scheme for SC and ST students.

(iii) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC Students.

(iv) Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC Students.

The State wise details of number of students benefited under these schemes and Central assistance released to the States during 1999-2000 are given in the attached statement-I.

(c) The details of the rates of the aforesaid schemes are attached statement-II.

(b) and (e) The Government does not propose to enhance the rates of scholarship keeping in view the increased GDP and per capita income.

(f) and (g) At present there is no proposal to open these schemes for minority community students.

(h) No new schemes are being introduced at present. There already exist Scheme for promotion of educational facilities and particulalry for the higher education for SC, ST and OBC students. The Schemes are:

(i) Pre Matric Scholarship for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations;

(ii) Post Matric Scholarship for SC & ST students;

(iii) National Overseas Scholarship for SC, ST etc. candidates;

(iv) Construction of Hostels for SC and ST Boys & Girls;

(v) Book Banks for SC & ST students;

(vi) Upgradation of Merit of SC & ST students and

(vii) Coaching & Allied Scheme for SC & ST students

(viii) Pre-matric Scholarship for OBC students;

(ix) Post Matric Scholarship for OBC students;

(x) Construction of Hostels for OBC students; and

(xi) Pre Examination Coaching for Backward Classes.

Statement-I

A. Post Matric Scholarship to SC and ST students

Central assistance released and coverage during 1999-2000 (anticipated)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	Name of the State	Central assistance released			No. of beneficiaries		
		SC	ST	Total	SC	ST	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2761.582	963.023	3724.605	222087	44946	267033
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	130	130	0	9713	9713
3.	Assam	328.65	2005.599	2334.249	16486	143685	160171
4.	Bihar	468.476	1206.896	1675.372	86332	91267	177599
5.	Goa	—	—	0	125	0	125
6.	Gujarat	—	—	0	44327	56936	101263
7.	Haryana	—	—	0	13470	0	13470
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	18	18	4478	3662	8140
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	12	12	5729	3457	9186
10.	Karnataka	1092.18	243	1335.18	110020	32118	142138
11.	Kerala	554.865	185	739.865	45393	4090	49483
12.	Madhya Pradesh	193.849	—	193.849	89357	80000	169357
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	0	223018	45435	268453
14.	Manipur	49.36	672.42	721.78	2859	25813	28672
15.	Meghalaya	2.984	605.542	608.526	500	28285	28785
16.	Mizoram	0	334.75	334.75	0	16934	16934
17.	Nagaland	0	673.11	673.11	0	21991	21991
18.	Orissa	342.24	323.16	665.4	42949	32495	75444
19.	Punjab	—	—	0	44055	0	44055
20.	Rajasthan	308.28	218.31	526.59	51889	41023	92912
21.	Sikkim	—	—	0	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	516.86	—	516.86	165000	660	165660
23.	Tripura	136.82	53.19	190.01	7623	4820	12443
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1257.847	4	1261.847	267812	2912	270724
25.	West Bengal	378.0066	33	411.0066	117760	8905	126665
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	0.5476	—	182	182

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	Daman & Diu	—	—	1.27	81	59	140
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	40	379	419
29.	Delhi	—	—	—	4925	—	4925
30.	Pondicherry	—	—	15	2701	—	2701
	Total	8392	7681	16089.82	1569016	699767	2268783

B. Pre Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations Central assistance released and coverage (anticipated) during 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State/UT	Central Assistance Released	No. of Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74.07773	17816
2.	Assam	nil	3880
3.	Bihar	33.25	7200
4.	Goa	nil	103
5.	Gujarat	306.33325	158526
6.	Haryana	13.44	23865
7.	Himachal Pradesh	nil	2052
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	nil	1908
9.	Karnataka	nil	8304
10.	Kerala	7.0035	2519
11.	Madhya Pradesh	86.04775	74189
12.	Maharashtra	174.6635	52654
13.	Orissa	7.72784	1810
14.	Punjab	4.83093	9964
15.	Rajasthan	nil	29600
16.	Sikkim	0.60175	251
17.	Tamil Nadu	63.26125	30920
18.	Tripura	2.0225	3955
19.	Uttar Pradesh	nil	5693
20.	West Bengal	nil	541
21.	Delhi	nil	185
22.	Pondicherry	15	1870
	Total	788.26	437805

C. Pre Matric Scholarship for OBC students and Post Matric Scholarship for OBC students Central assistance released and coverage (anticipated) during 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	Name of State	Central Assistance Released		No. of Beneficiaries	
		Pre Matric	Post Matric	Pre Matric	Post Matric
1.	Andhra Pradesh	400	366.38	86000	29547
2.	Karnataka	0	128.62	0	12035
3.	Tripura	100	55	46292	3475
	Total	500	550	132292	45057

Statement-II

Course-wise rates of maintenance allowance for hostellers and day scholars under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to SC and ST students and Post Matric Scholarship to OBC students.

Course of study	Rate of maintenance Allowance (Rs. Per month)	
	Hostlers	Day-Scholars
1	2	3
Group A	425	190
Medical/Engineering including Degree level courses in Indian Medicine, B.A.M.&S. and comparable courses in Ayurvedic, Unani/Tibia and Homeopathic System of Medicine. B.Sc. (Agriculture/B.V.Sc./B.F.Sc. (Fisheries) Higher Technical and all professional studies like Degree And Post-graduate courses in Agricultural and Veterinary Science.		
Group B	290	190
Diploma level courses in Indian Medicine and comparable Courses in Ayurvedic, Unani/Tibia and Homeopathic System of Medicine. Diploma and comparable courses in Engineering, technology, architecture, medicine, diploama level courses in printing technology and courses for overseer draftsman, Surveyor. Commercial Pilot Licence, Diploma and higher courses in Hotel Management catering technology and applied Nutrition. Degree and post-graduate course in nursing and pharmacy. Wireless and television operators/sound recording and sound engineering motion picture, photography, film direction/Acting/ screenplay/writing. Degree/post-graduate diploma courses in Business Management, Chartered and Cost/Works Accountancy. Post-graduate courses in science subjects.		
Group C	290	190
Certificate course in Engineering/Technology Architecture And Medicine.		
Diploma and Certificate courses in Agriculture, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science, Fisheries, Dairy Development, Hygiene and Public Health, Sanitary Inspector's Course, Courses for Rural Services, Cooperation and Community Development, Sub-Officer's Course at the National Fire Service College, Nagpur, Library Science.		
Degree/Post-graduate Diploma and Post Graduate courses in Teachers Training Library Science and Physical Education, Music Fine Arts and Law, Craft Instructor's Training Course, Certificate Course in Hotel Management/ Caterin Technology and Applied Nutrition. Passenger Transport Management, Associate Degree in Pharmacy. Post-graduate courses in Arts and Commerce subjects.		

1	2	3
Group D	230	120
General courses upto Graduate level (2nd year and onward)		
Group E	150	90
Class XI and XII in 10+2 system, Intermediate courses and first year of general courses upto graduate level		

(b) Rates of Scholarship under the Schemes of Pre Matric Scholarship for the children of those engaged in unclean occupation and Pre Matric scholarship for OBC students.

Hostellers

Class III to VIII	Rs. 200 per month for 10 months
Class IX to X	Rs. 250 per month for 10 months

Day Scholars

Class I to V	Rs. 25 per month for 10 months
Class VI to VIII	Rs. 40 per month for 10 months
Class IX & X	Rs. 50 per month for 10 months

Adhoc Grant

An adhoc grant of Rs. 500 per student per annum to all students i.e. hostellers as well as day scholars is admissible.

[Translation]

Industrial units Run by KVIC

4032. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the performance of Industrial Units/Institutions sponsored by Khadi and Village Industries Commission during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of industrial units run by Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the country, State-wise;

(d) the work done by these industries during last three years; and

(e) the number of rural industries run receiving financial assistance at present from Khadi and Villages Industries Board also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are 5149 registered institutions, 798435 individuals, 30130 cooperative societies functioning under the KVI sector in the country. The State-wise break-up is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The performance reported by implementing agencies under KVIC for the last three years in terms of production, employment, sales and earnings is given as under:

(Rs. in crores)

	(Employment in lakhs)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Production	4516.25	4519.31	5112.37
Sales	4814.00	5065.28	5601.00
Employment	58.17	56.50	58.29
Earnings	1532.55	1546.34	1797.54

(e) The KVIC encourages setting up all village industries except for a small negative list.

Statement

S. No.	State in Union Territories	No. of Registered Institutions	No. of Cooperative Societies	No. of individuals
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	284	2427	115910
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	145
3.	Assam	35	298	7517
4.	Bihar	86	3065	43259
5.	Goa	21	1	4366
6.	Gujarat	35	897	4222
7.	Haryana	362	433	29625
8.	Himachal Pradesh	60	2	17885
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	22	1264	21492
10.	Karnataka	312	3822	15060
11.	Kerala	38	1880	12813
12.	Madhy Pradesh	135	886	19696
13.	Maharashtra	967	2136	37272
14.	Manipur	17	293	14003
15.	Meghalaya	1	13	7043
16.	Mizoram	—	98	4520
17.	Nagaland	5	—	10862
18.	Orissa	77	3531	349
19.	Punjab	152	794	40778
20.	Rajasthan	110	1586	111673
21.	Sikkim	—	1	1717
22.	Tamil Nadu	131	3219	38246
23.	Tripura	5	—	171
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2098	3174	145682
25.	West Bengal	183	260	85365
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	485
27.	Chandigarh	—	15	418
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	1
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Delhi	10	24	5612
31.	Lakshadweep	—	8	17
32.	Pondicherry	1	2	2231
	Total	5149	30130	798435

Indians Languishing in Pakistani Jails

4033. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian citizens languishing in Pakistani Jails;

(b) the number out of them released during the last three years;

(c) the number of civilians and armymen arrested by Pakistani forces during the Kargil War; and

(d) the efforts being made to release the jailed Indians and provide succour to the families to those right now behind bars in Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) As per available information, 1040 Indian nationals are believed to be in custody in Pakistan.

(b) During the last three years, release of 595 Indian nationals has been secured.

(c) Nil.

(d) The issue of early release and repatriation of Indian nationals under detention in Pakistani jails has been taken up repeatedly and at all levels with the Government of Pakistan. Our efforts at securing the early release of Indian nationals in Pakistani custody would continue.

[English]

Curtailment of Administrative Structure

4034. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI B.V.N. REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a time-bound five-steps package to downsize the administrative structure by June, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to scrap several commissions and departments under ministries as part of its efforts to downsize bureaucracy and rein in expenditure;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether staff strength of the Central Government are increasing despite promise of downsizing; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) The Government has been alive to the need for curtailing the size of the administrative structure and taking steps in this direction. The Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) has been issuing instructions from time to time to control creation of Plan and Non-Plan posts. In August, 1999, instructions were issued by that Ministry to all the Ministries/Departments to undertake a review of all the posts which were lying vacant in the Ministries/Departments and in their Attached and Subordinate Offices, etc., in consultation with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). These instructions, *inter alia*, envisage that till the review is completed, no vacant posts will be filled up except with the approval of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). Further, such Ministries/Departments as had not fully implemented the Government's decision to achieve reduction in the number of posts (as on 1.1.1992) in compliance with the across-the-board 10% cut ordered in January, 1992 were asked to fully implement that

decision immediately. According to the information available with the Ministry of Finance, about 1.6 lakh posts in various categories have already been abolished as a result of this exercise.

As a part of the administrative measure to restructure/ rightsize the government, all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India have been asked to take action on the following measures:

(i) To effect a 10% cut on the sanctioned strength as on 1.1.1992, if not already done and to bring about a further 10% reduction in the number of posts created between January, 1992 and December, 1999.

(ii) To review all the posts lying vacant in every Ministry/Department and its attached and subordinate offices in accordance with the guidelines contained in Department of Expenditure O.M. No. 7 (3)/E (Coord)/99 dated 5.8.1999.

(iii) To review all temporary posts with a view to discontinue them with effect from 28 February, 2000.

(iv) To implement Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) reports agreed to by the Ministries/Departments and their attached and subordinate offices within a specified time-frame not extending beyond June, 2000.

(v) To consider introduction of Desk Officer System in more areas.

(e) and (f) The number of sanctioned (civilian) posts in the Central Government as on 31 March, 1996, 31 March, 1997 and 31 March, 1998 was 42.18 lakhs, 42.18 lakhs and 41.93 lakhs respectively. There was a marginal decrease of the order of about 25,000 in the number of sanctioned posts as on 31 March, 1998 compared to 31 March, 1996. Against the above mentioned sanctioned strength, the actual number of employees in position was 38.93 lakhs on 31 March, 1996, 38.95 lakhs on 31 March, 1997 and 38.47 lakhs on 31 March, 1998.

Visit to Singapore

4035. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level delegation headed by him visited Singapore recently to explore investment and trade possibilities;

(b) if so, the proposals discussed to develop, expand and strengthen the economic co-operation in Information Technology sector between the two countries;

(c) the outcome of the visit to Singapore alongwith investment related deals finalised and implications of MoUs signed for e-commerce related supporting services and developing manpower, R&D etc;

(d) the details of follow up action; and

(e) the plans of visit of delegation to other countries for promotion of Information Technology sector?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) A high level delegation led by Minister of Information Technology visited Singapore during the period 28th March, 2000 to 31st March, 2000. Following areas have been agreed for cooperation in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT):-

1. Electronic Commerce
2. Electronic Government
3. Information Security
4. Human Resource Development
5. Research, Design and Development
6. Exploring third country markets particularly of Southeast Asian countries.

In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of India and the Government of Singapore was signed to set up a Task Force in Information Technology for the purpose of strengthening bilateral cooperation in various areas of Information Technology.

(d) The following deliverables have been identified for formulating detailed follow-up action:-

- Setting up of ICT talent incubators in India
- Tapping on Institutes of Higher Learning in India
- Harmonisation and cross-certification of digital signatures
- Increasing Internet connectivity between India and Singapore
- Joint development of interactive broadband multimedia content, information security and E-Government and
- Facilitating the development, interaction and exchange of ICT talent between India and Singapore

(e) Such visits are planned from time to time after taking into account all the relevant factors.

Investment in Information Technology Sector

4036. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-American Protocol/Trade Agreement/ Joint Ventures recently concluded during and after visit of U.S. President would boost investment in Information Technology Sector ten fold in the next few years;

(b) if so, details and implications thereof for technocrats engineers;

(c) the institutions likely to be upgraded/expanded and strengthened as a result of Indo-U.S. economic cooperation in knowledge based industries; and

(d) details of agenda finalised for follow up action for 2000-2001;

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Prime Minister of India and the President of the United States of America have signed a statement outlining their vision for Indo-US relations for the 21st Century. The vision statement, inter-alia recognises that the two nations are leaders in the information age and are in the forefront of new high technology economy. The two sides have established an architecture of a regular, wide-ranging dialogue, including in the areas of trade and commerce, finance and investment. The economic and commercial dialogues is also likely to enhance mutually beneficial cooperation in Information Technology. Cooperation in knowledge based industries will also benefit from the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between FICCI and US-India Business Council on cooperation in knowledge-based industries.

(b) Since at present about 58% of the software exports is to USA, it is expected that requirement of software professionals for Indo-US Trade in the area of software alone will be a little more than 1 million by the year 2008 considering that a total of 2.2 million software professionals are required in the country by 2008.

(c) and (d) No such separate proposals have been worked out which reference to Indo-US economic cooperation in the knowledge based industries. However, to meet the requirement of software professionals in the country, Government as a general measure has under consideration a proposal to upgrade existing leading 43 Engineering Colleges/Regional Engineering Colleges to IIT level.

Reservation Quota For OBC

4037. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to increase the reservation quota for the Backward Classes upto 27 per cent has been pending with the Union Government for the last five years;

(b) if so, whether the reservation quota of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Castes is more than 50 per cent in many States of the country;

(c) if so, the problems in increasing the total reservation limit by more than 50 per cent in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) the time by which the Other Backward Castes of Madhya Pradesh would be given the 27 per cent reservation quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

UPSC Examination

4038. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 97 candidates belonging to the OBC category finally cleared the Civil Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission;

(b) if so, whether the selection of 47 candidates of the OBC category out of 97 candidates have been cancelled; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor along with the guidelines issued by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Union Public Service Commission (hereinafter referred to as UPSC) had recommended a total of 215 candidates belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) for appointment on the basis of Civil Services Examination (CSE) 1997. Out of these 215 candidates, 166 candidates had been recommended by relaxed standards to fill 166 vacancies reserved for OBCs. The remaining 49 candidates were recommended as part of general category candidates as they had qualified the SCE-1997 without availing any of the concessions/relaxations available to the OBCs.

2. The combined order of merit declared by UPSC forms the basis of service allocation to 28 different services/posts having regard to the position in order of merit, order of preference for the available services, category-wise vacancy, status on medical fitness and previous employment. In the course of allocation of service, it was found that out of 49 candidates recommended as part of the list of the general category candidates, only 2 could be allocated to a service of their higher preference without availing the benefit of reservation for purpose of service allocation and were, as such, adjusted against unreserved vacancies. The remaining 47 candidates, however, who could be allocated to the service of their higher preference only through relaxed standards for purposes of service allocation were given the benefit of reservation for the purpose of allocation to a service of their higher preference and, hence were adjusted against OBC vacancies in that service. As such, there were 213 (166+47) OBC candidates available for allocation to the 166 reserved vacancies for the OBCs. Of these 213 OBC candidates:

(a) 166 OBC candidates were allocated to various services;

(b) 30 OBC candidates were ineligible for allocation as they either had already accepted allocation to a service on the basis of an earlier Civil Services Examination and had not qualified for allocation to services/posts which were higher in the order of preference as per Rule 18 of the CSE, 1997 Rules, or were declared physically unfit by Medical Board for appointment;

(c) the remaining 17 OBC candidates could not be allocated to a service on the basis of CSE-1997 due to non-availability of vacancy at their turn under the OBC category.

3. The manner of service allocation followed by the Government is strictly in accordance with the CSE-1997 Rules and ratio laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Ritesh R. Shah (JT 1996 (2) SC 495); M. Neethi Chandra (1996 6 SCC 36) and Dr. Anil Kumar (1998 9 SCC 405).

[English]

Chalk Powder in Milk Powder

4039. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether chalk powder was found in milk powder which is being used in Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken so far in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that such things do not happen in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) 21 number of chalk powder bags in place of skimmed milk powder bags were detected by the DMS in a consignment of 1760 skimmed milk powder bags (SMP) received from Mehsana Dairy, Gujarat.

On detection of the chalk powder bags, these were segregated and kept separately. The suppliers were informed and the matter was reported to Prevention of Food Adulteration authorities. The Crime Branch of the

Delhi Police, who took over the investigation has arrested the crew members of the truck which brought the consignment from Mehsana, Gujarat to Delhi Milk Scheme, New Delhi. Since then the security and strict quality control checks before loading as well as before utilisation of processed goods has been strictly enforced.

ESIC

4040. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether ESI Corporation, New Delhi owes a large amount to the State of Andhra Pradesh since 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof and on what account; and

(c) the steps taken by the corporation for an early settlement of this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The expenditure on medical care under the ESI Scheme is shared between the ESIC and the State Government in the ratio of 7:1 subject to a ceiling prescribed in this regard. Based on the audit report, the entire contribution of the ESIC as admissible under the ESI Scheme has been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the years up to 1997-98. The Corporation has also made an 'on account' advance payment of Rs. 17.34 Crore for 1998-99 and Rs. 21.36 Crore for 1999-2000 to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The balance payment, if admissible, under the Scheme will be made as and when the audit certificates are received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Review of Ongoing Irrigation Projects

4041. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have reviewed the progress of canals in various States being constructed under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the States to be covered under the scheme during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any action plan has been finalised by the Government for expeditious completion of ongoing irrigation projects which are lagging behind their schedule;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the schemes being implemented by the Union Government to drain out water logged in various flood prone areas of the country, particularly in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, executed, and funded by the State Government themselves as per their own priorites.

(e) The schemes for drainage in flood prone areas are planned and implemented by the State Governments as per their priorities and availability of funds. The central assistance is made available to States on matching basis for reclamation of water logged areas in irrigated commands under the centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme.

Production of Wheat

4042. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has formulated a new policy to increase the production of wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make seeds easily available to the wheat growing marginal and small farmers of the country particularly in Maharashtra State and also to provide financial assistance to them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed a long-term policy to enhance productivity and production of wheat on a sustainable basis.

The salient features are:

- Development of high yielding varieties of bread and durum wheats having resistance/tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses and other desirable traits for different agro-ecological zones and production conditions.

- Development of package of imporved production-protection technologies including integrated nutrient management, water management, weed control disease management and new tillage practices.

(c) and (d) Though, the production and distribution of certified/quality seed to the farmers including small and marginal is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Govt. of India assesses the seed requirement and availability position through detailed interaction with state governments and seed producing agencies in the six-monthly Zonal Seed Review Meetings for Rabi and Kharif seasons, so as to ensure that seed requirement is met to the maximum extent possible.

The Government of India has centrally sponsored schemes to provide incentive on various inputs including certified seed, and in these programmes, there is already a directive to give preference to small and marginal farmers in various States including Maharashtra. In the Central Sector Scheme on minikits for popularisation of latest released/notified varieties and improved production technologies, certified seed is supplied at nominal rate. Under Integrated Cereal Development Schemes on enhancing production and productivity of wheat and other crops, incentive is provided on certified seed of wheat @ Rs. 200 per quintal.

[Translation]

Linking of Rivers

4043. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to shrinking of water resources, fall in the level of ground water and non-availability of adequate irrigation facilities, a large area of agricultural land in western/northern States, particularly in Rajasthan remain unirrigated;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Union Government for expeditious supply of surplus water to water deficit States by linking Himalayan Rivers with Southern peninsular rivers; and

(c) the time by which adequate water is likely to be made available to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Distribution of India's water resources is highly uneven. Due to low rainfall and limited ground water resources in some of the semi-arid regions of western/northern States, including Rajasthan, scope for providing irrigation facilities to the agricultural lands is limited. However, the State Governments have undertaken a number of irrigation projects to utilize the available waters. The details of cultivable area, net sown area and net irrigated area in the various States, including Rajasthan, are given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) The Union Government had, in 1980, formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus besins to water deficit basins for optimum utilization of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an autonomous society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of National Perspective Plan and to prepare feasibility report of the links. Implementation of such water transfer link proposals depend on availability of funds, how soon the detailed project reports are prepared by the concerned States and consensus is reached among the cobasin States.

Statement

Details of Total Cultivable Area, Net sown area, and Net Irrigated Area in 1996-97

(In thousand hectares)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total Cultivable Area	Net Sown Area	Net Irrigated Area
1.	Haryana	3779	3615	2755
2.	Himachal Pradesh	805	558	105
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1051	733	313
4.	Punjab	4250	4139	3847
5.	Rajasthan	25695	16790	5588
6.	Uttar Pradesh	20832	17475	11999
7.	Gujarat	12361	9600	3042

[English]

Technology Centres by SIDBI

4044. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Industries Development Bank of India propose to set up a technology incubation Centre at Kanpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help the Small Scale Industries;

(d) whether SIDBI has urged the Union Government to promote Small Scale Sector;

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(f) whether said centres and also proposed to be set in other States; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The incubator will focus on knowledge based industries in the SSI Sector which have the features of High R&D Component and innovative technology/products.

(c) SSI units which are at a seed stage having High R&D Component and are technology focussed would be assisted by the proposed incubator. The incubator, besides providing incubation financing, will provide critical inputs in various functional areas, namely, Management Support, Strategic Planning, Seed/Test Marketing, R&D support to small scale units.

(d) to (g) Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries and Small Industries Development Bank of India are working together to promote and develop the small scale sector. SIDBI is exploring the possibility of entering into alliances with R&D Organizations, Engineering and Management Institutions etc., which can provide technology, R&D and Management support for setting up innovation and incubation centres at various centres in the country.

[Translation]

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

4045. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the Centrally sponsored schemes for the development of Agriculture and Rural Industries; and

(b) the State-wise details of Central assistance provided during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Ministry of SSI & ARI is operating a Centrally sponsored scheme, namely, "Co-operativisation" in Coir sector for the development of Agro and Rural Industries.

(b) The State-wise funds released during the last three years is as follows:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Kerala	146.58		
Orissa	1.42	...	
Tamil Nadu		87.86	
Karnataka	...	...	42.90

[English]

Clinton's Observation on LoC

4046. SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKARO GAWALI:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Clinton finds LoC most dangerous place in the world" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated March 11, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the comments attributed to President Clinton on the situation in South Asia, including his description of the region as the most dangerous place in the world.

(c) India has demonstrated its resolve and capacity to safeguard its iterests in a restrained and responsible manner. There is now a better appreciation by the United States of India's restraint in dealing with persistent provocation from Pakistan. Government has also conveyed to the international community, including the United States, that it must direct its concerns on tensions in South Asia to persuading Pakistan to abjure violence, terrorism and hostile propaganda against India. Government is committed to resolving all problems with our neighbours through peaceful bilateral dialogue.

Indian Labour Conference

4047. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has since decided to hold next Indian Labour Conference;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the agenda to be discussed;

(c) whether the Union Government have ever reviewed the functioning of Second Labour Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The 36th Session of the Indian Labour Conference was held at New Delhi on 14th & 15th April, 2000. The Conference considered and discussed agenda items relating to industrial sickness, workers' participation in industry and workers' education.

(c) to (e) The Second National Commission on Labour was constituted on 15.10.99. The first meeting of the Commission was held on 4.11.1999 and the second meeting was held on 15.3.2000. The Commission has started functioning from the National Academy for Training and Research in Social Security (NATRSS) premises, New Delhi. The functioning of the Second Labour Commission is being reviewed on a continuous basis for providing various logistic support required and to facilitate the progress of its work.

[Translation]

Loan to SSI without Surety

4048. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to advance loan up to five lakh rupees to the Small Scale Industries without any surety

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) In pursuance to the announcement made by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2000-2001, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks vide its circular dated 3rd March, 2000 that the exemption limits of borrowal accounts for obtention of Collateral Security for Tiny Sector (i.e. Small Scale Industries where the investment in plant and machinery does not exceed Rs. 25 lakhs) has been raised from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh with immediate effect.

Clinton's Solution to Kashmir Problem

4049. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Bill Clinton, the President of America, has linked the solution of Kashmir Problem with the issue of permanent membership of India in the Security Council

and described the proposal of United Nations on Kashmir as main obstacle in this process;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Government has seen a news item in respect of what is referred to in the question, which appears to be based on remark attributed to President Clinton in a reported Press Release by a private foundation in the United States.

(c) It is Government's view that, based on every objective criteria, India has a claim to permanent membership in any expanded United Nations Security Council. Government rejects any linkage of its rightful claim to the permanent membership of an expanded United Nations Security Council to the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

[English]

Rice Processing Complex

4050. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some rice processing complexes in collaboration with some foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States where these complexes are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Farmers Right Bill, 1999

4051. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have opposed the Farmers Right Bill, 1999 in the present form and suggested that major changes are to be incorporated;

(b) if so, the suggestions made by the State Governments;

(c) whether some States have also sought amendments in the Seed Act, 1966;

(d) if so, the amendments proposed by the State Governments; and

(e) the action taken by Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 1999 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 14.12.1999 and has been referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses of Parliament for examination. The Joint Committee of the Houses during their study visits have received suggestions from various agencies/ organizations, including State Governments, on various provisions of the Bill, including the Farmers' Rights provision. Some of them have suggested for a separate and more exhaustive Chapter on Farmers' Rights.

(c) and (d) Some of the State Governments have suggested amendments in the Seeds Act relating to provisions like compulsory registration of notified and unnotified varieties, procedure for drawal of samples, responsibilities of Seed Certification Agencies, enhacement of penalty provisions, etc.

(e) a Seed Policy Review Group was constituted to review the existing legislation relating to the seeds sector and recommend amendments therein. The recommendations of the Committee are under examination by the Department.

[Translation]

Dakranala Irrigation Project

4052. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dakranala Ganga Neher Yojana in Munger district of Bihar has been completed;

(b) if so, the total expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the total land in hectares being irrigated by this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No Sir, the project is likely to spill beyond IX Plan.

(b) As per Annual Plan documents of Bihar for the year 2000-2001, an amount of Rs. 61.39 crore has been spent on Phase-I and Rs. 5.43 crore has been spent on Phase-II of the project upto March, 1999.

(c) Total land under Phase-I and Phase-II, targeted to be irrigated as per the Detailed Project Report are 17,343 Hectare and 4024 Hectare respectively.

[English]

Indo-Nepal Bilateral Treaties

4053. SHRI R.L. BHATIA:
SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered two bilateral treaties to Nepal for combating International Crime and Terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time when it was made; and

(c) the Nepal's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Government of India have transmitted through diplomatic channels a draft of a Bilateral Agreement for Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters to HMGN and a model text of an Extradition Treaty for updating the 1953 Extradition Treaty between India and Nepal consistent with the practical requirements of the two sides and current international practice.

(b) The proposed draft Agreements were transmitted on June 22, 1999. Both drafts are based on UN model texts. The proposed Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters is expected to facilitate cooperation in the investigation, prosecution and suppression of crime, including crimes related to terrorism. Updating the Extradition Treaty has been proposed to make the existing extradition arrangement between the two countries more effective, by incorporating provisions for reciprocal extradition of offenders which have become accepted international practice.

(e) His Majesty's Government of Nepal has indicated that these proposals are being examined.

Bill on Reservation

4054. SHRI BUTA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present the reservation of appointments and posts for the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes is restricted to the lowest rung of Class I services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) since when and under what circumstances this restriction was imposed and the practice before imposition of this restriction;

(d) whether the said restriction has anything to do with the so-called 'efficiency factor' in administration;

(e) if so, the details of scientific study' if any conducted in this regard;

(f) the reasons for not implementing the mandate of extending reservation policy to the higher rungs of services and appointments as provided under Article 16 (4A) incorporated to the Constitution through the 77th Amendment Act making provisions for reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of services and posts;

(g) whether the Government propose to bring out an Act of Parliament for effective implementation of the provisions of Articles 15 (4), 16 (4) and 16 (4A) of the Constitution; and

(h) if so, the progress achieved in this regard since 1993 and ths status of Bill on reservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) Reservation for SCs and STs is available in all Groups of posts which are filled up by direct recruitment and by non-selection method of promotion. Keeping in view the provisions of Article 335 of the Constitution reservation for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in the posts

filled by selection method of promotion is available upto lowest rung of Group 'A' posts.

(f) Article 16 (4A) was incorporated with the objective of continuing the policy of reservation in promotion existing prior to the incorporation of this Article.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Krishna Singh Committee

4055. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Powered Expert Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Ms. Krishna Singh, the advisor of Planning Commission has recommended to set up a Central nodal agency for implementation of all the schemes pertaining to various Ministries regarding poverty alleviation schemes;

(b) if so, the details of the poverty alleviation schemes proposed to be brought under this nodal agency; and

(c) the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has not set up a High Powered Expert Committee headed by Ms. Krishna Singh, Adviser, Planning Commission. However, a committee was set up in February, 1997 under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.R. Hashim, the then Member, Planning Commission to Review and Rationalise Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation. The programmes/schemes of the then Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment (now Ministry of Rural Development), Ministry of Welfare (now Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment), Department of Small Scale Industries, Agro & Rural Industries and Department of Women & Child Development were examined by the Committee. The Committee submitted its Report in April, 1997. The Committee recommended streamlining the existing schemes and rationalisation of norms and procedures for their implementation. There is no proposal in the Report to bring all the poverty alleviation schemes under a single Central nodal agency.

Visits of Foreign Dignitaries

4056. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Presidents, Prime Ministers, Heads of States and other important persons who visited our country during the last one year; and

(b) the agreements signed with each of them during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Sick Small Scale Industrial Units

4057. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small scale industrial units in the country are increasingly becoming sick;

(b) if so, the number of sick small industrial units in March 1997, 1998 and 1999;

(c) the total number of units functioning during the above mentioned period;

(d) the total number of employees working in these units;

(e) whether the Government have identified the reasons for these units being sick, if so, extent of the sickness in terms of percentage and the reasons therefor on an average; and

(f) the remedial measures taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) As per the data compiled by the Reserve Bank of

India (RBI) from the Scheduled Commercial Banks, the total number of sick Small Scale Industrial (SSI) Units in March, 1997, 1998 and 1999 are as under:-

As at the end of	Total number of Sick SSI Units
March, 1997	2,35,032
March, 1998	2,21,536
March, 1999	3,06,221 (P)

(P)- Provisional

(c) and (d) The total number of units functioning and number of employees working therein during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as under:-

Year	Number of Units (lakh numbers)	Employment (lakh numbers)
1996-97	28.57	160.00
1997-98	30.14	167.20
1998-99	31.21	171.58 (Pj)

(P)- Provisional; (Pj) - Projected.

(e) and (f) Incidence of sickness in the SSI sector is due to various factors such as inadequacy of credit, marketing problems, managerial inadequacies, etc. The extent of sickness in terms of percentage to total SSI units as on 31st March, 1999 (Provisional) works out to 9.8%. The Government is fully seized of the incidence of industrial sickness amongst SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which inter-alia, includes institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter-Institutional Committee, special rehabilitation cells in banks and State Financial Institutions and, elaborate guidelines issued by RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units.

[English]

Bilingual Web Sites

4058. KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have instructed all Departments to create their web sites bilingually;

(b) if so, the numbr of Ministries/Departments who have followed these instructions; and

(c) the action being contemplated against those responsible for not complying with the instructions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Official Languages has requested Ministries/Departments to make their websites bilingual. 32 Ministries/Departments have put up information in Hindi on their resepctive websites in addition to English.

Development and Modernisation of Meat

4059. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched any scheme for the improvement of quality of meat and pork and for improvement in Sheep and Buffalo breed during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives for launching the said Scheme; and

(d) the total outlay for the Ninth Five Year Plan and plan outlay for 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Government is implementing a Scheme viz. "Improvement/Modernization of Slaughter Houses/Carcass Utilisation Centre" which inter-alia aims to providing safe and wholesome meat. For improving the breed of sheep and buffalo, the Government is implementing one Scheme each for improving the stocks of sheep and buffalo respectively. Besides this, the Government is also operating one Central Sheep Breeding Farm and 7 Cattle Breeding Farms for producing upgraded stocks and distributing the same to the State Governments. The Outlay of these Schemes/Farms for the 9th Plan and year 2000-2001 is enclosed in statement.

Statement

Outlay of the scheme for improving the quality of meat and improving the breed of Sheep and Buffalo

(Rupees in Crores)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	9th Plan Outlay	Outlay for the year 2000-2001
1.	Improvement/modernisation of slaughter houses/carcass utilisation centre	55.00	2.50
2.	National Ram/Buck Production Programme	21.05	2.50
3.	National Project on Cattle Breeding (a) Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme,	320.00	32.00
	(b) National Bull Production Programme	82.20	12.00
4.	Central Sheep Bredding Farm, Hisar.	15.65	3.50
5.	Central Cattle Breeding Farm	49.53	6.35

Cost and time Overruns

4060. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge money has been blocked due to disputes between Government and contractors resulting in cost and time overruns;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter;

(c) whether Construction Industry Development Council has mooted setting up of a Arbitration Committee for speedy resolution of such disputes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) According to Construction Industry Development Council, the disputed amounts are of the tune of Rs. 52,000 crores over a period of 8-10 years. Delay in dispute resolution does contribute to time and cost overrun in projects.

(c) The Construction Industry Development Council, an autonomous body under Planning Commission have proposed to constitute an Arbitration Committee which has been approved by their Board on 15-03-2000.

(d) The details of their proposal are yet to be received by the Government.

Homes/Pensions for Old Persons

4061. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities/relief likely to be provided to Senior Citizens during the year 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that under the National Policy on old age persons recognizes all persons of the age of 60 plus as older persons;

(c) whether it is also a fact the various facilities/ concessions given by the Railways and Airlines are given to older persons of the age of 65 years and plus and also by the State Governments on various schemes drawn for this purpose including the DTC passes at concession rates in Delhi;

(d) whether the Government propose to take up this issue with the Railways/Airlines and the State Governments to recognise the age of older persons of 60 years plus for extending these concessions;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) whether the Government would consider to provide cheap shelter to homeless old persons to protect them from diseases, and weather conditions in the Metropolitan cities and other big cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANKEA GANDHI):(a) The National Policy on Older Persons, announced by the Government in January, 1999, visualises that the State will extend support for financial security, health care, shelter, welfare and other needs of older persons, provide protection against abuse and exploitation, make available opportunities for development of the potential of older persons, seek their participation and provide services so that they can improve the quality of their lives. The Policy has been circulated to all State Governments and Central Government Ministries and Departments to prepare their respective Action Plans for implementation of the Policy. As envisaged in the Policy, a Central Action Plan has also been prepared and it is expected that with its implementation Senior Citizens would get a number of facilities/relief during the year 2000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In fact, the issue was taken up with a number of Central Ministries. The Ministry of Railways have responded to say that they do not agree to lowering the age of older persons from 65 to 60 plus for extending these concessions.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The National Policy on Older Persons provides that shelter being a basic human need, housing schemes for urban and rural income segments will earmark 10% of houses/house sites for allotment to older persons. The Policy has already been circulated to all Central Ministries including the Ministry of Urban Development as also to the State Governments to consider the implementation of points relating to them including the one regarding shelter for older persons.

Racist Attacks

4062. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Alarming rise in incidents of racist attacks on Asians" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 17, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) While there are no new reports to suggest that any of the racist attacks in the U.K. have specifically targeted persons of Indian origin, such cases are usually the subject of investigation by the British authorities. The Government is continuing to monitor the course of these investigations.

High Powered Development Board

4063. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a High Powered Development Board for meeting adequate infrastructure and speedy development of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Planning Commission supplements the efforts of the State Governments for development of various sectors including infrastructure through the formula used for the distribution of Normal Central Assistance under

which Himachal Pradesh is treated as a Special Category State. Special category States derive two direct advantages from the formula used for distribution of Central assistance: (a) after setting apart funds required for externally aided projects and reasonable amounts for Special Area Programmes, 30% of the balance is provided to these States even though their share of population is much lower; and (b) Central assistance is provided to these States on liberal basis in terms of grant and loan composition i.e. the ratio of grant to loan is 90:10 while the ratio in the case of non special category States is 30:70. Further, the States contribution of 15% which is mandatory for the Basic Minimum Schemes is not applicable to the Special Category States.

In addition, Special Central Assistance is allocated to Himachal Pradesh under Special Agrea Programmes, namely the Border Area Development Programme and the Tribal sub-plan.

[Translation]

Fund for Small Scale Industrial Units

4064. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to set-up a fund to provide the loan facility to small scale industrial units;

(b) if so, the quantum thereof and the sources from which the funds are to be mobilized;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the loan requirements of small scale industries have been studied before finalising the proposal to set-up this fund; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) Setting up of a Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for the tiny sector is under active consideration of the Government.

Assistance for Agriculture by European Countries

4065. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some European countries have extended any financial or technical assistance for agriculture projects in the country during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details of the assistance and funds provided for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of assistance and funds provided for agriculture projects pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture (except the Department of Food Processing Industries which has only recently become part of the Ministry of Agriculture) are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Name of the Project	Amount of total assistance (in Rs. Crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	DANIDA (Denmark)	Women & Youth Training Extn. Project (WYTEP)	
		Phase-I	4.73
		Phase-II	8.89
2.	-do-	Tamilnadu Women in Agriculture (TANWA) Project (Tamilnadu)	
		Phase-I	4.13
		Phase-II	33.92

1	2	3	4
3.	DANIDA (Denmark)	Training & Extn. For Women in Agriculture (TEWA) (Orissa) Phase-I Phase-II	 3.22 11.85
4.	-do-	Training of Women in Agriculture (MAPWA) (M.P.)	6.24
5.	-do-	Comprehensive Watershed Development Project Phase-II (Tirunelveli) (Tamilnadu)	41.70
6.	-do-	Comprehensive Watershed Development Project Ramanathapuram (Tamilnadu)	13.00
7.	-do-	Comprehensive Watershed Development Project (Karnataka) Phase-II	21.00
8.	-do-	Comprehensive Watershed Development Project (Orissa)	13.25
9.	-do-	Comprehensie Watershed Development Project (M.P.)	17.52
10.	-do-	Livestock Development Project, Tamil Nadu Phase-II	DKK 51.480 million
11.	-do-	Integrated Livestock Development Project, Bastar (M.P.) Phase-I	DKK 28.3 million
12.	-do-	Integrated Livestock Development Project, Koraput (Orissa) Phase-I	DKK 19.9 million
13.	Germany	Watershed Management Project Karnataka	45.89
14.	-do-	Watershed Management Project Maharashtra Phase-I Phase-II	 17.93 4.50
15.	-do	Studies on heat stability of membrane concentrated milk meant for UHJ Sterilisation	DM 84,600
16.	France	Establishment of Freshwater Prawn hatchery in Maharashtra	2.90 crores
17.	-do-	Establishment of Freshwater Prawn hatchery in Gujarat	2.98 crores
18.	Netherlands	Training of Women in Agri. (TEWA), Gujarat Phase-I Phase-II	 4.92 12.13
19.	-do-	Andhra Pradesh Women in Agriculture (ANTWA)	5.71
20.	-do-	North Bengal Teral Development Project Phase-IV (West Bengal)	23.02

1	2	3	4
21.	Netherlands	Pilot Project for Reclamation of Waterlogged and Saline Land (Haryana)	8.36
22.	-do-	Agriculture Man Ecology (AME) Phase-IV	20.70
23.	-do-	Indo-Dutch Network ORP on Drainage and Water Management for Salinity Control in Canal Commands.	13.00
24.	NORAD (Norway)	Genetic Improvement for rohu for growth through selective breeding	0.63
25.	Switzerland	Indo-Swiss Participatory Watershed Development Project, Karnataka	9.19
26.	-do-	Indo-Swiss Project for Cattle breeding fodder Production and Dairy Development	3.05
27.	-do-	Indo-Swiss Project-Orissa (Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development	3.30
28.	-do-	Indo-Swiss Project-Orissa (Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development	2.64
29.	-do-	Indo-Swiss Project-Sikkim (For Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Horticulture Development	3.90
30.	-do-	Indo-Swiss Project-Sikkim (For Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Horticulture Development	4.08
31.	U.K.	Karnataka Watershed Development Project (KAWAD)	Rs. 83.40 Crores
32.	-do-	Indo-UK Collaboration on Oilseed crops Phase-II	0.45 Million UK Pound
33.	-do-	Indo-UK Collaboration Project on Forage production	1.876 million UK Pound
34.	-do-	Indo-UK Collaborative project on 'Farmers' Participatory Varietal Selection in Rabi Sorghum	Rs. 0.18 Crores
35.	-do-	Indo-UK Collaborative project on Plant Germplasm Conservation and Utilization	554,406 UK Pound
36.	-do-	Development of Cryopreservation Techniques for Long Term Conservation	48,250 UK Pound
37.	-do-	Minimising the Economic and Sociological impact of Phalaris minor in rice wheat ecosystem	212,294 UK Pound

[English]

ESI Hospitals

4066. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial workers covered under Employees' State Insurance Scheme in Orissa and the percentage of increase in coverage taking place during the last three years;

(b) the number of ESI hospitals and dispensaries in Orissa, district-wise as on date and those proposed to be set up during 2000-2001;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade or modernise some of the hospitals/dispensaries in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Number of the employees covered under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme is Orissa increased from 1,18,200 in March, 1996 to 1,29,050 in March 96 registering an increase of 9.18% in coverage during this period.

(b) There are at present five ESI hospitals i.e. one each at Brajrajnagar, Chaudwar, Jaykaypur, Kanasbahal and Bhubaneshwar functioning in Orissa. A statement showing details of the ESI Dispensaries is enclosed. One ESI hospital at Rourkela has been constructed and handed over to the State Government for commissioning. However, there is no proposal for opening for new ESI dispensary in Orissa.

(c) and (d) In order to improve health care facilities in the ESI hospitals/dispensaries, the ESIC has formulated an Action Plan and forwarded the same to the State Government including the Government of Orissa for implementation. The Action Plan includes inter-alia provision of modern equipment system in hospitals, availability of basic equipment in dispensaries, establishment of regional trauma centres, establishment of super-speciality services, blood banks, cancer treatment centres, development of indigenous system of medicines etc. The Corporation has sanctioned equipments worth Rs. 53.19 lakh to upgrade facilities in ESI hospitals/ dispensaries in Orissa.

Statement

Details of ESI Dispensaries in Orissa

S. No.	Name of the ESI Dispensary
1	2
1.	ESI Dispensary, Aska
2.	ESI Dispensary, Brajrajnagar
3.	ESI Dispensary, Bardol
4.	ESI Dispensary, Bolangir
5.	ESI Dispensary, Behrampur
6.	ESI Dispensary, Barang
7.	ESI Dispensary, Bhagatpur
8.	ESI Dispensary, Bhubaneshwar
9.	ESI Dispensary, Baripada
10.	ESI Dispensary, Barbil
11.	ESI Dispensary, Brahmanipal
12.	ESI Dispensary, Balasore
13.	ESI Dispensary, Bhadark (Randia)
14.	ESI Dispensary, Bala Gopalpur
15.	ESI Dispensary, CISF Colony, Rourkela
16.	ESI Dispensary, Choudwar
17.	ESI Dispensary, Chandinichauk
18.	ESI Dispensary, Charampa
19.	ESI Dispensary, Dhanmandal
20.	ESI Dispensary, Dhenkanal
21.	ESI Dispensary, FCI Colony, Rourkela
22.	ESI Dispensary, Ganjam
23.	ESI Dispensary, Govindpur
24.	ESI Dispensary, Hirakud
25.	ESI Dispensary, Jaykaypur
26.	ESI Dispensary, Jharsuguda
27.	ESI Dispensary, Jagatpur
28.	ESI Dispensary, Jajpur Road
29.	ESI Dispensary, Jeypore

1	2
30.	ESI Dispensary, Kansbahal
31.	ESI Dispensary, Kalunga
32.	ESI Dispensary, Kirei
33.	ESI Dispensary, Khapuria
34.	ESI Dispensary, Khurda
35.	ESI Dispensary, Mancheswar
36.	ESI Dispensary, P.P.L. Area
37.	ESI Dispensary, Naupatna
38.	ESI Dispensary, Paradeep
39.	ESI Dispensary, Rourkela
40.	ESI Dispensary, Rajgangpur-I
41.	ESI Dispensary, Rajgangpur-II
42.	ESI Dispensary, Rajabagicha
43.	ESI Dispensary, Sambalpur
44.	ESI Dispensary, Sonepur
45.	ESI Dispensary, TP Mill Area Choudwar
46.	ESI Dispensary, Tirtol
47.	ESI Dispensary, Telengapentha
48.	ESI Dispensary, Tora
49.	ESI Dispensary, IDL Chemicals Rourkela
50.	ESI Dispensary, Puri
51.	ESI Dispensary, Angul
52.	ESI Dispensary, Chhanpur

Mission Project on Household Food and Nutritional Security

4067. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has launched a three year project on household Food and Nutritional Security;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the productivity of crops cultivated in tribal, hilly and backward areas which are rich in nutrition and capable of surviving in harsh environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. ICAR has launched Mission Mode project on household Food and Nutritional Security.

(b) Objectives:

(i) Increasing production and productivity of life support crop species of pseudocereals, small millet, indigenous pulses, oilseeds and underutilized plants

(ii) Horticulture and vegetable gardening for food and nutritional security

(iii) Improving livestock productivity in the tribal, backward and hilly areas

(iv) Enhancing fresh water fish production and providing food security in tribal, backward and hilly areas

(v) Enhancing food and nutritional security through value addition and post harvest management.

(vi) Impact assessment of technology interventions and crop diversification in tribal, backward and hilly areas.

(c) Steps taken:

A project on Food and Nutritional Security with a budget provision of Rs. 1110.00 lakh has been approved for National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Pusa Campus, New Delhi as a Nodal Institute and 43 cooperating centres spread through length and breadth of the country. The activities will cover all the major tribal, hill and backward areas of the country including the North Eastern Hill Regions. The activities will be carried out by over 50 cooperating centres which include SAUs, ICAR Institutes, Central Universities and NGOs. The programme has been drawn keeping in view the need of individual centres/regions representing the different agro-ecosystem. The highest priority has been assigned to the transfer technology related activities and fine-tuning of techniques for effective transfer and adoption.

Strength of CSS Officers

4068. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the permanent strength of Central Secretariat Services in each of the grades of Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary, Section Officer and Assistant in Ministries/ Departments as on July 1, 1999;

(b) whether any norm has ever been formulated since inception of CSS Rules in 1962 in the line of other organised services for maintaining proper structural ratio of these posts in a hierarchical order;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the norms are likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Under the Central Staffing Scheme, the posts of Deputy Secretaries (DS) and Under Secretaries (US) are not specifically earmarked for any particular participating service including the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) and therefore, the sanctioned strength in these grades is not centrally maintained. However, as per the Civil List of CSS officers and the information received from the concerned Ministries/Departments the position is as follows:-

Grade	Authorised Strength
DS	133 (as on 1.5.1984)
US	631 (as on 1.6.1987)
Section Officers	2309 (as on Oct./Nov. 1999)
Assistants	4895 (-do-)

(b) to (d) No norms for maintaining any structural ratio in the aforesaid grades of CSS have been formulated nor there is any proposal under consideration in the absence of any provision in the rules for doing so. The CSS cannot be compared with other Group 'A' organised Services because it is basically a Group 'B' Service starting with Assistants (Non-Gazetted Group 'B') and Section Officers (Gazetted Group 'B') and thereafter promoted to the level of Under Secretary (Group 'A') under the Central Staffing Scheme with Deputy Secretary as the highest grade available under the CSS Rules.

[Translation]

Quality of DMS Milk

4069. SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the purity/quality of milk supplied under Delhi Milk Scheme is tested in the laboratories;

(b) if so, whether the Government have improved the quality of milk with the hike in its prices;

(c) it so, the details of the quality of milk before and after the hike in its prices;

(d) if no improvements have been made the reasons therefor; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government to improve the quality of milk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The quality/purity of Delhi Milk Scheme milk is tested by subjecting it to rigorous analytical battery of tests and is confirmed as additive-free and pure milk in the Quality Control Laboratory of Delhi Milk Scheme.

(b) to (e) Delhi Milk Scheme have always given high priority to quality and purity of milk and milk products. There has been no change in its commitment to ensure high quality standards of its products. The milk conforms to specified norms of Prevention of Food Adulteration and there has been no case of negative reporting otherwise so far.

[English]

Milk Plant Project on Fast Track

4070. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Milk Plant Project put on Fast Track" appearing in the "The Hindustan Times" dated February 27, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) This item of news pertains to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) and (c) Necessary information is being collected.

Crossing of LoC by Pakistani Forces

4071. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Government have taken up matter of crossing of LoC and attack on Indian Security Forces by Pakistani army on February 27, 2000 with the Pakistan High Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Pakistani High Commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government strongly took up the matter of the attack on Indian security forces by the Pakistani army on February 27, 2000. It condemned the cowardly and brutal action of the Pakistani forces and called upon Pakistan to respect the Line of Control.

Pakistan has continued to indulge in unprovoked firing across the Line of Control and International Border in Jammu & Kashmir to provide cover to infiltrating terrorists as well as to attract international attention so as to seek third party involvement in India-Pakistan relations. Government remain firm in their resolve to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Remunerative Price of Copra

4072. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICLUTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the remunerative prices of copra from Rs. 31.25 to Rs. 42/-;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow NABARD to purchase copra through Co-operative Marketing Committees directly from the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (e) The price policy for copra for 2000 season is under consideration of the Government. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED) has been instructed to purchase copra under Price Support Scheme (PSS) at the MSP rate of 1999 until Minimum Support Price for copra for the Current Season is announced. NAFED has already procurement operation through state level agencies viz., Kerala Coconut Growers' Federation Ltd. (KERAFED) and Kerala State Co-op. Marketing Federation Ltd. (MARKETFED) and as on 12.04.2000, a quantity of 6120 MTs of copra has been purchased under PSS by NAFED in Kerala. Further procrurement is in progress.

Consumption of Tributyl Phosphate

4073. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Rare Earth Limited and the Neclear Fuel Complex Limited (NFCL) imports Tributyl Phosphate for the consumption of their Nuclear Power Projects;

(b) if so, the source of Tributyl Phosphate and annual consumption of each of above company and the quantum of Tributyl Phosphate imported by them, during the last three years, separately; and

(c) the total amount spent by them on importing this raw material during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Indian Rare Earths Limited and Nuclear Fuel Complex do not import Tributyl Phosphate.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis

4074. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made efforts to ameliorate improve the condition of the 'Safai Karamcharis by constituting the National Commission for Safai Karamchari so as to bring them at par with others but the practice of carrying night soil on head is still going on in some States;

(b) whether the Government are providing assistance to the State Government for generating the avenues of alternative employment for them;

(c) if so, the number of Safai Karamcharis involved therein and the annual financial aid provided to these States during the year, State-wise; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government for the emanicipation of these Safai Karamcharis and generating the avenues of alternative employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis was constituted on 12th Agusut, 1994. Its term was latter extended upto 31st March, 2002. The Commission is iter-alia expected to recommend to the Central Government specific programmes of action for elimination of inequalities and status, facilities and opportunities for Safai Karamcharis, study and evaluate implementation of programmes and schemes relating to social and economic rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis.

(b) Yes, Sir. Central Assistance is provided to States/ UTs under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents for liberating them from the hereditary and inhuman occuption of manually removing of night soil and filth and providing them avenues to engage in alternative and dignified occupations.

(c) About 5.7, lakh scavengers have been identified in the country to be financially assisted under the scheme. Upon 1998-99, 1.35 lakh scavengers have been trained and 3.25 lakh scavengers assisted for rehabilitation under the scheme. During 1999-2000, Central Assistance of Rs. 70 crores has been sanctioned towards assisting 83393 scavengers, the State-wise details of which are given below:-

S.	State/UT	Central Assistance Sanctioned (Rs. In lakhs)	Scavengers likely to be assisted
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1041.055	6,025
2.	Gujarat	1160.59	15,000
3.	Madhya Pradesh	883.375	15,000
4.	Rajasthan	1661.79	22,368
5.	Tamil Nadu	2253.19	25,000
	Total	7000.00	83,393

(d) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been pursuing the State/UTs to aggressively promote the scheme and took the initiative of proposing to them, the adoption of the concept of Sanitary Marts, as is being successfully implemented in the State of West Bengal, for the liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers. Several State Governments have since adopted this concept and accordingly the proposals for the establishment of 3336 Sanitary Marts have been sanctioned during 1999-2000 at a cost of Rs. 70 crores under the scheme.

The National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) which was set up by Government of India in January, 1997 also acts as apex institution for all round socio-economic upliftment of the Safai Karamcharis and their dependents by extending to them concessional financial assistance for establishment of income generating and viable ventures/projects. The assistance includes:-

1. Term Loan assistance for projects costing upto Rs. 5 lacs to a maximum of 90% of project cost. Promoters' contribution is not to be insisted upon, upto project cost of Rs. 2.00 lacs. 100% working capital required by the unit is made part of the unit cost of financing.

2. Bridge Loan assistance provided against investment subsidy sanctioned or any other source of funds sanctioned by any recognized agencies for projects costing upto Rs. 5 lacs.

3. Grant for Skill and Entrepreneurial Development Programmes is provide upto 90%. The Corporation since inception has disbursed Rs. 34.91 crores benefiting 8473 persons in 18 States/UTs.

[English]

National Calamity Relief Committee

4075. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering suitable changes in composition and guidelines for functioning of the National Calamity Relief Committee;

(b) if so, the details of changes effected in the recent past and proposed in near future for effective functioning of the Committee;

(c) the details of proposals pending with the Committee for final decision as on date, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for their early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) is to deal with calamities of rare severity and where assistance is provided from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). The NFCR Scheme has come to an end on 31.3.2000.

(c) and (d) All the requests received last year for assistance from NFCR were considered by the NCRC and necessary follow up action was also taken by the Union Government.

Welfare Schemes for Fishermen

4076. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be plased to state:

(a) the welfare schemes formulated by the Government for the welfare of fishermen;

(b) the schemes specifically formulated to provide timely signals to the fishermen going for fishing in the sea;

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose to each State and UTs particularly for the Daman & Diu; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "National Welfare of Fishermen" scheme for the welfare of fishermen. The scheme has the following three components:-

i. Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen;

ii. Development of Model Fishermen Villages; and

iii. Saving-cum-Relief for Marine Fishermen.

(b) and (c) The Ministry is not implementing any scheme to specifically provide timely signals to the fishermen going for fishing in the sea. However, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has established six warning centres located at Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Calcutta etc. to provide advance warning in case of aderse weather conditions and cyclones for the entire east and west coasts. Warnings generated by these Cyclone Warning Centres are widely disseminated through various means of communication, such as the radio, telex, wireless, facsimile and also through satellite communications.

(d) The welfare schemes being implemented by the Government of India have been formulated after assessing the socio-economic condition of fishermen. Under these schemes, fishermen or their dependents are not only provided compensation in case of temporary or permanent disability or death but also houses, tubewells & community halls are being provided in fishermen villages. Besides, financial assistance is also given to marine fishermen during monsoon period, when they are unable to operate their traditional crafts due to turbulent sea conditions.

Kaiga Atomic Power Plant

4077. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atomic Energy Commission has adopted some villages surrounding the Kaiga Atomic Power Plant in Karantaka and develop them as model villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/propose to be taken by the Govt. to adopt and develop them as model villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Land acquisition and rehabilitation of Project Affected People (PAPs) in nuclear power projects are carried out by the respective State Governments as per the rehabilitation plan for which the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) provides funds. Developing model villages is not part of such rehabilitation programmes of the nuclear power project authorities. Although no 'model village' is 'adopted' by the NPCIL, certain welfare activities like provision of additional rooms to the existing school building, water supply, teaching materials for the nearby schools, repair to the approach road, conducting medical camps etc., are carried out by the project authorities for the benefit of the people living in the vicinity of the project, as a goodwill measure.

Aralam Farm

4078. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of cultivable land in Aralam Farm;

(b) whether the strength of work force is adequate to maintain the farm;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the matured rubber trees have not been taped on account of shortage of work force resulting a loss of lakhs of rupees; and

(e) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Total area under possession of the farm is 3060 hectares. The land fit for raising the plantation crops is 2541 hectares.

(b) There is no shortage of work force at the farm.

(c) Not applicable in view of reply to (b) above.

(d) No, all the matured trees of rubber have been tapped.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

Intent of Pak Military Regime

4079. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement made by Pak's Chief Executive, General Pervez Musharraf regarding the use of nuclear weapons by that country; and

(b) if so, whether India apprised the U.S. and other big powers about the clear intent of Pak military regime to keep the first use of nuclear option open, despite India's commitment for no first use, and the reactions of U.S. and other powers thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes Sir, the reported statement has been noted.

(b) In our interaction with other countries, Government continues to highlight Pakistan's lack of restraint on nuclear issues, which was also reflected in certain irresponsible statements made by Pakistan during the Kargil conflict. This is in contrast to India's stand of commitment to 'no-first-use' and 'minimum deterrence'. India's stand has been appreciated by the international community.

Appointments on Compassionate Ground

4080. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training regarding appointments on compassionate ground;

(b) whether a large number of applications are pending in various Ministries/Departments due to rigid interpretation of Rules by the officials;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to fix time limit for disposal fo such applications; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The

Scheme for compassionate appointment under the Central Government is contained in this Department O.M. No. 14014/6/94-Estt (D) dated 9th October, 1998 as amended from time to time. Copy of the said O.M. and amendments is enclosed as statement.

(b) to (d) Under the existing Scheme, powers to make compassionate appointment are decentralised with the respective Ministry/Department/Head of Department and as such it is their responsibility to ensure that the rules are followed before approving any such appointment on compassionate grounds. Hence, information relating to pendency of applications for compassionate appointment is not centrally collected/maintained. However, the existing scheme provides for consideration of applications received in the previous month during the second week of every month and it envisages grant of compassionate appointment within a year in really deserving cases if vacancy meant for such appointment is available within the prescribed ceiling of 5% of direct recruitment vacancies in Group C/D posts.

Statement

No. 14014/6/94-Estt (D)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension
(Department of Personnel and Training)

New Delhi 110001
October 9, 1998

Office Memorandum

Subject:- Scheme for compassionate appointment under the Central Government—Revised consolidated instructions-

The undersigned is directed to say that the existing instructions for making compassionate appointment under the Central Government have since been reviewed in the light of the various court judgements and other decisions including those taken on the various recommendations contained in the Fifth Central Pay Commission Report as well as the Study Reports of 1990 and 1994 prepared by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances on the subject and they have accordingly been revised/simplified and consolidated as in the enclosed scheme which will supercede all the existing instructions on the subject. This may be brought to the notice of all concerned for information, guidance and necessary action.

Sd/-
(K.K Jha)
Director (Establishment)

To

All Ministries/Departments of the Government of India

Copy to:-

1. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India
2. The Secretary, Union Public Service Commission
3. Rajya Sabha Secretariat
4. Lok Sabha Secretariat
5. All State Governments/Union Territories Administrations
6. All attached/subordinate offices under the Department of Personnel and Training/Ministry of Home Affairs
7. National Commission for SC/ST, New Delhi
8. National Commission for OBC, New Delhi
9. The Secretary, Staff Side, National Council
10. The Registrar General, The Supreme Court of India
11. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Sardar Patel Bhavan, New Delhi 110001
12. All Offices/Sections of DOP&T
13. Establishment (D) Section (500 copies)

Scheme for Compassionate Appointment

1. ***OBJECT***

The object of the Scheme is to grant appointment on compassionate grounds to a dependent family member of a Government servant dying in harness or who is retired on medical grounds, thereby leaving his family in penury and without any means of livelihood, to relieve the family to the Government servant concerned from financial destitution and to help it get over the emergency.

2. ***TO WHOM APPLICABLE***

To a dependent family member—

(A) of a Government servant who—

(a) dies while in service (including death by suicide); or

(b) is retired on medical grounds under Rule 2 of the CCS (Medical Examination) Rules 1957 or the corresponding provision in the Central Civil Service Regulations before attaining the age of 55 years (57 years for Group 'D' Government servants); or

(c) is retired on medical grounds under Rule 38 of the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 or the corresponding provision in the Central Civil Service Regulations before attaining the age of 55 years (57 years for Group 'D' Government servants); or

(B) of a member of the Armed Forces who—

(a) dies during service; or

(b) is killed in action; or

(c) is medically boarded out and is unfit for civil employment.

Note I "***Dependent Family Member***" means:

(a) spouse; or

(b) son (including adopted son); or

(c) daughter (including adopted daughter); or

(d) brother or sister in the case of unmarried Government servant or member of the Armed Forces referred to in (A) or (B) of this para,

— who was wholly dependent on the Government servant/member of the Armed Forces at the time of his death in harness or retirement on medical gounds, as the case may be.

Note II "***Government servant***" for the purpose of these instructions means a Govement servant appointed on regular basis and not one working daily wage or casual or apprentice or adhoc or contract or re-employment basis.

Note III "***Confirmed work-charged staff***" will also be covered by the term 'Government servant' mentioned in Note III above.

Note IV "***Service***" includes extension in service (but not re-employment) after attaining the normal age of retirement in a civil post.

Note V "***Re-employment***" does not include employment of ex-serviceman before the normal age of retirement in a civil post.

3. ***AUTHORITY COMPETENT TO MAKE COMPASSIONATE APPOINTMENT***

(a) Joint Secretary incharge of administration in the Ministry/Department concerned.

(b) Head of the Deparment under the Supplementary Rule 2 (10) in the case of attached and subordinate offices.

(c) Secretary in the Ministry/Department concerned in special types of cases.

4. ***POSTS TO WHICH SUCH APPOINTMENTS CAN BE MADE***

Group 'C' or Group 'D' posts against the direct recruitment quota.

5. ***ELIGIBILITY***

(a) The family is indigent and deserves immediate assistance for relief from financial destitution; and

(b) Applicant for compassionate appointment should be eligible and suitable for the post in all respects under the provisions of the relevant Recruitment Rules.

6. ***A.EXEMPTIONS***

Compassionate appointments are exempted from observance of the following requirements:-

(a) Recruitment procedure i.e. without the agency of the Staff Selection Commission or the Employment Exchange.

(b) Clearance from the Surplus Cell of the Department of Personnel and Training/Directorate General of Employment and Training.

(c) The ban orders on filling up of posts issued by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure).

B. RELAXATIONS

(a) Upper age limit could be relaxed wherever found to be necessary. The lower age limit should, however, in no case be relaxed below 18 years of age.

Note I Age eligibility shall be determined with reference to the date of application and not the date of appointment;

Note II Authority competent to take a final decision for making compassionate appointment in a case shall be competent to grant relaxation of upper age limit also for making such appointment.

(b) Secretary in the Ministry/Department concerned is competent to relax temporarily educational qualifications as prescribed in the relevant recruitment rules in the case of appointment at the lowest level e.g. Group 'D' or Lower Division Clerk post, in exceptional circumstances where the condition of the family is very hard provided there is no vacancy meant for compassionate appointment in a post for which the dependent family member in question is educationally qualified. Such relaxation will be permitted upto a period of two years beyond which no relaxation of educational qualifications will be admissible and the services of the person concerned, if still unqualified, are liable to be terminated.

Note In the case of an attached/subordinate office, the Secretary in the concerned administrative Ministry/ Department shall be the competent authority for this purpose.

(c) In the matter of exemption from the requirement of passing the typing test those appointed on compassionate grounds to the post of Lower Division Clerk will be governed by the general orders issued in this regard:-

(i) by the CS Division of the Department of Personnel and Training if the post is included in the Central Secretariat Clerical Service; or

(ii) by the Eastblishment Division of the Department of Personnel and Training if the post is not included in Central Secretariat Clerical Service.

(d) Where a widow is appointed on compassionate ground to a Group 'D' post, she will be exempted from the requirement of possessing the educational qualifications prescribed in the relevant rules provided the duties of the post can be satisfactorily performed by her without possessing such educational qualifications.

7. *DETERMINATION/AVAILABILITY OF VACANCIES*

(a) Appointment on compassionate grounds should be made only on regular basis and that too only if regular vacancies meant for that purpose are available.

(b) Compassionate appointments can be made upto a maximum of 5% of vacancies falling under direct recruitment quota in any Group 'C' or 'D' post. The appointing authority may hold back upto 5% of vacancies in the aforesaid categories to be filled by direct recruitment through Staff Selection Commission or otherwise so as to fill such vacancies by appointment on compassionate grounds. A person selected for appointment on compassionate grounds should be adjusted in the recruitment roster against the appropriate category viz SC/ST/OBC/General depending upon the category to which he belongs. For example, if he belongs to SC category he will be adjusted against the SC reservation point, if he is ST/OBC he will be adjusted against ST/OBC point and if he belongs to General category he will be adjusted against the vacancy point meant for General category.

(c) While the ceiling of 5% for making compassionate appointment against regular vacancies should not be circumvented by making appointment of dependent family member of Government servant on casual/daily wage/ad-hoc/contract basis against regular vacancies, there is no bar to considering him for such appointment if he is eligible as per the normal rules/orders governing such appointments.

(d) The ceiling of 5% of direct recruitment vacancies for making compassionate appointment should not be exceeded by utilising any other vacancy e.g. sports quota vacancy.

(e) Employment under the scheme is not confined to the Ministry/Department/Office in which deceased/medically retired Government servant had been working. Such an appointment can be given anywhere under the Government of India depending upon availability of a suitable vacancy meant for the purpose of compassionate appointment.

(f) If sufficient vacancies are not available in any particular office to accommodate the persons in the waiting list for compassionate appointment, it is open to the administrative Ministry/ Department/Office to take up the matter with other Ministries/Departments/Offices of the Government of India to provide at an early date appointment on compassionate grounds to those in the waiting list.

8. *BELATED REQUESTS FOR COMPASSIONATE APPOINTMENT*

(a) Ministries/Departments can consider requests for compassionate appointment even where the death or retirement on medical grounds of a Government servant took place long back, say five years or so. While considering such belated requests it should, however, be kept in view that the concept of compassionate

appointment is largely related to the need for immediate assistance to the family of the Government servant in order to relieve it from economic distress. The very fact that the family has been able to manage somehow all these years should normally be taken as adequate proof that the family had some dependable means of subsistence. Therefore, examination of such cases would call for a great deal of circumspection. The decision to make appointment on compassionate grounds in such cases may, therefore, be taken only at the level of the Secretary of the Department/Ministry concerned.

(b) Whether a request for compassionate appointment is belated or not may be decided with reference to the date of death or retirement on medical ground of a Government servant and not the age of the applicant at the time of consideration.

9. ***WIDOW APPOINTED ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS GETTING REMARRIED***

A widow appointed on compassionate grounds will be allowed to continue in service even after re-marriage.

10 ***WHERE THERE IS AN EARNING MEMBER***

(a) In deserving cases even where there is already an earning member in the family, a dependent family member may be considered for compassionate appointment with prior approval of the Secretary of the Department/Ministry concerned who, before approving such appointment, will satisfy himself that grant of compassionate appointment is justified having regard to number of dependents, assets and liabilities left by the Government servant, income of the earning member as also his liabilities including the fact that the earning member is residing with the family of the Government servant and whether he should not be a source of support to other members of the family.

(b) In cases where any member of the family of the deceased or medically retired Government servant is already in employment and is not supporting the other members of the family of the Government servant, extreme caution has to be observed in ascertaining the economic distress of the members of the family of the Government servant so that the facility of appointment on compassionate ground is not circumvented and misused by putting forward the ground that the member of the family already employed is not supporting the family.

11 ***MISSING GOVERNMENT SERVANT***

Cases of missing Government servants are also covered under the scheme for compassionate appointment subject to the following conditions:-

(a) A request to grant the benefit of compassionate appointment can be considered only after a lapse of at least 2 years from the date from which the Government servant has been missing, provided that:

(i) an FIR to this effect has been lodged with the Police,

(ii) the missing person is not traceable, and

(iii) the competent authority feels that the case is genuine;

(b) This benefit will not be applicable to the case of a Government servant:-

(i) who had less than two years to retire on the date from which he has been missing; or

(ii) who is suspected to have committed fraud, or suspected to have joined any terrorist organisation or suspected to have gone abroad.

(c) Compassionate appointment in the case of a missing Government servant also would not be a matter of right as in the case of others and it will be subject to fulfilment of all the conditions, including the availability of vacancy, laid down for such appointment under the scheme;

(d) While considering such a request, the results of the Police investigation should also be taken into account; and

(e) A decision on any such request for compassionate appointment should be taken only at the level of the Secretary of the Ministry/ Department concerned.

12. ***PROCEDURE***

(a) The proforma as in Annexure may be used by Ministries/Departments/Offices for ascertaining necessary information and processing the cases of compassionate appointment.

(b) The Welfare Officer in each Ministry/Department/ Office should meet the members of the family of the Government servant in question immediately after his death to advise and assist them in getting appointment on compassionate grounds. The applicant should be called in person at the very first stage and advised in person about the requirements and formalities to be completed by him.

(c) An application for appointment on compassionate grounds should be considered in the light of the instructions issued from time to time by the Department of Personnel and Training (Establishment Division) on the subject by a committee of officers consisting of three officers-one Chairman and two Members-of the rank of Deputy Secretary/Director in the Ministry/ Department and officers of equivalent rank in the case of attached and subordinate offices. The Welfare Officer may also be made one of the Members/Chairman of the committee depending upon his rank. The committee may meet during the second week of every month to consider cases received during the previous month. The applicant may also be granted personal hearing by the committee, if necessary, for better appreciation of the facts of the case.

(d) Recommendation of the committee should be placed before the competent authority for a decision. If the competent authority disagrees with the committee's recommendation, the case may be referred to the next higher authority for a decision.

13. *UNDERTAKING*

A person appointed on compassionate grouds under the scheme should give an undertaking in writing (as in Annexure) that he/she will maintain properly the other family members who were dependent on the Government servant/member of the Armed Forces in question and in case it is proved subsequently (at any time) that the family members are being neglected or are not being maintained properly by him/her, his/her appointment may be terminated forthwith.

14. *REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN POST/PERSON*

When a person has been appointed on compassionate grounds to a particular post, the set of circumstances, which led to such appointment, should be deemed to have ceased to exist. Therefore,--

(a) he/she should strive in his/her career like his/ her colleagues for future advancement and any request for appointment to any higher post on considerations of compassion should invariably be rejected.

(b) an appointment made on compassionate grounds cannot be transferred to any other person and any request for the same on considerations of compassion should invariably be rejected.

15. *SENIORITY*

(a) The inter-se seniority of persons appointed on compassionate grounds may be fixed with reference to their date of appointment. Their interpolation with the direct recruits/promotees may also be made with reference to their dates of appointment without disturbing the inter-se seniority of direct recruits/promotees.

(b) Date of joining by a person appointed on compassionate grounds shall be treated as the date of his/her regular appointment.

16. *GENERAL*

(a) Appointments made on grounds of compassion should be done in such a way that persons appointed to the post do have the essential educational and technical qualifications and experience required for the post consistent with the requirement of maintenance of efficiency of administration.

(b) It is not the intention to restrict employment of a family member of the deceased or medically retired Group 'D' Government servant to a Group 'D' post only. As such, a family member of such Group 'D' Government servant can be appointed to Group 'C' post for which he/she is educationally qualified, provided a vacancy in Group 'C' post exists for this purpose.

(c) The Scheme of compassionate appointments was conceived as far back as 1958. Since then a number of welfare measures have been introduced by the Government which have made a significant difference in the financial position of the families of the Government servants dying in harness/retired on medical grounds. An

application for compassionate appointment should, however, not be rejected merely on the ground that the family of the Government servant has received the benefits under the various welfare schemes. While considering a request for appointment on compassionate ground a balanced and objective assessment of the financial condition of the family has to be made taking into account its assets and liabilities (including the benefits received under the various welfare schemes mentioned above) and all other relevant factor such as the presence of an earning member, size of the family, ages of the children and the essential needs of the family, etc.

(d) Compassionate appointment should not be denied for delayed merely on the ground that there is reorganisation in the Ministry/ Department/Office. It should be made available to the person concerned if there is a vacancy meant for compassionate appointment and he or she is found eligible and suitable under the scheme.

(e) Requests for compassionate appointment consequent on death or retirement on medical grounds of Group 'D' staff may be considered with greater sympathy by applying relaxed standards depending on the facts and circumstances of the case.

(f) Compassionate appointment will have precedence over absorption of surplus employees and regularisation of daily wage/ casual workers with/without temporary status.

(g) Any request to increase the upper age-limit of 55 years for retirement on medical gounds prescribed in para 2 (a), (b) and (c) above in respect of Group 'A'/'B'/'C' Government servants and to bring it at par with the upper age-limit of 57 years prescribed therein for Group 'D' Government servants on the ground that the age of retirement has recently (May, 1998 been raised from 58 years to 60 years for Group 'A'/ 'B'/'C' Government servants (which is at par with the age of retirement of 60 years applicable to Group 'D' Government servants) or on any other ground should invariably be rejected so as to ensure that the benefit of compassionate appointment available under the scheme is not misused by seeking retirement on medical grounds at the fag end of one's career and also keeping in view the fact that the higher upper age-limit of 57 years has been prescribed therein for Group 'D' Government servants for the reason that they are low paid Government servants who get meagre invalid pension in comparsion to others.

17. *IMPORTANT COURT JUDGEMENTS*

The ruling contained in the following judgements may also be kept in view while considering cases of compassionate appointment:-

(a) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated April, 8, 1993 in the case of *Auditor General of India and others vs. G. Ananta Rajeswara Rao* [(1994) 1 SCC 192] has held that appointment on grounds of descent clearly violates Article 16 (2) of the Constitution; but if the appointment is confined to the son or daughter or widow of the Government servant sho died in harness and who needs immediate appointment on gruonds of immediate need of assistance in the event of there being no other earning member in the family to supplement the loss of income from the bread winner to relieve the economic distress of the members of the family, it is unexceptionable.

(b) The Supreme Court's judgement dated May 4, 1994 in the case of *Umesh Kumar Nagpal vs. State of Haryana and others* [JT 1994 (3) S.C. 525] has laid down the following important principles in this regard:

(i) Only dependents of an employee dying in harness leaving his family in penury and without any means of livelihood can be appointed on compassionate ground.

(ii) The posts in Group 'C' and 'D' (formerly Class III and IV) are the lowest posts in non-manual and manual categories and hence they alone can be offered on compassionate grounds and no other post i.e. in the Group 'A' or Group 'B' category is expected or required to be given for this purpose as it is legally impermissible.

(iii) The whole object of granting compassionate appointment is to enable the family to tide over the sudden crisis and to relieve the family of the deceased from financial destitution and to help it get over the emergency.

(iv) Offering compassionate appointment as a matter of course irrespective of the financial condition of the family of the deceased or medically retired Government servant is legally impermissible.

(v) Neither the qualifications of the applicant (dependent family member) nor the post held

by the deceased or medically retired Government servant is relevant. If the applicant finds it below his dignity to accept the post offered, he is free not to do so. The post is not offered to cater to his status but to see the family through the economic calamity.

(vi) Compassionate appointment cannot be granted after lapse of a reasonable period and it is not a vested right which can be exercised at any time in future.

(vii) Compassionate appointment cannot be offered by an individual functionary on an ad-hoc basis.

(c) The Supreme Court has held in its judgement dated February 28, 1995 in the case of the *Life Insurance Corporation of India vs. Mrs Asha Ramchandra Ambekar and others* [JT 1994 (2) S.C. 183] that the High Courts and Administrative Tribunals can not give direction for appointment of a person on compassionate grounds but can merely direct consideration of the claim for such an appointment.

(d) The Supreme Court has ruled in the cases of *Himachal Road Transport Corporation vs. Dinesh Kumar* [JT 1996 (5) S.C. 319] on May, 7, 1996 and *Hindustan Aeronautics Limited vs. Smt. A. Radhika Thirumalai* [JT 1996 (9) S.C. 197] on October 9, 1996 that appointment on compassionate grounds can be made only if a vacancy is available for that purpose.

(e) The Supreme Court has held in its judgement in the case of *State of Haryana and others vs. Rani Devi and others* [JT 1996 (6) S.C. 646] on July 15, 1996 that if the scheme regarding appointment on compassionate ground is extended to all sorts of casual, ad-hoc employees including those who are working as Apprentices, then such scheme cannot be justified on Constitutional grounds.

PROFORMA REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OF DEPENDENTS OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS DYING WHILE IN SERVICE/RETIRED ON INVALID PENSION

PART-A

I. (a) Name of the Government servant (Deceased/retired on medical grounds). _____

(b) Designation of the Government servant. _____

(c) Whether it is Group 'D' or not? _____

(d) Date of birth of the Government servant. _____

(e) Date of death/retirement on medical grounds. _____

(f) Total length of service rendered. _____

(g) Whether permanent or temporary. _____

(h) Whether belonging to SC/ST/OBC _____

II. (a) Name of the candidate for appointment. _____

(b) His/Her relationship with the Government servant. _____

(c) Date of birth. _____

(d) Educational Qualifications. _____

(e) Whether any other dependent family member has been appointed on compassionate grounds. _____

III.Particulars of total assets left including amount of:-

(a) Family pension _____

(b) D.C.R. Gratuity _____

(c) G.P.F. Balance _____

(d) Life Insurance Policies (including Postal Life Insurance) _____

(e) Moveable and immovable properties and annual income earned therefrom by the family. _____

(f) C.G.E. Insurance amount _____

(g) Encashment of leave _____

(h) Any other assets _____

Total _____

IV.Brief particulars of liabilities, if any. _____

_____

V. Particulars of all dependent family members of the Government servant (if some are employed, their income and whether they are living together or separately)

S. No.	Name (s)	Relationship with the Government servant	Age	Address	Employed or not (If employed particulars of employment and emoluments)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					

VI. DECLARATION/UNDERTAKING

1. I hereby declare that the facts given by me above are, to the best of my knowledge, correct. If any of the facts herein mentioned are found to be incorrect or false at a future date, my services may be terminated.

2. I hereby also declare that I shall maintain properly the other family members who were dependent on the Government servant/member of the Armed Forces mentioned against I (a) of Part-A of this form and in case it is proved at any time that the said family members are being neglected or not being properly maintained by me, my appointment may be terminated.

Date: Signature of the candidate

Name:- _____

Address:- _____

_____

Shri/Smt/Kum.....is known to me and the facts mentioned by him/her are correct.

Date: Signature of permanent Government servant

Name:- _____

Address:- _____

_____

I have verified that the facts mentioned above by the candidate are correct.

Date: Signature of the Welfare Officer

Name:- _____

Address:- _____

_____

PART-B

(TO BE FILLED IN BY OFFICE IN WHICH EMPLOYMENT IS PROPOSED)

I. (a) Name of the candidate for appointment _____

(b) His/Her relationship with the Government servant _____

(c) Age (date of birth), educational qualifications and experience, if any. _____

(d) Post for which employment is proposed and whether it is Group 'C' or 'D'. _____

(e) Whether there is vacancy in that post within the ceiling of 5% prescribed under the scheme of compassionate appointment. _____

(f) Whether the post to be filled is included in the Central Secretariat Clerical Service or not. _____

(g) Whether the relevant Recruitment Rules provide for direct recruitment. _____

(h) Whether the candidate fulfils the requirements of the Recruitment Rules for the post. _____

(i) Apart from waiver of Employment Exchange/Staff Selection Commission procedure what other relaxations are to be given. _____

II. Whether the facts mentioned in Part-A have been verified by the office and if so, indicate the records.

III. If the Government servant died/retired on medical grounds more than 5 years back, why the case was not sponsored earlier.

IV. Personal recommendation of the Head of the Department in the Ministry/Department/Office. (With his signature and office stamp/seal).

F. No. 14014/23/99-Estt. (D)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Personnel and Training

New Delhi 110001
December 3, 1999

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:- Time-limit for making Compassionate Appointment

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Department of Personnel and Training Office Memorandum No. 14014/6/94-Esst. (D) dated October 9, 1998 on the above subject and to say that the question of prescribing a time-limit for making appointment on compassionate grounds has received due consideration taking into account the ceiling of 5% of vacancies falling under direct recruitment quota in any Group 'C' or 'D' post prescribed in this regard in paragraph 7 (b) *ibid* and the ruling of the Supreme Court that appointment on compassionate grounds can be made only if vacancies are available for the purpose [mentioned in paragraph 17 (d) *ibid*]. Accordingly, it has been decided that the Committee prescribed in paragraph 12 *ibid* for considering a request for appointment on compassionate grounds should take into account the position regarding availability of vacancy for such appointment and it should recommend appointment on compassionate grounds only in a really deserving case and only if vacancy menat for appointment on compassionate grounds will be available within a year, that too within the ceiling of 5% mentioned above. This would ensure grant of compassionate appointment within a year. In respect of other really deserving cases the Committee should only recommend taking up the matter with other Ministries/Departments/Offices of the Government of India to consider those cases for appointment there as provided in paragraph 7 (f) *ibid*.

2. The instructions contained in the Office Memorandum dated October 9, 1998 stand modified to the extent mentioned above.

3. The above decision may be brought to the notice of all concerned for information, guidance and necessary action.

Sd/-
(K.K Jha)
Director (Establishment)

To

All Ministries/Departments of the Government of India

Copy to:-

1. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India
2. The Secretary, Union Public Service Commission
3. Rajya Sabha Secretariat
4. Lok Sabha Secretariat
5. All State Governments/Unoin Territory Administrations
6. All attached/subordiante offices under the Department of Personnel and Training/Ministry of Home Affairs
7. National Commission for SCs/STs, New Delhi
8. National Commission for OBCs, New Delhi
9. The Secretary, Staff Side, National Council
10. The Registrar General, The Supreme Court of India
11. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Sardar Patel Bhavan, New Delhi-110001
12. All Officers/Sections of DoP&T
13. Establishment (D) Section (500 copies)

No. 14014/16/99-Estt. (D)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training

New Delhi 110001
December 20, 1999

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Compassionate appointment—Maintenance of other dependent family members of the deceased Government servant by the appointee.

The undersigned is directed to say that according to paragraph 13 of the Department of Personnel and Training Office Memorandum No. 14014/6/94-Estt (D) dated October 9, 1998 on the above subject a person appointed on compassionate grounds under the scheme should give an undertaking in writing that he/she will maintain properly the other family members who were dependent on the Government servant/member of the Armed Forces in question and in case it is proved subsequently (at any time) that the family members are being neglected or are not being maintained properly by him/her, his/her appointment may be terminated forthwith. The question of its legal enforceability has been examined in consultation with the Ministry of Law (Department of Legal Affairs) and it has been decided that it should be incorporated as one of the additional conditions in the offer of appointment applicable only in the case of appointment on compassionate grounds.

2. The relevant instructions contained in the aforesaid Office Memorandum dated October 9, 1998 stand modified to the extent mentioned above.

3. The above decision may be brought to the notice of all concerned for information, guidance and necessary action.

Sd/-
(K.K. Jha)
Director (Establishment)

To

All Ministries/Departments of the Government of India

Copy to:-

1. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India
2. The Secretary, Union Public Service Commission
3. Rajya Sabha Secretariat
4. Lok Sabha Secretariat
5. All State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.
6. All attached/subordinate offices under the Department of Personnel and Training/Ministry of Home Affairs
7. National Commission for SCs/STs, New Delhi
8. National Commission for OBCs, New Delhi
9. The Secretary, Staff Side, National Council
10. The Registrar General, The Supreme Court of India
11. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Sardar Patel Bhavan, New Delhi-110001.
12. All Officers/Sections of DOP&T
13. Establishment (D) Section (500 copies)

No. 14014/24/99-Estt (D)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training

New Delhi 110001
December 28, 1999

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Compassionate appointment-Calculation of vacancies by grouping of posts.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Department of Personnel and Training Office Memorandum No. 14014/6/94-Estt (D) dated October 9, 1998 on the above subject and to say that the question of non-availability of vacancies for appointment on compassionate grounds within the ceiling of 5% of vacancies falling under direct recruitment quota in any Group 'C' or 'D' post prescribed in this regard in paragraph 7 (b) *ibid* particularly in small Offices/Cadres has been considered by the Government keeping in view difficulties being experienced in this regard even in genuine/deserving cases.

2. Accordingly, it has been decided to allow grouping of posts in small Offices/Cadres for the purpose of calculation of vacancies for appointment on compassionate grounds. Consequently, Group 'C'/'D' posts in which there

are less than 20 direct recruitment vacancies in a recruitment year may be grouped together and out of the total number of vacancies 5% may be filled on compassionate grounds subject to the condition that appointment on compassionate grounds in any such post should not exceed one.

3. It is also clarified that for the purpose of calculation of vacancies for compassionate appointment, fraction of a vacancy either half or exceeding half but less than one may be taken as one vacancy.

4. The instruction on the subject contained in the Office Memorandum No. 14014/6/94-Estt (D) dated October 9, 1998 stand modified to the extent mentioned above.

5. The above decision may be brought to the notice of all concerned for information, guidance and necessary action.

Sd/-
(K.K. Jha)
Director (Establishment)

To

All Ministries/Departments of the Government of India

Copy to:-

1. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India
2. The Secretary, Union Public Service Commission
3. Rajya Sabha Secretariat
4. Lok Sabha Secretariat
5. All State Governments/Union Territory Administrations
6. All attached/subordinate offices under the Department of Personnel and Training/Ministry of Home Affairs
7. National Commission for SC/ST, New Delhi
8. National Commission for OBC, New Delhi
9. The Secretary, Staff Side, National Council
10. The Registrar General, The Supreme Court of India
11. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Sardar Patel Bhavan, New Delhi-110001.
12. All Officers/Sections of the Department of Personnel and Training
13. Establishment (D) Section-(500 copies)

Training to Women Workers

4081. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large number of farm women workers of the country have been imparted training in the latest technologies of agriculture and allied subjects during each of the last three financial years;

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

(c) the total amount spent during each year on such training;

(d) whether the Government propose to train more farm women workers of country during next three financial years; and

(e) if so, details thereof States and Territory-wise during each year with criteria for participation in the training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) The details of total amount spent each year are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The details of farm women to be trained in the next 3 years are given in the enclosed statement-III.

The "practising women farmers" i.e. women actually engaged in agricultural operations from Small & Marginal farm families are only selected for participation in training programmes.

Statement-I

The details of Farm Women Trained under the Central Sector Scheme of Women in Agriculture and Externally Aided Projects with Danish and Dutch Assistance are:

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of the Scheme	Number of Farm Women Trained 1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Maharashtra	Central Sector Scheme of Women in Agriculture	4,160	4,160	6,390
2.	Haryana	-do-	4,780	4,800	4,400
3.	Rajasthan	-do-	4,360	4,160	3,430
4.	Himachal Pradesh	-do-	5,010	4,415	5,755
5.	Uttar Pradesh	-do-	4,360	3,780	3,815
6.	Kerala	-do-	2,300	4,210	4,200
7.	Punjab	-do-	4,060	3,550	4,385
	Total:		29,030	29,075	32,395
1.	Karnataka	Danish Assisted Project	3,250	3,540	3,862
2.	Tamil Nadu	-do-	10,748	11,948	5,348
3.	Orissa	-do-	37,787	23,073	39,562
4.	Madhya Pradesh	-do-	350	3,410	4,800
	Total		52,135	41,971	53,572
1.	Gujarat	Dutch Assisted Project	11,753	8,687	17,207
2.	Andhra Pradesh	-do-	11,442	11,049	11,281
	Total		23,195	19,736	28,488

Statement-II

Details of the Total Amount Spent/Total Cost of the Project

I. Central Sector Scheme of 'Women in Agriculture'

Total amount spent during the Central Sector Scheme of Women in Agriculture for the last three year is:

1996-97	Rs. 46.87 Lakhs
1997-98	Rs. 39.66 Lakhs
1998-99	Rs. 41.94 Lakhs

II. Externally Aided Projects

The total cost of the Externally Aided Projects is as given below:

A. Danish Assisted Project:*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Duration	Total Cost of the Project
1.	Karnataka Phase II	1981 to May, 2000	18.89 Crores
2.	Tamil Nadu Phase II	30.9.93 to 31.3.2000	33.92 Crores
3.	Orissa Phase II	1.7.95 to 30.6.2000	11.85 Crores
4.	Madhya Pradesh Phase I	11.11.93 to Dec. 2000	6.24 Crores

B. Dutch Assisted Project:*

1.	Gujarat Phase II	1.7.97 to 30.6.2003	12.13 Crores
2.	Andhra Pradesh Phase II	24.8.93 to 31.8.99	5.71 Crores

* The funds of the Danish/Dutch assisted projects are not routed through the Budget of the Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation but funded directly to the States.

Statement-III

Projected Targets to Train Women farmers under the various Components of Central Sector Scheme of Women in Agriculture for the next 3 years in 12 States of the country namely Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Rajasthan, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

(A) (Number of farm Women to be trained)

	Component	99-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Sandwich Training Reinforcement	5250	5250	5250
2.	Village Based Training/Refresher Training	3750	3750	3750
3.	Link Workers Training	360	360	360
4.	Mahila Goshti	7200	7200	7200
5.	Study Tours	600	600	600
6.	Result Demonstrations	1200	1200	1200
	Total	18,360	18,360	18,360

Farm Women proposed to be trained under the Externally Aided Projects:

B. With DANISH & DUTCH Assistance:

Externally aided projects with Danish Assistance are in operation in the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa & M.P. The States of Gujarat & A.P. are implementing the DUTCH assisted projects.

The training/extension support to farm women will be provided as per the Action Plan of each project duly approved by the respective Project Empowered Committees. The patern of assistance/quantum of training under these projects will be very much on the line of the preceding years.

C. UNDP Funded Food Security Programme:

Three Sub-programmes for Training/Empowerment of Women have been signed under UNDP Food Security Programme in the States of U.P., A.P. & Orissa. The No. of farm women to be trained under these Sub-programmes in the next three years are:

(i)	U.P.	:	6000 Farm Women
(ii)	A.P.		14000 Farm Women
(iii)	Orissa		14000 Farm Women
(iii)	(a) Cyclone affected districts of Orissa		8000 Farm Women

Fake Passports to ULFA Militants

4082. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Pakistan envoy in Dhaka aiding ulfa;; Mahanta", appearing in the 'Asian Age' dated March 15, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to available information, the ULFA leadership is in close touch with some officials of the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka. There is also information that suggests that some ULFA leaders have procured foreign passports through fraudulent means.

Government have been regularly taking up various security related issues including cross-border terrorism and ISI's activities with Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries. During the India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group meeting on January 24-26, 2000, both sides reconfirmed their resolve not to allow undesirable elements to use their territories for activities prejudicial to the security interests of the other and agreed to share actionable intelligence through nodal officers.

Ban on Di-Calcium Phosphate

4083. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Di-Calcium Phosphate (Bone Based) is banned by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB);

(b) if so, the guidelines issued by NDDB on Di-Calcium Phosphate;

(c) whether the guidelines of NDDB banning Di-Calcium Phosphate are applicable to poultry and acqua feeds; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The NDDB has only advised the Dairy Co-operative Unions/Federations to use Di-Calcium Phosphate of rock origin which has been deflourinated as per BIS specifications and not to use Di-Calcium Phosphate of bone origin. No specific guidelines have been issued.

[Translation]

Central Sector Projects

4084. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Central Sector Projects in Bihar which were scheduled to be completed-during the term of Eighth Five Year Plan but have not yet been completed so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, project-wise; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to complete them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) As on 1.4.1997, 10 projects were due to be completed in Bihar during the Eighth Plan Period. Of these, 6 projects have been completed so far, 2 projects are in advance stage of completion and the remaining two are due to be completed by March, 2001. The details of 4 delayed projects are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The efforts made by the Government for completion of these projects are as follows:

(i) Monthly as well as quarterly monitoring by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation with a view to identify constraints and suggest remedial measures;

Statement

Projects in the State of Bihar due for commissioning in 8th Plan (As on 01.01.2000)

UNIT : (Cost/Expenditure: Rs. In Crores)

Sl. No.	Project (District) (State)	Capacity	Date of Govt. Appro. ORGNL (RVSD)	Date of Commissioning Original (Revised)	Date of Commissioning Anti-cipated (L.Rep.)	Time Over Run (Months) Total (% on Original)	Time Over Run (Months) Addl over Last QTR.	Time Over Run (Months) Tot. % on Revised)	Cost Approved Orginal (Revised)	Cost Anticipated	% Cost Over-Run on Original (Revised)	Cumulative Expenditure	Physical Progress %	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
Sector: Atomic Energy UCIL														
1.	Marwapahar J'guda Until Singhbum Bihar	TPY 326 0308	1989/04 1994/11	1993/12 1995/09	2000/03	75 134	3	54 70	495.54 311.41	306.74	-38 -1	299.57	99.90	Project almost complete. Mining under way.
Sector: Coal BCCL														
2.	Pootkee Balihari UG Dhanbad Bihar	3.00 1.00 MTY	1983/12 1997/04	1994/03 2000/03	2001/03	84 68	0	12 6	199.87 199.87	181.94	-9 -9	167.94		The capacity of the project is proposed, to be derated to 0.68 Million tonnes per year.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
CCL														
3.	Ray-Bachra UG Ranchi Bihar	0.60 MTY	1991/03	1997/03	2000/03	36 50	0	36 50	30.19	30.19	0 0	17.51	-	Project to be completed at derated capacity of 0.8 MTY.
SECTOR: Railways RE														
4.	Gumia-Patratu Bihar	KMS 72	1992/03	1997/03	N.A. 1998/03	N.A. N.A.	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	27.25 32.64	32.64	20 0	31.92	100.00	Electrification Completed. Train services introduced.

Glossary
UCL : Uranium Corporation of India Ltd., BCCL: Bharat Coking Coals Ltd. CCL: Central Coilfields Ltd.
RE : Rly Electrification.

[English]

SAIL

4085. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India propose to go in for e-commerce;

(b) if so, whether SAIL is planning to enter into partnership for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which this strategy is likely to help SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Steel Authority of India Lmited (SAIL) is currently making an assessment of the emerging importance of e-commerce in the Steel Industry and its relevance to SAIL. SAIL is considering to go in for e-commerce to optimise its business operations.

(b) and (c) Exercising the option of entering into partnership in the e-commerce area by SAIL is dependent on the overall economic benefits which are likely to accrue in such an arrangement.

(d) The adoption of e-commerce solutions in SAIL could help, inter-alia, in increasing its marketing network on account of the following:

(i) information on SAIL's product mix and availability of SAIL's products would be easily available to potential customers.

(ii) customer reach is likely to increase, particularly in the export area.

Lokpal/Lokayuktas

4086. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint Lokpal during 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken to appoint the Lokpal; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government till date to finalise the process of the appointment of Lokayuktas in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) The Lokpal Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3.8.1998 to set up the institution of Lokpal. The Bill, however, lapsed on the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha on 26.4.1999. The Government has already initiated action for enactment of the legislation relating to Lokpal and is committed to do it at the earliest.

(e) The matter falls within the jurisdiction of the respective State Governments.

Invitation to Militants

4087. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two day conference being organized by 'Switzerland Campaign to ban landmines' has extended an invitation to militants from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Government is aware that a two day conference 'Engaging Non-State Actors in a Landmine Ban', organized by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), was held at the Geneva International Centre on March 24-25, 2000. The campaign was convened by the 'Working Group on Non-State Actors of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)' and directly organized by six NGOs including the Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines. The objective of the Conference was to complement the Ottawa Treaty entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Production, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction", which covers state parties, by trying to bring in non-state actors also into the process. Two representatives of indian, NGO's namely, the Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament and Environmental Protection, Nagpur and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi, attended the Conference.

(c) Government has consistently highlighted the need for greater vigilance by States so that anti-personnel-landmines are not transferred to non-State actors. Government has also drawn attention of the international community to the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines and improvised explosive devices by non-State actors operating in India and has called for a ban on all transfers of such weapons to non-State actors.

Steel Melting Shop

4088. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAIL has issued International Tender for installation of steel melting shop and production of stainless slabs at Salem Steel Plant instead of using Alloy Steel Plant in a better way; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has issued a global tender inviting experienced and competent companies [Strategic Partners (s)] to establish suitable stainless steel making and slab casting facilities at Salem in a Joint Venture (JV) with SAIL. Expression of Interest (EOI) has been sought for formation of JV company for either or both of the options indicated below:

I. Formation of JVC for setting up stainless steel melting, refining and casting facilities.

II. Formation of JVC through equity participation in Salem Steel Plant.

Rehabilitation of Scavengers

4089. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are committed for complete eradication of manual scavenging in the country;

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

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Scavengers rehabilitation Plan faces financial crunch" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* on February 14, 2000;

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

(e) whether it is a fact that Government has not sanctioned any fund during 1999-2000 for rehabilitation of scavengers;

(f) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(g) whether it is a fact that despite having set up Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) many of the States are learnt to have faltered in following its guidelines; and

(h) if so, the names of the States and corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government launched the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents in March 1992, to liberate and rehabilitate scavengers and their dependents from the hereditary and inhuman occupation of manually removing night soil and filth. The objective of the scheme is to provide for and engage them in alternative and dignified occupations. Under the scheme, 1.35 lakh scavengers have been trained in alternate occupations and assistance given to 3.25 lakh scavengers for their rehabilitation upto 1998-99.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been pursuing States/UTs to aggressively promote the scheme and took the initiative of proposing to them, the adoption of concept of Sanitary Marts to provide alternate employment to scavengers. Several States accordingly came up with proposals and Central Assistance of Rs. 70 crores was sanctioned to them during 1999-2000, for setting up of 3336 Sanitary Marts covering 83,393 scavengers.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) In the State of West Bengal, the recognized Placement Agencies have obtained a Stay Order from the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta exempting them from obtaining a No Objection Certificate from Central Adoption Resource Agency as is required under para 2.14 of the Revised Guidelines for Adoption of Indian Children. Steps are being taken for getting the said Order of the Hon'ble High Court vacated.

[Translation]

Renovation of Irrigation Projects

4090. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the major and medium irrigation projects in the country which have been taken up for extension, renovation and modernisation during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the estimated cost of each project and amount spent thereon during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether most of these projects have witnessed abnormal cost escalation and time overrun;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government have not cleared some of these projects till date; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government for speedy clearance of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) State-wise number of on-going extension/renovation/modernization schemes is given in the enclosed Statement-I

(b) The details of estimated cost and expenditure incurred is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are taken up for implementation by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources as per their own priorities. The completion period and increase in estimated cost of a major project depends on various factors such as its size, availabilities of land, obtaining clearances from various central appraising agencies by the State Governments, geological conditions etc. Equally important are the funds allotted by State Governments to individual projects.

(e) and (f) The clearance of extension, renovation and modernization projects is linked with the promptness with which the State Governments comply with the observations of Central Appraising Agencies.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State	ERM
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3.	Assam	3
4.	Bihar	1
5.	Goa	1
6.	Gujarat	9
7.	Haryana	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1

1	2	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5
10.	Kerala	2
11.	Karnataka	3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4
13.	Maharashtra	6
14.	Manipur	4
15.	Meghalaya	—
16.	Mizroam	—
17.	Nagaland	—
18.	Orissa	1
19.	Punjab	8
20.	Rajasthan	5
21.	Sikkim	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	1
23.	Tripura	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	6
25.	West Bengal	6
	Total	74

Statement-II

Ongoing ERM Projects of IX Plan

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Plan of Start	Estimated Cost		Cumulative Expenditure up to end of 3/97	Ultimate Potential (Th. Ha.)	Potential Created upto end of VIII Plan (Th. Ha.)	Expenditure during IX Plan		Outlay of 1999-2000	Remarks
			Original	Latest				Expnd. 97-98 (Actual)	Expend. 98-99 (Antd.)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Andhra Pradesh											
1.	Tungabhadra HLC Bt. II	III	11.95	467.26	171.77	79.62	48.00	6.39	13.50	10.00	
2.	Godavari Barrage	IV	26.59	191.65	163.05	Stabilisation	—	4.48	6.00	4.00	
3.	Improvement of Nizam Sagar	V	U.A.	83.55	24.56	-do-	—	7.09	4.76	2.00	
4.	K.C. Canal Mod. Including Sunkesula Barrage & Aloganur Res.	VIII	674.29	674.29	120.27	-do-	—	17.40	52.29	70.00	
Assam											
5.	Mod. of Jamuna	VIII	60.27	25.00	0.31	13.76	00	0.0	0.0	0.0	
6.	Mod. of Sukla	VIII	U.A.	25.00	0.26	9.05	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	
7.	Mod. of Longa	IX	U.A.	10.00	—	4.63	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Bihar											
8.	Sone Mod.	VII	235.93	304.07	34.73	48.60	17.50	18.51	16.97	55.00	
Goa											
9.	Mod. of Anjunem	IX	U.A.	4.08	0.00	N.A.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Gujarat											
10.	Mod. of Canals of Fatewadi	VI	24.77	64.62	49.11	4.33	4.62	4.15	0.70	2.25	
11.	Mod. of Canals of Dantiwada	VI	34.88	59.80	51.80	12.13	12.13	1.59	1.00	2.20	
12.	Mod. of Canals of Bhadar	VII	18.80	38.70	28.97	1.71	—	2.70	2.00	2.42	
13.	Mod. of Canal of Shetrunji	VI	26.68	43.36	41.50	3.78	3.8	2.88	—	—Project completed	
14.	Mod. of Canals of Machhu-II	VII	8.12	22.22	12.52	1.07	1.07	2.47	2.00	3.50	
15.	Prevention of salanity ingress	VII	100.24	1185.15	161.41	33.01	21.72	33.49	34.51	33.66	
16.	Ukai Kakrapar Mod.	VI	60.12	73.94	64.55	3.09	3.09	1.00	1.00	—Project completed	
17.	Kalindri	VIII	1.04	3.88	3.26	2.56	1.16	0.09	—	—	-do-
18.	Kadana R.B. Canal system	VIII	U.A.	10.25	6.90	4.04	0.43	3.33	3.38	4.50	
Haryana											
19.	Haryana Water resources consolidation project	VIII	1442.12	1858.25	599.81	113.00	57.0	270.83	322.52	355.00	
20.	Renovation/Reconditioning/ Remodelling of old existing canal	VII	U.A.	417.18	147.44	96.00	2.00	51.04	52.38	31.47	
21.	Restoration capacity of BML	VIII	U.A.	—	7.31	0.00	—	0.91	4.46	1.50	
22.	Interlinking Augumentation of Tube-wells	VI	U.A.	5.00	0.67	6.00	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Himachal Pradesh											
23.	Bhabour Sahib Lift Phase-II	VII	U.A.	11.42	11.00	3.43	2.34	0.50	0.25	0.00	completed
Jammu & Kashmir											
24.	Mod. of Martand canal	VII	U.A.	17.72	5.96	6.50	N.A.	0.75	1.00	3.30	
25.	Mod. of Zaingir canal	VII	U.A.	10.07	6.26	7.10	N.A.	1.39	1.00	3.30	
26.	Mod. of Ranbir canal	VII	84.40	84.40	24.93	9.27	0.90	3.29	3.65	11.50	
27.	Mod. of New Pratap canal	VII	U.A.	10.94	3.59	13.39	0.50	0.67	1.12	3.01	
28.	Mod of Kathua canal	VII	U.A.	12.00	2.93	14.30	N.A	0.44	1.13	21.4	
Karnataka											
29.	Varuna R.B. Canal	IV	U.A.	209.50	122.56	32.27	0.40	35.44	46.91	35.00	
30.	Ghataprabha St. III	V	90.54	871.00	275.75	178.05	38.73	44.95	54.59	103.16	
31.	Upper Krishna St. II	VIII	U.A.	3237.20	0.00	197.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Kerala											
32.	R/R at Kanak Kankadava	VIII	U.A.	11.47	5.44	Stabilisation	—	1.00	2.83	5.00	
33.	R/R at Charamaravattam	VIII	U.A.	70.00	3.83	9.66	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Madhya Pradesh											
34.	Chambal Phase-II	VIII	U.A.	9.06	8.57	N.A.	—	0.24	N.A.	0.10	
35.	Mod. of Harsi	VII	U.A.	24.80	9.48	N.A.	—	0.15	0.20	0.50	
36.	Sindh Remova Link	VII	U.A.	22.31	6.37	7.30	—	0.47	0.79	0.24	
37	Chambal Lift	VII	U.A.	25.80	3.91	N.A.	—	0.14	0.40	0.25	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Maharashtra											
38.	Strengthening of Radhanagari Dam	V	U.A.	13.84	6.44	0.00	0.00	N.A	N.A	N.A.	
39.	Extension of Krishna canal	VII	U.A.	11.76	3.80	1.29	0.00	N.A.	N.A	N.A.	
40.	Strengthening of Ekrukh Dam	VI	U.A.	—	1.93	0.00	0.00	N.A	N.A.	N.A.	
41.	Strengthening of Bhatghar Dam	V	U.A.	5.77	5.61	0.00	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	
42.	Gated Weir at Khodasi	VI	U.A.	13.49	4.67	0.00	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	
43.	Sangola Branch Canal	VI	U.A.	157.20	50.00	9.72	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	
Manipur											
44.	Mod. of Loktak Lift Irrigation	VIII	U.A.	27.27	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	
45.	Mod. of Imphal Barrage	-do-	U.A.	1.45	7.70	0.30	0.00	—	—	—	
46.	Mod. of Khoupam Dam	IV	U.A.	0.80	—	0.10	0.00	0.82	0.51	3.00	
47.	Mod. of Sekmai Barrage	VIII	U.A.	1.00	—	0.25	0.00	—	—	—	
Orissa											
48.	W.R.C.P.	VIII	428.20	671.54	177.70	—	—	91.50	63.94	67.80	
Punjab											
49.	(a) Extension Improvement of Shahnehar Canal system to Hoshiarpur	VII	10.63	101.04	22.36	25.36	0.61	7.95	10.59	3.92	
	(b) Now World bank component		—	47.44	114.25	—	—	0.59	0.85	1.00	
50.	Lining of channels Phase-II	VIII	82.79	195.00	148.50	70.00	64.20	29.57	38.96	16.00	
51.	Rehabilitation & Improvement of canal regulation structure of canal system	VIII	34.49	47.44	31.04	25.20	16.20	7.31	12.94	N.A.	
52.	Raising Lining of Bhakra Main Line Canal for providing free Board	VII	8.27	16.02	N.A.	0.00	—	0.20	0.20	1.40	
53.	Constquction of Super passage at R.D. 203760 Ft. at Jalender Branch	VIII	U.A.	9.20	3.57	0.00	—	0.39	0.50	1.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
54.	Extension Phase II of Kandi Canal from Hoshiarpur to Baladrain RD 595 to 73.5 KM	IX	U.A.	91.11	—	N.A.	—	7.35	10.59	3.92	
55.	Lining of channels (NABARD)	IX	U.A.	418.00	—	N.A.	—	0.00	0.10	10.40	
56.	Remodelling of channels of URDC system to meet the revised water allowance	VIII	U.A.	99.81	0.65	—	—	0.00	0.00	0.01	
Rajasthan											
57.	IGNP, Stage-I	VIII	121.92	100.00	55.15	—	—	15.00	23.00	10.00	
58.	Mod. of Gang canal and Gang Link canal	VIII	U.A.	250.84	36.89	307.97	—	3.00	4.50	2.00	
59.	Jaisamand (Udaipur)	VIII	12.40	18.00	10.73	8.35	7.26	3.50	1.50	0.50	
60.	Ghambhiri	VIII	11.76	17.00	11.43	4.77	3.76	1.23	1.00	1.50	
61.	Meja	VIII	31.62	10.15	8.56	8.69	N.A.	0.41	0.20	—	
Tamil Nadu											
62.	WRCP	VIII	807.49	815.26	N.A. Stabilisation		—	48.66	47.30	220.70	
Uttar Pradesh											
63.	Ren. Tons Pump Canal	V	1.75	38.80	35.05	31.17	—	1.40	0.05	0.00	
64.	Mod. of Ghaghar Canal	V	U.A.	59.20	45.61	0.0	—	9.84	3.72	0.00	
65.	Mod. of Agra Canal	V	U.A.	51.53	14.14	64.00	5.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	
66.	Upper Ganga Irr. Modernisation	VI	467.76	724.50	665.87	9.00	—	35.77	38.12	23.05	
67.	Lining of channels of Bundelkhand & Bhagalkhand area	V	57.37	57.37	7.39	24.48	6.42	0.00	0.10	0.00	
68.	Mod. of Lachura H/W	VI	8.53	60.00	2.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
West Bengal											
69.	Special repair to Mayurakshi	VIII	U.A.	10.00	6.28	0.0	—	0.88	4.50	3.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
70.	Mod. of Mayurakshi	VI	U.A.	60.00	3.68	N.A.	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	
71.	Mod. of DVC	VI	U.A.	100.00	3.3	N.A.	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	
72.	Extension of Bandhu	VII	U.A.	5.88	4.18	0.53	—	0.30	0.55	0.53	
73.	Special repairs to Midnapur canal	VIII	U.A.	2.50	1.59	0.0	—	0.39	0.10	0.25	
74.	Mod. of Kangasabati	VIII	329.07	491.00	0.99	N.A.	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	Grand Total			14996.11	3674.68						

*U.A. - Unapproved.

Criteria for Appointment of Ambassadors/High Commissioners

4091. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for the appointment of Ambassdors/High Commissioners to foreign countries;

(b) the countries where such appointments have been made; and

(c) the countries where the above mentioned appointments are yet to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The appointments of Ambassadors/High Commissioners to foreign countries are decided on the basis of a number of criteria which include, *inter alia*, their seniority, career, relevant experience and an overall suitability for the tasks and the post.

(b) A list in this connection is enclosed as statement-I.

(c) A list in this connection is enclosed as statement-II. Process is underway for selection and appointment of suitable Ambassadors/High Commissioners to these countries.

Statement-I

List of Indian Missions Functioning abroad during financial year 1999-2000

Country	Office	Mission
1	2	3
Algeria	Embassy of India	Algiers
Angola	Embassy of India	Luanda
Armenia	Embassy of India	Yerevan
Argentina	Embassy of India	Buenos Aires
Australia	High Commission of India	Canberra
Austria	Embassy of India	Vienna
Azerbaijan	Embassy of India	Baku

1	2	3
Bahrain	Embassy of India	Bahrain
Bangladesh	High Commission of India	Dhaka
Belarus	Embassy of India	Minsk
Belgium	Embassy of India	Brussels
Bhutan	Embassy of India	Thimpu
Botswana	High Commission of India	Gaborone
Brunei Darussalam	High Commission of India	Bander Seri Begawan
Bulgaria	Embassy of India	Sofia
Burkina Faso	Embassy of India	Ouagadougou
Brazil	Embassy of India	Brasilia
Cambodia	Embassy of India	Phnom Penh
Canada	High Commission of India	Ottawa
Chile	Embassy of India	Santiago
China	Embassy of India	Beijing
Colombia	Embassy of India	Bogota
Cote D'ivoire	Embassy of India	Abidjan
Croatia	Embassy of India	Zagreb
Cuba	Embassy of India	Havana
Cyprus	High Commission of India	Nicosia
Czech Republic	Embassy of India	Prague
Denmark	Embassy of India	Copenhagen
Egypt	Embassy of India	Cairo
Ethiopia	Embassy of India	Addis Ababa
Finland	Embassy of India	Helsinki
Fiji	High Commission of India	Suva
France	Embassy of India	Paris
Germany	Embassy of India	Berlin
Ghana	High Commission of India	Accra
Greece	Embassy of India	Athens
Guyana	High Commission of India	Georgetown
Hungary	Embassy of India	Budapest
Indonesia	Embassy of India	Jakarta

1	2	3
Iran	Embassy of India	Tehran
Iraq	Embassy of India	Baghdad
Ireland	Embassy of India	Dublin
Israel	Embassy of India	Tel Aviv
Italy	Embassy of India	Rome
Jamaica	High Commission of India	Kingston
Japan	Embassy of India	Tokyo
Jordan	Embassy of India	Amman
Kazakhstan	Embassy of India	Almaty
Kenya	High Commission of India	Nairobi
Korea (N)	Embassy of India	Pyongyang
Korea (S)	Embassy of India	Seoul
Kuwait	Embassy of India	Kuwait
Kyrghyzstan	Embassy of India	Bishek
Laos	Embassy of India	Vientiane
Lebanon	Embassy of India	Beirut
Libya	Embassy of India	Tripoli
Madagascar	Embassy of India	Antananarivo
Malaysia	High Commission of India	Kualalumpur
Maldives	High Commission of India	Male
Mauritius	High Commission of India	Port Louis
Mexico	Embassy of India	Mexico City
Mongolia	Embassy of India	Ulan Bator
Morocco	Embassy of India	Rabat
Mozambique	High Commission of India	Maputo
Myanmar	Embassy of India	Yangon
Namibia	High Commission of India	Windhoek
Nepal	Embassy of India	Kathmandu
Netherlands	Embassy of India	The Hague
Newzealand	High Commission of India	Wellington
Nigeria	High Commission of India	Lagos
Norway	Embassy of India	Oslo

1	2	3
Oman	Embassy of India	Muscat
Pakistan	High Commission of India	Islambad
Panama	Embassy of India	Panama
Papua New Guinea	High Commission of India	Port Moresby
Peru	Embassy of India	Lima
Philippines	Embassy of India	Manila
Poland	Embassy of India	Warsaw
Portugal	Embassy of India	Lisbon
Qatar	Embassy of India	Doha
Romania	Embassy of India	Bucharest
Russian Federation	Embassy of India	Moscow
Saudi Arabia	Embassy of India	Riyadh
Senegal	Embassy of India	Dakar
Seychelles	High Commission of India	Mahe
Singapore	High Commission of India	Singapore
Slovak Republic	Embassy of India	Bratislava
South Africa	High Commission of India	Pretoria
Spain	Embassy of India	Madrid
Sri Lanka	High Commission of India	Colombo
Sudan	Embassy of India	Khartoum
Suriname	Embassy of India	Paramribo
Sweden	Embassy of India	Stockholm
Switzerland	Embassy of India	Berne
Syria	Embassy of India	Damascus
Tajikistan	Embassy of India	Dushanbe
Tanzania	High Commission of India	Dar-Es-Salaam
Thailand	Embassy of India	Bangkok
Trinidad & Tobago	High Commission of India	Port of Spain
Tunisia	Embassy of India	Tunis
Turkey	Embassy of India	Ankara
Turkmenistan	Embassy of India	Ashkhabad
Uganda	High Commission of India	Kampala

1	2	3
Ukraine	Embassy of India	Kiev
UAE	Embassy of India	Abu Dhabi
UK	High Commission of India	London
USA	Embassy of India	Washington
Uzbekistan	Embassy of India	Tashkent
Venezuela	Embassy of India	Caracas
Vietnam	Embassy of India	Hanoi
Yemen	Embassy of India	Sanaa
Yugoslavia	Embassy of India	Belgrade
Zambia	High Commission of India	Lusaka
Zimbabwe	High Commission of India	Harare

Note:

1. Total number of countries 114
2. Total number of Missions as under : 114

Embassies	High Commissions	Total
84	30	= 114

Statement-II

List of missions abroad without Heads of Mission as on 11.4.2000

Sl. No.	Country	Office	Mission/Post
1.	Mongolia	Embassy of India	Ulaan Bataar
2.	Mozambique	High Commission of India	Maputo
3.	Papua New Guinea	High Commission of India	Port Moresby

[English]

Pending Projects

4092. SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether irrigation projects, projects or strengthening the Police Force and project for laying new railway lines which have been submitted by various States Governments during the last two years and the current year are pending with the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons for pendency of each of the projects; and

(c) the time by which each of the above projects are likely to be cleared by the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Schemes/projects submitted in the Annual Plans of the States are finalized in consultation with the State Governments during the Annual Plan discussions in the Planning Commission. Schemes/projects regarding irrigation, strengthening of Police Force and laying of new railway lines are also submitted to the Planning Commission by the concerned Ministries for clearance from the investment angle. Presently there are no projects pending clearance in the Planning Commission recommended by the concerned Ministries.

Scheme and Grants

4093. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:
DR. GIRIJA VYAS:
SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the welfare schemes launched/likely to be launched for upliftment of SCs/STs/OBCs minorities, under privileged children, widows, handicapped and other weaker sections of the society for which the grants are being released to NGOs/Voluntary Organisations alongwith objective and salient features of each Scheme and criteria laid down for availing of financial assistance;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the proposals of ongoing Schemes in various States in terms of objectives, targets set and achievements during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) the amount allotted and spent for each scheme separately during the said period, scheme-wise; and

(e) the number of NGOs/VOs which have taken grants from the Union Government during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) (a) The details of schemes under which grants are given to NGOs/Voluntary organizations are given in the attached statement-I.

(b) and (c) As such the ministry does not conduct review of schemes State-wise. However, the ongoing projects under the various schemes implemented through the NGOs in various States are subject to an annual inspection by the designated inspecting agencies. The projects are considered for further assistance on the basis of report of satisfactory working of the NGO/VO.

(d) A statement-II containing details is attached.

(e) A statement-III containing details is attached.

Statement-I

Brief Objective and Salient Features of the schemes implemented through the NGOs

(I) Scheme of Grant-In-Aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of Scheduled Caste:

Promotion of Voluntary Sector-90% grant-in-aid for activities like education, vocational training, support facilities-creches, medical units and balwadis, legal aid, client-services, human rights issues and environment related activities etc.

(II) Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances:

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential. The scheme also includes medical/surgical correction and intervention, which is essential prior to fitment of aids and appliances.

(III) Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities:

This is the umbrella scheme, under which assistance is provided to NGOs, for taking up a wide ranging activities for persons with disabilities, covering prevention of disability, education, training and rehabilitation. In fact, the Ministry was earlier operating 4 different schemes for funding different kinds of projects. These have recently been merged into this umbrella scheme.

(iv) Integrated Programme for Street Children:

The basic objective of the programme is to provide wholesome development of children without homes and family ties and prevent destitution. The essential components of the programme include provision of shelter, nutrition, health care, sanitation and hygiene, safe drinking water, education recreational facilities and protection against abuse and exploitation to destitute and neglected street children. All the State capital and cities with a population of I million or more persons are covered under this programme which is already operational in 23 cities across the country.

(v) Integrated Programme for Older Pesons:

The basic objective of the programme is to promote a Society for all Ages and to empower and improve the quality of life of older persons. The programme seeks to develop awareness and build the capacity of Government and Non-Governmental Organisations and the community at large to make productive use of older persons and to provide care to older persons in need.

(vi) Scheme of Assistance of Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/ Multi Service Centres for Older Persons:

The basic objective of the programme is to provide financial assistance for construction and equipment of Old Age Homes and Multi Service Centres for Older persons to Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups and to Local Bodies.

(vii) General Grant In Aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence:

This programme aims to provide support to Voluntary Organisations to undertake Pilot Projects in unchartered areas not currently covered by any of the existing programmes of the bureau. At present a number of drop-in shelters for children of sex workers are being supported under the programme with the help of NGOs.

(viii) Pre-Examination coaching for weaker sections based on economic criteria Objectives:

To provide coaching for various competitive/ professional examinations to weaker sections among minorities to enable them to compete on equal terms with other candidates for various jobs. The scheme is implemented through private coaching institutions of National level, State Level, Banking Service Recruitment Board and Universities. Only reupted institutions of proven capability in the area of imparting coaching for various competitive examinations are eligible for assistance. Only those candidates belonging to minorities having a family income not exceeding Rs. 44,500/- per annum will be eligible to apply for coaching.

(ix) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Welfare of OBCs:

The aim of the scheme is to involve the voluntary sector to improve educational and socio—economic conditions of the target group i.e. OBCs, with a view to upgrade skill to enable them to start income generating activities on their own or get gainfully employed in some sector or the other.

(x) Pre Examination Coaching Scheme for OBCs:

The objective of the Scheme is to coach/train candidates belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) to enable them to compete on equal terms in various competitive/entrance examinations. Criteria. The candidate whose parents or guardians total income from all sources including the income of the candidates is below Rs. 1.00 lakh annually, will be eligible for admission in the pre-examination coaching centre.

(xi) Scheme For Prevention Of Alcoholism And Substance [Drugs] Abuse:

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Scheme viz., the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance [Drugs] Abuse since 1984-85 under which financial assistance is released to Non-Governmental Organisations inter-alia for running De-addiction cum Rehabilitation Centres, Drug Awareness, Counselling and Assistance Centres and for conducting De-addiction Camps.

Criteria For Financial Assistance

The broad criteria for giving grant in aid under the schemes are:

(i) Application in the prescribed Format (ii) Recommendation of application by the Designated Authority alongwith an Inspection Report, (iii) Sound financial position, (iv) Proven capability and capacity to undertake the Project (v) Viability of the Project, and (vi) Location of the Project etc.

Eligibility for Grant assistance:

(i) Body registered under the Society's Registration Act, 1860.

(ii) Public Registered Trust.

(iii) Charitable Company licenced under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1958.

(iv) Indian Red Cross Society or its branches.

(v) Other public institutions having a legal status.

(vi) Body should have been registered for at least two years at the time of applying for assistance.

(vii) Should not be running for profit to any individual or body of individuals.

Statement-II

Statement showing Budget allocation, Expenditure, from 1997-98 to 1999-00

Expenditure as on 31.03.2000

Name of the Scheme	BE 1997-98	Exp 1997-98	BE 1998-99	Exp 1998-99	BE 1999-00	Exp 1999-00
Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities	27.00	20.20	46.00	35.84	62.29	53.96
Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids/Appliances	15.00	8.94	25.00	23.98	30.00	28.41
Prevention of Alcoholism Substance (Drugs) Abuse	17.50	11.52	16.00	15.20	19.00	19.00
Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence	0.44	0.32	2.07	0.52	2.01	2.98
Integrated Programme for Street Children	6.00	3.48	8.00	5.16	9.00	7.90
Integrated Programme for Older Persons	12.50	6.14	15.00	7.75	15.00	10.84
Assistance to Panchayati Raj Instts./Vol. Orgns./self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons	5.00	0.30	3.20	1.55	2.39	2.36
Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Orgns. Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes	20.00	10.03	18.00	18.00	30.00	25.48
Scheme of Assistance to Vol. Orgns. Working for the Other Backward Classes	*(Scheme not launched)*		2.50	0.20	2.50	1.09
Schme of Pre-examination Coaching for the Other Backward Classes	*(Scheme not launched)*		2.50	0.64	2.50	0.03
Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria.	2.50	0.82	2.00	2.24	2.50	2.45
Total	99.69	62.30	133.27	111.08	177.19	154.5

Statement-III

Statement indicating number of NGOs assisted State-wise

Name of the State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Andhra Pradesh	214	390	323
Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	1
Arunachal Pradesh	3	2	2
Assam	10	29	37
Bihar	51	59	37
Chandigarh	1	12	5
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0	—
Delhi	50	99	53
Daman & Diu	0	0	—
Goa	4	3	6
Gujarat	28	118	60
Himachal Pradesh	2	4	4
Haryana	48	63	59
Jammu & Kashmir	5	7	9
Karnataka	92	94	133
Kerala	58	74	82
Lakshadweep	4	0	—
Madhya Pradesh	39	88	60
Maharashtra	81	132	151
Manipur	33	82	108
Meghalaya	7	4	6
Mizoram	6	5	9
Nagaland	4	4	8
Orissa	78	183	149
Pondicherry	2	4	8
Punjab	25	46	49
Rajasthasn	20	39	40
Sikkim	1	1	1
Tamil Nadu	85	113	132
Tirpura	9	9	11
Uttar Pradesh	262	338	349
West Bengal	128	167	155

Appraisal of Performance

4094. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of ongoing Economic Reforms Programme in the various States;

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

(c) the States lagging behind in implementing the Reforms; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for achieving the targets under the Economic Reforms Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) No Sir. While economic policies and programmes are under constant review, Government of India have not reviewed the performance of ongoing economic reforms programme in individual States as such. States are free to puruse economic reforms programmes depending on their specific requirements, within their constitutional jurisdictions. The question of Government of India taking steps to achieve any targets set by State Governments thus does not arise.

However, following an initiative of the National Development Council in its meeting of 19-2-1999, Govt. of India has been supporting specific fiscal reforms by certain States in order to help them overcome their financial difficulties. The main objective of Fiscal Reforms for States is to reduce the revenue deficit in the medium term. To date, thirteen States have entered into an agreement with the Centre on State-specific Fiscal Reforms. These are Punjab, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland Mizoram, Orissa, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir.

The progress of these specific State level fiscal reforms is periodically reviewed by an official Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Planning Commission. The Committee monitors the State-specific fiscal reforms programmes and considers a package of financial assistance in the form of extended Ways and Means (W&M) accommodation, advance tax devolution and the advance release of Plan assistance to assist States overcome temporary financial difficulties.

Extension of Maternity Benefit

4095. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent judgement of the Supreme Court regarding extending maternity benefit to daily wage earners;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued instructions to all organisations under it to strictly follow the Supreme Court's orders; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 no distinction is made between permanent and daily wage workers. A woman employed for wages is any establishment directly or through any agency is already covered for maternity benefit as provided under the Act.

[Translation]

Accountability in Administration

4096. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of the provision of accountability, corruption and negligence are increasing day-by-day in the administration;

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

(c) the efforts made by the Government to create a sense of responsibility in the administration;

(d) whether the present working system is quite unsatisfactory;

(e) if so, whether there is an urgent need to revamp the Indian Administration System; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (f) The Government has tried to incorporate measures of accountability in administration through various means such as Annual Action Plans of Ministries/Departments of Government, Annual Confidential Reports of Government officials, fixation of levels for decision-making, audit of the Government accounts by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the examination of the functioning of administrative Ministries/Departments by the Parliamentary Committees.

2. Administrative efficiency and effectiveness are matters which receive the attention of the Government on a continuous basis. Measures have been taken to make the administration accountable, transparent and responsive to the needs and expectations of the people.

3. The Government has taken up simplification of laws, rules and procedures for improving efficiency of organisations. Towards this end, over 40 Departments have undertaken, through expert Task Forces or by internal exercises, a detailed review of laws, regulations and procedures administered by them. The Government had, in addition, set up a Commission on Review of Administrative Laws on 8 May, 1998 to make recommendations for repeal/amendment of laws, regulations, procedures, legislative processes etc. The Commission submitted its report on 30 September, 1998. The important recommendations of the Commission include recommendation for repeal of almost 50% of Central Laws (1382 out of 2500 Laws), expeditious amendments to a critical list of 109 identified Acts, documentation of administrative laws (rules, regulations, executive instructions) by all the Ministries/Departments, harmonisation of statutes and laws with reference to the perspective of domestic and foreign investors, trade and industry, consumers, exporters and importers, and development of a viable alternative disputes resolution machinery. The Government had constituted a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Personnel) for monitoring the follow-up action on implementation of the recommendations contained in the report. Most of the Ministries/Departments have initiated action to bring about suitable amendments/modifications in and repeal of the Acts and Laws being administered by them with a view to improve service delivery and transparency in the functioning of Government.

4. The Government has also taken measures to bring more and more transparency and accountability in its functioning. A large number of Ministries/Departments with considerable public interface have already introduced Citizens' Charters indicating broadly the quality of service, the public would be entitled to, within a specified time frame. Information and Facilitation Counters have been set up by 45 Ministries/Departments/Central Government Organisations to provide information on procedures and the schemes of the concerned organisation as well as to access information pertaining to the status of individual cases.

5. In addition to the specific measures mentioned above, the Government has taken certain other steps to improve accountability in administration. These steps include modernisation of Government offices, software package to track the movement of files, documentation of best practices in Central and State Government organisations, etc.

6. The work of the Central Government in the field of combating corruption in public administration has been considerably stepped up during the last few years. The Annual Action Plan prepared by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions envisages three-pronged strategy for containment of corruption in public life. It was initially launched in 1985-86 and is being continued on annual basis. The broad features of the Action Plan are as follows:-

(i) Preventive Vigilance;

(ii) Surveillance and detection; and

(iii) Deterrent punitive action.

Under these three major areas, the Action Plan seeks to cover as many aspects of the vigilance set-up as possible. The Government has been giving due importance and priority to the areas of Preventive Vigilance, with a view to minimising the areas of discretion—especially at lower levels. The Government has also taken several steps in the recent past to strengthen the institution of CVC and that of the CVOs, so that the Vigilance machinery could be made more effective.

[English]

Review of Infrastructural Sectors

4097. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of the ongoing projects in infrastructural Sectors during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the target fixed and achieved during the said period, Project-wise and State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for faster and effective implementation of the projects; and

(d) the allocation made for infrastructural development sectors in public sector during 2000-2001, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 34 projects in 1997-98, 26 projects in 1998-99 and 28 projects were completed in 1999-2000 upto December, 1999 against the targets of 107, 95 and 105 projects respectively. Details of these projects, State-wise and sector-wise, are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of the projects include:

(i) Monthly as well as Quarterly monitoring by the Government. This enables the monitoring agencies to identify constraints and help the management in taking remedial measures;

(ii) Indepth critical reviews of the progress by the Project authorities and Administrative Ministries, Coordination with the respective State Governments, equipment suppliers, contractors consultants and other concerned agencies;

(iii) Reviewing Status of fabrication of equipment with suppliers as well as turnkey contractors;

(iv) Inter-ministerial coordination and holding facilitation meetings among concerned parties;

(v) Setting up Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, acquisition of land and other problems; and

(vi) Making funds available to complete the projects on schedule.

(d) The Plan allocations mady by the Planning Commission for Public Sector for the year 2000-2001 in the infrastructure sectors are:

	Sectors	Allocations for 2000-2001 (Rs. Crores)
(1)	Power	11,610.83
(2)	Railways	11,249.00
(3)	Roads & Bridges	4,827.35
(4)	Ports	1,712.00
(5)	Inland Water Transport	57.41
(6)	Airport Authority of India	835.53
(7)	Telecom	19,411.67

Statement

Statement of Projects due for Completion in 1997-98

Status as on 31.03.1998

Sr. No.	Name of the Project	Agency	Target Date	Expected Date of completion	Remakrs
1	2	3	4	5	6
Sector: Civil Aviation					
1.	Housing Complex & other New Mumbai, Maharashtra	AI	1997/12	1998/06	

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Instal. of Radars Ahmedabad, Gujarat	AAI	1997/12		Completed
3.	Mord. Ats. Services-Mumba DE/MA	AAI	1998/03	1998/09	
4.	Training Centre Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh	AAI	1997/04		Completed
5.	Instal. of Radars Calcutta, West Bengal	AAI	1998/03	1998/03	
6.	Instal. of Radars Chennai, Tamil Nadu	AAI	1998/03	1998/03	
7.	Mats Building Chennai, Tamil Nadu	AAI	1998/03	1998/03	
8.	Const to Terminal IA, IGI Palam, Delhi	AAI	1997/12		Completed
Sector: Power					
9.	Mejia TPP Bankura, West Bengal	DVC	1998/03	1998/09	
10.	Kathalguri GB CC PP Assam	NEEPCO	1998/03	1998/05	
11.	Kopili Hepi Extension Assam	NEEPCO	1997/06		Completed
12.	Agartala GTPP Tripura	NEEPCO	1998/02	1998/05	
13.	Uri Hep Baramulla, J & K	NHPC	1997/06		Completed
14.	Talcher STPP St-I Dhenkenal, Orissa	NTPC	1995/12		Completed
15.	Addl Vindhy. Tr. Line-I MP/MA	P. GRID	1997/12		Completed
16.	Doyang Tr. Line NG/MN/AS	P. GRID	1997/04		Completed
17.	Gandhar Tr. System ST-I GU/MA	P. GRID	1998/03		Completed
18.	Chamera-I Kishenpur TR Chamra, HP/JK	P. GRID	1997/09		Completed
19.	HVDC Back Toback Chandra, Maharashtra	P. GRID	1997/11		Completed
20.	Rangit Tr. SI/WB	P. GRID	1997/10		Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6
Sector: Railways					
21.	Newbridge Ongodavari, SCR Rajmundri, Andhra Pradesh	B&S	1997/09		
22.	J'Pura-Bram-HNI Reg. Ser Orissa	B&S	1998/03	1998/06	
23.	Shg-Link Ca Bin-Malda, Er BH/WB	DOUBL.	1997/10		
24.	Vikarabad-Tandur, SCR Andhra Pradesh	DOUBL.	1998/03		
25.	Aluabhari-KG & N. Ambri Falakt., NF, West Bengal	DOUBL.	1997/09		
26.	Quilon-Tvnd. CTL Doubl SR. Kerala	DOUBL.	1998/03		
27.	Bobbili-Gajapatina-Gram SER, Andhra Pradesh	DOUBL.	1997/09		
28.	Gajapatia-Nagaram-Viz-Inagram, SE, Andhra Pradesh	DOUBL.	1997/12		
29.	Bilaspur-Akaltara SER, Orissa	DOUBL.	1997/09		Completed
30.	Ragunathpur-Rahama, SER Orissa	DOUBL.	1998/03	1998/12	
31.	Khana-Bol-Pur, ER Ph-1&2, West Bengal	DOUBL.	1998/03		
32.	Diva-Panvel, CR Mumbai, Maharashtra	DOUBL.	1998/03		
33.	Urukura-Rai-Pur-Sarona SER, MP/OR	DOUBL.	1998/03		
34.	Chennai-Che-Ngal-Trichy SR, Tamil Nadu	GC	1998/03	1998/06	
35.	Luni-Marwar NR Rajasthan	GC	1998/01	1998/01	
36.	Guntur-Guntakal-Gooty, SCR, Andhra Pradesh	GC	1997/12		
37.	S'Bad Dr'Ch-Ellam-Bolram SCR, Andhra Pradesh	GC	1998/03		
38.	Gondia-Cha-NDAFORT, SER Maharashtra	GC	1998/03	1998/12	
39.	Hospet-Hubligoa (SCR) Goa/Kr	GC	1997/09		

1	2	3	4	5	6
40.	Lumding-Dibrugarh NEFR, Assam	GC	1998/03		
41.	Sagauli-Nar-Katlaganj NER, Bihar	GC	1997/06		Completed
42.	Hotgi-Gadag, SCR Kr/Ma	GC	1998/03		
43.	Luni-Jodhpur, NR Rajasthan	GC	1998/01		
44.	Yellahanka-Bangarpet, SR Karnataka	GC	1997/12		Completed
45.	Yeswantpur-Salem, SR Kr/Tn	GC	1997/09	1998/12	
46.	Agra-Bandikui, WR UP/RJ	GC	1997/12	1999/12	
47.	Rupsa-Bangr-Iposi, SER Orissa	GC	1998/03		
48.	Mysore-Hassan, SR Karnataka	GC	1998/03	1998/05	
49.	Wankaner-ma-liya Miyana WR, Gujarat	GC	1997/12		
50.	Gondia-Jaba-Lpur, SER Mp. Mah	GC	1998/03	2002/03	
51.	Solapur-Hotgi, CR Maharashtra	GC	1998/03	1998/12	
52.	M. Beach-Luz Rtsline Chennai, Tamil Nadu	MTP	1997/10		
53.	Talcher-Sambhalp, SER Orissa	NL	1998/03		
54.	Lakshmikantapur-Namkh, ER West Bengal	NL	1997/12		
55.	Beas-Goindw-Al,NR Punjab	N.L.	1997/06		Completed
56.	Bagaha-Chitauni NER, Up/Bi	N.L.	1997/09		
57.	Konkan Rly. Krcl Kn. Go. Ma	NL	1997/11		
58.	Sonnagar-Patratu Elec Bihar	RE	1997/09		
59.	Delhi-Amb-L-Udhina-Kalka DE/HY/PB	RE	1997/09	1999/03	

1	2	3	4	5	6
60.	Chandil-Muri-Barkakana BI/WB	RE	1998/03		
61.	Bandel-Katwa West Bengal	RE	1997/12		
62.	Vijayawada Vizag Andhra Pradesh	RE	1997/12		
63.	Erode-Ernak-Ulam KE/TN	RE	1998/03	2000/03	
64.	Ambala-Moradabad PB/HR/UP	RE	1998/03		
65.	Gumia-Patratu Bihar	RE	1998/03		
66.	HWH/BDC Mainline Augmn. Howrah, ER, West Bengal	T.F	1997/12		
67.	Wheelshopcapaugment, WAP B'Glore, SR, Karnataka	WS&PU	1997/09	1999/03	
68.	6o Loco Dies-El Shed Angul, SER, Orissa	WS&PU	1998/03	1999/06	
69.	CLW-MFR. of High HP ABB Locos, ER, West Bengal	WS&PU	1998/03	1999/06	
70.	Wireless Ctlcomnn. Sealdh ER, West Bengal	S&T	1998/03		
71.	Wireless Ctlcomnn. How, ER MGS PH5, WB/BI/UP	S&T	1998/03		
72.	Repl. MW Eqp. Grk' Pur-Kth NER, BI/UP	S&T	1997/12		
73.	Repl. MW Linkmumbai-Bhwal CR. Maharasthra	S&T	1997/12	1998/06	
74.	Repl. of Mum-Bai-Ahmd.MW Link, WR, MA/GU	S&T	1998/03	1998/05	
Sector: Surface Transport					
75.	Repl. of Pir-Pau Oil Pier Mumbai, Maharashtra	PORTS	1997/06		Completed
76.	Procure 3 Nogantry Cmes Mpt, Tamil Nadu	PORTS	1998/02	1998/02	
77.	Repl. of Grabdredfer Viks Mumbai, Maharashtra	PORTS	1997/06		Completed
78.	Const: Cargo Berth No. 7 Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu	PORTS	1998/02	1998/02	

1	2	3	4	5	6
79.	Const. of a Jetty for LPG Vizag, Andhra Pradesh	PORTS	1997/06	1998/08	
80.	Crude & Pol for MRPL Mangalore, Karnataka	PORTS	1998/03	1998/06	
81.	Inst. of Ves-Sel Traffic Mumbai, Maharashtra	PORTS	1997/04		Completed
82.	Repl. 7 Sub-Marine Pline Mumbai, Maharashtra	PORTS	1998/01	1999/12	
83.	Cal.-Palsit Section, Wbpw Calcutta, West Bengal	RD&BR	1998/03	1998/06	
84.	Var Bypass, 2 BR. on Ganga Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	RD&BR	1998/03	1998/06	
85.	4 Lane-Widenankpalli-Vis NH5, Andhra Pradesh	RD&BR	1997/06		Completed
86.	4 Laning of Del-Matura DE, UP, HR	RD&BR	1998/03	1998/06	
87.	4 Lane Widen NH8, Del-Jaip Jaipur, Rajasthan	RD&BR	1997/12	1997/12	Completed
88.	4 Lane Widen NH7, Ban-Hosu Bangalore, Karnataka	RD&BR	1997/12		Completed
89.	NH 47 (PH-II): Link Road PWD, Kerala	RD&BR	1998/03	1998/03	
90.	NH 24: 2ND Nizamud-Din Bri Delhi	RD&BR	1998/03	1998/03	Completed
91.	Acq. of Bulkcarrier, Sci Hsl, Vizag, Andhra Pradesh	SHIPP.	1998/01	1998/01	Completed
Sector: Telecommunication					
92.	Inst. of AT&TEX. N' Rangpur Ahmedabad, Gujarat	DOT	1998/03	1998/03	Completed
93.	Inst. of HTL Ex, Rly'Pura Ahmedabad, Gujarat	DOT	1997/12		Completed
94.	Inst. of Ocb Modi Ex. Ludhiana, Punjab	DOT	1998/03	1998/03	Completed
95.	Inst. of ITI Ex. Sardapur Jodhpur, Rajasthan	DOT	1997/12		Completed
96.	Csn Proj. Mankapur Uttar Pradesh	ITI	1998/03	1998/03	Completed
97.	Csn Proj. Bangalore Karnataka	ITI	1998/03	1998/03	Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6
98.	Ocb 283 Projpalakkad Kerala	ITI	1998/03	1998/03	Completed
99.	Gateway Ds Expn-4 Place All India	VSNL	1997/06		Completed
100.	IBS Earth Stns&Links All India	VSNL	1998/03	1998/03	Completed
101.	Flag Submar-Ine OFC All India	VSNL	1997/12		Completed
102.	Digit of Io-Com&Indo-UAE All India	VSNL	1997/09		
103.	Iridium Gateway All India	VSNL	1997/12	1998/09	
104.	Inmarsat-P Mumbai, Maharashtra	VSNL	1998/03		
105.	Purchase of Dcme, PH-II Mumbai, Maharashtra	VSNL	1998/03	1998/03	
106.	Mumbai-Arvi MW Sys. Maharashtra	VSNL	1998/03	1998/06	
107.	N. Delhi-Deh-Radun MW SYS DE/UP	VSNL	1998/03	1998/06	

Statement of Projects due for completion in 1998-99

Sr. No.	Name of the Project	Agency	Target Date	Status as on 31.03.1999	
				Expected Date of Completion	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
Sector: Civil Aviation					
1.	Housing Com-plex & other New Mumbai, Maharashtra	AI	1999/03	1999/05	
2.	Const. Hanger No. 4-S. Cruz Mumbai, Maharashtra	AI	1998/12	1998/12	
3.	Expn. of Hyd. Airport Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	AAI	1999/03	1999/03	
4.	Mord. Ats. Se-rivers-Mumba DE/MA	AAI	1999/03	1999/06	
5.	Instal. of Radars Calcutta, West Bengal	AAI	1998/07		Completed
6.	Instal. of Radars Chennai, Tamil Nadu	AAI	1998/07		Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Mats Building Chennai, Tamil Nadu	AAI	1998/12	2000/03	
8.	Const. of Newarrival Bldg Bangalore, Karnataka	AAI	1998/12	1999/09	
Sector: Power					
9.	Mejia TPP Bankura, West Bengal	DVC	1998/12		Completed
10.	Kathalguri GB CC PP Assam	NEEPCO	1998/07		Completed
11.	Agartala GTPP Tripura	NEEPCO	1998/08		Completed
12.	Rangit HEP-III South Sikkim, Sikkim	NHPC	1999/03	1999/06	
13.	Kathalguri GPP TR. Lines Tinsukia, AS/WB	P. GRID	1999/03	1999/03	
14.	Kopili-I EX. TR. System Kopili, Assam	P. GRID	1998/07		Completed
15.	TR. Kishanpurmonga Udhampur, JK/PB	P. GRID	1999/03	2000/03	
16.	HVDC Back Toback J'pore-Gazuwaka, AP, OR	P. GRID	1999/03	1999/03	Completed
17.	Kaiga-Sirsi TR. System Karwar, Karnataka	P. GRID	1999/03	1999/04	
18.	Aug. TR. System-NER Badarpur, NER	P. GRID	1999/03	1999/03	
19.	Kayamkulam TR. System Edamon, Kerala	P. GRID	1999/03	1999/03	
Sector: Railways					
20.	J'pura-Bram-HNI Reg. SER Orissa	B&S	1998/09	1998/09	
21.	Balwali BR 12480N Ganga NR. Uttar Pradesh	B&S	1998/12	1998/12	
22.	SHG-Link CA BIN-Malda, ER BH/WB	DOUBL.	1999/02	1999/02	
23.	Vikarabad-Tandur, SCR Andhra Pradesh	DOUBL.	1999/03		
24.	Bridge Line Doubl., Gher CR, Madhya Pradesh	DOUBL.	1999/03	1999/03	

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Kuppam-Whitefield SR, KR/AP	DOUBL.	1999/03	1999/03	
26.	Gajapatia-Nagaram-Viz-Inagram, SE, Andhra Pradesh	DOUBL.	1998/12	1998/12	
27.	Chandanpur-Gurup 3RD Line, ER, Uttar Pradesh	DOUBL.	1998/12	1998/12	
28.	Rajatgarh-Nergundi Ta-Lcher, SER, Orissa	DOUBL.	1999/03	1999/03	
29.	Sonnagar MGS 3 RDLINE ER. BH. UP	DOUBL.	1998/12	1999/12	
30.	Daund-Bhig-WAN, CR Maharashtra	DOUBL.	1999/03	2000/03	
31.	Akaltara-Ch-Ampa 3RD line SER, Orissa	DOUBL.	1998/12	1998/12	
32.	Mumbai-Borivili 5Th&6Th Line, WR, Maharashtra	DOUBL.	1999/03	1999/03	
33.	Ragunathpur-Rahama, SER Orissa	DOUBL.	1998/12	1998/12	
34.	Maksi-Baira Garh WR, Madhya Pradesh	DOUBL.	1999/03	1999/03	
35.	Korba-Sarag-Bundia, SER MP, OR	DOUBL.	1998/12	1998/12	
36.	Urukura-RAI-PUR Sarona SER, MP/OR	DOUBL.	1998/10	1998/10	
37.	Parbhani-Purna-Mudkhed-Adilabd, SC, AP/MH	GC	1999/03	2000/03	
38.	Chennai-CHE-NGAL-Trichy SR, Tamil Nadu	GC	1998/11	1998/11	
39.	S'Bad DR' CH-Ellam-Bolram SCR, Andhra Pradesh	GC			Completed
40.	Gondia-Cha-Ndafort, SER Maharashtra.	GC	1998/12	1998/12	
41.	Hospet-Hubligoa (SCR) Goa/KR	GC			Completed
42.	Lumding-Dibrugarh NEFR, Assam	GC			Completed
43.	Arsikere-Ha-ssan-Manglor SR, Karnataka	GC	1998/12	2000/03	
44.	Khadda-Gora-Khpur, NER Uttar Pradesh	GC	1999/02	1999/12	

1	2	3	4	5	6
45.	Valmikinagar-Narkatiagan NER, UP/BI	GC	1999/02	1999/06	
46.	Trichy-Dindigul, SR Tamil Nadu	GC	1998/12	1998/12	
47.	Yeswantpur-Salem, SR KR/TN	GC	1998/12		Completed
48.	Mysore- Hassan, SR Karnataka	GC	1998/05		Completed
49.	Solapur- Hotgi, CR Maharashtra	GC	1999/03	1999/03	
50.	M. Beach-Luz Rtsline Chennai, Tamil Nadu	MTP			Completed
51.	Jogighopa Guwahati, NF Assam	NL	1999/03	1999/03	
52.	Talcher-Sambhalp, SER Orissa	NL	1998/08		Completed
53.	Konkan Rly. KRCL KN. GO. MA	NL			Completed
54.	Sonnagar-Patratu ELEC Bihar	RE			Completed
55.	Delhi-AMB-L-Udhina-Kalka DE/HY/PB	RE	1999/03	2000/03	
56.	Bokaro-Kiriburu BI/WB/OR	RE	1998/12	2000/03	
57.	Vijayawada Vizag Andhra Pradesh	RE			Completed
58.	Adra-Midnapur, RE West Bengal	RE	1999/03	1999/03	
59.	Rmod of YD. PH-I ST-I, ER Bardman, West Bengal	T.F.	1998/12	1998/12	
60.	Mumbai CST Remod; PH-I CR, Maharashtra	T.F.	1999/03	2000/03	
61.	Wheelshopcapaugment, WAP B'Glore, SR, Karnataka	WS&PU	1999/03	1999/03	
62.	REPL. MW EQP. GRK' PUR-KTH NER, BI/UP	S&T	1998/12	1998/12	
63.	REPL. MW Linkmumbai-Bhawal CR, Maharashtra	S&T	1998/12	1999/06	
64.	Mumbai-Kaly-an Train Des SYS, CR, Maharashtra	S&T	1999/03	2001/03	

1	2	3	4	5	6
65.	Lonavala-Pun Auto BL Signal, CR, Maharashtra	S&T	1999/03	1999/03	
Secotor: Surface Transport					
66.	ACQ. of Vessels, (CIWTC) Calcutta, West Bengal	IWT	1999/03	1999/03	
67.	Mod. of Raja-bagan Dock (CIWTC), West Bengal	IWT	1998/04		
68.	Procure 3 Nogantry Crnes MPT, Tamil Nadu	PORTS	1999/03	1999/06	
69.	Const: Cargo Berth No. 7 Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu	PORTS	1998/05		Completed
70.	Const. of A Jetty Forlpg Vizag, Andhra Pradesh	PORTS	1998/08	1999/12	
71.	Crude & Pol for MRPL Mangalore, Karnataka	PORTS	1998/09		Completed
72.	Procurement of Wharf CRA Kandla, Gujarat	PORTS	1999/02	1999/02	Completed
73.	Renewal of P. Way Wadla Mumbai, Maharashtra	PORTS	1999/03	2000/03	
74.	Const. Multi Purposeberth Vizag, Andhra Pradesh	PORTS	1999/01	2000/03	
75.	Cal. - Palsit Section, WBPW Calcutta, West Bengal	RD&BR	1999/03	1999/03	
76.	Var Bypass, 2 BR on Ganga Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	RD&BR	1999/03	1999/05	
77.	Murthal-Karnal. Dev. NH1 Haryana	RD&BR	1998/06		Completed
78.	4 Laning of Del-Matura DE, UP, HR	RD&BR	1998/11		Completed
79.	NH 47 (PH-II): Link Road PWD, Kerala	RD&BR	1999/03	1999/03	
80.	NH 47: 4 Laningin Kerala PWD, Kerala	RD&BR	1999/03	1999/03	
81.	NH: 47: Varap-uzga BDG+RD Kerala	RD&BR	1999/03	1999/03	
82.	ACQ. of 3 Lriltankers, CSL SCI, Cochin, Kerala	SHIPP.	1999/03	1999/05	
83.	ACQ. 2 Produ-ct Carrier SCI, All India	SHIPP.	1999/01	1999/01	Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6
Sector: Telecommunication					
84.	ADDL INTL Gateway Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	VSNL	1999/03	1999/10	
85.	Iridium Gateway All India	VSNL	1998/11		Completed
86.	Purchase of DCME, PH-II Mumbai, Maharashtra	VSNL	1998/04		Completed
87.	Mumbai-Arvi MW SYS. Maharashtra	VSNL	1999/02	1999/07	
88.	N. Delhi-Deh-radun MW SYS DE/UP	VSNL	1999/02	1999/07	
89.	Intelsat Earth STN. Arvi, Maharashtra	VSNL	1999/02	1999/04	
90.	STD. A Earth STN, H 'Sahar Calcutta, West Bengal	VSNL	1999/02	1999/06	
91.	STD. Antenna Ambattur Chennai, Tamil Nadu	VSNL	1999/02	1999/05	
92.	Gateway at Gandhinagar Gujarat	VSNL	1998/12		Completed
93.	STD. B Earth STN, Banglore Bangalore, Karnataka	VSNL	1999/03	1999/05	
94.	INT. NWK MGT, Centre Mumbai, Maharashtra	VSNL	1999/01	2000/05	
95.	SEA-ME-WE3 All India	VSNL	1999/03	1999/07	

Statement of Projects due for completion in 1999-2000

(Status as on 31.12.1999)

Sr. No.	Name of the Project	Agency	Target Date	Expected Date of Completion	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
Sector: Civil Aviation					
1.	Housing Complex & other New Mumbai, Maharashtra	AI	1999/07		Completed
2.	Const. Hanger No. 4-S. Cruz Mumbai, Maharashtra	AI	1999/12	1999/12	Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	TRNL. Complex PH-III Mumbai, Maharashtra	AAI	1999/08		Completed
4.	EXPN. of HYD. Airport Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	AAI	1999/03		Completed
5.	MORD. ATS. Services-Mumba DE/MA	AAI	1999/10		Completed
6.	EX. & STR. Airport Runway Calicut, Kerala	AAI	2000/03	2000/03	
7.	MATS Building Chennai, Tamil Nadu	AAI	2000/03	2001/03	
8.	Const. of Newarrival Bldg Bangalore, Karnataka	AAI	1999/10	1999/10	
9.	Modern. TRML. At Guwahati Guwahati, Assam	AAI	1999/12	2000/07	
10.	Integrated Cargo TRML Chennai, Tamil Nadu	AAI	2000/03	2000/03	
11.	Aerobridges Bay 17, 18, 19 Mumbai, Maharashtra	AAI	2000/03	2000/03	
Sector: Power					
12.	Doyang HEP Wokha, Nagaland	NEEPCO	2000/03	2000/03	
13.	Rangit Hep-III South Sikkim, Sikkim	NHPC	1999/12	1999/12	Completed
14.	Vindhyachal STPP-II Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh	NTPC	2000/03	2000/03	
15.	Kayamkulam COMB, Cycle MW (Alleppy), Kerala	NTPC	2000/02	2000/02	Completed
16.	Unchahar Tpst-II Raibareli, Uttar Pradesh	NTPC	1999/10	1999/10	Completed
17.	Nathpa Jhkritr. System. Kinnaur, HP/HY/DEL	P. GRID	2000/03	2000/03	
18.	Kathalguri GPP TR. Lines Tinsukia, AS/WB	P. GRID	1999/10		Completed
19.	Ranganadi TR. Line Subansiri, AR/AS	P. GRID	1999/11		Completed
20.	TR. Dulhasti Contigency Kishtwar, J & K	P. GRID	2000/03	2000/03	
21.	Vindhyanchal TR. ST-II Satna, Madhya Pradesh	P. GRID	1999/10	1999/10	Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Unchahar TR. ST-II Raebareilly, Uttar Pradesh	P. GRID	2000/01	2000/01	Completed
23.	Agartala TR, System Agartala, Tripura	P. GRID	2000/02	2000/12	
24.	Kaiga-Sirsi TR. System Karwar, Karnataka	P. GRIT	1999/05		Completed
25.	AUG. TR. System-NER Badarpur, NER	P. GRID	2000/01	2000/01	Completed
26.	Rappb TR. System Kota, RA/GU	P. GRID	2000/03	2000/03	
27.	Kayamkulam TR. System Edamon, Kerala	P. GRID	1999/09	1999/09	Completed
Sector: Railways					
28.	Balwali BR 1248 On Ganga NR, Uttar Pradesh	B&S	2000/03	2000/03	
29.	Quilon-TVND. CTL Doubl SR, Kerala	DOUBL.	2000/03	2000/03	
30.	Kuppam- Whitefield SR, KR/AP	DOUBL.	1999/05		
31.	Chandanpur-Guroup 3RD Line, ER, Uttar Pradesh	DOUBL	2000/03	2000/03	
32.	Rajatgarh-Nergundi Talcher, SER, Orissa	DOUBL.	2000/03	2000/06	
33.	Sonnagar Mgs 3 Rd line ER. BH, UP	DOUBL.	2000/02	2000/2	
34.	Daund-Bhig-WAN, CR Maharashtra	DOUBL.	2000/02	2000/02	
35.	Akaltara-Ch-Ampa 3RD Lin SER, Orissa	DOUBL	2000/02	2000/02	
36.	Ragunathpur-Rahama, SER Orissa	DOUBL.	2000/07	2000/07	Completed
37.	Calicut-Mangalore, SR KE/KR	DOUBL.	2000/03	2000/03	
38.	Dalkhola-Kishanganj NEFR. BI/WB	DOUBL.	2000/02	2000/02	
39.	Maksi-Baira Garh WR, Madhya Pradesh	DOUBL.	2000/02	2000/02	
40.	PH3: Khana-Bolpur, ER West Bengal	DOUBL.	2000/03	2000/03	

1	2	3	4	5	6
41.	Muradnagar-Meerut, NR Uttar Pradesh	DOUBL.	2000/02	2000/10	
42.	Tundla-Yamuna BR; NR Uttar Pradesh	DOUBL.	2000/02	2000/02	
43.	Korba-Sarag-Bundia, SER MP, OR	DOUBL.	2000/02	2000/02	
44.	DIVA-Panvel, CR Mumbai, Maharashtra	DOUBL.			Completed
45.	Urukura-Raipur Sarona SER, MP/OR	DOUBL.			Completed
46.	Chennai-Chengal-Trichy SR, Tamil Nadu	GC	1999/10	1999/10	
47.	Gondia-Chandafort, SER Maharashtra	GC	1999/06	1999/06	
48.	Arsikere-Hassan-Manglor SR, Karnataka	GC	2000/03	2000/03	
49.	Miraj Latur Road, CR Maharashtra	GC	2000/03	2000/03	
50.	Wankaner-Maliya Miyana WR, Gujarat	GC	2000/02	2000/02	
51.	Belapur-Panvel Mumbai, Maharashtra	MTP	2000/03	2000/03	
52.	Thane-Turbhe-Nerul-Vashi Mumbai Maharashtra	MTP	2000/03	2001/03	
53.	Jogighopa Guwahati, NF Assam	NL	2000/03	2001/03	
54.	Nadiad-Modsa & Kapadvanj WR, Gujarat	NL	2000/02	2000/02	
55.	Pedapalli-K'ngr-Nzmbad SCR, Andhra Pradesh	NL	2000/03	2000/03	
56.	Howrah-Amta-Champadanga, SER, West Bengal	NL	1999/12	1999/12	
57.	Freightoperation. INF. SYS CRIS, All India	FOIS	2000/01	2000/01	
58.	Delhi-Amb-Ludhina-Kalka DE/HY/PB	RE	2000/03	2000/03	
59.	Bokaro-Kiriburu BI/WB/OR	RE	2000/03	2000/03	
60.	Sitaramp ur-Mugulsarai BI/UP	RE	2000/03	2000/03	

1	2	3	4	5	6
61.	Erode-Ernak-Ulam KE/TN	RE	2000/03	2000/03	
62.	Remod of YD. PH-I ST-I, ER Bardman, West Bengal	T.F.	1999/12	1999/12	
63.	Wheelshopcapaugment, WAP B'glore, SR, Karnataka	WS&PU	1999/06	1999/06	Completed
64.	60 Loco Diesel Shed Angul, SER, Orissa	WS&PU	1999/06	2001/03	
65.	CLW-MFR. of High HP ABB Locos, ER, West Bengal	WS&PU	1999/06	2001/03	
66.	Kazipet-Elecloco Shed, SC Andhra Pradesh	WS&PU	2000/03	2001/03	
67.	Ludhiana-Elec. Locoshe NR, Punjab	WS&PU	2000/03	2001/03	
68.	Wireless Ctlcomnn. Sealdh ER, West Bengal	S&T	2000/03	2000/03	
69.	Wireless Ctlcomnn. How, ER MGS PH5, WB/BI/UP	S&T	2000/03	2000/03	
70.	Repl. MW EQP, GRK'PUR-KTH NER, BI/UP	S&T	1999/12	1999/12	
71.	Repl. MW Linkmumbai-Bhwal CR, Maharashtra	S&T	1999/10		
72.	Track Circu-ting: FM-BSL T'BAD-B' Shan, Delhi	S&T	2000/03	2000/03	
Sector: Surface Transport					
73.	Procure 3 Nogantry Cmes MPT, Tamil Nadu	PORTS	1999/12	1999/12	
74.	Const. of 8 Thcargo Berth Kandla, Gujarat	PORTS	1999/12	1999/12	
75.	Const. of A Jetty Foripg Vizag, Andhra Pradesh	PORTS	2000/03	2000/03	
76.	Cons. of 4 Oil Jetty Kandla, Gujarat	PORTS	2000/02	2000/02	
77.	Renewal of P. Way Wadla Mumbai, Maharashtra	PORTS	2000/03	2000/03	
78.	Const. Multi Purposeberth Vizag, Andhra Pradesh	PORTS	2000/03	2000/03	
79.	Replacement of RTGS Mumbai, Maharashtra	PORTS	2000/02	2000/02	

1	2	3	4	5	6
80.	Repl. H'tugs Atul & Ankus Mumbai, Maharashtra	PORTS	2000/02	2000/02	
81.	Constn of Oil Berth Paradip, Orissa	PORTS	2000/01	2000/01	
82.	Const of 2Ndcargo Berth Paradip, Orissa	PORTS	2000/02	2000/02	
83.	Constn of Western QUAY Paradip, Orissa	PORTS	2000/02	2000/02	
84.	Constn: Berthmultipurpose Haldia, West Bengal	PORTS	2000/01	2000/01	
85.	Tugs Sumathi & Dhanumjaya Vizag, Andhra Pradesh	PORTS	2000/02	2000/02	
86.	Cal.-Palsit Section, WBPW Calcutta, West Bengal	RD&BR	1999/03		Completed
87.	Var Bypass, 2BR. on Ganga Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	RD&BR	1999/03		Completed
88.	NH5: 4 Lane Cuttack-Jag-Atpur, Orissa	RD&BR	2000/03	2000/03	
89.	NH47 (PH-II): Link Road PWD, Kerala	RD&BR	1999/03		Completed
90.	NH47: 4 Laningin Kerala PWD, Kerala	RD&BR	1999/03		Completed
91.	NH: 47: Varap-uzha BDG+RD Kerala	RD&BR	1999/09	1999/09	
92.	NH2: 4 Lane Mathura-Agr Agra, Uttar Pradesh	RD&BR	2000/02	2000/02	
93.	NH1:4 Lane PB KM 212-252 Punjab	RD&BR	1999/12	1999/12	
94.	ACQ. of 3 Lriltankers, CSL SCI, Cochin, Kerala	SHIPP.	1999/05		Completed
95.	ACQ. 2 Bulk Carr. Resale SCI, All India	SHIPP.	2000/03	2000/03	
Sector: Telecommunication					
96.	Chennai-V' Puram-Salem Tamil Nadu	DOT	2000/03	2000/03	
97.	ADDL INTL Gateway Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	VSNL	2000/01	2000/01	
98.	Mumbai-Arvi MW SYS. Maharashtra	VSNL	2000/01	2000/01	
99.	N. Delhi-DEH-RADUN MW SYS DE-UP	VSNL	2000/01	2000/01	

1	2	3	4	5	6
100.	Intelsat Earth STN. Arvi, Maharashtra	VSNL	1999/07		Completed
101.	STD. A Earth STN , 'H Sahar Calcutta, West Bengal	VSNL VSNL	1999/09	1999/09	Completed
102.	STD. Antenna Ambattur Chennai, Tamil Nadu	VSNL	1999/06	1999/06	Completed
103.	STD. B Earth Stn, Banlogre Bangalore, Karnataka	VSNL	1999/12	1999/12	Completed
104.	Sea-Me-We3 All India	VSNL	2000/01	2000/01	
105.	DCMES Purch. All Gateways All India	VSNL	2000/01	2000/01	

Promotion to Handicapped Persons

4098. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of physically handicapped persons working under Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry, rank-wise;

(b) whether persons with disabilities are being given equal opportunities, protection of rights for the purpose of promotion as provided under rules;

(c) if so, the number of persons benefited therefrom;

(d) whether the Government have received representations from physically handicapped persons regarding non-promotion as provided under rules; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) 9 Handicapped persons are working in the Ministry. 132 Handicapped are working in 11 offices under the Ministry. The information in respect of 13 offices is still awaited. A statement showing detailed break up rank-wise on the basis of available information is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes please, promotion to persons with disabilities are given as provide under rules.

(c) From the available information 89 persons have been benefited. This does not include the information from 13 offices from where it is awaited.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

No. of Physically Handicapped persons working Rank-wise

S. No.	Name of Office	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	M/o SJ&E	0	0	7	2
2.	NISD (subordinate office)	0	0	1	0
3.	NCBC	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	NCSK	0	0	0	0
5.	ALIMCO	1	16	32	18
6.	NHFDC	0	0	0	0
7.	NBCFDC	0	0	0	0
8.	NIMH	0	0	3	4
9.	NIVH	4	1	24	2
10.	NIHH	1	1	5	5
11.	NIOH	1	1	8	4
12.	AF	0	0	0	0
	Total	7	19	80	35

Total A+B+C+D = 141

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

4099. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government to give special consideration to the State in the development of water resources under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme on the lines of North-Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Government of Rajasthan has recently requested Ministry of Water Resources for inclusion of Rajasthan in the Special Category State so that it can avail special funding from the Government of India under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). The State has been advised to approach the Planning Commission who decides such matters.

Modernisation of SAIL

4100. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modernization projects of steel plants of SAIL has failed to improve the financial health of SAIL plants and their profit started dipping sharply since 1997-98 onwards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have found involvement of some senior executives in the mishandling of the projects and bungling of funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up a high level committee to probe the expenditure on modernization projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof indicating the terms of references of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Profit of SAIL has

dipped from 1997-98 mainly due to sluggish demand for steel, greater competition from imports, enhancement in supplies in domestic market and higher interest and depreciation cost on capitalization of modernization of RSP, DSP and BSL while the benefit of modernization would materialize in phases. The net profit/loss of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) from 1997-98 is as below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Profit/Loss (after tax)
1997-98	133
1998-99	(–) 1574
1999-00*	(–) 2049
*(upto Dec'99)	

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) Matter is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Water Logging

4101. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total hectares of land affected due to water logging in Bihar;

(b) the number of proposals to drain out the water logging in several parts of the State received by the Union Government during the last three years; and

(c) the number out of them approved and implemented during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) According to information received from the State Government of Bihar, about 9.41 lakh hectare of land is affected due to water logging in Bihar State.

(b) and (c) During the last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000), five drainage schemes were received in Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC), Ministry of Water Resources. These schemes were examined in GFCC and comments with suggestions were sent to the State Government of Bihar for compliance. In addition, three proposals pertaining to Gandak and Kosi projects were received in the Ministry during the last three years for reclamation of waterlogged areas in the irrigation projects covered under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development (CAD) Programme. Out of these, two proposals comprising total 39 chour drainage schemes in Gandak Irrigation Command, with total area of 8313.6 hectare and estimated cost of Rs. 102.38 lakh have been administratively approved by the Ministry of execution by the State Government. These schemes are at various stages of implementation. The third proposal consisting of 33 Chour Drainage Schemes in Kosi Irrigation Command were examined in the Ministry and comments with suggestions for improvement thereon were sent to the State Government for compliance.

Support to India's Candidature for Security Council

4102. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries which have openly and officially supported the India's claim for permanent seat in the UN Security Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether five permanent members of the UNO have not supported the India's case;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether India has taken up this matter with different countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Eight countries have so far made public expressions of support at the UN for India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

(b) These countries are Mauritius, Bhutan, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Russia, Vietnam, Laos and Cyprus. Of these eight countries, the last four i.e. Russia, Vietnam, Laos and Cyprus made their statements of support during the 54th UN General Assembly.

(c) and (d) Out of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Russia has openly supported India's candidature during discussions in the UN. We are further aware that France attaches a considerable degree of importance to India's candidature. France has not yet made an open statement of support at the UN but has expressed its support during bilateral discussions. Britain, USA and China have not made any commitments so far.

(e) and (f) India's candidature for a permanent seat in the Security Council is one of the priorities of our foreign policy. Since India officially announced its candidature during the 49th General Assembly in 1994, we have been actively lobbying for support both bilaterally and at suitable multilateral fora. The response that we have received is encouraging. In addition to eight public statements of support of the UN, of which four statements were made at the last UN General Assembly, we have also received expressions of support during bilateral discussions from a significant number of countries.

It is worth noting that during that last UN General Assembly in addition to Japan and Germany the only other country for whom public support was expressed is India.

[English]

Proxy War

4103. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kashmiri militants and Pakistani terrorists stepped up their proxy war against India on the eve of USA's President Bill Clinton visit to the country in order to internationalise the Kashmir issue; and

(b) if so, the strategy adopted by the Government to counter the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Chattisinghpura massacre on March 20, 2000 was part of a desperate attempt on the part of Pakistan and terrorists under its command and control, to seek to bring greater international focus on Jammu & Kashmir. This terrorist act was universally condemned and profiled Pakistan's role in sponsoring cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India.

(b) Government have effectively and appropriately brought to the notice of international community, Pakistan's support to cross-border to terrorism and continued attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India. The facts regarding Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism has been brought before several international fora and have also been raised at high-level bilateral discussions with world leaders. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan state sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, and elsewhere in India, and the impact this has on the security of our country and the region. This greater awareness is being reflected in the international media coverage on Pakistan and in statements by official spokesmen of several governments.

U.S. India Ties

4104. SHRI G.S. BASVARAJ:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. has acknowledged India as one of the major global producers in technologies and services;

(b) whether the Government have signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with U.S.A. and Srilanka on Information Technology;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful to the software professionals?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Prime Minister of India and the President of United States of America have signed a statement outlining their vision for Indo-US relation for the 21st Century. The vision statement *inter alia*, recognizes that the two Nations are leaders in the information age and are in the forefront of new high technology economy. Further, the United States has applauded India's success in opening its economy, its achievements in science and technology and its commitment to a new wave of economic expansion and reform.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Nuclear Power Generation

4105. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement a long term policy to increase nuclear power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing nuclear power plants are proposed to be enlarged with a view to increasing nuclear power output;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation have fixed a target to achieve 20,000 MW power output by 2020 AD; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The following is the projection of the programme for nuclear power generation during the Ninth Five Year plan and beyond the Ninth Five Year Plan, subject to availability of financial resources.

Details of reactors/Units		Total capacity (MWe)
I.	Upto Ninth Five Year Plan	
(1)	Operating reactors [2 BWRs of 160 MWe each & 8 PHWRs (1x100, 1x200, 2x170, 4x220 MWe)]	2280
(2)	Reactors under construction (2 PHWRs of 220 MWe each)	440
(3)	Reactors sanctioned and work commenced (2 PHWRs of 500 MWe each)	1000
(4)	Reactors awaiting sanction (2 PHWRs of 220 MWe each, 2 VVERs of 1000 MWe each and 1 PFBR of 500 MWe)	2940
		6660
II.	Beyond the Ninth Five Year Plan	
(1)	Reactors for which advanced procurement action is to be taken	1440
(2)	Reactors in the planning stage	
	(i) 10 PHWRs of 500 MWe each	5000
	(ii) 4 FBRs of 500 MWe each	2000
	(iii) 5 LWRs of 1000 MWe each	5000
	Total	13440
	Grand Total	20100

Machine Readable Passport

4106. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of State for EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce machine readable passport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which it will be useful to check forgery; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be introduced in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Machine written passport.

(b) and (c) A pilot project for introducing machine written and machine "readable" passports has been approved and is being introduced at the RPO, Delhi shortly. The machine written and machine readable passports will have the photograph and the signature of the applicant scanned on to the booklet. This, and other additional security features built into the newly designed passports, will check the instances of tempering of passports including substitution of photographs.

(d) The pilot project will run for 3 months at RPO, Delhi following which the results will be evaluated. Depending on the experience of the project, machine writing of passports will be fist fully introduced in RPO, Delhi and progressively to other passport offices in the country.

[Translation]

Reduction in Grants of Farmers

4107. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various political parties are pressing hard to the Government not to reduce or remove subsidies as the same will go against the interest of poor farmers; and

(b) if so, the decision of the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) No representations have been received from any political party requesting not to reduce or remove subsidies, even though there are newspaper reports of such requests from some quarters.

[English]

Silicon Valley

4108. SHRI R.L. BHATIA:
SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating any steps to replicate the Information technology industry to Silicon Valley;

(b) whether the Government have received any requests from any quarter to increase the growth target of Information Technology industry;

(c) if so, particulars thereof; and

(d) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The success of Entrepreneurs of Indian origin in Silicon Valley, USA provides a paradigm of exploiting India's natural advantage in Information Technology industry. In this context, Government has taken various steps to establish integral links with successful Indian IT professionals in the Silicon Valley. These include:

(i) Signing of MoU with Stanford University, California which, inter alia, will facilitate identification of joint R&D Programme, incubation facilities exchange of professionals and Human Resource Development in the area of Information Technology.

(ii) Setting up of a business centre at San Jose to liaison with NRIs in the Silicon Valley.

(iii) Setting up a Select Group of overseas Indian IT professionals based at Silicon Valley to provide input to the Government on policy and technology trends in the area of IT.

(b) to (d) Government has been receiving from time to time various suggestions and input from different quarters to increase the target of rate of growth of Information Technology industry. The National Task Force set up by the Prime Minister has set target of US$ 50 billion for software exports and US$ 10 billion for hardware exports from the country by the year 2008. The Task Force has also set a target for penetration of computers in the country to a level of 20 per thousand by the year 2008 from the existing level of 3 per thousand.

[Translation]

CMC Limited

4109. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CMC is not being able to invest in technology and delivery infrastructure to support its operational requirements due to non financial support from the Government;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the CMC is planning to raise resources from the market and have sought approval from the Government;

(d) if so, whether the experts have opined against public issue and have suggested many other options to raise funds;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) The entire matter is under consideration of the Government in consultation with CMC.

[English]

Nomination for Training Programmes

4110. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government nominate Officers for training to the reputed Foreign Institutions for improving their academic, managerial, technical and administrative capabilities in various fields and disciplines at the cost of the public exchequer and by way of sponsorships;

(b) if so, the details of the number of persons sent abroad for both the short-term and long-term training courses from the Ministry of Agriculture during the last three years;

(c) the number of persons belonging to the SC/ST category among such persons and their percentage to total such persons; and

(d) the reasons, if adquate number of SCs/STs Officers have not been nominated for the said training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of persons sent abroad for training programmes for which the expenditure is met by the Ministry of Agriculture (except Department of Food Processing Industries which has only recently become part of the Ministry of Agriculture) and under the externally aided projects implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture during the last three years is 419.

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

SSI in Orissa

4111. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms in setting up smal Scale/Agro Rural Industries in various States in the country;

(b) the number of small scale and Agro Rural Industries in Orissa and Bihar;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of these industries in Orissa and Bihar and also other Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the Schemes launched for the welfare of tribals in Orissa and Bihar during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Small Scale Industries are set up within the prescribed investment ceiling in plant and machinery which is currently Rs. 1 Crore. For the Khadi and Village Industries units should be set up in the rural areas where population does not exceed 20,000. In addition, these industries have to abide by other prevailing rules and regulations of the concerned State Governments and local authorities.

(b) The number of registered small scale units upto 31st March, 1999, was 18,762 (estimated) in Orissa and in Bihar it was 1,17,573 (Provisional). The number of registered KVI institutions in Orissa as on 31.3.1999 was 77 employing 1.98 lakh persons and in Bihar 86 employing 3.80 lakhs persons.

(c) and (d) Review of policies and programmes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in all States, including Orissa and Bihar, is a continuous process and necessary modifications in the schemes, if required, are brought out accordingly from time to time.

(e) The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fallow Land

4112. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total land lying uncultivated or fallow, State-wise;

(b) whether use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purpose is increasing;

(c) if so, the actual agriculture land used for non-agriculture purpose during last three years;

(d) if so, whether this is likely to reduce the cultivated area of land;

(e) if so, the remedial steps taken to make the land worth cultivable; and

(f) the funds allocated for the purpose by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) A statement showing State-wise area under fallow land is enclosed.

(b) to (d) Yes Sir. It is true that some amount of good lands are also used for non-agriculture purposes such as urbanization, industrialization and communication etc. During 1993-94 to 1995-96 an area of about 0.57 m.ha. has been used for the above purposes. However, this trend did not adversely affect the net sown area of the country, which remained at about 142.0 m.ha. during the corresponding period.

(e) and (f) The Department of Agriculture is implementing various central/centrally sponsored schemes to improve productivity of degraded lands. These schemes are:

1. National Land Use Board (NLUB) and assistance to State Land Use Boards (SLUB)
2. National Watershed Development Programme in Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)
3. Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP/FPR)
4. Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS)
5. Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)
6. Reclamation and Development of Alkali Soils with EEC assistance.

During 2000-2001, a sum of about Rs. 400.0 crores has been proposed for the effective implementation of these schemes in different States of the country.

Statement

Statement showing Statewise area under fallow land during 1996-97

(Area in thousand ha.)

S. No.	States/UTs	Area
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	3990
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	64
3.	Assam	183
4.	Bihar	2857
5.	Gujarat	783
6.	Haryana	137
7.	Himachal Pradesh	78
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	105
9.	Karnataka	1535
10.	Kerala	85
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1492
12.	Maharashtra	2175
13.	Manipur	—
14.	Meghalaya	234
15.	Mizoram	163
16.	Nagaland	190
17.	Orissa	788
18.	Punjab	75
19.	Rajasthan	3847
20.	Sikkim	13
21.	Tamil Nadu	2257
22.	Tripura	5
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1899
24.	West Bengal	241
25.	Goa	(m)
26.	A & N Islands	4
27.	Chandigarh	1
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
29.	Delhi	8
30.	Daman & Diu	(m)
31.	Lakshadweep	—
32.	Pondicherry	5
33.	D.V.C.	—
34.	Head Quarter	—
	Total	23215

(m)- not available separately
/(Statewise area)

Increase of Pension

4113. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the pension amount payable to the legal heirs/dependents of the deceased employees of Gurgaon Gramin Bank Under Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 due to increasing inflationary condition in the economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Under the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995, minimum amount of Family Pension for a widow and two children is Rs. 750/- per month. The maxium amount of family pension may go upto Rs. 3,750/- per month. Under the Scheme, there is a provision for valuation of the pension fund and review of pensionary benefits on annual basis. Accordingly, on completion of the first annual valuation, an increase of 4% on pension in payment has been sanctioned to the beneficiaries w.e.f. 16.11.1996. On completion of second annual valuation, additional relief of 5.5% has been sanctioned to the pensioners w.e.f. 1.4.1998. The sanctioned relief is payable to the eligible beneficiaries including those belonging to Gurgaon Gramin Bank. The Employees Pension Scheme is a contributory scheme with limited resources. As such it is not considered actuarially desirable to burden the scheme with unlimited liability which may arise if it is linked to inflationary conditions in the economy.

Unemployed Youths

4114. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH:
SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed youths registered with the various employment exchanges in each State particularly in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any new labour oriented industrial scheme in the country keeping in view the ever increasing number of the unemployed persons; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in regions characterised by higher rate of unemployment and under employment. The Ninth Plan recognised the high incidence of unemployment and increasing casualisation of labour and adopted a National Employment Assurance Scheme. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia, Member, Planning Commission has been set up to look into the employment generation taking place and suggest measures to generate at least one hundred million jobs in a period of 10 years (Ten million in each year).

Statement

Number of Job-Seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges

S. No.	State/Union Territories	Number in Thousands at the End of		
		1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3087.5	3206.5	3225.7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.8	13.7	15.9
3.	Assam	1475.0	1489.3	1490.3
4.	Bihar	3351.3	3310.0	3179.9

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Goa	109.0	111.8	106.5
6.	Gujarat	942.3	943.3	936.4
7.	Haryana	787.1	820.1	810.5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	718.3	795.4	860.2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	164.7	164.8	162.5
10.	Karnataka	1831.6	1812.7	1891.4
11.	Kerala	3531.8	3672.1	3883.8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2377.4	2547.1	2617.6
13.	Maharashtra	3923.5	4103.1	4181.5
14.	Manipur	318.1	334.7	385.6
15.	Meghalaya	34.4	33.4	36.1
16.	Mizoram	67.9	74.2	93.6
17.	Nagaland	21.7	27.7	35.5
18.	Orissa	977.3	970.9	990.3
19.	Punjab	580.6	578.8	550.1
20.	Rajasthan	873.8	891.2	840.0
21.	Sikkim*	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	3896.1	4175.8	4367.8
23.	Tripura	212.5	246.3	285.8
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2696.8	2638.5	2585.1
25.	West Bengal	5739.0	5724.7	5601.2
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	25.0	27.0	27.8
27.	Chandigarh	124.7	110.4	105.4
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5.5	6.0	4.1
29.	Delhi	1097.4	1128.2	955.3
30.	Daman & Diu	5.5	6.0	6.7
31.	Lakshadweep	8.8	9.3	9.7
32.	Pondicherry	144.5	116.6	129.0
	Total	39139.9	40069.6	40371.4

Note: *No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.
Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

[Translation]

Eradication of Child Labour

4115. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a new legislation to make 14 years the minimum age for employment in all sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such legislation is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government propose to enact a Central Legislation fixing minimum age of 14 years for admission to employment and work in all occupations but excluding agriculture in family and small holdings producing for own consumption. The proposed Legislation will also fix a minimum age of not less than 18 years for admission to any type of employment and work which by its nature or circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of young persons.

(c) Inter-ministerial consultation on the proposed legislation has been completed and a draft Bill to this effect is to be drafted shortly.

Labour of Stone Mines

4116. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the stone mines industry all over the country are facing recession as a result of which a large number of labourers have been rendered jobless;

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

(c) the corrective steps being taken to safeguard the interest of these labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) According to information available with the Government there is no concrete evidence of decline in stone production in recent years and joblessness as a result of recession in this sector.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Minimum Wages for Non-Government Organisations

4117. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the fact that non-Government Organisations do not pay minimum wages to their workers;

(b) whether the attention of the Government has also been drawn towards the fact that with the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commissions the disparity between the income of the Government and non-Government employees will increase;

(c) the action being contemplated by the Government to ensure the payment of minimum wages to the employees by Non-Government Organisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Under the Provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix and revise the minimum wages in respect of all scheduled employments under their respective spheres. Accordingly, the minimum wages of the workers engaged in the scheduled employments are fixed and revised from time to time. The enforcement of the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act is secured through the officers of the enforcement machinery under both Central and State Governments. These officers are appointed as Inspectors under the Act and they carry out inspections regularly and take suitable action in the event or detection of less or non-payment of minimum wages.

The fixation and revision of salaries/wages through the Pay Commissions and those under the Minimum Wages Act are independent of each other. Whereas the Pay Commissions are set up by the Central/State Governments for recommending revision of the pay scales of the Government employees, the minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act are fixed/revised for the workers in the scheduled employments under both Central and State Spheres.

Powers of CBI

4118. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to moot a concept of "Federal Crimes" to enable the CBI sou-motu

investigate in certain offences without the permission of the States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

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

12.01 hrs.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I have to make a request to the entire House. Yesterday we had decided in the Business Advisory Committee that immediately after the Question Hour we will conclude the Motion of Thanks on President's Address where the Leader of the Opposition will speak, followed by the reply of the Prime Minister. But, Sir, unfortunately the Prime Minister is indisposed due to his upper respiratory infection and a mild fever and as a result he is having pain in the throat. Therefore, he has been advised bad-rest. So, he cannot come to the House to reply today. I would request the House to postpone the speech of the Leader of the Opposition and the reply of the Prime Minister to next week. As soon as he gets well, we will come back to the House and decide the exact date.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been agreed in the BAC that after the completion of the speeches on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address yesterday, only the speeches of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the hon. Leader of the Opposition and the reply of the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee were to be given after the Question Hour today. Since the hon. Prime Minister is indisposed, the speeche of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the reply of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee may be given after the Question Hour on Monday, the 24th April, 2000. I hope the House agrees to this request.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we agree with you but it is my submission that in place of 24th April, it should be taken up on 25th April.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees it can be taken up on 25th April, 2000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: All right.

MR. SPEAKER: All right it is agreed. It will be taken up on 25th April, 2000.

12.03 hrs.

[Translation]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

a copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding action taken or proposed to be taken on International Labour Organisation Recommendation No. 189 concerning general conditions to stimulate job creation in small and medium sized enterprises adopted at the 86th Session of the International Labour Conference in June, 1998.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1620/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1621/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL

INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985:—

(i) The Karnataka Administrative Tribunals (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Members) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 86 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 2000.

(ii) The Administrative Tribunals (Procedure for investigation of Misbehaviour or Incapacity of Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and other Members) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 91 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2000.

(iii) The Central Administrative Tribunal (Group 'A' Posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 154 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2000.

(iv) The Central Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Members) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 244 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 2000.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1622/2000]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): On behalf of Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, I beg to lay on the Table:— a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha:—

NINTH LOK SABHA

(1) Statement No. XLVIII Second Session 1990

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1623/2000]

(2) Statement No. XXXX Third Session, 1990

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1624/2000]

TENTH LOK SABHA

(3) Statement No. XXXX Third Session 1992

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1625/2000]

(4) Statement No. XXXII Seventh Session, 1993

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1626/2000]

(5) Statement No. XXVI Eleventh Session, 1994

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1627/2000]

(6) Statement No. XXIII Twelfth Session, 1994

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1628/2000]

(7) Statement No. XXIII Thirteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1629/2000]

(8) Statement No. XX Fourteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1630/2000]

(9) Statement No. XVI Fifteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1631/2000]

(10) Statement No. XIV Sixteenth Session, 1996

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1632/2000]

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

(11) Statement No. XV Second Session, 1996

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1633/2000]

(12) Statement No. XIV Third Session, 1996

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1634/2000]

(13) Statement No. XIII Fourth Session, 1997

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1635/2000]

(14) Statement No. XI Fifth Session, 1997

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1636/2000]

(15) Statement No. X Sixth Session, 1997

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1637/2000]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

(16) Statement No. IX Second Session, 1998

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1638/2000]

(17) Statement No. VI Third Session, 1998

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1639/2000]

(18) Statement No. V Fourth Session, 19997

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1640/2000]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

(19) Statement No. II Second Session, 1999

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1641/2000]

(20) Statement No. I Third Session, 2000

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1642/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 182 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated th 29th February, 2000 regarding fixation of price of Urea, Zincated Urea and Ammonia (Anhydrous) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1643/2000]

12.05 hrs

[English]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2000 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th April, 2000."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Sugarcane Control (Additional Powers) Repeal Bill, 2000 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th April, 2000."

Sir, I also lay on the Table the Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2000 and the Sugarcane Control (Additional Powers) Repeal Bill, 2000, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 17 April, 2000.

12.06 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Fourth Report

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) Sir, I beg to present the Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.6½ hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sixth Report

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.07 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Reports

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture:—

(1) "Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation)."

(2) "Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture Research & Education)."

(3) "Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying)."

(4) "Ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Food Processing Industries)."

(5) "Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Water Resources."

12.7½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

First, Second and Third Reports

[English]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence:—

(1) "First Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighth Report of the Committee (12th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for 1999-2000."

(2) "Second Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (12th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the subject 'Advanced Jet Trainer,'" and

(c) "Third Report on the Committee on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Defence."

12.08 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Fifty-ninth, Sixtieth and Sixty-First Reports

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:—

(1) Fifty-ninth Report on the Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(2) Sixtieth Report on the Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; and

(3) Sixty-first Report on the Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs.

12.8½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

Forty-First, Forty-Second and Forty-Third Reports

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Forty-First, Forty-Second and Forty-Third Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministries of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Surface Transport respectively.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the question about water and power supply was asked from hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs?

MR. SPEAKER: The reply was given.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a sad incident during 'Zero Hour'. Yesterday, Members expressed concern about matters related to Jamia Milia in the House. It is unfortunate and all of us condemn it. Though, the grave injustice has been done against the students, the Government have neither given its reaction in this regard nor issued statement. The hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had assured the Members that he would convey their feelings to the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. But what is the reaction of the Government, would it give statement, would they provide information about the situation, would the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs again tell about this statement.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the last part of Shri Scindia's statement is not correct and records can be checked. I had said that I would convey the feelings of the Members to the hon'ble Minister of Home

Affairs and at that very time I conveyed them in writing to him. You can make further demands but it is not true that I did not keep my words.

SHRI MADHVRAO SCINDIA: I would like to remind the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, that today who is occupying treasury benches and when important issues come up and when you say that I will convey the feelings of Members to the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, it is assumed that the Government should give its reaction on this grave issue. It is right, that you might not had uttered these words but feeling expressed by you, indicate this only. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the students were beaten harshly and even 'Imam' of the Mosque was not spared. The people who were performing the Namaz in the Mosque were taken out forcibly and beaten. The students were taken out forcibly from the Hostel, pushed down from second floor by the Police. On one hand all these activities were going on and on the other hand the students of Jamia Milia were being alleged of having communal and anti-India attitude. Sir, the treasury bench has an opinion, the Government of Bharatiya Janata Party has another opinion. Their thinking is reflected in the functioning of Delhi Police and other agencies.

[English]

It is a reflection of a pattern of thinking.

[Translation]

This is dictatorship and fascism. Therefore, I want to demand. students are still sitting on 'dharna'. We are not ready to tolerate this type of attack on innocent people in the democratic country and Government do not take its accountability and do not give satisfactory reply because it does not come under the definition of the Democracy. Therefore, charges framed by Delhi Police against innocent students should be dropped and judicial inquiry should be conducted.

[English]

Police atrocities-, punishments against guilty officials, immediate withdrawal of police from the campus.

[Translation]

Until normalcy is restored the examination should be postponed. We fully support this demand and also demand that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should tell us whether this feeling.

[English]

Kindly do not be a Post Master General. Please do just convey it to the post box of Mr. Grah Mantri.

[Translation]

What are his reaction in this regard, what is his opinion, whether he is going to give the information, whether the statement is going to be presented on this, they should also inform us about this.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, it is very unfortunate that matters like this have to be raised more than once on the floor of the House. It was raised. The Members expressed their anguish. I am sure that nobody can say that this matter has no importance at all. Young students have been beaten up in a manner which is a shame on any system of governance. There is no response. The Parliament is sitting. We have expressed our views. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs says that he has taken the trouble of writing a long letter. This is the end of the job of the Government of the day, and there will be no response for days together.

According to us, this is a diabolical act that was committed there. We cannot but express our strongest disapproval and resentment as to what has happened. We demand that the Government must not only make a statement but also make amends for this and see that a civilised system prevails at least in the Capital of this country. I strongly support Shri Madhav Rao Scindia's statement.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as mentioned by Shri Madhavrao Scindia and Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the grave injustice has been done to the students. The real culprits fled, but nice and innocent....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): This is wrong. They were outsiders, the students were not culprits.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: When did I say. I did not say 'students'...*(Interruptions)* At least listen to me, I was also listening to you.

[English]

I did not say 'students'. Please listen to me...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi): Will you let us listen or not...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sahib Singhji, please sit down.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: When did I say that they were students, I have only said that the real culprits fled....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is not speaking the truth...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. Shri Alvi, I have allowed him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Alvi, what is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him. Now, you cannot interrupt him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that I have allowed him. If you want to say something, you can say it later on but not now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, this is strange. I am supporting them, and they continue to speak without thinking anything. I am saying that the persons who were to be arrested were not students, when had I said that they were students...*(Interruptions)* The Police went there to arrest some persons, they were not there, but the way action was taken against innocent students is absolutely wrong. This is shameful and the way the innocent students were beaten, the way they entered into hostel and beat them is wrong. The Vice Chancellor has said that he had not given them any permission. It is not appropriate to enter without permission into any educational institution and I understand action should definitely be taken. The Magistereal inquiry is being conducted over there. But cases should be withdrawn against innocent students and action should be taken against those who had committed atrocities.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, such atrocities have been committed on the students, the Imam of a Mosque has been tortured and in spite of all these things, the Government is not coming with any statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, the Government should come with a statement, we have had 24 hours since then....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV(Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I strongly condemn the atrocities committed against the unarmed and innocent students in Jamia Milia. The hon'ble Malhotraji has also condemned it. There are two things, one is when we say that this question is to be replied by so and so department. The hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs says that it is our collective responsibility, and now you are passing responsibility to hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. You are Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the scholar of Parliamentary work procedure. It has never been the convention of the House and Assembly also that Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had said that he will convey the feeling of the Members to the Minister of Home Affairs. We too had run the Governments. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs functions on behalf of the Prime Minister and Government and gives reply on their behalf. You should not shirk your responsibility and should immediately reply in this regard. You should not pass it to the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. You have observed hon'ble Members are not responsible for it, there are some leaders who blame police for atrocities committed on students. They too have accepted this and that is why they have demanded immediate release of innocent students. All cases against them should be withdrawn, and you should announce it in the House. What arguments do you require for this? Secondly, the students who were busy in preparation for their exams were thrown out from second floor. Even then on action has been taken against the police. Similarly when atrocities were committed against lawyers, you took it seriously, but Government did not take any action in that regard. We even said, the Minister of Law is also present. Whatever may be the decision of the High Court, but it is a fact that atrocities have been committed by police. Whether the High Court had said that police did not commit any atrocities. You will suspend a constable, and try to save the skin of big officers? Students, unarmed innocent people should never be attacked by lathis, tear gas and bullets. They should never be tortured. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we too used to participate in various movements in our students life, but Police never hit lathis on our heads. To hit lathis on head means an effort to kill the students. All the cases against students should be withdrawn and guilty police official should be handcuffed and sent to jails. You cannot get more evidence than this when all parties are unanimous over this issue

and there is no need for further discussion over this issue. You do not convey our feelings to the hon'ble Minister. Please fulfill your responsibility and if the Minister of Parlimamentary Affairs is saying that he will convey the feeling, then for what he is present in the House. The hon'ble Minister is good-looking and handsome also, but the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is providing himself weak in discharging his duties. This will not do any good. All Parliamentary conventions will get destroyed. You are responsbile for this. You have to fulfil your responsibillty on behalf of the Prime Minister. You should give the appropriate answer. If the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is ill, shall we continue to wait for him? And then you say that we do not allow the House to run. If our bonafide points are not even listened to then how will we let the House to run? Till our points are listened and Government give satisfactory reply the House will not function.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, Jamia Millia Islamia is a very reputed academic institution of our country. This incident has caused a tremendous anxiety in the minds of the secular people and minorities of our country as a whole.

Sir, we categorically demand that those students who are still behind the bars are to be released immediately. Wo also demand that the Home Minister should positively come to the House and make a statement on this. Examination is knocking at the door of this University but everything is in a standstill position. So, those police officials who are really guilty and who have beaten up the students mercilessly-this incident has been condemned from all the corners of this House, from all the sides of this House-have to be dealt with very firmly. The guilty officials should be punished and investigation should be made without any further delay....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, you have already raised this matter yesterday.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Si, I wish to make only two sentences. Please allow me...*(Interruptions)* There has to be a statement from the Government as to what action is taken. The Government is indifferent. *...(Interruptions)* The students are on hunger strike...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is going to reply. Please understand that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing the Government to reply. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised an important issue but you are not allowing the Government to reply.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Delhi Police is disreputed....*(Interruptions)* The lawyers were beaten, the students of Jamia Milia University were beaten....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has arrived. He should assure us, when he will give the statement.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): All right.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will he give just now?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: All right....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Let the false cases be withdrawn....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I call Shri Banatwalla to speak. I request all the other Members to take their seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very serious police action has been taken against the innocent students of Jamia Millia. Their demands are very reasonable-judicial inquiry to be made, false cases be withdrawn immediately, and action to be taken against those policemen and officers who are responsible for these unwarranted atrocities.

Sir, I visited the place. A heart-rending havoc has been created over there. When I saw things over there, even a calm, cool, collected person like me, even a person who believes in the rule of law like me, and even a person who is committed to peace and peaceful methods, I felt that I should also turn into a terrorist against those who are breaking the rule of law. Sir, such is the situation and here, the Government has not come forward with any statement whatsoever.

In the case of *lathi charge* on the lawyers, the High Court has said that action should be taken against the police officials who are responsible. Similarly, here, on the same norms, on the same thinking of the court, action should be taken against those responsible police officials and false charges have to be withdrawn.

Now, Sir, a statement must come from the Government. The students are on hunger strike. The Government should come forward with a statement as to what action they are taking and it must also appeal to the students to withdraw their hunger strike....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing anybody.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand, you are not allowing the Minister to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many student groups have met me in regard to the issue related to students of Jamia Millia, which has been raised today in the House. The Chief Minister of Delhi has met me. The Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia has met me. My own party's representative in the Government Shri Shah Nawaz has also met me. After talking to all of them, I discussed the issue with Lt. Governor. The Lt. Governor is incharge of Police for the Delhi Government. The first assurance which he gave me is that when the case will come before the court, the bail application of any student will not be opposed except those who took part in the voilence...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete. He has not completed his reply. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mainly, two things have been said that the Lt. Governor has ordered magistereal inquiry. According to you, judicial inquiry should be conducted. All of you are aware that magistereal inquiry takes less time, whereas judicial inquiry takes more time. If you desire, I will definitely talk to the Lt. Governor and direct him to take action in this direction.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete. What is this? Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the proper way. What is this? Shri Akhilesh, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): The Lt. Governor has decided not to oppose the bail application of the students...*(Interruptions)* This proves that injustice has been done against the students, the false case has been framed against them...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should announce in the House to withdraw false case...*(Interruptions)* After this Judicial Inquiry may be conducted into it.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am talking about that only. I have directed the Lt. Governor that these students have to appear in exams in these days and it is not right that so many students remain in jail during examination time or cases are filed against them. Therefore, cases should be withdrawn against students except who are involved in violence or are possessing unlicenced arms. He told me that in these types of cases accused have to file applications and full information about this process was given to Vice-Chancellor....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): He is explaining the procedure...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have already said it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister says.

*...(Interruptions)**

*Not Recorded.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It is the procedure which has to be gone through. I have advised the Lt. Governor that in most of these cases, the cases should be withdrawn. This has been the advice given to the Lt. Governor. The procedure is being followed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. B.B. Ramaiah to speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I want to ask one thing. What about an explanation from the police? Are they going to make any statement of regret for having entered the university campus without the permission of the Vice-Chancellor? How did they do this? Are they going to give an application of regret or not?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The hon. Member will appreciate that when an enquiry has been ordered, unless the enquiry report is given, the action cannot be taken in that matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Dr. B.B. Ramaiah says.

...*(Interruptions)**

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Sir, there has been a steep fall in the prices of coconut recently...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. The Minister has not yet completed.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand. You are not allowing the Minister also to give a reply. Please take your seats. Shri Ramaiah, you also please take your seat. Shri Ahamed, please take your seat. The Minister is giving the reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I would like to know from the Hon'ble Home Minister as to who has perpetrated the crime, how did the police enter the campus without permission. If you want that innocent people should submit applications to the police

[English]

then it is a very great humiliation.

[Translation]

First they are beaten up by the police, then they are told to give application to those who have canned them,

[English]

this is very humiliating.

[Translation]

I think that I do not think any person with self respect will do it. Those cases should be withdrawn. Those cases against innocent students should be withdrawn.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him give the reply please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: And, Sir, who is going to decide the merit of the case?...*(Interruptions)* Let there be a Parliamentary committee to go into it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that you are unnecessarily dilating the issue. When the Minister is ready to give the reply, you are dilating the issue. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Who is going to decide who is innocent and who is not?

[Translation]

Will it be decided by those who have beaten up the innocents. We are not satisfied with his reply.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, my request is that let the Home Minister give the reply. If they have further questions, he will answer them. What is the point in shouting like this?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is further giving the reply but you are not allowing him. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He can reply together, Sir. We are saying that either a magisterial inquiry or a judicial inquiry cannot have anything to do with the continuation of the cases against the students and continuing keeping them in jail.

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*Not Recorded.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I agree.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, irrespective of whatever type of inquiry may be held, we demand that the students must be immediately released and the cases against them should be withdrawn. If something else is there, the law will take its course. But at the time, in anticipation you cannot keep them. Apart from the manner in which all these things have happened- I am not going to repeat it—everybody is showing his total abhorrence to what has happened and the hon. Minister has not said one word against the police. He has not said one word condemning the incident. We expected that the Government of India should have condemned this incident. It should have been done in an unequivocal manner. Therefore, I am requesting the hon. Home Minister not to leave it to the Lt. Governor. He is powerful enough, many more times powerful than him. He should please see that these boys are released today. Unfortunately, even wen they came yesterday to express their protest, they were again beaten up. Today again it has happened. What is this? Is this a declaration of war on these Jamia Millia students? Therefore, I am requesting the hon. Home Minister to make a declaration here and now—he has the authority—that they would be released in the course of the day and all cases against them would be withdrawn.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I appreciate the demand made by the entire Opposition. I will direct the Lt. Governor accordingly and I shall see to it that except those cases there are allegations of violence or holding of unlicensed arms...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): We are not going to listen anything from the Government *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not going to listen to the hon. Minister? When you raised the issue they were listening. When the hon. Minister is replying, you are not listening to him. What is this? I do not understand it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I appeal to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the entire Opposition, to once again consider the matter and release the students....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, we are not satisfied with the answer given by the hon. Minister. We are walking out in protest.

12.36 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, not satisfied with the answer, we are walking out.

12.36½ hrs.

At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon, Members left the House.

12.36½ hrs.

At this stage, Shir Indrajit Gupta and some other hon. Members left the House.

12.36½ hrs.

At this stage, Shri G.M. Banatwalla left the House.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, despite several requests, the Government is not considering it. I am not satisfied with the answer.

12.37 hrs.

At this stage, Shri P.C. Thomas left the House.

12.37 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.

12.37 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ramdas Athawale left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are ready to listen to the speech of Home Minister, but to what extent is it appropriate when you are conducting judicial inquiry or inquiry by the Magistrate, if they are found innocent, then they will be released...*(Interruptions)*. If it is investigated by the police as to which of the students had arms then you know the fact, we are also victim to that. That is why Mr. Home Minister, you please taken it-seriously and order immediate release of the students without any condition. Do not

leave it to the Lieutinant Governor, it will not be appropriate to leave it to him. These students were unarmed and innocent. We want that you exercise your powers and withdrawn the false cases made against them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. B.B. Ramaiah to speak now.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Sir, there has been a steep fall in the price of coconut recently...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singhji, when you are raising the matter, they are listening. But when they are to give reply, you are not listening. What is this system? I do not understand it. This is too much.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please do not get annoyed with me, you get annoyed with those who are making noise. I am expressing my opinion that this has never been the tradition with the students. We were also in the Government, cases against innocent students have been withdrawn. Outsiders had entered the University. Senior leader of your party Shri Malhotra ji has also said that they were criminals and police had gone to arrest them. They fled from there and left their arms behind.

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, now finish it, this is not discipline.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Cases against the students should be withdrawn.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Whatever demands have been placed by the Vice-Chancellor, Advani ji has assure here to accept them. In spite of that they are staging walk out. If they were to settle their scores, th_, do not have any sympathy for the students except to create an uproar here. Students had also met me. Whatever demands were put forward by the Vice-Chancellor, students...*(Interruptions)* They placed three demands....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Having seen the Home Minister, you have changed your statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, you are continuously putting across your own views and not listening to others.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They had asked for judicial enquiry and Advani ji told that he was ready for it. The Home Minister said that if opposition want it, then he was ready for this, judicial enquiry may be conducted but now they are running away from this too. He told that those students who are innocent...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Home Minister reply or he will continue with his speech.

MR. SPEAKER: He will also speak.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has assured to withdraw the cases against innocent students. But if some students is found with a pistol or revolver on his person then the case against him cannot be withdrawn and even the Court will not accpet it. So, he has given assurance to accept all the demands that have been placed by them, but in spite of that, I do not understand why they are walking out.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also wantone minute's time to make by submission.

[English]

Sir, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should tender unconditional apology....*(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER: Hon. Members may please take their seats. This is not the proper way to behave in this House. What is this? Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: This has happened in his constituency...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Alvi, what is this? You are raising it every time. I am not going to allow you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR.SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Every time, you are disturbing the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: On this important issue also, you are not allowing the Minister to speak, I think, this is not a proper way. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

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*Not Recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this unfortunate incidence occurred a few days back and after that several student delegations of Jamia Millia met me. First of all they were accompanied by perhaps Shri Shahnawaj and thereafter the Chief Minister of Delhi had come, and the day before yesterday, Vice-Chancellor had come to meet me. Whatever they all had submitted has been almost accepted and they returned satisfied. Today, this thing has happened for the first time and it seems that they have come here preplanned that they have to do this and on the basis of that they are doing it. Otherwise, I would like to tell you that judicial enquiry is swifter than the Magisterial eqnuiry. But I do not have any objection in accepting magisterial enquiry. It will go on for months, let it be, otherwise immediate action would be taken.

Secondly, instructions have been given to release innocent students. But there is a procedure for this and we will have to go by that procedure. Question has raised about submitting application under this procedure. All this has been explained. Nobody had any objection, but objections are being raised here, which is a matter of surprise for me. I again submit that this incident should not have happened. This incidence was of January and in this connection, the police had gone there to arrest somebody. Police version is that they had arrested the right person who was got released. The students' version is that he was not the right person. All this is a controversial issue about which I would not be able to make any comment. Time and again, courts comment that political leaders interfere in every matter even at the investigation stage. It is wrong. You people generally raise objection and today it is being stressed here that I should give the decision here and now. In spite of that indeference to the sentiments of the House I have said that I will also ask for judicial enquiry and will give instruction to release all the students who are innocent...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. B.B. Ramaiah.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record. Dr. B.B. Ramaiah.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: The reply is over. Dr. B.B. Ramaiah.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, there has been a steep fall in the price of coconut recently. This fall in price of coconut has adversely affected the plight of coconut growers. It may be highlighted in this context that rising of a coconut plantation has a long period of gestation before the benefit of the crop is reaped by the growers.

As a result of this, a major portion of the lifetime of the farmer is devoted to raising this crop and at the end of it, if the prices are not remunerative, the farmers' hopes are shattered....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, we are not satisfied with reply of the hon. Minister. Therefore we stage walk-out from the House.

12.43 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: We have already seen extreme hardships faced by farmers due to non-realisation of remunerative prices in other crops earlier. It is imperative for the Government to bring out a market intervention strategy by ensuring a minimum support price for coconut so that farmers do not resort to any drastic steps....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, he is reading ....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. B.B. Ramaiah, you cannot read during 'Zero Hour'.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Sir, the Minister of Agriculture may kindly be pleased to intervene in the matter either directly or through the Coconut Board to mitigate the hardship faced by the farmers....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, I have also given a notice on the issue relating to farmer community. This is a very serious issue....*(Interruptions)* Hon. Speaker, Sir, if you recollect, in the last Lok Sabha, there was a discussion in this House and the whole House showed concern on farmers resorting to commit suicide all over the country and especially in four or five particular States. At that time, you had warned the Government to review their policy of credit to the farmers.

12.44 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

We pleaded here at that time-that we had lost 150 farmers because of the anti-farmer policy of this

*Not Recorded.

Government. Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, the State to which my colleague, who spoke just before me, belongs, even yesterday, five farmers have committed suicide. So, I would like the Government and I would request you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, to fix up a special discussion only to review the policy of credit to the farmers so that the whole House can come out with a solution and committing of suicide by the farmers could be stopped. We have given notice for Calling Attention Motion and also under Rule 193.

I leave it to the wisdom of the Chair. But this discussion must take place so that this very chronic problem of the farmers could be deliberated in the House. Otherwise, farmers' lives would on a totally wrong course.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Unrestricted import of some commodities is causing serious trouble to farmers.

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): While I share Shri Rajesh Pilot's views on the issue, that is not the issue which I am on. However, I would like to associate myself with what Shri Rajesh Pilot has said.

Sir, I have moved a Calling Attention Notice on the issue of match-fixing. Hon. Home Minister, who is an ardent cricket lover himself, is sitting here. I want to know as to what has happened to my notice. New events are taking place everyday. This is no longer a national affair, it has become in international affair. Names of large number of people—big, famous, eminent people—are being flaunted around. I had said in my notice that we should discuss this issue in the House. The Minister of Sports is holding some meetings, private or clandestine, I do not know. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has come up with something and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has come up with something else. The Home Minister is here. I would like to know from him as to whether he considers this matter serious enough to order a CBI inquiry into it. We have several agencies involved. The BCCI is saying that this will be handled by Delhi Police. Delhi Police are saying that they are going to give it to the Enforcement Directorate. This issue has ramifications not only of fraudulent fixing of matches but also of foreign exchange violation, criminal nexus, etc. Who are these bookies? What has been their role in this episode? Has it got links with the narcotics trade? The Home Minister may like to respond to these questions. I think there is no difference of opinion in the House on the point that a CBI inquiry should be conducted into this. Pending a CBI inquiry, cricket affairs be taken over by a body nominated by the Government becuase the very people who are being investigated are the people today who are trying to suppress this issue.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether you are going to allow my calling attention notice or not. There is a massive cover up taking place. I charge that there is a massive cover up taking place and we are just sitting here doing nothing about it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have raised your issue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: (Kanpur) Shri Kamal Nath's submission is as to why CBI enquiry is not conducted? If there is a CBI enquiry then more facts will come to light.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has pointed out two things. I think that first thing is absolutely correct that the situation that is emerging in the country and the way Cricket Board is involved in covering-up and in the past too it has been trying to cover up *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: ICC has also been involved in covering up *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: For all these things separate enquiries are being held. There is no other way except CBI enquiry and the Home Minister should seriously think about it *...(Interruptions)* CBI enquiry may be held because this matter is being discussed all over the world *...(Interruptions)* South Africa and Pakistan have been mentioned and now the name of Australia is coming up *...(Interruptions)* CBI enquiry should be held. I am not in this favour that the Government should takeover any such Body. So far as the question of taking over of this 'Body' by the Government is concerned, if it starts happening *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I did not say about take over. My point is that as long as enquiry is not over, control will continue to be with those persons who are involved in it *...(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You have made your point, now let me have my say. It will be absolutely wrong for the Government to take over any sports bodies or interfere in it *...(Interruptions)* The Government should hold enquiry.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): I support Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra on this. The Government can conduct a CBI inquiry into this affair and the Government can interfere in the functioning of the Board.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: There is total agreement in the House over this issue. Why does the Home Minister also not agree to this? He is a cricket lover himself. Members from both the sides of the House are saying the same thing. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, why do you also not say the same thing so that the Minister can get up and say that he agrees to it.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): I associate myself with what has been stated on this issue. A meeting between the Presidents of BCCI

and ICC took place in Calcutta yesterday. I heard from press reports that the President of BCCI passed on to the shoulders of the Central Government the decision whether to make Justice Chandrachud Commission's report public or not.

They are saying that 'if the hon. Minister desires, then only the Chandrachud Committee Report can be tabled' and on the other hand, the hon. Minister has said that 'if the Cricket Control Board denies to place or table the Chandrachud Committee Report, then the Government will take up the matter.'

So, Sir, I would request the Government to take up this matter immediately, come out with a statement and also lay the Chandrachud Committee Report on the Table of the House. And, we do not oppose if any CBI inquiry, if necessary, is instituted into the matter.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Everybody is saying about it. What more do you want? Please react to it....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I think that many presons in this country and outside are concerned about match fixing episode. Kamal Nathji said that I am also found of cricket. I can understand his sentiment. But he should know that we have a separate Ministry of Sports and these days they are taking care of this episode. I will advise them to come here and give any relevant information to the House in the context of discussion that has been held here. Chandrachud Report was not Government's report, it was he report of the B.C.C.I. It will be appropriate to make it public and if there is involvement of Indians in it, it should be disclosed and appropriate enquiry should be held in this direction.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): He has asked for legalising even betting.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: No, he himself has told that he had not said anything like that.

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The Sports Ministry is the concerned Ministry. You have to carry on and see that CBI investigates the entire gamut....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: CBI is not the Home Ministry. In whatever respect, the Sports Ministry is dealing with it....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Then, let Shrimati Vasundhara Raje get up and say....*(Interruptions)*. We do not know what is coming in the Government...*(Interruptions)*...He says that the CBI does not come under his Ministry. Does the CBI come under the Food Ministry?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Home Minister has said that this matter is not under his Ministry.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: This is very unfortunate and bad luck of this country that nobody is reacting on the farmers' issue. Everybody is reacting on cricket....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Who comes under what?...*(Interruptions)*...Does the CBI not come under the Home Ministry?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us hear the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have said that I will tell the Sports Minister.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: At least you can give permission for CBI enquiry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKR: Look, the Home Minister has told that the concerned Ministry is Sports Ministry.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I know it....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am on my legs. Please take your seats.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, I am on a different issue....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

It is regrettable that you are also on your legs on the matter of cricket. I have said about the suicide of farmers but there is no reaction on the part of the Government. Five farmers have committed suicide and the Government is not reacting. I know, cricket takes over everything. I am not against it. But what about farerms? Farmers have committed suicide but the Government is not reacting to it....*(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

There is much ado about cricket. It is too much. What is happening in the country.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is reacting.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I think that priority should be given to whatever hon'ble Rajesh Pilot ji has said about the credit problem of the farmers. His intention is good.

As far as the Government is concerned, there can be a discussion on that if you decide about the timing, the Government is ready for a discussion. Immediate reply cannot be given about the credit policy.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: That is not my argument. I am telling that we are warning for the last one year that your policy is anti-farmers. Why are you not reacting to that? Why are these suicides being committed?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Our policy is not anti-farmers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: But I am telling that it is so.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You will say only this.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Then a debate should be held over this issue as to why the people are committing suicide?

[English]

Why are people committing suicide? People are committing suicide and you say about the policy approach of the Government to farmers. I have nothing to say about this.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Unfortunately, the suicides have taken place in many States. These are the States ruled by various political parties, right from my party to your party. So, do not make it a political issue. I appreciate the concern and unless the House discusses it, we cannot come to any conclusion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us stop here now because this issue is very important and the Business Advisory Committee must find some time to discuss it. We will have a discussion on it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Let the hon. Minister finish what he wants to say. I want to hear him.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: About the second issue raised by Shri Kamal Nath, I will ask the Sports Minister to make a statement tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister make the statement.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Calling Attention is not subject to my agreement. We have no objection whether it is Calling Attention or *suo motu* statement. I leave it to the Chair to give direction. We have no problem. ...*(Interruptions)* As it is rightly said, for the first time this issue was raised two days back by Shri Kirti Zha Azad, a known cricketer by himself. That is why, I said that tomorrow the Sports Minister will make a statement. That may include all the demands made here. Let us see. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The decision will be taken only after the debate. How can it take place until the debate is held?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Hon. Deputy Sepaker, Sir, yesterday a mention was made in the House about the attack on hon. Member Shri Rudiji. I ordered an investigation into it and found it true that on 16th Arpil he was travelling in his car.' His personal Security officer also accompanied him. A Tata Sumo collided with it from rear and the persons sitting in it tried to escape. The driver of Shri Rudiji followed them and gave them a chase. He was able to catch them at village Humayunpur. After that the driver of Tata Sumo assaulted Shri Rudiji and his personal Security Officer. Some villagers came and helped the offender in his act. Yesterday this episode was mentioned here. After investigation it was revealed that the driver of Tata Sumo is a constable in Delhi Police. He has been arrested, suspended from the service and the investigations are going on. Other persons involved in it were the villagers. Their identity is yet to be established but the investigation in this regard are going on....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, yesterday also we have taken possession of a mobile phone from here. I request everyone whoever wants to bring the mobile phone that it should be put off before taking it inside the House. If it is found to have been brought here, we will be taking possession of it and will not be returned.

[Translation]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Sir, through you, I would like to bring a very important issue before the House that on 25th March, militants killed approximately 40 sikhs in Chattisinghpura village in district Anantnag. A barbaric act took place there and a wave of grief and sorrow overtook the entire country. After it, security forces very quickly announced that five Pakistani militants have been captured and killed. This was also shown in the television. I also watched it. You also might have seen it. It was revealed afterwards that those killed were locals of the area and they were killed through staging fake encounter.

13.00 hrs.

Consequently, a very large procession marched through Anantnag in which it was demanded that they should be allowed to have a view of their faces. The procession was fired at and 8 persons were killed in it. It is right that the security forces should not kill its own people whether they be Muslims or Hindus. When our Sikh brethern were killed, the Government representatives, people and leaders from all the political parties went to Anantnag to express their sorrow and sympathy but when Muslims were killed, neither any leader visited the area nor did they issue any statement. However, the local Government have suspended those police officers. I would like to know from the Government of India as to what action will be taken against those security force's personnel who have claimed to kill militants and instead have killed innocent civilians? Though an inquiry Commission has been constituted to look into the episode but I am sorry to say that out of many persons in this House who claim to be secular, none raised his voice to condemn this act. I would submit to the Government of India to issue stringent instructions to the security forces that no excess should be committed against those who are living or intend to live in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. I do not have any regrets over the killings of some militants but the responsibility for the security of other citizens also lies with the Government of India. Hence instructions should be issued to the security forces not to create any kind of problem for the people of our State. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am glad that today the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the hon. Minister of Law and Justice are preesnt at the moment in the Treasury Benches.

The other day, hon. Member Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had raised the very pertinent issue about the Delhi lawyers' strike and the problems that they faced with the police on the 24th February.

The hon. High Court did declare the strike illegal.

MR. DEPUTY-SPAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, this issue is coming up every day.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If you do not allow me, I will keep quiet but it is my right to raise the issue because this incident has been exposed by the Delhi High Court. The Delhi High Court gave a judgement through the acting Chief Justice Ravindra Singh and Justice Cyriac Joseph. In the video film, those police officers were seen beating the lawyers as if they were mad dogs on the street. Their action was totally unwarranted, unprovoked and unjustified ....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Why should one raise an issue every time one sees a Minister?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Shri Mahajan, the question does not arise. It is my right to bring it up....*(Interruptions)*

The High Court has indicted the Government of India and passed strictures. The High Court has said that it is a blatant violation of the rules relating to the force. It has further said that whether these allegations were true or not, the conduct of the Government was capable of raising doubts about the sincerity and *bona fide* of the Government in taking action against those erring police officials....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPURTY-SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, yesterday Shri Arun Shourie had replied to this.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I have a serious procedural objection. You may hear him first and then please hear me.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If you ask me, I am prepared to authenticate the judgement of the High Court and place it before the House.

The judgement reveals that the Government of India deliberately kept quiet, without taking cognisance of the atrocities, till the direction of the Court to suspend the police officials came. The Minister of Law and Justice and the Minister of Home Affairs should express their total apologies.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister concerned replied to it yesterday.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What was his reply?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has replied to all these points.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The High Court had categorically stated that the action of the Government and the action of the police raised doubts. Therefore, the hon. Minister of Law and Justice must express profound apologies to the lawyers for such things. It is the duty of the Minister of Law and Justice....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want to say something?

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatever he is mentioning will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. I will not allow, Shri Dasmunsi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in your wisdom, you can order anything to be expunged. But again, I will come back tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can come back tomorrow; that is a different matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, you have sent a notice just now. I was genuinely under the feeling that you have given a notice. I am guilty. I am sorry for it. You have not given a notice. I do not find your name in this list. It was my mistake. I apologise to the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you should not apologise.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have not given a notice.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let me clarify the position.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me say something. I am on my legs. I was genuinely under the impression that you have given a notice. You have not given a notice.

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*Not Recorded.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. You may see my note. I met the hon. Speaker today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am sorry. I have allowed you. This matter was replied to yesterday by Shri Arun Shourie.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am on my legs. If you want to say something, I will allow you. But this matter was replied to yesterday. Today, there is no notice, which is given by you. Due to a slip, I was under the impression—you are the Chief Whip of your party—that your notice is here, and so, genuinely, I have allowed you.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let me clarify it since you have quoted me in a manner that I am trying to mislead you. It is not. Let me correct it. Yesterday, the BAC took a decision that the 'Zero Hour' will not be allowed today. But when I went to the Speaker in the morning and asked him, since the reply by the Prime Minister is not going to be there today, will he receive notices for 'Zero Hour'. He said that he would do. But I said in that case we had not given notice, but we have a very urgent matter to be taken up. For that, the Speaker honourably told me that my leader and I are entitled to take up the issue during the 'Zero Hour'. The, I wrote a letter to the Speaker. That letter is lying before the Speaker in the Table. I gave a note also....*(Interruptions)* You may cross check. I gave the letter to the hon. Speaker and the Speaker said that I am at liberty to take it up during 'Zero Hour'. I did not give a notice earlier because it was decided that 'Zero Hour' would not be allowed. This is not the way.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me say. I was present when you talked to the hon. Speaker. This list shows the names of 20 hon. Members, but your name is not here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How do I know that you had a talk with the hon. Speaker? It was not put up to me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Hon. Speaker gave me the consent. I cannot say anything in the name of hon. Speaker....*(Interruptions)* I cannot mislead the Chair. I never did so in my parliamentary career....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPURTY-SPEAKER: Your note does not mention that you have given a letter to hon. Speaker. Let me tell you that this list shows the names of 20 hon. Members who have given notices.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I did not give a notice because it was decided that 'Zero Hour' will not be allowed today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is a genuine misunderstanding. But I am right on my part.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you said in the House that I misled the Chair. I did not mislead the Chair. Never did I do so.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. I did not say that. Do not put something else into my mouth. Shri Dasmunsi, do not put all these things into my mouth. What I said was that your name is not there in the list.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: That is why, I explained to you, why it is not in the list. It was because it was decided that 'Zero Hour' would not be allowed today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I was under the wrong impression that you have not given the letter. Of course, you have given a letter. You are raising it with the permission of the Speaker.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister came running to me and siad that procedural departure is there. When I checked up the list, your name was not there.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: My name cannot be there because I did not give a notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If I am not present when you discussed it with the Speaker, how do I know it?

Anyway, let us put an end to this. You have asked a question, to which a reply was given yesterday. You have raised this matter with the permission of the Speaker. Have you completed?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: But you said that everything was expunged.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. The latter part only. Not everything.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, please hear me for a minute. If I raise an important issue and if you say it is expunged, I am sorry. The Jamia Milia issue was raised two days before and it was allowed today also. This issue was raised by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav even before the judgement came. I only tried to highlight the judgement. But you were saying that it would be expunged. I am sorry.

MR. DEPURTY-SPEAKER: You are taking up the same matter again. How do I know that you have talked to the Speaker? I am not expected to know that when I was not there.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I take this matter with all seriousness. As the Chief Whip of the Opposition Party, I will take up the issue tomorrow with the hon. Speaker. If I have misled the hon. Speaker and the Chair by raising the issue without obtaining the permission of the Chair, I will withdraw from public life. This is what I am saying. I never did this. I did not give the notice because it was decided that 'Zero Hour' would be suspended today. Then, Speaker told me that I can take up the issue and I will give you permission. And then only I gave the letter in the first hour. After hon. Speaker has left the Chair, I gave this letter and then I took the permission of the hon. Deputy-Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Dasmunsi, you are right. Am I wrong?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: But you were apologising to the House for having given me a chance to speak out of the way. It is not correct.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are going back to square one. Shri Dasmunsi, if you had taken permission from the Speaker, I must have been informed fully. How do I know? Am I not a human being?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Did I not write in my note that Speaker has given me the permission.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is true.

Does the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister have to say anything on this issue?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: No.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You wanted to raise some procedural matter with me. I have given permission on the basis of this letter. He is a responsible Member and he is the Chief Whip of his party. Let us have some understanding. You came running to me.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I only tried to highlight that the lawyers strike has been declared illegal which has come in the print media. But a message has gone that lawyers had done something wrong which is not correct. It is because the High Court has also vindicated that the police has treated the lawyers like

cats and dogs in the streets. The High Courts has also said that the Government of India has failed. The Law Minster and the Home Minister who are in-charge of the whole affair must tender profound apology to the lawyers after having received the strictures from the High Court. The Law Minister is a distinguished member of the Bar. He is a teacher of the law. And he knows the seriousness of the strictures of the High Court. I am not asking for their resignation. That was demanded in the other House. I am only saying that as a matter of courtesy, the Law Minister and the Home Minister must express profound apology to the lawyers who have been mercilessly beaten by the police for which the High Court has also passed strictures.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Does the Law Minister want to react?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): Sir, I do not wish to react without any notice. I have not even got a copy of the judgement. Yesterday, there was a debate in the Rajya Sabha. If a debate is needed here, I am ready any time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

[English]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Launching of Insat-3B Satellite

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): I am pleased to inform the hon. Members of the House that the Indian-built INSAT-3B satellite was successfully launched on March, 22, 2000 from Kourou, French Guyana, by an Airane-5 launch vehicle. Soon after, the Master Control Facility at Hassan took charge of the satellite operations and in three successive steps, using the satellite onboard propulsion system, the satellite was placed in geostationary orbit at 36,000 km. After completing the deployments of solar panels and antenna reflectors, the in-orbit testing of the communications payload has been successfully completed. The satellite is now ready for commencing its operations.

INSAT-3B is the first of the third generation INSAT series with four more satellites to follow. INSAT-3B is collocated with INSAT-2E at 83 degree east longitude. It carries 12 extended C-band transponders, three KU-band transponders and S-band mobile satellite service payloads. The satellite primarily caters to business communications, mobile communications and development communications. It provides the first set of transponders for Swarna Jayanthi Vidya Vikas Antariksh Upagraha Yojana (Vidya Vahini) for interactive training and development communication giving fillip to the Training and Development Communications programme using INSAT system.

Today, the INSAT system is one of the largest domestic multipurpose satellite systems in the world, with more than 85 communications transponders and payloads for meteorological applications. It provides a variety of services in the area of telecommunications, TV broadcasting, developmental communication, education, rural development, weather prediction and disaster warning. In this perspective, INSAT-3B represents the nation's resolve to use Space capabilities for a wide range of its developmental needs.

It is heartening to note that this complex mission was carried out in a professional and efficient manner from the INSAT Master Control Facility at Hassan, Supplemented in the early phase by the ground stations in Canada, Australia and Italy. The INSAT system is a joint venture of the Department of Space, the Department of Telecommunications, the India Meteorological Department, All India Radio and Doordarshan.

I would like the House to join me in complimenting the Indian Space Research Organisation of the Department of Space and all other agencies involved in this programme for the success of this mission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it is a great achievement and the House would certainly like to convey our appreciation of the achievements to our scientists and to all those who were involved.

14.25 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need for early construction of a railway over-bridge at level crossing of Jaffrabad-Utrethia at Jaunpur in UP

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur): Madam Chairperson, the National Highway No.-56 connecting Lucknow and Varanasi is a very busy highway. This highway passes through the Jaunpur city where the level crossing of Jaffrabad-Utrethia is situated. The doubling of this line is soon going to take place. Due to the closing of this level crossing, miles long traffic jams take place disrupting the traffic of the city for long hours.

Through you, I would like to demand the Union Government to take immediate steps for constructing an overbridge at this level crossing so that the traffic blockadge at the city and Lucknow-Varanasi Highway could be avoided. Position to pay their electricity bills owing to the fall in the prices of mustard and Rai.

I demand from the Union Government to pay attention towards the plight of farmers and help them to get remunerative prices for their crops.

(ii) Need to protect the interest of oil seed growers particularly in Rajasthan

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur) Madam Chairperson, the import of the edible oils by the Union Government have affected a large number of farmers in the country. The farmers are not getting the remunerative prices for mustard and Rai. On the one hand, the cost of diesel, fertilizers and electricity have increased, while on the other the farmers of Rajasthan and particularly of Jodhpur are not in a position to pay their electricity bills.

I demand from the Union Government to pay attention towards the farmers and make arrangements for providing proper remunerative prices to the farmers.

(iii) Need to provide special package to State Government of Rajasthan for providing relief to the people affected by drought

[English]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): This is with regard to severe drought for the third consecutive year in Rajasthan which has increased the problems of the people many-fold. I have been bringing this issue before the Parliament for the last two years that due to drought conditions most of the drinking water supply schemes have become defunct. As there is no perennial source of water in Rajasthan, even the existing water sources, whatever available, are drying or have been dried up. This has made the life of the people miserable, especially when there are no employment opportunities in the area. The livestock is dying for want of fodder.

With the passage of time, the conditions have worsened. As the Government is aware, out of the 32 districts of Rajasthan, 26 districts having 24,406 villages are reeling under severe drought which have adversely affected more than 2.5 crore people and 3.5 crore animals. To meet this gignatic challenge, the Rajasthan Government requested the Central Government to provide Rs. 1,260 crore, but the Union Government has released only Rs. 102.93 crore which is just not sufficient to meet the requirement of ten per cent of the affected population.

With the onset of summer, the condition of the people and animals will worsen further. Since the time of 11th Lok Sabha, I have been urging the Government for grant of special package to drought prone areas of Rajasthan but no tangible action has been taken to alleviate the sufferings of the poor people of Rajasthan.

Therefore, I would request the Government to release sufficient funds to Rajasthan, rush fodder for animals and drinking water on top priority to save precious lives.

(iv) Need to execute thermal power project near Mangalore, Karnataka

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan): Sir, Karnataka State is facing a severe power crisis and now, the shortage is 2000 MW on account of the withdrawal of the Mangalore Power Company from the proposed 1000 MW Cogentrix Thermal Power Project at Nadikur village in Dakshina Kannada District.

Once power (surplus) prosperous State, Karnataka will have no other way but to force many major industries and small scale industries to close down at the beginning of the new century.

Thie Power Project has not been able to take off even after seven years and I have to blame both Central and the State for this. This lapse may crush the future of industrial development in the State.

Certainly, it is not advisable to drop this dream project of Karnataka after seven years especially when the State

Government and the MPC have incurred huge expenditure on the ground work.

Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Central Government to negotiate with China Light Power Company (CLIP) and execute the much delayed 1000 MW thermal power project near Mangalore.

(v) Need to launch schemes for ameliorating the lots of child labour particularly in Orissa

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (Kendrapara): Sir, it is a matter of great concern that the number of child labour is increasing in the country in general and the State of Orissa in particular. According to a survey report, as many as 52 lakh children are working as child labour, when they should have been in school. It is unfortunate that due to lack of formal education, they are working in restaurants and *dhabas*. A large number of them are working as domestic servants as well as in the fields. They are passing their days in great misery. No working condition is prescribed by the employer for them. Several of them are victims of the super cyclone that swept over the State of Orissa in October, 1999 and they belong to Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts.

Unless these children are identified and rescued, they pose a serious problem for the society in future. As such, I demand that these child labourers should be identified and provided proper education free of cost. Schemes should be specially sponsored for their suitable training and rehabilitation. Hundered per cent grant should be extended to the State of Orissa for this purpose.

(vi) Need to take suitable steps to check the menace of indoor air pollution caused by cooking fuel

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Sir, indoor air pollution from the use of dirty cooking fuels has of late been a killer or children and women. The World Bank estimates that in India, indoor air pollution accounts for the death of at least half-a-million children under the age of five every year. But of this huge number, at least 3,00,000 do not live beyond the age of one year.

In India, outdoor air pollution take a tool of 84,000 deaths annually. Though this phenomenon commands more attention from policy makers, it is in fact a far smaller health threat than indoor air pollution which causes acute respiratory infection, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and cardiovascular diseases.

A study conducted by the Mumbai-based International Institute for Population Studies had earlier indicated that women living in households, using wood and dung as cooking fuels, had a much higher prevalence of partial and complete blindness than women using cleaner fuels.

Yet, strangely enough, according to another study conducted by the Planning Commission, the switch over to cleaner gaseous fuels does not keep pace with growth in income in rural areas, though Gordon Huges and Meghan Dunleavy of World Bank reveal that the use of cleaner fuels like LPG is the second most important factor in reducing child mortality in rural areas. The situation is worse compounded by the failure of smokeless chullahs due to operational and installation defects.

The situation poses a great challenge to the Government which must engage in a serious effort to handle the problem by creating better awareness and more improved mechanism.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand that Col. Sona Ram Choudhary's statement has departed from the original text which was submitted. As per the approved text only, it will be on record.

COL. (RETD). SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): It is in respect of the last time only. Can we not add one or two lines?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The approved text will be there.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Thank you.

14.36 hrs.

[English]

RAILWAY BUDGET-*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS-2000-2001

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we go on to the Railway Budget.

The House will now take up discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for the year 2000-2001.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for the year 2000-2001 have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved. We will go on to the discussion now.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order

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*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2001, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the Second column thereof against Demands Nos. 1 to 16."

Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2000-2001 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account voted by the House on 14.3.2000	Amount of Demand submitted to the vote of the House
1	2	3	4
1.	Railway Board	10,14,67,000	50,73,33,000
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	30,38,67,000	151,93,33,000
3.	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	242,21,49,000	1211,07,45,000
4.	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	483,91,64,000	2419,58,21,000
5.	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	274,35,61,000	1371,78,04,000
6.	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	523,92,02,000	2619,60,11,000
7.	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	262,17,81,000	1310,89,02.000
8.	Operating Expenses-Rolling Stock and Equipment.	444,96,58,000	2224,82,89,000
9.	Operating Expenses-Traffic	1940,02,24,000	4140,11,21,000
10.	Operating Expenses-Fuel	1071,66,71,000	5358,33,52,000
11.	Staff Welfare and Amenities	195,20,50,000	976,02,49,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	239,58,09,000	1197,90,43,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and other retirement benefits	888,72,23,000	4443,61,18,000
14.	Appropriation to Funds	1437,21,20,000	7186,06,02,000
15.	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation	4,32,19,000	611,05,81,000
16.	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement Revenue	6,33,33,000	31,66,67,000
	Other Expenditure		
	Capital	2238,56,22,000	11192,81,13,000
	Railway Funds	811,50,00,000	4057,50,00,000
	Total	11105,21,20,000	50555,50,84,000

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Madam, though I have not given any cut motion, I want to make a special reference to a very important aspect of the Indian Railways.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak later.

SHRI ANIL BASU: I would request, through you, that the hon. Railway Minister to explain to this House as to why the American multinational companies are being given perference in the Indian Railways. In respect of the Diesel Locomotive Works, Banaras, the GEC was awarded the contract....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Shri Anil Basu, there is a discussion. You can speak. This is a strange situation that you just stand up and say this....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you getting excited? I will deal with it. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You do not need to move a cut motion. Somebody from your party can speak and raise it.

SHRI ANIL BASU: I have not moved any cut motion. If I move it, it will harm you. You can understand what I want to say. Preference has been given to the multinational companies by the *swadeshi* Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Member to take his seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: How can he stand up and start discussing the issue? He is a very senior Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are standing up and getting excited. Please sit down. Nothing will go on record of this.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anil Basu, if you want to speak, you can please send your name. I will give you an opportunity to speak. We are just starting the discussion. You can all speak. You send your name. I will call you.

*Not Recorded.

Now, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi to speak.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Has the CPI (M) not sent his name?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not worry about it. I will deal with that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Madam, I rise to give my viewpoint and make my observations on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Railways. During the last debate on the Supplementary Demands, the entire House took enough time to discuss in-depth the matters pertaining to the Railways and the Railway Budget. I do not think that any repetition is necessary as to what we said on the earlier occasions. After the Railway Budget was presented, as per the practice of Parliament, it has been scrutinised in-depth by the Standing Committee on Railways. I am also a Member of the Committee. Our distinguished Chairman Shri Yerrannaidu has submitted the Report on 17th in Parliament after careful scrutiny and study.

While the hon. Railway Minister deserves sympathy and support from all quarters for her very serious and sincere attempts to improve the functioning of the Railways better than before, to augment resources, to adopt austerity measures, to provide new areas and opportunities in respect of railway linkages, I must say that something more has to be done besides what her sincere attempts are.

I did criticise very strongly while participating in the last Budget debate on behalf of our party and myself about the functioning of the Railway Board. I would not like to repeat the same on this occasion.

Firstly, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister on imports. It is true that to improve the functioning of the Railway Board, to keep the upgraded technology on various factories and to cope with the problems of the Railways in line with other developed nations, import sometimes becomes necessary. But Indian industry, specially, the Railways, have built up a very strong import substitution set up by various Ministries. I do not know why no accountability is fixed in regard to the requirement of the import and indigenous production, which have import substitution.

First thing first. I just want to draw the attention of the Railway Minister on the import bill. In 1998-99, the total import bill of Railways was Rs. 552.05 crore; in 1997-98, it was Rs. 291.23 crore. It is more than 200 per cent jump in just one year. Which is that area? In 1997-98, carriage wagon, UV parts and fittings—Rs. 10.56

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

crore; in 1996-97, Rs. 3.27 crore; in 1995-96, Rs. 0.73 crore; in 1994-95, Rs. 6.5 crore; and in 1998-99, Rs. 211.46. You try to understand the dimension of the jump. The Railway Board has got to justify through proper accountability. On the one hand, you are taking the House into confidence, on the other hand, the import substitution is going up. From 1994-95 Railway Budget and before 1998-99, there was import only to the tune of Rs. 6.5 crore. But in one year, the import of this category has gone up to Rs. 211.46 crore, taking the total import to Rs. 552.05 crore. I do not say this without any basis. I do not know as to whether it is right or wrong but I appeal to the hon. Minister that she should fix the Railway Board's accountability in every step of import and so on. I have also in the past while participating in the debate on the Railway Budget that the hon. Minister must take a very strong decision to know as to whether something wrong had happened to clear the mist.

The hon. Defence Minister did categorically said in a public announcement that CBI will probe defence deals from 1985 onwards. It is fair enough. If CBI finds something wrong, let them be hauled up. In a similar manner, if the hon. Minister is not going to refer to CBI to inquire into the nature of this quantum jump in imports at least she should satisfy herself by instituting her own inquiry about the requirement, use and the cost. At no stretch of imagination I can think of Rs. 6.5 crore in 1994-95 could jump to Rs. 211.46 in 1998-99. Therefore, I strongly feel that this needs an independent inquiry in terms of fiscal discipline of the Railways as well as accountability of the Railway Board, both to the Parliament, and to the hon. Minister.

Railways are suffering from want to resources. I thank the hon. Railway Minister who found certain areas to augment the resources like land management, visual publicity....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): For your information, I have already handed over the matter of import of cranes to CBI.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Thank you very much that this matter has been referred to CBI. I desired so. I am glad that you have taken up this matter.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Are you planning to join *Mahajot*?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let Railways survive first then you talk of *Mahajot*.

You please persuade the Prime Minister to give more money to her....*(Interruptions)* Your persuasion is not yielding any result. We, from the Opposition, are fighting for it, but you are not doing that.

Now, I come to land management. Land is an area where the Railways can augment their resources like anything. But there are four problems that we have scrutinised in the Standing Committee. There are some unauthorised colonies, which have already come up in the Railway premises, and no politician can deny that. And each one of us, cutting across party lines, in our respective constituencies have got to patronise them, not only for their votes, but also for humanitarian and social reasons. Therefore, I would suggest to the hon. Railway Minister to have a land management authority under the Railways. That authority should be given a clear terms of reference as to how they should negotiate in matters pertaining to land. They should be given statutory powers to negotiate with the State Governments, public representatives to find alternative settlement sites for those people who have settled on the railway land in an unauthorised manner so that they can be moved away from the railway land.

Secondly, there are a number of people who are surviving by running some shops in the railway premises. They are sending representations to know whether the railway land management authority, if it is constituted, could negotiate with them for long-term lease. Instead of those people paying money to the police and meeting the constables every alternative week, let them pay regularly to the Railways. In this way, the Railways can earn more revenue, by having lease agreements with such shopkeepers.

Thirdly, with the connivance of the Railway police and some Railway officials, the anti-social elements are utilising the Railway properties like the ponds, *tables* etc., where they are catching the fish and earning money out of that. So, if a land management authority is formed under the Railways, they can take care of these things. They can do public auction of these things and get revenue for the Railways.

Fourthly, this land management authority can negotiate between the State Governments and the Railways and get land for the projects, which the Railways would like to have in the long run and also for the projects conceived, by the Railways. They can negotiate and get the land at a price, which is fixed by the Railways. These are the ways in which the Railways can use the land and earn revenue. So, I would request the hon. Railway Minister not to dispose of the land in the name of earning money because if a particular railway junction wants to expand its area of activity after 20 years or so, they may need more land at that time and it may not be available.

Therefore, there should be proper planning while the land management authority should also assess disposing the land and the future requirement of the Railways.

The next point to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister is regarding wagon allotment and tenders for getting wagon orders. The Wagon India Limited is under the Ministry of Industry. It was decided there that the Wagon India Limited would get 75 per cent of the orders from the Railways for wagons and the balance would be purchased by the Railways through open tenders and it was also decided that a large chunk of the order through tender would be given to the public sector. But I understand that the previous Railway Minister had decided that only 60 per cent of the tender would go to the public sector and the balance would go to the private sector. Now, it is reported in the Press that the public sector quota is further reduced to 50 per cent and the balance is going to the private sector. If it is so, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to review it and protect the public sector.

Then, there is a news item in *The Economic Times* dated the 30th March, 2000 that the top Railway officials are likely to face probe regarding wagon contracts and disposal of railway scrap. I do not want to mention the names of the individuals here.

I have found it in my own assessment during observations in the Standing Committee and also from newspaper reports. The Railway resources are being misused while favouring a group of private parties in the wagon industry, directly or indirectly, with tacit understanding of the Railway Board. I give you an example. Suppose Rs. 40,000 are quoted for one wagon as the lowest tender and Rs. 42,000 are for L-2. The excise duty is 16 per cent for those who quoted Rs. 40,000, and who quoted Rs. 42,000, his excise duty will come to eight per cent. The Railway Board official under the pretext of protecting L-1 is offering Rs. 40,000 but, in turn, he pays more revenue from the Railways because the excise duty is 16 per cent for the same specification and for the same group. The Railways give specifications in the tender, that is, what type of wagon they want and what kind of wheels there will be and it has to be manufactured according to those specifications. But a particular manufacturer satisfies and justifies to the Railways that for this specification, he is to buy so and so item from private operators. Therefore, the excise duty will go up. This is a dangerous racket. This racket is taking away the Railway resources every year. Therefore, I desire that the entire matter of tendering of the Railway wagons requires to be proved by a high-powered authority. All the tenders offered up till now over the last five years to the private parties are also required to be probed. I am not talking of company 'A' versus 'B'. I am talking of the entire period.

I have also information that the interest-free World Bank loan to the tune of Rs. 30 crore has been given to a unit which did not even supply the wagons in time. I have information that while a company is offering technology within Rs. 1.5 crore, the Railways are obliging that unit which is justifying that its technology support cost more than Rs. 50 crore by some other group, and Railways are paying for that. These are the things in the tender network of the wagons. It requires a further probe. I hope the hon. Minister of Railways, who is very sincere in saving the Railway resources and has already handed over a few cases to the CBI, shall look into my observations once again.

Then, I come to scrap. The biggest racket in the Railways is the scrap. I would not like to say what is disposed of or what is not disposed of in the name of scrap. I have my own experience because I used to represent the Howrah constituency earlier. The biggest railway scrap yard is in Bellur and people's lives have been threatened. One of the Police Officers of Bhadreshwar had been killed at the hands of mafia. The Railway officials are in tandem with the anti-social elements. They sell even new items in the name of scrap. There is a market, called the Bajranj Bali Market. One can get a new thing there at half the price. It comes from the scrap and goes to that market. This racket has been going on for years together.

Now, there is a report about the Shalimar Yard. I have said about it earlier and mention it today. What do they do? The goods yard book the goods. For example, they book mustard oil up to Lucknow, cement up to Ghaziabad and sugar up to Kanpur. What do the racketeers do in Shalimar Yard? They book one bag of sugar and 90 bags of sand, one tin of kerosene oil and 20 tins of water. Then, what do they do? After movement of the wagon up to one kilometre, they break it, destroy it, come back and claim demurrage for the full quantity and they would get it. You take a list of those who operate there. I suggest to the hon. Minister as in the case of export of goods at the airports and the ports, you appoint a special authority so that the goods to be sent to terminal point should be equally signed and countersigned by the goods yard officials of the Railways and the Railway Commercial Intelligence staff. Is something is found wrong, both of them would be taken to task. One should compare whether these goods are actually going out or not. If you see the Commondity Compensation Bill of the Railways, a huge compensation deal is going on in the name of commodity compensation.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

I will not take much time of the House. The last point is about security and safety. I said about it the other day. Unless a special favour is not given by the Government to the Ministry of Railways—next to Defence-it is difficult for the Ministry of Railways to cope up with the ongoing threats and problems of the country. Each one is targeting the Railways.

The State Governments send people in the name of GRP. Who are the people in GRP? The most unwanted police personnel of the State Government are sent to the GRP. They feel, 'since we are not desired by the State Government, let us make our fortune here.' They do all kinds of things and they do not cooperate. The Railway Protection Force also does not have that statutory power to institute proceedings against persons.

Therefore, my suggestion is that keeping in view the present threat that the country is facing, the extremists, the terrorist, the militants, the gangsters who are making Railways always the target, let there be a statute. Railways should have its own independent intelligence wing, its own security wing. Therefore, additional fund is required and they should be given that statutory power in coordination with the State Government to file prosecution and they should be competent. Unless Railways is given that kind of strength, it is difficult to cope with the local police and to settle the problems in the respective parts. The State Government will not perform its responsibility and the Railway will answer that they were not responsible, that the train was passing through Assam, then pass to Bengal, pass to Bihar, and so on. I think, Railways should have its own independent security network at the exchequer of the national Budget.

Madam, with all these words, I strongly feel that the Railway Minister may respond to these issues more sincerely and seriously.

I would also like to say a word about the Railway staff. I have been receiving several complaints for the last two-three years that their overtime bills are pending with the Railways. They are working for hours together and not getting their money. Even their quarter instalment is not paid. How can an Engine Driver, a technical staff, a mechancial staff, a Railway staff, who is not paid his bill by his own company or management till this date, sincerely devote to the cause of the Railways. This matter should also be taken care of and looked into.

Lastly, the hon. Railway Minister is really doing some good work in our region and I do not blame her because she is doing the right thing as our region has been deprived for the last so many years, but my only request to her is to give special emphasis to projects in North Bengal, which is a really neglected both in terms of the plan development and otherwise. She has taken some initiative and I will again request that my Railway project, that is, Barshi-Radhikapur, which the hon. Minister has already confirmed, should see the light of the day very soon through her own initiative.

CUT MOTIONS

SHRI K.P. SINGHDEO (Dhenkanal): I beg to move:

"THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD BE REDUCED TO RE.1"

Failure to provide Group 'C' and Group 'D' jobs to persons affected due to construction of Talcher Angul-Sambalpur Rail line in Angul district falling within the jurisdiction of Khurda and Sambalpur divisions of South Eastern Railway. (1)

Failure to formulate a plan for linking minerally rich and tribal dominated areas in Orissa with rail network. (2)

"THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD BE REDUCED BY RS. 100"

Need to increase the frequency of Train No. 8407 between Bubaneshwar and Hazrat-Nizamuddin from tri weekly to daily. (3)

Need to increase the frequency of Train No. 8405 between Puri and Ahmedabad from weekly to tri weekly. (4)

Need to introduce a daily Express train between Angul and Howrah *via* Dhenkanal, Rajathgarh, Barang, Cuttack and Nergundi. (5)

Need to introduce a bi/tri weekly Mail/Express service between Puri and Dwarka *via* Angul, Sambalpur, Raipur, Nagpur and Ahmedabad. (6)

Need to introduce a bi/tri weekly Mail/Express service between Bhubaneswar and Chennai *via* Angul, Sambalpur, Titlagrah Raygada and Vishakapatnam. (7)

Need to introduce a bi/tri weekly Mail/Express service between Bhubaneswar and Mumbai *vis* Augul-Sambalpur-Raipur and Nagpur. (8)

Need to introduce a 3 tier AC Sleepr Coach in Train No. 8407/8408 Hirakund Express. (9)

Need to introduce a 3 tier AC Sleeper Coach in Train No. 8405/8406 Puri-Ahmedabad Express. (10)

Need to include Bhubaneswar-Dhenkanal-Angul-Sambalpur to and fro route in the standard circular journey tickets issued by South Eastern Railway. (11)

Need to increase funds for Angul-Sukinda Road *via* Kanakhyanagar, Bhubau new railway line from 2 crores to 10 crores. (12)

Need to transform Dhenkanal and Angul into model stations. (13)

Need to open survey office at Dhenkanal DHQ town for the proposed Angul-Sukinda Road railway line. (14)

"THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT BE REDUCED TO RE. 1"

Failure to provide rail link between minerally rich and tribal dominated areas of Orissa wtih Gopalpur Port and Paradip Port in South Estern Railway. (18)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT BE REDUCED BY RS. 100"

Need to construct road over-bridge at Dhenkanal Gondia road railway crossing at Similia in Dhenkanal town. (19)

Need to construct a new rail line between Talchar and Gopalpur *via* Hindol. (20)

Need to construct a road (approximately 1/2 km) from Dhenkanal town level crossing near Baji chowk to Dhenkanal railway station, South Eastern Railways through existing railway goods shed. (21)

Need to provide passenger shed at Shyamachavarpur. (22)

Need to complete Wagon work shop at Angul and Loco shed at Angul in South Eastern Railway. (23)

Need to complete Loco shed at Angul in South Eastern Railway. (24)

"THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD BE REDUCED BY RS. 100"

Need to increase the height of Platform at Shyamacharanpur Station, South Eastern Railway. (26)

Need for provision of Waiting Hall, Retiring Room, Refreshment Room and Cloak Room at Shyamacharanpur Station, South Eastern Railway. (27)

Need for provision of Public Address system at Shyamacharanpur Station, South Eastersn Railway. (28)

Need for provision of Water Cooler at Shyamacharanpur Station, South Eastern Railway. (29)

Need to make Seating arrangement on the Platforms at Shyamacharanpur Station, South Eastern Railway. (30)

Need to increase reservation quota in Howrah-Madras mail ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (31)

Need to increase reservation quota in Howrah-Chennai-Coramandal Express Ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (32)

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-Ahmedabad Express ex-Boinda by six seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (33)

Need to suitably increase reservation quota in Bhubaneswar-Hazrat. Nizamuddin-Hirakund Express ex-Boinda in all the class. (34)

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-Rourkela-Tapaswini Express ex-Boinda by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (35)

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-New Delhi-Neelachal Express ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (36)

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-New Delhi-Superfast Express ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (37)

Need to increase reservation quota in Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Rajdhani Express ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (38)

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-New Delhi Purushottam Express ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (39)

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-Howrah Express by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier & Sleeper Class. (40)

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-Rourkela-Tapaswini Express ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier. AC 3-Tier & Sleeper Class. (41)

Need to increase reservation quota in Bhubaneshwar-Mumbai-Konark Express ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (42)

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-Tirupati Express ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (43)

Need to increase reservation quota in Cochin-Guwahati Express ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (44)

Need to increase reservation quota in Guwahati-Cochin Express ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (45)

Need to increase reservation quota in Bangalore-Guwahati-Express ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (46)

Need to increase reservation quota in Guwahati-Bangalore Express ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (47)

Need to increase the length of Platform at Dhenkanal Station in Orissa. (48)

Need to increase the height of Platform of the Dhenkanal Station. (49)

Need to provide Waiting Hall, Retiring Room, Refreshment Room and Cloak Room at Dhenkanal. Station in Orissa. (50)

Need for provision of Public Address System at Dhenkanal Station in Orissa. (51)

Need for provision of Water Cooler at Dhenkanal Station in Orissa. (52)

Need to make seating arrangements on the Platforms at Dhenkanal Station in Orissa. (53)

Need to increase reservation quota in Bangalore-Guwahati Express ex-Dhenkanal by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (54)

Need to increase reservation quota in Guwahati-Bangalore Express ex-Dhenkanal/Angul by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (55)

Need to increase reservation quota in Howrah-Madras Mail ex-Dhenkanal/Angul by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (56)

Need to increase reservation quota in Howrah-Chennai-Coromandel Express ex-Dhenkanal by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (57)

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-Ahmedabad Express ex-Angul by eight seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (58)

Need to increase reservation quota in Bhubaneswar-Hazrat Nizamuddin Hirakud Express ex-Angul by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (59)

Need to attach AC 3-Tier coach of Train No. 8405/8406 Puri-Ahmedbad Express. (60)

Need to increase reervation quota in Bhubaneswar-Hazrat Nizamuddin Express ex-Dhenkanal/Angul by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (61)

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-New Delhi Neelachal Express ex-Dhenkanal/Angul by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class (62)

Need to increse reservation quota in Puri-New Delhi Superfast Express ex-Dhenkanal/Angul by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (63)

Need to increase reservation quota in Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Rajdhani ex-Dhenkanal/Angul by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (64)

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-New Delhi Purushottam Express ex-Dhenkanal/Angul by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (65)

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-Howrah Express ex-Dhenkanal by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (66)

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-Rourkela-Tapaswini Express ex-Dhenkanal/Angul by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (67)

Need to increase reservation quota in Bhubaneswar-Mumbai Konark Express ex-Dhenkanal/Angul by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (68)

Need to increase reservation quota in Puri-Tirupati Express ex-Dhenkanal/Angual by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (69)

Need to increase reservation quota in Cochin-Guwahati Express ex-Dhenkanal/Angul by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (70)

Need to increase reservation quota in Guwahhti-Cochin Express ex-Dhenkanal/Angul by ten seats in AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier and Sleeper Class. (71)

Need to make provision for adequate lighting and fan on all the platforms at Shyamacharanpur Station under South Eastern Railway. (72)

Need to make arrangments for construction of shed over the platform at Shyamacharanpur Station under South Eastern Railway. (73)

Need for provision of Second Platform with over bridge at Shyamacharanpur Station under South Eastern Railway. (74)

Need to provide Public Call Office and STD and Local Telephone call office at Shyamacharanpur Station under South Eastern Railway. (75)

Need to modernise the Shyamacharanpur Station under South Eastern Railway and to plant trees around it. (76)

Need to modernise the Angul Railway Station. (77)

Need for provision of adequate ligthing and fans on the Platforms at Dhenkanal Station, Orissa for Passnegers. (78)

Need for provision of shed over the Platform at Dhenkanal Station, Orissa. (79)

Need for provision of second Platform with over bridge at Dhenkanal Station, Orissa. (80)

Need to provide Public Call Office and STD and Local telephone booth facilities at Dhenkanal Station, Orissa. (81)

Need for beautification and Plantation of trees around at Dhenkanal Station, Orissa (82)

Need to extend the platform at Shyamacharanpur Station under South Eastern Railway. (83)

"THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD BE REDUCED TO RE.1"

Failure to make East Coast Railway Zonal Headquarters operational even after five years of its inauguration. (184)

Failure to provide any platform, cover shade, light, water at FCI siding at Dhenkanal Railway Station, South Eastern Railway under Khurda Road Division leading to huge losses through pilferage of foodgrains resulting in huge demurrage charges to FCI. (185)

Failure to provide a satellite coaching terminal at Bhubaneswar, SER, (186)

Failure to provide a Railway Division at Sambalpur. (187)

"THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD BE REDUCED BY RS. 100"

Need to provide passenger waiting hall at District Headquarters at Angual Railway Station (188)

Need to extend Puri-Dhenkanal passanger train to Angul in S.E. Railway. (189)

Need to provide public address and audio system at Angul Railway Station, S.E. Railway. (190)

Need to provide Railway Mail Service and Banking facilities at Angul Rialway Station, S.E. Railway. (191)

Need to extend free travel in Second A.C. sleeper/ I-Class to gallantary awardees such as Paramvir Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Virchakra holders/their widows with a companion in Rajdhani Express/Shatabadi Express/Metro Railways. (192)

Need to include Puri-Bhubaneswar-Dhenkanal-Angul-Sambalpur-Jharsuguda-Nagpur-Bhopal-Ujjain-Nagda-Kota-Sawai Madhopur-Jaipur-Ajmer-Chittorgah_Udaipur-Ahmedabad-Mumbai-Pune-Secunderabad-Vijayawada-Vishakapatanam-Behrampur-Khurda Road-Puri in circular journey ticket. (193)

Neet to introduce a Bi/Tri weekly Mail/Express train between Puri and Ajmer via Dhenkanal/Angul/Sambalpur, Raipur, Nagpur, Bhopal, Nagda, Kota, Sawai Madhopur. (194)

Need to provide cross-over from line 1 to 4 at Dhenkanal railway station, S.E.R. to avoid congestion and delay. (195)

Need to provide a shorter direct link from Bhubaneswar to Mumbai via Dhenkanal/Angul Sambalpur, Raipur and Nagpur on Talchur-Angul-Sambalpur broad gauge line, SER. (196)

Need to extend Bangalore-Visakhapatnam Express to Bhubaneswar in view of information technology transfer and commercial reasons. (197)

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

"THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT BE REDUCED TO RE.1"

Failure to Prevent the closing down of FCI sidings at Revene Division Headquarters at Cuttark Junction of SER. (198)

"THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT BE REDUCED BY RS. 100"

Need to provide foot over bridge from platform 1 platform 2 in Angul Railway Station, SER. (199)

Need to provide drinking water supply in platform No. 2 in Angul Railway Station, SER. (200)

Need to implement gauge conversion from narrow gauge to broad guage between Gunupur and Naupada of SER. (201)

Need to provide a road from railway colony to Alekhapatna Angul Town thereby reducing the distance for railway staff by two and half kms. (202)

Need to provide dormitory accommodation at Angul Railway Station, SER. (203)

Need to provide new railway line between Talcher and Gopalpur via Hindul. (204)

[Translation]

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): I beg to move.

Need to re-route Rajdhani Train *via* Muzaffarpur which at present passes through Hajipur. (103)

Need to make improvements in the reservation system to avoid inconvenience to the passengers. (104)

Need to introduce fast rail service from New Delhi to Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderbad so as to reduce the journey time to 12 hours. (105)

Need to attach additional bogies in the trains running between New Delhi and Patna and New Delhi and Muzaffarpur. (106)

Need to give more concessions by the Railway to the poor class. (107)

Need to change the name of Bithauli Halt on Hajipur-Muzaffarpur rail line as Deepanarayan Nagar station after a freedeom fighter.- (108)

Need to change the name of Biddupur station as Akshayavat Nagar. (109)

Need to expedite opening of railway Zonal office at Hazipur. (110)

Need to scrap the Railway Board. (111)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to expedite the construction of a rail over-bridge near Delhi and Akara Gumti on Hajipur to Muzaffarpur rail line. (112)

Need to expedite the construction of a railway bridge at Patna. (113)

Need to construct a rail over-bridge on Didarganj (Fatuha) Gumti on Patna-Barh rail line. (114)

Need for gauge conversion between Samastipur and Khagaria rail line *via* Hasanpur. (115)

Need to lay rail line between the sections Hajipur-Vaishali-Sugouli to complete the 'Buddhist circle.' (116)

Need to convert Darbhanga-Sitamarhi-Narkatia line into broad-gauge line. (117)

Need to lay rail line between Hasanpur-Kusheshwar Asthan-Sakri route. (118)

Need to lay rail line between Samastipur and Shahpurparothi. (119)

[English]

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI (Barpeta): I beg to move:

"THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT BE REDUCED BY RS. 100"

Need to allocate more funds for starting the construction of New Moynaguri-Jogighopa new line in NFR. (120)

Need to expedite the work on crossing station at Adhayapuri in NFR. (121)

Need to expedite track renewal and other related works between Barpeta Road and New Bongaigaon in NFR. (122)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): I beg to move:

"THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD BE REDUCED BY RS. 1000"

Need to run EMU local trains in Kharagpur Division on time. (123)

Need to rune EMU local train between Khargapur and Shalimar and complete Shalimar Terminal soon. (124)

Need to run EMU local trains between Haldia/ Khargapur and Sealdah via Dankuni by South Eastern Railway and Eastern Railway jointly. (125)

Need to give stoppage of a Orissa-bound Mail train at Bauria or Uluberia by South Eastern Railway. (126)

Need for laying of a third line between Panskura and Khargapur and fourth line between Howrah and Panskura of South Eastern Railway. (127)

Need to increase number of EMU local trains and to increase the speed of EMU local trains between Howrah and Bargachia of South Eastern Railway. (128)

Need for early repairing of approach roads leading to Uluberia, Fuleswar, Chengail & Bauria stations of South Eastern Railway. (129)

Need for early construction of Flyover at Bagnan, Uluberia, Bauria and Ramrajatola by South Eastern Railway. (130)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): I beg to move:

"THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD BE REDUCED BY RS. 100"

Need to introduce a Super Fast train between Howrah-Sealdah and New Jalpaiguri to promote tourism. (243)

Need to set up a new Railway Station at Khurigachi between Bhadreswar Baidyabati in Howrah-Bandel Section of Howrah Division. (244)

Need to introduce of a Super Fast Train between Sealdah and Lalgola to be named as Siraj Express. (245)

Need for conversion of Ahmedpur-Katwa and Bardhaman-Katwa section of Eastern Railway. (246)

Need for permanent and satisfactory arrangement by Railways to stop water logging in the subway at Bandel, Chandannagar, Mankundu Bhadreswar and Srirampur. (247)

Need to provide four more pairs of EMU trains in the Howrah-Burdwan main line. (248)

Need to provide four more pairs of EMU train between Howrah and Bandel on the main line. (249)

Need to start four more pairs of EMU train between Howrah-Burdwan *via* HB Chord. (250)

Need to increase the frequency of trains between Burdwan and Sealdah *via* Naihati. (251)

Need to start four more parts of EMU trains between Sealdah and Naihati and two more pairs between Sealdah and Krishannagar. (252)

Need to provide more EMU trains between Kharagpur and Sealdah. (253)

Need for immediate computerisation of booking system at Chuchura and Chandannagar for long distant train passing through Bandel and Burdwan. (254)

Need to introduce an express train between Asansol to Rampurhat *via* Andal-Sainthia. (255)

Need to set up a new Railway Station near Khurigachi between Bhadresware and Baidyahati in the Bandel-Howrah section of Howrah Division of Eastern Railway. (256)

Need to set a new Railway station near Hathigola Bridge between Belmuri and Shibaichandi inthe Howrah-Burdwan Chord line in the Howrah Divisions of Eastern Railway. (257)

Need to conect Howrah-Burdwan Chord line and Tarkeswar branch line near Natikul so that the passengers of Tarkeswar branch line can directly reach Sealdah. (258)

Need to provide stoppage of Amritsar mail at Bandel. (259)

Need to provide stoppage of Ganadevta Express at Bandel. (260)

"THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT BE REDUCED BY RS. 100"

Need for conversion of the existing metre-gauge line to double track broad gauge line between Siliguri Junction and New Alipurduar Junction. (261)

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Need for early completion of Digha-Tamluk line. (262)

Need for early completion of doubling of Sheorphuly-Tarakeswar line. (263)

Need for completion of Railway line beyond Tarakeswar to Bishnupur via Arambag. (264)

Need for doubling of Bandel-Katwa Railway line. (265)

Need for speedy completion of doubling work between Khana Junction and Sainthia. (266)

Need to construct fourth line between Howrah and Bandel. (267)

Need to construct new line between Krishnanagar and Karimpur. (268)

Need to double the railway line between Bandel-Ajimganj and electrification of track from Katwa to Ajimganj. (269)

Need to expedite conversion of BDR line and extend it upto Tarakeswar and to correct with Bardhaman and Durgapur. (270)

Need for immediate construction of a Foot Over Bridge at Bandel. (271)

Need to construct of flyover at Mogra, Kamarkundu and Dankuni. (272)

Need for electrification and doubling of Andal-Sainthia section. (273)

Need for conversion of Ahmedpur-Katwa and Bardhaman-Katwa section into BG. (274)

Need for doubling and electrification of railway line between Kalinarayanpur to Lalgola. (275)

Need to consruct a Railway bridge over river Bhagirathi at Azimgunj connecting Sealdon-Lalgola Section to Howrah Division of Eastern Railway. (276)

Need to increase passenger amenities at all the stations between Howrah and Burdwan and Sealdah and Naihati and Naihati and Bandel. (277)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I just wish to make an announcement that the debate will end at 6 o'clock, the Minister will reply at 6 and the voting will take place at 6.30 p.m. I would, therefore, like the hon. Members to please keep note of the time for each party, which has been allotted. The Congress has 46 minutes and seven speakers on the list; the NDA has one hour and 47 minutes; the CIP (M) has 13 minutes and three speakers; TDP has twelve minutes; and Smajwadi Party has 10 minutes; and the BSP has six minutes.

I am just keeping it before you because the hon. Speaker wants that we should limit the time that we are speaking as per the BACs decision.

SHRI ANIL BASU: But there is a derailment always.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a derailment everyday, but we want Railways safety now. So, let us get back on to the line. Shri Punnu Lal Mohale—Absent.

[Translation]

I am striking off the names of those Members who are not present. After it I will not recall the names of those Members. Shri P. Rajendran.

[English]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): Thank you Madam, for permitting to speak on this occasion in this august House.

At the time of presenting the Railway Budget, all the Members from Kerala State unanimously protested against the attitude of the Railway Minister and the Government. Our State was purely neglected as far as Railways are concerned. We also sat on *dharna* in the front of Parliament House.

In the first instance, the hon. Minister clarified that she had given more than what Kerala deserves.

15.00 hrs.

But, later, after some days, she was courteous and patient enough to hear us. A meeting of all the Members of Parliament both from Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha was held and we put forward our minimum demands at this juncture to satisfy Kerala State before her and she made many assurances. It was very unfortunate that several assurances which she promised during the meeting with her were not found in her reply to the Railway Budget discussion before this august House. For example, take electrification. Our State is lagging behind the national level of electrification in railways. She had promised to expedite the activity but nothing was spelt out in her reply to the discussion on the Railway Budget. I am so anxious to know from the hon. Minister as to the steps taken in this regard to rectify the anomalies done to our State.

15.01 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

Sir, the Minister had promised to start a new office at Kerala in order to coordinate all the works between the Railway Board, the Central Government and the State Government of Kerala; and the Officer posted there would be of the rank of a Joint Secretary at the Central level. I am not going into all these details. I am anxious to know from her as to the steps taken to meet our demands.

Sir, she had mentioned in her Railway Budget that Railways is the lifeline of our nation. A serious criticism against this Budget that has been levelled in this august House was about the decrease in the budgetary support to the Railway Board year after year. Everybody knows that with only proper budgetary support, the Railways can cater to the needs of the nation. Without increasing the budgetary support, how can the Railway Board cater to the needs of the nation?

She had announced that her Budget was the first Budget of the millennium, which would satisfy the expectations of the people. How can the Railway Board satisfy the demands and aspirations of the people in the new millennium without proper budgetary support?

It is clear that there is no long term perspective in the Railway Budget to satisfy the needs of the nation and also to develop the Railways up to a certain standard, which the people all over the country expect.

It was narrated in her Railway Budget that a lion's share of our railway system was constructed before Independence, during the British rule. We should be ashamed of that for over 52 years, we could not get more than what they did for our nation. With this perspective, with this view, the Railway Board and the Government have to work. Millions and millions of people are demanding many things but there is no perspective in the Budget. That is so astonishing.

All the Members from Kerala demanded doubling of railway line. There were many bottlenecks and due to them, more and more lines could not be introduced in Kerala. We request the Government to expedite the steps for doubling of the railway line through Kottayam and Alleppey and also take steps for electrification. We had also demanded new railway lines and a new train from Mangalore to Trivandrum, new railway line from Bangalore to Trivadrum. She promised that this new train would be started from the 1st of May. We are anxious to hear from the Railway Minister about the launching of the new railway line.

I was astonished to hear a news. The services of two trains were combined for Coimbatore to Quilon. The Ministry of Rialways had made the inauguration. I am the MP of Quilon. It is the terminal of this metergauge train. However, I was not informed. The other MP was invited to flag-off the train. The Ministry of Railways had created a peculiar situation earlier by going in for two inaugurations from both the ends. Plese do not do such things. The services of two trains were brought together and that was inaugurated recently.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Who was the Minister? Who inaugurated it?

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: It was not done by any hon. Minister. An M.P. had flagged-off the train. I was not informed at all.

Lastly, I propose to take up steps for more facilities to be provided in the railway stations in Kerala. They are in very bad shape. The platforms are not up to the mark. With proper allocations of funds from the Government, the Railways may meet all the necessities of the new millennium in respect of development of railways, including gauge conversion works from Quilon.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, however large amount is spent over. Railways, that too will be considered inadequate for the service being rendered by the Railways is so big that the words falls short to express its praise.

I will not deliver a long speed before you but will mention some problems. In my opinion, Bihar has not received its due share out of the budgetary provisions made for completing the old projects in each states of the country. The Minister of Railways is from Bihar and I think.....*(Interruptions)* that you are well aware of the name of the Minister of State also. Digvijay Babu is among the very senior Members of the House. In my view, the funds which should have been sanctioned for the old projects of Bihar, have not been given. I know of such a project in Katihar for which a provision of Rs. 10 crore has been made but if my information is correct then the work on that project will never take place but some projects which were included in the budget during the tenure of the former Railways Minister and were sanctioned by the Planning Commission were not passed by C.C.E.A. Committee of the Government of India. It is a Political decision. The Chhapra-Kaptganj project for which there is a budgetary provision has also been

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

approved by the Planning Commission but not a single penny was given for it because it was not approved by C.C.E.A. I would like to know from the Minister of Railways as to whether no meeting of C.C.E.A. took place after budgetary provisions were made for this project and it was approved by the Planning Commission. If it was held, then under what circumstances the permission was not granted to the project? Mr. Chairman, Sir, when you are in your constituency then you forcefully demand for the construction of Ganga over-bridge. The Ganga bridge is a very important project of Uttar Bihar. Not only of Uttar Bihar but if we say that it will serve as a link to connect two parts of Bihar, it will not be wrong to say. But during the tenure of Nitish Kumar it created a pendemonium in the House that he has gone to Pune and Mumbai for investigation? I don't know as to which extent that investigation has gone? The foundation stone for it was laid by Shri Devgowdaji. At that time Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was the Minister of Railways. Many a Rail Minister have come and gone out of office and similarly Prime Minister too have kept on coming and going out of office. I do not know whether the bridge will be constructed or not during the tenure of Mamata Banerjee. That bridge is connected with the fortune of Bihar. I will submit to Mamtaji and Digvijay Babu to intensify their efforts and ensure a speedy construction for this bridge. Foundation stone for it has been laid only on the paper, its foundation stone should be laid truely and the work for its construction should be started by providing funds for it.

Digvijay Babu, you had gone to Maharajganj and assured the people there to start a railway line from Maharajganj to Gharonda. During the tenure of Paswanji, some amount was allocated for this project for laying mud but no money was given afterwards. Now the rainy season will come and not even the job of laying mud can take place. I do not know whether your officers follow your orders or not or Mamataji has denied them to follow your instructions. If it is not so then you should make your officers follow your view point and start that rail line.

Survey of Maharajganj and Misrikh line has taken place twice. According to the railway department, the approval is granted only after receiving 12-14 percent report. As far as my information is concerned, 12-14 percent report is available after first survey. If it is not decided even then, it only reflects that a political decision has been taken in regard to it. If it happens so then I cannot guess the name of the Minister who will direct the authorities to start work on this project. My submission is that you must do this job by committing yourself for its cause. Survey report has been received and you must give approval for it. It is a project for the laying down of 35 kilometres of rail line which is a very short distance. This rail line will serve as a link between the two districts. Besides, it is a border territory. The people of Uttar Pradesh too will be connected through this railway line. Hence it is a very important railway line and it should be extended. For it I shall be grateful to you and the people of that area will also be grateful to you.

Similarly, Vaishali Express runs between Chhapra and Delhi which is a very fast train but it has less number of boggies. Nitishji had assured for increasing the number of its boggies. Due to the inadequate number of boggies, passengers have to face a lot of difficulties. Many a times people are forced to travel on the top of the train. It has also inadequate number of A.C. Coaches. One boggy has been turned to half A.C....*(Interruptions)* I have just come to know that the entire boggy has been turned to airconditioned boggy and if it is really so, then I congratulate you. I want that general boggies in the trains too should be increased. The people of North Bihar migrate to other States to earn their livelihood. Mamataji, they go to Bengal also and many of them are your voters in Calcutta. People from Chhapra, Sewan, Gopalganj, Muzzafarpur etc. of North Bihar migrate to other States in large number. People used to go to Assam in large number but their number has come down due to the increase in terrorist activities there. Now they have started migrating to Gujarat and Maharashtra. After these States, it is Delhi where the people from North Bihar migrate in very large number. These people earn their livelihood by working as a labourer in these States, but there is no direct train for them to reach Vadodara in Gujarat from Chhapra. They face a great deal of problem in travelling to and fro. Hence I would like to submit that you must make provision for starting a train from Chhapra to Vadodara, Gujarat so that the people of North Bihar who go there to earn livelihood may avail this facility and properly earn livelihood for their families.

Sir, River Saryu falls between Chhapra and Ballia. Some part of district Chhapra lies across river Saryu. It is the village of Loknayak Jaiprakash Narayan. The people of this village go to Chhapra to buy things of their needs. During rainy season, a temporary bridge of tin is tried to be constructed but due to the overflow of water it is carried away and the transportation comes to a halt. Hence, under such circumstances, it is a very necessary to provide a local train for this area. Therefore, I would like that a local train should be started from Chhapra to Varanasi so that the people of that area may get some relief and the transportation may not get blocked.

Similarly, the rail line between Samastipur and Karpoori Gram is being extended. Some area in Uttar Pradesh and a few in the central part has been

developed. If Samastipur-Karpoori Gram is connected with a broad gauge line, it will be a big achievement and the people of these areas will also enjoy this facility.

At last, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Railways to pay attention towards taking steps in the direction of starting those works which are very important from the public welfare point of view. With these words, I thank you with the hope that Mamataji will pay attention towards these problems.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak over the subject of railways. We all know that the number of trains running in India and the length of its track is maximum in the world but this department is being afflicted with the same kind of irregularities which are prevailing in other departments. First of all, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards these things.

Sir, there is a need to invest Rs. 19 thousand crore for laying down new rail lines and out of which the work of gauge conversion alone accounts for Rs. 900 crores. With the financial resources available at present these projects can be completed in the next ten years. What actually happens is that the old projects remain pending revised estimate for them is prepared every year and thousands of crores of Government funds is spent over these projects but still they are not completed. This also incur losses to the railways. My submission to you is that you should certainly go ahead with the laying of new rail lines but simultaneously give priority for completing pending projects for laying down of rail lines.

It should not be so that rail lines are laid down out of political pressure even at those places where there is no urgency to do so. New projects should only be approved after the implementation of the old projects is complete. Those projects which are in the last stage of their completion should be completed on the priority basis. It is my misforture as an M.P. that the Janapada from where I hail is not connected to Delhi or Lucknow despite havig both broad gauge and meter gauge rail lines. Last year, more than Rs. 39 crores were sanctioned for the conversion of Farrukhabad Mathura rail line into broad gauge but this year only Rs. 26 crore has been allocated for it while the current estimated cost of the entire project is Rs. 230 crore. I insist that more funds should be made available for this big area so that the people of this area may get the facility to directly reach Delhi and Lucknow after the gauge conversion. Hence the funds of Rs. 26 crore should be enhanced so that the completion of the project may be facilitated.

Mr. Chairman, it has come to my knowledge that in 1963, when Dr. Lohia was the M.P., a survey was conducted for laying a rail line from Farrukhabad to Gola Gokarannath and he had also raised this issue. The significance of this rail line is that it directly reaches upto China border and it connects all the routes of South and Mumbai.

It is my submission that when survey has already been conducted twice for this rail line, a fresh survey should be conducted from security point of view. If the advisers in the Ministry of Defence are of the view that it is necessary to construct this line then it should be included in the scheme on priority basis.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, as per my information 60 percent rail accidents are caused due to fractured rail lines. It has never been noticed earlier that fractures have developed in rails due to the impact of heat and cold but now a days fractures are developing in rails. Whether there is any deterioration in the quality of rails? The Government should think about the quality of rails and good quality rails should be laid in order to avoid rail accidents. So far as the question of safety is concerned, several hon'ble Members have expressed their views here in the House that day in and day out rail accidents are taking place. Railway journey cannot be safe unless a separate force is raised for this purpose. No civil police official is interested to go to R.P.F. on deputation. I request that a separate railway force should be raised.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I have experienced myself that railway is making payment worth thousands of crores of rupees as damage charges. In the goods booking a mafia is active in railway. In such cases the goods shown on the railway receipt are actually not booked. As a result goods are shown damaged and thousands of crores of rupees are charged from railways as claim. The Government should look into it. It is necessary to monitor as who is booking what sort of goods and signature of the party booking goods should be obtained on the slip as to what goods are being booked by him. It shoud ensured that the goods which have been booked are actually loaded or not?

I would also like to submit that much has been reported in the numerous newspapers about the catering in railways. Not much attention is paid towards the quality of food served in trains which gives rise to numerous diseases. It is summer season and Indian climate is temperate. Therefore, I would like to request the Government that food stuff made available to the passengers should be properly preserved so that it may not cause any disease. A common man thinks twice before drinking the water supplied by railways in trains and at plateforms. Almost all the Members of the Parliament take bottles of mineral water with them as it

[Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh]

is not sure that drinking water will be available in trains. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government that there should be proper arrangement of drinking water and food in trains for the convenience of the passengers. I thank you for according approval for several new rail lines. I also thank you for giving relaxation upto 75 percent in fare to the kiths and kin of the Kargil martyres. Besides the Government have announced several relaxations for the education of the wards of the Kargil martyres. Since you have taken charge of the Ministry of Railways certainly a lot of improvement has been registered in the functioning of the railways.

Finally I would like to urge one thing more that more funds are required for converting the existing metre gauge into broad gauge between Farrukhabad and Delhi. Therefore, I request you to kindly allocate more funds for this.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am a Member of Parliament right from 1980. Till the formation of the NDA Ministry headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, I never thought that I would have a chance to participate in a debate where Kumari Mamata Banerjee would be the Railway Minister. Kumari Mamata, in her wisdom, like everyone else including Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, followed the tradition set by Babu Jagjivan Ram, has looked after West Bengal quite well. There is nothing wrong in that because if you look at the history of the Indian Railways, you will find that it has been the tradition-whoever is the Railway Minister, he first takes care of his own area, then the whole State; and, sometimes, some Ministers have taken care of the region also. However, this time, Kumari Mamata has forgotten the North-Eastern region. Though she has given many things, she has forgotten Sontosh Mohan Dev.

A railway project Lumding-Silchar Broad-gauge Conversion was sanctioned by Shri Devegowda Government costing Rs. 648 crore, and the length of the railway line is 198 kilometres. Three subsequent Railway Ministers have given around Rs. 60 crore. If the money is going to be released in this manner, Mr. Chairman, by the time it is completed, I will be around 82 years old and I will not be bale to travel on this broad-gauge line; that is the reality.

During the tenure of the United Front Government, when the Minister visited Silchar, he declared that in view of the backwardness of the North-Eastern region and the importance of it, it might have to be considered as a national project, just on the lines of the Project that was supposed to be taken up in Kashmir. Today, work is going on at a slower pace on this project. RITES, which was supposed to submit the report, has submitted the report for a certain portion, and they are yet to survey the remaining portion. The Britishers laid this railway line, but the subsequent Ministers of the Indian Railways, mostly during the Congress rule, felt that it was difficult to realign or to re-lay a new line. Thanks to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, he overruled the officials of the Railway Board and sanctioned this project. Today, some work has started on this project.

It is also true for Kumarghat-Agartala line in Tripura. The Government of India has initiated action for making it a broad gauge line. But to reach Tripura one has to cross Lumding-Badarpur, Badarpur-Dharmanagar. Then only one reaches the other part of Tripura.

Kumari Mamata Banerjee is aiming at West Bengal. I do not know how long she will be here. However, I would request her that as long as she is here she should show affectionate attitude towards this railway line. I know that her pointed attention is there on this project but in money matters she has to be a bit more liberal. I hope that at least in the next Budget she will cross this figure of 40-60 and allocate a reasonable amount for this project. Funds can be obtained from the Non-Lapsible Pool Fund, which the Prime Minister has created for the North-East, into which 10 per cent savings of each Ministry are put. It can be seen that some projects are being taken up in the North-East. Road projects and certain other projects which are being taken up are not that important. Railway projects which are very important, should be taken up. I appeal to the Minister of Railways to earnestly take up these projects.

It has got phases-Lumding-Hatikal; Hatikal-Langteng; Detechura-Chandranathpur; Chandranathpur-Badarpur, and Badarpur-Silchar. In these phases some earth work is going on and some small bridges are being constructed but a lot more needs to be done. Big bridges are to be constructed. This line has a special feature. It has got 32 tunnels. I understand that the RITES is trying is make some realignment and cross river Jatinga by a bridge and then go towards the foothills of Jatinga whereby the number of tunnels can be reduced from 32 to three or four. This is a very good idea.

Hon. Minister of Railways has stated in the Railway Budget that she gives perference to tourism. This can be ideal railway line for developing tourism in the North-Eastern region because this line goes through the hills which are very picturesque. There are rivers all around the line. It has a great scenic beauty which will attract tourists. We are from an area called Barak Valley known

as Silchar, Karimganj and Hailakhandi. People say that it is a colony. Indiraji gave us a lot. Rajivji gave us a University and an Engineering College. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has also taken a keen interest in the area. He has given a lot of money received from the World Bank for construction of roads. He has given some funds for our medical college. However, this allotment has been cut by the Government of Assam. On our request, the Prime Minister gave us Rs. 20 crore. It has been reduced to Rs. 10 crore by some officials. I do not know why. I have nothing against Upper Assam.

I want that there should be a Recruitment Board at Silchar for obvious reasons. Sometimes, it becomes difficult for us to send our boys to Guwahati. I do not want to explain it since the Minister knows about Assam. I also request that an Additional Chief Engineer should be posted in Silchar. The line is basically from Silchar to Lumding, from Silchar to Kumarghat and Agartala. If this comes up, contracts can be done by the local youth.

When I was in Defence, I started the office of Additional Chief Engineer of Border Roads Organisation at Silchar. Our boys are getting contracts now. There is dearth of service opportunities, both in public and private sectors, there. These contract works will continue for ten years at least. So, for a long period boys from our area will be able to get some opportunity to do contract works, though they are registered as Number 1, Number 2, etc.

I hope, your full sympathy will be there.

In my area, people are generally saying that 'whatever you want from Mamata, you will get if from her.' But for my area Mamata's *Mamta* has not yet been deflected. It has to be deflected in future in a better way.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): We have given Rs. 44 crore for your area.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Madam, Rs. 44 crore is nothing. How many crores of rupees you have taken for West Bengal? It is in crores and crores and crores. You have given a 'Bengal Package' there....*(Interruptions)*...Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay is also laughing. He is also saying that he has not got anything for his area....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): My money has gone to my area....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Everybody knows that the Members of Parliament from Assam were agitated after the presentation of the Railway Budget. They had given a memorandum to you and you had assured them that some of their demands would be considered. But I want to tell before this House that after 52 years of Independence, Assam has not got even a single kilometre of electrical line. Ideally from Guwahati to Dibrugarh, even bypass Lumding, if you could convert a line, that would be of great help to us, giving a free movement from place to place.

There is a feeling in Assam that 'modernisation of railway line in the North-Eastern region especially in Lumding-Silchar sector is being hindered by a transport lobby.' But Madam, after you took over as the hon. Railway Minister, people cannot believe that the transport lobby can influence you. They have full faith in you. But the legacy of the transport lobby is still in your Ministry. With your presence, I am sure, during the course of next three to four years, this transport lobby will vanish.

The road transporters are earning a lot of money especially during night service by carrying passengers on bus. They are charging very high rates. The rate is exorbitant. For a patient to come to Guwahati, it requires a minimum of Rs. 2000. But if there is a good train provided, he can go to Guwahati and come back to his place by spending Rs. 750 or at the maximum Rs. 800. This is the big difference which he has to pay by travelling on bus during night. So, economically, backward areas need more progress with more modernised railway facilities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister herself has said that the Indian Railways is one of the greatest modes of transport which is meant for the poorest of the poor. They are taking up certain amenities. They are taking up some steps. It is good.

Sir, another point which I would like to cover is the security aspect. I fully agree with the hon. Minister that she wants to strengthen the Railway Protection Force. As a Minister of State for Home Affairs, I myself have seen how difference arises between the GRP and the local police. Under whose jurisdiction it comes? Some say that it is with the State Government while some others say that it is with the Railways. So, there is a always a big fight going on between the GRP and the State police as to who should act and who should not act. So, I hope that this subject will be well taken care of and all such anomalies will be removed. Whatever you do about the security measures, unless there is a proper co-ordination, nothing will be achieved.

Sir, the other day, I happened to travel by train to visit Amritsar, the Golden Temple and I felt very glad to see the security arrangements there in the train. I talked to the police officer there. He said, 'yes, now we are

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travelling by trains. We are coming and going by trains. The difference of opinion between the State and the Railways has been solved by one-to-one meeting with the local administration.' It is very good. But my point is that some similar steps should also be taken in the North-Eastern Railway also. Everybody knows about the Bodo movement there in Assam. Many a time a large number of incidents had taken place in the trains whereby many lives had been lost. Though some of those incidents could have been avoided had there been a better co-ordination between the Railways and the State Government. Some time, the State Government refuses to take precautions. But when there is some incident they say that 'the Railways was at fault.' So, unless there is a proper co-ordination between the Railways and the State authorities, such incidents will go on happening.

Now, I come to the aspect of eviction of railway land. It is a fact that all over the North-Eastern region, expecially in Assam, a large portion of railway land has been encroached, unauthorisedly occupied by the people.

But the fact remains that they are there for years together. Most of them are East Bengal refugees. They came and took possession of these unauthorised lands. When Shri Madhavrao Scindia was chairing, we had a meeting of M.Ps and it was decided that for development work, whenever land will be needed, we shall not stand in the way. In my constituency, right now, only three furlongs from my house, there has been eviction. I supported the railway officers. I told the people that if you want broad gauge line, there is land for construction, but then you have to support it. But at the same time, are there different policies in different places? Three Prime Ministers have gone and stopped the eviction. And then what happened? It was said that Rs. 27,000 will be given to each person who will be evicted. Alternative land has to be given. It is very good. It came in the newspapers. It is not railway's contribution. You are giving it from the State Government and the High Court has ordered for it. If High Court has ordered here, people will give their precedence in other areas and three Prime Ministers have gone there. What I say is that, you should have at least taken up with the State Government when there is eviction. They should be given alternative land. I am not in favour of giving money. More unauthorised occupation will be there. But at least alternative land should be given. The Railway Minister has agitated for it in the past. We can go through the records. You say that you do not want to stop eviction. Why? If it is necessary, you do it. But at the same time, you write to the State Governments that these evicted people should be given land. The State Government says that if railway writes to them, it is easier for them to get it passed in the Line Advisory Board than for them giving it because some of them have got licence from the railways for running some bookstalls, and legally they are evicted. But if some reference is made to the State Government, it will be easier. But I assure that so far as Silchar is concerned, our total co-operation will be there for eviction. But you evict them and occupy it after ten years. In the meantime, another group of occupants will come because it is very difficult for the railways to protect the land. They cannot protect. It is not possible. What I say is that railways should evict and take possession and start working within one year when they make the place open. That will be much better way of doing.

In your speech, you have given facilities to ex-servicemen, Kargil heroes and to the poorest of the poor. It is very good. I welcome it. But I must say one thing. Such facilities in the passenger trains are all right. The hon. Sports Minister is here. Recently I wrote to him that one girl has been given appointment by you. She is running from pillar to post for the last ten years. There are national level players. If they can get something to earn for their livelihood, they can contribute to our sports standards. Some re-look in the category should be there. You are an elderly gentleman. You are the Minister of State. You are organising rifle competitions. I helped him when I was the Minister of Steel with sponsorship and other things. There are people within middle income group who are good shooters, but they cannot afford to have practice which is necessary.

Sports should get a better deal. You are giving it a better deal and I am not denying it. When Shri Madhavrao Scindia was there, I used to ask for a cricket team for women....*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Cricket should be banned now.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Those who are saying that cricket should be banned are wrong.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Cricket is already pampered.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: If there is anything wrong, ban that. I was a sportsman. I was also a State-level player. I was an international referee in football. I have acted as a referee in an India versus Russia match. There is a wrong theory going around the country. If you give this case to the CBI, they will squeeze the players like Tendulkar, Azharuddin and others because your main corrupt organisation is the CBI. If you get specific charges, you take action....*(Interruptions)* Shri Dhananjaya Kumar is laughing. He knows some of them. He is in the Ministry of Finance now. When people are in distress, they come to him.

. I was in the public sector. I can say that many good officers in the public sector became victims of the CBI. A case involving a sum of Rs. 20,000 was pending for 15 years. I went to the then Prime Minister who was the Minister-in-charge of the CBI. I asked him how long the man would be punished. He could not become the Chairman of Bokaro Steel Plant because of this case. The Prime Minister gave me the clearance. Shrimati Margaret Alva was then the Minister of State in charge of the CBI. I got clearance from her also.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I was saying that the other games have been neglected in this country, apart from this match-fixing that has affected cricket....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Then, I argee with you.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Where are sports like football, hockey and basketball today in this country? Where are our Indian games?....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: My dear friend, you are also responsible for this. There was a time when the Army used to contribute the maximum sportsmen to the country....*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take much of your time. I am grateful that you have called me. I will just say that just like the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Cates, sportsmen and women of certain categories should also be recruited. That should be considered as a qualification.

We gave a memorandum to the hon. Minister. I want that this should go on record because I have assured my friends from Assam about this. I want that the following demands should be taken into consideration:

(i) Railbus from Hoybor Gaon to Moirabari

(ii) Bogibill bridge

(iii) Rangia-Mokokseleng gauge conversion

(iv) Lumding-Silchar gauge conversion

(v) Moran-Dibrugarh new line

(vi) Baigata Road *via* Kharpuetia new line

(vii) Proposed improvement of railway infrastructure at Mariyani including proposed improvement of goods yard from MG to BG.

(viii) Gauge conversion from Faklagram to Dhubri

(ix) New BG line from Golpara to Mankachar

(x) Gauge conversion from Katakhat to Bhairabi

(xi) Long pending demand of Barak Valley for Rail Division of Badarpur

(xii) Guage conversion from Badarpur to Kumarghat

These are the proposals we would like the hon. Minister to consider.

There is only lip service for the North-East. The North-East has been neglected. Whenever a project comes up, people say 'No' to that. The North-East needs to be treated in a kind manner. All the Prime Ministers including the present Prime Minister have been treating it in a vigorous way. You should get some money from the Prime Minister. I understand, you and the Prime Minister are in a good wavelength. You should go to him one day and get a package for the North-East as you have got the Bengal package. We need some money for the North-East. I am sure, the Prime Minister will give it to you.

If you go to the Finance Ministry, they will not give; if you go to the Planning Commission, they will not give. But if you go to the Prime Minister, he would give because he knows the problems of the North-East.

Then, we want a Railway Coach Factory at Assam. I am glad that you have taken some action against SAIL. I was Minister of Steel. All railway tracks produced by steel factories are not bad; maybe, one or two may be bad. But again, it is an alibi—to tell that accidents took palce because of bad railway track produced by SAIL so that some officers would go to foreign countries and buy something. If there is something wrong, you can correct it and you can strengthen it. When the railway tracks produced by our country were being used in the past, why can we not use it now? It can be done. I am sure, you will look into all these things.

I have talked about employment opportunities. I am sure, you will look into all these things which are before you. I know you cannot do it overnith. I want to say that I am very selfish and forthnight. When you consider many things for Bengal, you may consider East India also, that means, the seven sisters of the North-East plus Sikkim. There are many areas in the North-East where you may have to do work for hardly one kilometre. You have 2 kilometre in Nagaland, 3 kilometre in Arunachal Pradesh, etc. I do not know whether Shri Chaoba Singh got the

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

railway line that he wanted in Manipur. Has he got it? It is good. He could take that Jirighat line inside also. He can do it. That is his chance. His sister is there! Once she goes to West Bengal, he cannot get it. She is trying to go back to West Bengal.

Thanking the Railway Minister once again and thanking you, Sir, for having given me this chance to speak, I conclude, with an assurance, Sir, that I will always stand by you, when you are here with us.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, during the course of discussion on rail budget, Members like me could not get an opportunity to speak. Therefore, now I would like to put forth some problems of my area before the hon'ble Minister of Railways. At the outset I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister of Railways on behalf of people of my constituency for introducing a good train from Dearika to Haridwar-Dehradun and I express my gratitude for this act of benevolence. Though this train is running once in a week but I hople that its frequency will be increased later on.

I hail from hilly region where first railway station was set up at Dehradun in 1900, and you are going to take part in the centenary celebrations of the same. After that in 1933 Kotdwar railway station was set up by the Britisher. Thereafter upto 1992 no progress was made either in the matter of laying of railway line or any such other development of railway has taken in my region. After 1992 after great efforts Shatabdi Express was introduced from Dehradun. In our region several people travel by trains and thus contribute in the revenue to railways but the problems being faced by them are not heeded to. Some progress has been made now for which I express my gratitude to you. Just now Shri Santosh Mohan Dev was reminding the Minister that his region should be developed from tourism point of view. In this context I would like to say that no other region in the world has that much tourism potential as my region has. Places of pilgrimage like Badrinath, Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib are located there. People from all over the world can come here for adventure tourism, Holiday tourism and for rest and recreation. But today rail service is not available to reach this region. I can well understand that rail lines cannot be constructed in this inaccessible hilly region but more facilities can be made available at the places where rail facility is available. From this point of view I would like to put forth some problems of my region before you.

I am deliberately repeating my long standing demand. During the British period a survey was conducted between Rishikesh and Kamprayag. We have made constant efforts between 1991 and 1996 but to no avail. I have urged upon you to kindly atleast conduct survey for this line for which survey has already been conducted during the British rule. The Ministry in its reply has stated that this line is not viable. I do not know as to how much funds will be required for this survey. But I request you to kindly get this survey conducted to ascertain its feasibility. Survey for this line was carried out in 1933-34 and if report of that survey is available with the Ministry that should be looked into.

First train steamed off in Dehradun in 1900 and now hundred years are going to be completed and you are going to attend the centenary celebration of that particular event. I request you that there is need for an intercity train between Delhi and Dehradun. There is heavy traffic on roads in Delhi. A lot of taxies run between Delhi and Dehradun and people travel by their own cars by road. Persons who are coming from Dehradun in connection with their jobs want to go back to Dehradun in the evening. When Shatabdi Express was introduced for Dehradun at that time also we have suggested that this should start from Dehradun in the morning and should be back to Dehradun by evening from Delhi. But there were some problems for railways in maintaining this schedule. This train starts from Delhi in the morning and returns to Delhi in the evening. A train starting from Dehradun in the morning can reach Delhi in four to four and a half hour and it can again depart for Dehradun in the evening. There is great need for this train and it will facilitate the people. Besides, expenditure being incurred on diesel and petrol on road traffic on this route can also be saved. That is why I am requesting you as you are going to Dehradun in a few days. Kindly get this examined by the Railway Board and announce an Intercity Express from Dehradun to Delhi. It may take one or two months time, that is a separate thing, but we want that you should make an announcement of this train and I am informing you in advance in this regard.

I have been requesting you from time to time with regard to other trains. There is need for a train between Delhi and Kotdwar. At present eight coaches are attached to Mussorie Express and this train tops at Nazibabad. Normally this distance should be covered in four to six hours but it takes ten to eleven hours. Thus there is much need of trains between Kotdwar and Delhi and Delhi and Ram Nagar. There is one more problem about which I have been writing you that Nazibabad is a station where people from all over the country come and they take another train for Kotdwar from there. No stoppage has been provided to several mail and Express trains at Nazibabad. You have ordered recently to provide stoppage

to one train at Nazibabad but that too stops once a week. The Railway Board have kept you in the dark in this regard. They assured and convinced you that it will stop there twice a week but it is not stopping there twice a week. Several Army personnel come to this station from all over the country to take this train either from Haridwar or they have to come back to Nazibabad to take train. Therefore, all the Mail and Express trains passing through Nazibabad should stop at Nazibabad.

Another important thing that I would like to submit is about providing computer reservation facility. If a person has to come from Dehradun, Kotdwar and Nazibabad, he has to spend Rs. 400-500 on reservation and he has to come for reservation atleast 15-20 days before the actual journey and again at the time of travel, he has to spend some more amount. I have written letter to you also for providing computer reservation facility. Besides Kotdwar, we want this computer reservation facility at Srinagar-Garhwal, Gopeshwar and Joshimath also.

15.59 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

Sir, a mention has been made about railway out agency in hilly regions. I raised this issue during Tenth Lok Sabha also. Hon'ble Minister had told that it involved huge expenditure whereas income from this was very less. We had reqested you to give approval to it as we will run this through Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam, which is an agency of Uttar Pradesh and if there is any loss, we will bear it. There is also a demand to have railway out agency at Rudraprayag, Karnaprayag and Gopeshwar. For this, the Gopeshwar Municipality has given offer about which I have already written to you. The Municipality has stated that they are ready to run this railway out agency even if there is any loss.

16.00 hrs.

We need only your approval. Besides, the railway board should not have any objection because the railway are not going to incur any expenditure.

At the time of discussing Railway Budget, I inquired about the facilities being extended to Ex-servicemen and today the same has been asked by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. I don't know what facilities you have given to ex-servicemen. After operation Vijay the ex-servicemen has been given 75 per cent concession in IInd class. Immediately after the presentation of Budget, I had said that this is insulting and if the Ministry of Railway and Ministry of Defence can give only this much facility to the family members of martyr's then it should be withdrawn. You are giving 75 per cent concession in IInd class to their family members whereas freedom fighters are travelling in AC-IInd class wherever they wanted. I would like to say that they are also freedom fighters. I had already written a letter to you on this subject and today I am again highlighting this thing. I request you that the families of the soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in the defence of the country should be extended the same facility as available to freedom fighters.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, finally, I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister of Railways for introducing one train from Howrah to my constituency. While expressing my gratitude, I request the Government to consider introducing atleast one inter city express train for our area.

[English]

SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA (Siddipet): Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to discuss the Railway Budget. Railways are a very big organisation in the country serving crores of people, especially the poor people in this country. I would say that this is a very good and a balanced Budget. It is not that the Minister has introduced a very good Budget but there is also no hike in the fares. It instead stressed on increasing the passengers' amenities. More funds have been allotted for the Metro Rail project.

I am unhappy over the less allocation made and in turn having ignored the Telengana district of Andhra Pradesh. There is one gauge conversion line from Mutkhed to Secunderbad which has totally been neglected. If this line is developed it will serve to the development of the backward areas of Telengana. Much importance is not given to Telengana district. If one goes through the map of Andhra Pradesh, one will see very less number of railway lines in the area. I also understand that the work on the line from Peddapalli to Nizamabad *via* Karimnagar, about which I have been hearing since my childhood, is going very slow. There is no improvement in that. The hon. Minister has introduced a very good Budget. She has also approved a multi-national transport system in the twin city of Hyderbad and Secunderbad which would be conceived as a joint venture between the Andhra Pradesh Government and the Railways Ministry with an involvement of private party. We are really very happy about this.

It was stated that the Railways will introduce 19 new trains, extend 11 trains, and increase the frequency of five trains. It will be convenient for the passengers. I would request the hon. Minister to take interest and pass orders to clean platforms, toilets, bogies. They must be very clean. Much more facilities should be provided in the long distance trains.

[Shri Rajaiah Malyala]

In Andhra Pradesh due to the increase in traffic in the twin cities of Hyderbad and Secunderabad, a circular train is very essential. This matter must be looked into. More than 700 kilometres of track is pending in South-Central Railway due to lack of funds. More funds must be provided and the work should be completed.

I would request the hon. Minister to increase the special quota of MPs and MLAs in AC II Tier from two berths to six berths. I request the Minister to issue complimentary passes to the social workers recognised by the Central and State Governments. I would request the Minister to improve computerised reservation system. I would also request that separate enquiry clerks should be posted at the Srikakulam and Palassa Railway Stations. There is a need to increase the reservation quota from Sompeta and Srikakulam in the following trains, namely, Falaknuma Express, Vishakha Express and Howrah Mail. The first aid must be adequately improved and one permanent doctor should also be provided in the long distance trains. I would request the frequency of the Swarnjayanti Express from Delhi to Vizag should be increased. A new train from Visakhapatnam to Divine in Kerala and Hyderabad to Divine should be introduced. That would help the pilgrims of Andhra Pradesh who are going to divine places. There are other demands from the people of my area. Some express trains are going from my constituency. The demand of our people is that the Krishna Express, Godawari Express, and Gautami Express must be stopped at Ghatkesar and Moulali. There are so many bridges, and large funds have to be provided for them.

At this stage, I would like to give my suggestions. Adequate funds must be provided for the projects which are taken up and it should be seen that those projects must be completed within time. There are some projects which are going on for years together. I do not know whether it will serve any purpose or not. It is rather disturbing the traffic a lot. This area must be taken care of and those projects must be completed as early as possible. The fly-over bridges at Hindupur, Sitaphal Mandi at Secunderbad and also the Bitragunta Yard at Nellore must be developed. Huge area of land is available and it is very essential that Bitragunta Yard at Nellore should be developed. Top priority should be given to the projects which are pending since a long time.

There are so many unmanned level crossings. Every year, several hudreds of people are losing their lives due to these unmanned level crossing. I would request the Minister that these unmanned level crossings must be managed by posting people there and care should be taken in that regard. Recently, due to these crossings, several school children lost their lives. I would request the Minister to modernise and man the level crossings and maintain them.

I would like to thank the Railway Minister for not hiking the fare and giving more amenities to the passengers. This will serve quite a good purpose in future also. She has also proposed railway links with our neighbouring countries like China, Thailand, Bangaladesh and Nepal. My request to her is to first improve the facilities in our country and then proceed with the links with neighbouring countries. I think that would be better.

We find that many hon. Members are demanding abolition of Railway Board, Railway Board is dominated by bureaucrats. I do accept that. This aspect also should be looked into. I would request the Railway Recruitment Board to induct more percentage of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs. I hope that all these would make a good Railway Budget.

I thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Indian Railways is one of the largest railways in the world and it plays an important role in integrating people. In the absence of railways, development is not possible. The economists are of the view that the facility of transport is essential for the development of any region otherwise no development takes place. In India, one crore ten lakh people travel daily by train, similarly more than one crore tonnes of goods are transported through railways. 1 crore 15 lakh tonnes of goods are transported through bullock cart. This mode of transport is lagging behind as no research work is being carried out. There is a lot of scope for research and development in the railways. Hon'ble Members take great interest in the debates of the Railway and participate in it by sitting through the night. Every member expects that a new railway line should be laid in his constituency, narrow gauge be should converted into broadguage and new trains especially fast trains should be introduced. All members make these demands but their demands are not considered. Earlier members used to be very much enthusiastic in debates regarding railway but today they are not that much enthusiastic. Now they have understood that nothing will come out of these debates. I would like to say that whosoever becomes the Railway Minister, he says that after completing the Buddhist circuit Vaishali will be linked with railway line since it is a place of historical importance and it is the birthplace of democracy. 2500-3000 years ago, there was Lichchhvi Republic. Lord Buddha himself commended Lichchhvi Republic for the rule of law prevalent there. Alongwith this, it is also the birth place of Lord Mahavir. There is no doubt that

Vaishali is a historic place. All the railway Ministers assure that they will link Vaishali by rail. I do not know that are the hindrances due to which Vaishali is not being linked with railway line?

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan had laid the foundation stone for new railway line on 17th February, 2000 on the occasion of death anniversary of Karpuri Thakur. He said that usually nine month were required for survey but he would get it done in six months as a special case. Its survey was also conducted. Once I received a reply to my question that it is not viable to lay railway line there. I don't know as to what criteria they are following for laying railway line. In our case they minutely follow the criteria whereas they lay railway line wherever they desire. But we are not going to leave them just like that. I raised this issue under Rule 377. I have received its reply today only. In that reply it has been stated that feasibility survey is being conducted. I don't know which survey was conducted earlier and now what is this feasibility Survey? One survey signifies positive results and the other means negative results. I would like to know which survey is this? The people say that:

[English]

Where there is a will, there is a railway. Where there is no will, there is survey.

[Translation]

This is what is being said by the people of his department but what is this feasibility survey? Would you please tell us which survey is this. It would not entail much expenditure but they say that there is paucity of funds. We want that railway budget should be increased. I request hon'ble Prime Minister, Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance to increase the railway budget because the demand for railway line is increasing.

During the British period the railway developed at a fast pace but after independence things do not seen to be bright. I have seen the figures also. It is quite surprising that coaches as well as the rail length are declining. I seems that at some places railway tracks are being removed. This is what figures are reflecting. I do not want to go into details.

Vaishali should be put on the Buddhist circuit and attention should be paid towards Vaishali-Lalganj, Hajipur-Vaishali-Lalganj, Saraiya, Sahibganj, Kesaria. Why Shri Radha Mohan Singh is not stressing upon this point. I will visit his constituency as half of the area falls under his constituency and half of the area is under my constituency. Survey was conducted to link railway line upto Sugouri. After this, it is said that feasibility survey is being conducted. Shri Radha Mohanji has come, now he will tell about it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari): Earlier Hon'ble Raghuvanshji was a Minister in the Central Government. He knows what he did at that time. Recently, hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways visited that area. He has given orders in writing for conducting survey and he has also made an announcement to this effect. You were in the Cabinet for a number of years. When Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was Minister, he was also a Minister, but nothing was done at that time. It is this regime that something is being done...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: During our regime foundation stone was laid but during their regime things are being ruined...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: The foundation stone was laid to make the Government secure during your regime.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The foundation stone for the bridge on Ganga River was laid in 1997. Three years have passed but the work has not started. We demand that it should be investigated.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: At the time of foundation laying, Bihar Government ordered fire and three people were killed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: That is what I am telling. Lakhs of people were present when Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone. I also went there. Shri Nitish Kumar was giving reply. When we raised this issue in the House, it was said that the matter will be investigated at Pune. Investigation before the foundation means either there was a fraud at that time or the Minister was replying fraudulently. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have to decide who is the accused of the two, it should also be found out as to who is 420....*(Interruptions)* If the foundation stone was actually laid then why it is not being constructed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Prasadji, please don't use the word 420.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: O.K. I would like to know as to why it is not being constructed. He is giving wrong reply that investigation is being conducted, therefore the people....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do no interrupt again and again

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Why the bridge is not being constructed? Three years have passed since foundation stone was laid. Is there anyone who can say that at that time fraud was committed and the reply which is being given today is correct. The present Government is responsible for not starting the construction work of the bridge. What information are you collecting for three years. I will definitely fight for this. These people are taking this issue lightly. The demand for constructing bridge in Patna is not the demand of the people of Bihar. People support the wrong cause without any apparent reason. The well wishers of government should not support a wrong thing. Zonal Office was set up at Hajipur but the rumours are strong that it is going to be abolished. Is it not a wrong precedent that one Railway Minister set up Zonal office and when the next minister came he abolish it. The work has came to a stand still there and people have apprehension that if an opposition Government comes in Delhi it will reverse the earlier decision and if that happens, it will be a black chapter in the history of India that the facilities provided to the people earlier will be taken away.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Prasadji, don't go into the history, you speak about your main point.

DR. RAGHUANSH PRASAD SINGH: I will conclude early. Why the work of zonal office is held up in Hajipur.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): You were making a very good speech, why you have changed your subject now. You speak about Vaishali only.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: No one is listening when I was talking about Vaishali. The work for constructing the zonal office at Hajipur should be completed fast otherwise the people of Bihar will react strongly. Hajipur is a sensitive area and when some incident takes place there it has its impact on Delhi also. I would like to tell this also.

Why Kusheshwar is not being linked with railway line and why Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Narkatiaganj lines are not being converted into broadgauge. All Railway Ministers have given assurance. Why there is delay in linking Sitmarahi, Muzarrafpur with railway line. We would like to ask all these Questions. After this, I would like to know about railway safety. Accidents often take place and the reasons assigned are human failure and equipment failure. Attention should be paid towards passengers safety and the recommendations of all the committees constituted in this regard should be implemented expeditiously, otherwise railway accidents will continue to take place again and again. In India sometimes trains collide head on or also planes collide in mid air. Railway accidents have become quite frequent due to which people feel scared in travelling.

Another question relates to reservation. When a person buys a ticket, normally waiting list reaches 150-200, after 200 the computer says no room. People come to me and request me to write to them. During summer season, marriages, vacations, festivals, people would like to go from Delhi to Patna or from Delhi to other parts of the country. Besides, people want to come back also and in such a situation, railway has no arrangement. Hence arrangement should be made in this regard. In one boggie there are 43 seats, as soon as waiting list reaches 43, arrangement for additional boggies should be made, since this arrangement is not there, that is why serious irregularities exists in railway reservation. I have to give reservation letters to 10-15 people daily. I would request that there should be proper arrangement for reservation so that people may not face any difficulty and whenever more tickets are sold additional boggies should be attached....*(Interruptions)* I am concluding.

These people should see the boggies which are meant for general public. The people who travel in AC-I and AC-II have to face less difficulty whereas people who travel in General coaches don't get space even to move. More often there is hardly any room to use the toilet even. The people who travel at Government expenses get more facilities than the one who travel at his own expense. Therefore, the General class coaches should be increased in number and the people travelling in these coaches should be provided all facilities.

There have been many irregularities in appointment in railways. Several people took bribes. Many people who have given one lakh rupees as a bribe are coming to us with a request to do something. They ask us as to whom should they approach the former minister or the present Minister. I would like to say that in recruitment there should be transparency. If there is transparency then even the petitioner would not feel that injustice is being done. Bribery in the railways should be checked.

The quality of food supplied in the trains is declining. I don't know whether it is due to contractors or due to some other reason. If we take even one bottle of water extra then we have to pay Rs. 10/-. This is not appropriate.

The Patna railway junction should be expanded as it is a very crowded station. Considering the number of passengers and their transmigration, it is very essential also. Besides, that station is filthy and as such it should be cleaned. There is a level crossing between Dighi-

Muzaffarpur in Hajipur and also at Fateha. If the gate remains closed for half-an-hour then there becomes a long queue. When inquired it was found that State Government and railways are partly responsible.

If initiative is not taken by the State Government this work will come to a standstill. Therefore, you should see as to where is the bottleneck.

In Wazirpur in Delhi the people are living in Jhuggi-Jhonparis for the last twenty to twenty five years on the parallel to railway line. To remove the said Jhuggi cluster from there, bulldozers were brought from the neighbouring States.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: We have not done it. There was a decision of the court in this regard and we have only implemented the order of the Court. I would request Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji not to raise this matter here as it is the order of the court.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: That is why I am saying all this. I am telling you about the order of the Court.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please discuss it with him. Do not create controversy over it here.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: About 20 to 25 thousand poor people are living there in jhuggi cluster. Some rich and influential person filed a case in the court that these people are creating unhygenic conditions in nearby areas and hence, these people should be removed from there. In response to this the Railways wrote back that they were ready to remove the Jhuggi cluster provided they are provided adequate police force. Thereupon the High Court observed that police force should be provided but the Court did not say that these people should be rendered homeless. The former Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh staged a dharna there on 25th on this very issue. Hon'ble Mamtaji was out of station and Shri Digvijay Singhji was in the city and efforts were made to contact him on telephone but he could not be contacted and thereafter Raja Sahib staged a dharna because buldozers were pressed into service to clear the area. On the pretext of bueatification poor people are bing uprooted. This is a gross injustice. A policy should be framed for rehabilitation of the displaced people. Uprooting of poor people for the convenience of any rich and influential person cannot be tolerated. But I thank him that he used his discretion and stopped the demolition, otherwise. I had apprehension that untoward incident would have taken place there.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Whatever has been said about Shri V.P. Singh is linked with a court case. Three months back people of that area came to me and they requested me that they should be allowed to stay there upto March as it was the time of school examination of their children and their request was accepted. So the demolition work was stopped. I arranged the meeting of Chief Minister, Ministry of Urban Development with the Railways. Railways officers did not take along bulldozers. Since it was the court's order railways was bound to implement it and next date of the case has also been fixed. We also want that this issue should be settled. Therefore, I have taken up this matter with the State Government.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have myself seen that dharna was staged on 24th and on 25th and bulldozers were used for demolition. The poor people were crying helplessly. Therefore, demolition should not have been undertaken until alternative arrangements for their rehabilitation were made. We will not hinder any move but alternative arrangements for their rehabilitation should be made first. If you will uproot the poor people, you will also not be allowed to remain in power.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Sir, through you on behalf of the people of Jammu and Kashmir I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railways and place on record a few points.

Sir, with profound regret I have to say that department of railways has done gross discrimination to the Jammu and Kashmir State. The hon'ble Prime Minister have twice laid foundation stone for the Kajigand-Baramulla railway line at Srinagar and that foundation stone is in the safe custody in the police station. When the Prime Minister visited Srinagar for the second time we gave an arousing welcome to him and he told the people that it was the beginning of a new era and we also organised a grand rally at Baramulla despite prevalent militancy and the people welcomed it with affection but that foundation stone is also lying in the police station. Unfortunately Hon'ble Minister of Railways in her Budget speech had said that there was very slow progress on Jammu-Udhampur railway line due to prevalence of militancy in that area. All are aware that Jammu-Udhampur area is the safest area and work on this line should start at any cost. The work on Jammu-Udhampur rail line is going on for the last twenty five years and I do not know whether we shall be alive to see that day or not when this line will be completed. But work on Kazigand-Baramulla railway line should be continued. I regret to say that if this is impossible then this fact should be admitted with all humility that this work cannot be done. But foundation is being laid and the issue is being discussed too, but the

[Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen]

work on it is not being commenced. In the present phase of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir particularly in Kashmir valley we had hoped that jobs will be provided to the local people in the railways in view of unemployment scenario in the State and this process will continue there. There was a ray of hope amongst the Kashmiri youths but it can be seen from the records as to how Kashmiri youths have been provided jobs in railways and though I am raising it again there is no scope of providing jobs at present also. That is why I want to place it on record.

Arayashi filmcity railway station in Hyderabad is larger than the railway station at Jammu. All are aware that our Army moves from Jammu railway station. People visit the holly shrine of Vaishno Devi and there is always stampede like situation at Jammu railway station. When the pilgrims start their pilgrimage we pray to the almighty that there should not be any mishap at the Jammu railway station. I am unable to understand why the work which should have been given first attention has not been done so far.

I do not want to make a long speech but I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Railways towards these things and request her that we have high hopes from her.

I hope that with the grace of God the hon'ble Minister of Railways would pay attention towards these things and she will take necessary steps to solve these problems.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is always a privilege to speak on the Railway Budget because ever since 1924 when the Railway Budget was separated from the General Budget, it is as important as the General Budget because it has a direct impact on the economy and it has a direct impact on the economic development of the country.

Sir, I would like to once again thank the hon. Minister that she has kept her word given on the 13th of December, 1999 and she has started a new train from Sambalpur to Bhubaneshwar the Hirakund and extended it *via* Angul and Dhenkanal. Angul is a palce which had inspired D.L. Roy to compose *dhona dhanya pushpevara*. I was very happy to receive her letter of the 29th February, 2000, in which she has referred to the suggestion made by me during the discussion on the Supplementary Demands in December regarding the super cyclone. The super cyclone of Orissa, the worst in the Century, had destroyed, devastated and damaged 14 districts. Sir, nine districts had been adopted by various States including your own State, Madhya Pradesh. We are very grateful for that. I had submitted here that in the two central districts, that is, Dhenkanal and Angul, the super cyclone had made no discrimination as far as death, destruction and devastation are concerned. The Minister has been very kind to refer to the question of adoption of the cyclone affected areas. In the second paragraph, she says, 'I am happy to inform you that as advised by the Principal Resident Commissioner, Government of Orissa, and the hon. Governor, in Kanakpada block of Cuttack district and Govindpur block of Jagatsinghpur district, which are hundred miles away from Angul, the staff quarters has been done up, the UG Primary Health Centre has been done up.'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): It is still in Cuttack and not in Jagatsinghpur....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: It is still in Cuttack and not in Jagatsinghpur. I stand corrected. Jagatsinghpur is your constituency. Thank you for the correction. Anyway, Sir, it is hundred miles away from Angul. I am happy that my old colleague and friend, Shri Trilochan Kanungo's constituency has been benefited. But I do hope that there will be no discrimination by the Railways as far as Dhenkanal and Angul are concerned.

Sir, Railways had been the harbinger of progress. This is what the B.D. Pandey Committee Report of 1980, the National Transport Committee Report, had said. It also mentioned that the Railways in India in 1853 started with the imperial needs connecting Calcutta to Fort St. George and Fort Williams, and Bombay to Calcutta. It is only after Independence, we started looking at it from the country's need. Sir, I would not like to go into too much of details. I would only like to comment about the Ninth Report on Railway Finance of the Eleventh Lok Sabha and this Report was prepared under the Chairmanship of my able and distinguished comrade, Shri Basudeb Acharia. I am referring to pages 53, 55 and 57. One is that there is no corporate aim of the Railways as far as Railway development is concerned because the Railway officials themselves in the Standing Committee admitted that it is done under the pressure of the State Governments and the Members of Parliament. This is not a very healthy thing. After the dismemberment of the Soviet Union, today the Indian Railways is the largest public sector undertaking in the world. It also has more employees than even the Defence Ministry.

Secondly, the Pandey Committee had also recommended an integrated plan for regions where natural resources are available in a large scale to develop new growth centres and to promote economic activity. The, one of the recommendations of Shri Basudeb Acharia's

Committee was that there should be a sub-plan for economically backward and under-developed regions, far flung areas and remote areas.

This should be done in consonance with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance. But it has not seen the light of day till date. There is a mention in that also about the unanimous recommendation of the Standing Committee that the social obligation which the Indian Railways has to carry on, must be reimbursed by the Government of India and the Planning Commission. The hon. Minister thanked me when I referred to it. I would like to mention to her that at that time I did not have the report readily available with me and this is the same report which I am quoting. It is on page 53.

Now, I come to the latest Report of the Standing Committee which was placed before Parliament only yesterday. This is the First Report of he 13th Lok Sabha. In that report very serious observations have been made by its Chairman, Shri, K. Yerrannaidu and a new group of Members other than the group which was there in the 11th Lok Sabha. They have also reiterated what was here in this report of 1997. Therefore, the previous speaker was saying that there is no responsibility, there is no accountability by the Railway Administration. The poor Minister for Railways is being held responsible by somebody. It is just like castigating Shri Shivraj V. Patil, by us at one time, when he was the Civil Aviation Minister for all the accidents that were taking place.

The poor man could not even change a peon from the left hand side of the door to the right hand side because it was a public sector undertaking and same is the case with the Railways. There is autonomy and authority, but there is no accountability and responsibility. So, how long is this going to go on?

Sir, the First Report of the 13th Lok Sabha also says that there is no comprehensive integrated plan of the Railways. It is *ad hocism.* Therefore, this is something we must ponder about. Because of paucity of time, I will just skip through my points.

Now, I come to the areas of Orissa which were affected by the super-cyclone. More than 33 per cent of South-Eastern Railway is in Orissa. Rest of it is in other States. Madhya Pradesh has 9.56 per cent, Andhra Pradesh has 7.65 per cent, West Bengal has 13.11 per cent and Bihar has 13.11 per cent. Therefore, after the super-cyclone, the concern shown by the hon. Minister for the super-cyclone affected areas of Orissa, we were expecting that in this year's Railway Budget, we would have something substantial for completing the incomplete projects of Orissa. Sixty per cent of the freight comes from South-Eastern Railways.

Sir, if you see the figures of 1997-98, Rs. 145.5 crore was spent for new lines, gauge conversion and doubing; in 1998-99, it was Rs. 107 crore; and in 1999-2000, it was Rs. 155 crore, and after the super-cyclone, for 2000-2001, Rs. 191 crore is earmarked, out of which Rs. 22 crore is only for BOLT. The functioning of BOLT is dismal. This is not what Shri K.P. Singh Deo is saying, this is what the Standing Committees both of 1997 and 2000 are saying. Therefore, in real terms, it is the same as it was in 1999.

Now, I come specifically to the East-Coast Railway. East-Coast Railway is the oldest amongst the seven new zones which were created on 8th August, 1996 with headquarters at Bhubaneshwar. The other Railway Zones which were started after it have started functioning effectively. The Railways have not even notified that this Railway Zone has come into existence. Therefore, once it is properly established, this new Railway Zone with its headquarters at Bhubaneshwar can trigger up a number of developmental processes in Orissa and its adjoining areas, including your area, Sir, including Andhra Pradesh, including West Bengal, which is the hon. Minister's State. The Zonal Office could monitor and follow up all the railway projects relating to Orissa much more effectively than it is being done from Calcutta. The projects of Orissa will get the undivided attention of the Railway administration when the Headquarters office starts functioning. The Headquarters Office of the Railway Zone could then sanction most of the works, programmes and purchases, but now it is being controlled from the Zonal Office in Calcutta because they have only a Chief Administrative Officer at Bhubaneswar who does not have the delegated power. The General Manager could then even give employment, both temporary and permanent, and employment is what is necessary today in Orissa because 1.5 crore out of 3.19 crore people have been devastated. They are homeless and some of them are orphaned also. If one goes to the comparison of the Recruitment Board, in spite of what my elder brother, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh said, that is, lot of corruption, one will see that after it started functioning in Bhubaneswar, the number of local people who could join the Railway has inreased considerably, as compared to those who joined when the Recruitment Office was not in Bhubaneswar. So, this is the time when we could bring relief, aid and succour to the cyclone-affected people there if we can open it quicly and make it effective. The Railway Zone Headquartres office could employ sportspersons, cultural persons, scouts and guides, as has been done on compassionate ground, and, therefore, this Headquarter office has to be started as quickly as possible. Once the Zonal office becomes operational, then the entire gamut of activities could be started. But the opposite is happening. In the last two years, the fund

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

allotment to the new Zone has been reduced year after year—I do not know why. In 1996-97, it was Rs. 1.5 crore; in 1997-98, it was Rs. 4.5 crore; in 1998-99, it was Rs. 2.93 crore; in 1999-2000, it was Rs. 0.6 crore, that is, Rs. 60 lakh; and in 2000-2001, it has been reduced to Rs. 0.3 crore, that is, Rs. 30 lakh. I do not know how many centuries will go before the East Coast Railway Zone comes up. Even the 96 quarters which were sanctioned for the Railway staff at the East Coast are getting a back seat due to the uncertainty about the new Zone. I do not blame them. I do not blame the Railway Board at all. They may be thinking that now that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is not there, so probably the East Coast Railway Zone headquarters will go somewhere else. But we are grateful to him for having done that, although he had to face a lot of flak from within his Railway family as well as from outside, from those who have retired from the Railway family, who were in charge of implementing from 1982. Having failed to do it till 1996, they wanted to castigate him. But thanks to my distinguished Chairman, we did not allow that to happen in the Standing Committee.

I would also like to point out that the notfication of the territorial jurisdiction of the new Zone has not been announced so far. Therefore, the Divisional office at Rourkela and the new Sambalpur Division are yet to function, and the merger of Himgiri to Jeraikela section of the Howrah-Mumbai trunk route into East Coast Railway is yet to take place. These should be done as quickly as possible.

The Chief Administrative Officer (Construction) and the Mancheswar Carriage Repair Workshop, which is part of the East Coast Railway, is still functioning from Calcutta. Therefore, it is a dichotomy and it is like the Government of India Act, 1935 where nothing seems to be happening...*(Interruptions)* We want the East-Coast headquarters to come up; let the Headquarters of the South-Eastern Railway remain there. Therefore, Sir, Rs. 2.5 crore is what has been demanded by the East Coast Railway and that must be given.

Coming to the on-going railway projects—this is the only time we get a chance to speak because apart from Railways and Communications, there is nothing else we can speak about our State here. Everything else is a State subject and that is not permitted in Parliament.

Sir, for Lanjigarh-Junagarh only Rs. 2 crore were given last year and Rs. 2 crore given this year. It is a project of Rs. 100 crore. At the rate of Rs. 2 crore per year, it will take 50 years. For Khurda Road-Bolangir, which is a Rs. 353 crore project, Rs. 10 crore were given last year and this year there is a slight improvement and Rs. 14.5 crore are given. This will again take another 20 years. For Haridaspur-Paradeep, Rs. 5 crore were given last year. You have given Rs. 1 crore this year. For Angul-Sukinda Road project, which is in my constituency, which gets the highest rate of internal rate of revenue of 29.83 per cent, which has never happened anywhere in the world, Rs. 2 crore was given last year. It is a Rs. 245.5 crore project. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, the then Minister of Railways had given Rs. 5 crore in 1996. This year you have mentioned to give Rs. 23 crore. Out of it only Rs. 2 crore are given. The amount of Rs. 23 crore is on BOLT scheme.

In these two reports of the Standing Committee, out of 45 BOLT schemes only three have been commissioned in the last ten years. I think that at the rate of Rs. 2 crore a year, it will take more than 100 years for this Rs. 245 crore project.

Then, for gauge conversion Rs. 1 crore is given this year.

In the meanwhile you have to consider the price escalation which will take you to 22nd or 23rd century. This is supposed to be the highest rate of return. You want to give it to BOLT—Build, Operate, Lease and Transfer-scheme. Railways do not want to claim it. In four years' time they could have got back their money. But they do not want to do it. With Rs. 29.83 per cent return we could get it in four years.

You take the doubling work. An amount of Rs. 1 crore is given for Rajathgarh-Nergundi and Rs. 24 crore for Rahama-Paradeep is given and Rs. 30 crore for Nergundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur, as agianst the figure of Rs. 33 crore given last year.

For the second bridge over Mahanadi Rs. 10 crore are given. It costs Rs. 104 crore. It will take ten years. For Lanjigarh Road-Titlagarh Rs. 15 crore are given out of Rs. 66.6 crore and it will take five years. An amount of Rs. 0.1 crore is given for Rajathgarh-Barang scheme. For Talcher-Hindol Road, an amount of Rs. 60 crore was sanctioned and it is Nil this year.

Sir, I want to give a few suggestions. Two more points and I complete my speech.

Presently the population of Bhubaneshwar is increasing rapidly. There is a lot of demand for additional trains in various directions. The coaching terminal which is located next to Bhubaneshwar station does not have any scope for expansion. Therefore, it is imperative that a new satellite coaching terminal on the lines of Santragachhi (South Eastern Railway) and Tikiapara

(Eastern Railway) should sanctioned within a radius of ten kilometres from Bhubaneshwar—it may be at Mancheswar or any where.

Though allotment of funds are sanctioned separately for Daitari-Banspani and Haridaspur-Paradeep taking them as two separate projects, but they form an alternative route for movement of iron ore. If the Talcher-Sukinda line is connected to this Haridaspur line, then the four southern States of India—Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh—will get all their coal through Paradeep through train and sea route. This will facilitate them. Therefore, instead of an amount of Rs. 1 crore, the demand is for Rs. 15 crore. I know it is difficult for the hon. Minister to do it in this Budget. But she can keep it for the Supplementary Budget.

The Lanjigarh-Junagadh project which was meant to open up the backward areas of Orissa was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. But at the tardy rate of its progress, God alone knows how long it will take. During the 1967 cyclone in Orissa, your old friend and my senior colleague, Shri P.K. Deo and Shri Surendra Nath Dwivedi had made a demand and that is how the Cuttack-Paradeep rail link was sanctioned and it came up in 1973.

In December last year I had also made a similar plea that the Gopalpur port should be developed. Two integrated steel mills are coming up. So if it goes on a route of Talcher-Angul-Gopalpur via Hindol, then it will not only provide employment but it will bring in development as well as it will connect a major sea port which is coming up at Gopalpur. The second one was the Angul-Sukinda to go via Haridaspur-Paradeep.

For a long time, from the early Sixties, you will kindly recall because you were a Member of this House, there was a demand for the Talcher-Bimlagarh route. Bimlagarh is in the Bonai district where at one time we were agitating in 1971 for the second cheapest steel plant in India which would come up in the Nayagarh-Bolani area.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, this Talcher-Bimlagarh railway line was shelved because Talcher-Sambalpur railway line came, but it is in a totally backward area having iron ore reserves. It is in Sundergarh from where Shri Jual Oram comes. If that is also taken up, this will provide a lot of impetus.

Now, I must come to my constituency because this is the only opportunity I will get to speak about my constituency. I will just refer to two stations and those stations are in two headquarters—one is Angul railway station which is in a new district and the other is Dhenkanal railway station. Last time, the hon. Minister very kindly said that Dhenkanal would be coverted into a model station. In Dhenkanal railway station, there are no connections towards the South, that is, Chennai and Bangalore. The, there are technical problems also. From downline to upline towards Joranda road, it is a small piece of line. Connecting line number one to line number 4 will release the congestion of the entire coal traffic coming from Talcher to Paradeep. A mini yard is necessary for handling this inward empty and outward loaded traffic for Talcher colliery and Dhenkanal.

I have got photographs, but I cannot display them here. During the super cyclone, the FCI stocks were rotting. It was pilfered. Now, the FCI is going to pay a lot of money to the Railways as demurrage because there is neither a platform nor there is a shed, nor there is lighting nor there is fencing. Today only, during the Question Hour, we were very much concerned about shortfall in agricultural production. Here is an agricultural produce, foodgrains, which we cannot preserve or protect. Therefore, I demand, which I have moved in my Cut Motion—I have moved all my Cut Motions because I knew that I will not get much time—that for this sort of FCI yard, a levelling shed must be made, covering must be given, little fencing must be given and lighting must be given. Sir, I visited the Station Master's office which was constructed in 1927. It is a small room of 10x8 feet where reservation, signalling, message, inquiry and management is done. Everything is done in the Station Master's room.

Then, I come to Angul railway station. It is a new station which has started in 1995. There is a loco shed coming up which is for Talcher-Sambalpur-Angul linkage. It is running behind schedule by more than two years. If more investment is done, then at least 50 locos can be repaired, maintained and sent off. But out of Rs. 42 crore, only Rs. 27 crore have been spent and the revised estimate is not being acceded to Sir, you will be shocked to know that the railway staff, about 700 in number, are staying here and they do not have water, they do not have postal facility, they do not even have a connecting road to Angul railway station and they have to go through three kilometres. They do not even have telephone facility and banking facility. I have written to the various officials of the Department and I hope that it will come through.

Sir, Hindol road railway station is a more than one hundred years old station. There is no waiting room. There is no lighting. There is no water. This is the sorry state of things there.

My last and ultimate question will be about Gallantry Award winners. Today most of us are here in in this

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

House. I would like to quote Winston Churchill. He said: 'Never in the history of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few.' He said this about the fighter pilots of the Battle of Britain. If many of us are here, it is because of the supreme sacrifice, courage and valour of our Armed Forces who have died in Kargil. The Railways have given them AC-II class travel facility, along with a companion. But why is there discrimination? They are not allowed to travel by *Shatabadi*, they are not allowed to travel by *Rajdhani*. They are not allowed to travel by Metro Rail. Such is the case of Arjuna Awardees. They can travel by any train but not by *Shatabadi*, not by *Rajdhani* and not by Metro Rail.

Sir, the Railways have been one of the patrons of sports. They have been one of the patrons of the Armed Forces, of the freedom fighters, As Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri was saying, are the Armed Forces personnel any less freedom fighters than those who fought prior to 1947? They are preserving our freedom with their supreme sacrifice.

Sir, the Railways have been patronising cricket, athletics, basketball and hockey. This year, rowing has qualified in the Sydney Olympics. I appeal to the Minister of State for Railways, Shri Digvijay Singh, who is a sportsman, to adopt rowing also as one of the disciplines for patronising.

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having kindly permitted me to speak in this highest Panchayat of the country. There are two districts in my constituency, viz. Bhind and Datia. Both districts are very backward. A new railway line called Guna-Etawah was to be laid for Bhind about ten years ago. The work was completed swiftly between Guna and Gwalior. Recently Kumari Mamata Banerjee inaugurated that rail line.

17.06 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

But the work on the section between Gwalior and Etawah is progressing very slowly even when the main purpose was to benefit District Bhind because Bhind is a very backward district. The railway line was sanctioned to ensure the development of that district. Unfortunately, the work on that section is progressing very slow. I request the Hon'ble Minister to expedite the work and allocate more funds, since there are three large rivers on the route of railway line from Bhind to Etawah and bridges are required to be constructed on these rivers. This line is targetted to be completed by the year 2002. I, therefore, request that more money should be allocated for the line so that tenders are invited for the bridges and the work is expedited.

The office of the Executive Engineer is located at Agra due to which the work is not being monitored properly. I request that the office be shifted to Bhind so that the work is expedited and there is proper monitoring.

I wish to make one more request. For some time, the department has started indulging in corruption on the pretext of completing the work in time. Hon'ble Minister would be aware that a lot of difficulties were faced initially when Guna-Gwalior line was opened for traffic. The work had not been properly. Same thing is happening in case of work between Gwalior to Bhind Section. There is no proper watering or proper rolling which could result in difficulties at a later stage. I also request that the work should be monitored properly. Last time also I took up this issue in writing.

The line from Gwalior to Malanpur has been completed which comes under the Bhind district. It is in industrial area. A large number of labourers and workers come there from Gwalior. If a shuttle train is introduced to Malanpur, it will be very convenient for the people of that area.

Hon'ble Prime Minister visited Gwalior in 1998. An announcement was made in the 1998 budget in the House about the survey of a new railway line.

When Hon'ble Prime Minister went to Gwalior he made an announcement that work will be started soon on Bhind-Urai-Mashovar line via Rath. But unfortunately, when I looked at the budget of this year. I saw that though the allocation of budget has been made for this line, the name of Bhind has disappered. It has been referred to as Urai-Mashovar line *via* Rath. I do not understand why the name of Bhind has been removed. I request Hon'ble Minister to look into the matter and the announcement, which was also endorsed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, regarding provision of railway line at Bhind, Urai, Mashovar via Rath should be honoured. Bhind should be added to it so that the further development of Bhind is not hindered.

Almost all the members have mentioned that the dependents of martyrs of Kargil war and for whom Hon'ble Minister has already announced several concessions, should be given more concessions. In our district, every second home sends one of its family member to the Defence forces. In the Kargil war, too, 17 persons from the Bhind district have been martyred. Such districts are

important in this respect also. In view of their importance as well as their backwardness. I request Hon'ble Minister and hope that she will pay attention to it so that work is expedited on these two lines.

As far as our second district Datia is concerned, it has Pitamber Peeth, which is famous all over the country. People from all over the country come to have 'Darshan' there. When I was elected for the first time in 1996, and as Kumari Mamta Banerjee might recall, I kept sitting continuously for two days during the debate. My turn came at 6 o'clock in the morning and even then I had demanded that Punjab mail should halt of Datia. Since then, I have written a number of letters. I met her personally several times but no action has been taken so far. Punjab mail should have a stoppage there. I do not know what are the technical reasons due to which the department and the officials are not being able to provide this facility. On several occasions, the Government has to take some decisions in public interest. This decision should also be taken in public interest and the people of that area should be given this facility. Similarly Basai is a small station....*(Interruptions)* I am given time to speak rarely and even then you caution me by ringing the bell. How will I be able to make my point? I should also be given time. Many members speak on meaningless topics and yet we listen to them very patiently.

Basai is a small station. Pathankot train used to have stoppage there for many years. During the last two-three years, the stoppage of the train on three-four stations has been discontinued. Due to agitation, the stoppage at three of the stations was restored but since, there was no agitation in Datia and only requests have been made by myself, no attention was paid to it. I request Hon'ble Minister to provide stoppage of Pathankot train at Basai and give the people some relief. They should not be compelled to do what others have done. I have seen that the meter gauge railway line at Bhind is now being converted into broad gauge line. The meter gauge railway line was removed. I have been told that not even one-fourth of the railway line was surrendered to the Railway Department.

God knows where the remaining tracks are or may be the department knows. There is the land belonging to the Railways and the land belonging to the other Railway Stations is also being encroached. I request Hon'ble Minister that a proposed action plan should be formulated. If you cannot maintain the land, you can sell it or give it on lease. You can pass on benefits to the family members of the martyrs or those disabled in the war by leasing out the land to them.

There used to be narrow-gauge railway lines and several small railway stations, where trains used to stop. The land of the farmers is on the other side of the tracks as well and there was a level crossing earlier in their route. Now that railway crossing has been removed due to the new railway line under construction. Consequently, the farmers there are facing difficulties. A railway crossing should be set up it the Nirora Station of Bhind. Similarly, Chitwa village in Datia district should also be provided a railway crossing, as numerous accidents have already taken place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Hon'ble Minister has to reply at 6 o'clock and 13 more members are yet to speak.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: I request and hope that the few things for which I have appealed to Hon'ble Minister will be seriously considered and they will be fulfilled.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Estimates for construction of an overbridge at Maihar under Jabalpur railway division have already been prepared and it has been okayed by the Surface Transport Ministry. I request Kumari Mamata Ji to make provisions for it in the supplementary budget and get the work completed. It is the city of music maestro Allauddin. It is a very important place.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Please extend the time of the House till seven o'clock. We have consulted Hon'ble Speaker....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I thank the hon Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways, Shri K. Yerrannaidu for presenting the Report and for scrutinising the Railway Budget for the year 2000-01.

In the Report, he has made certain serious observations. First is in regard to the financial situation of the Indian Railways. The India Railways are now depending upon the market borrowing. The market borrowing, in the current year, will be of the order of Rs. 3,668 crore out of the plan of only Rs. 11,000 crore. Similarly, the lease charge which will be required to pay will be more than Rs. 2,000 crore. Up till now, the Railways had paid more than Rs. 13,000 crore as a lease charge. Thus, this will lead to the debt trap.

Sir, why has such a situation arisen? It is because the Railways are not trying to increase their internal resources. There is always one measure being taken by the Minister of Railways. It is either to increase the freight or to increase the fare. This time freight has been

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

increased by five per cent. But, in my view, there is a scope of increase internal generation of resources.

What is the average speed of trains running of Indian Railways? For the freight train, it is 32 kms. per hour and for passenger train, it is 52 kms. per hour. It is the lowest. If you can increase 10 kms. per hour for freight as well as for passenger, the capacity can be increased. But this is not being done. How can this be done? You will be surprised to know that since 1950-51, how there has been increase in the passenger traffic as well as in the freight traffic. But there is less increase in respect of coaches and wagons. In 1950-51, when it was 100 kms., in 1996-97 it was 468 kms. Net tonne kilometres in 1950-51 is 100. Now it is 635. In coaches, if it was 100 in 1950-51, now it is only 229. Wagon also 257. Track kilometres of the locos also is only 201 and route kilometres is only 117.

There is only 0.5 per cent growth in the railway network every year and even in case of coach utilisation as well as wagon utilisation, in 1960-61, it was 60.2 per cent. In 1996-97 it was 128.7 per cent.

Similarly, wagon utilisation, net tonne kilometres per wagon a day in 1950-51 was 710, in 1996-97, it was 1,840.

The track utilisation million net tonne kilometres per route kilometre in broad gauge was 1.50, now it is 0.45.

There has been increase in the traffic. But there has not been commensurate increase in the coaches and wagons.

There is another factor which I mentioned when I elaborately spoke last time about the track renewal. A number of Committees were set up under the Chairmanship of Kunzru, Sikri, Behl, Wanchoo and the latest one is Khanna Committee. All these Committees made some recommendations.

The Kunzru Committee stated as follows:-

> "The Committee is definitely of the opinion that topmost priority should be given to wipe out arrears of track work."

It was in 1955-56. Then Sikri Committee also made recommendation as follows:-

> "But the position has deteriorated after ten years. The position has deteriorated considerably and it has ill-effects and three are rising incidents of rail breakages and imposition of speed restriction."

How can we increase the speed by increasing length of track?

The latest report by Khanna Committee states as follows:-

> "The fear expressed by the Sikri Committee that unless larger financial allocation for track renewal is made the backlog will get totally out of hand has now become a reality."

They have recommended for Rs. 15,000 crore for replacement of all overaged track, wagon and locomotives and coaches.

This is urgently required for the safety of the rail operation and the efficiency of the rail operation.

A Report on railway accidents is presented every year along with the Budget papers. It has been shown in the Report that the incidence of accidents is reducing. But what is the fact? All these figures are doctored figures. This has been revealed by the Khanna Committee.

You will be surprised to know the number of reported accidents and unreported accidents. In 1996-97, the number of reported accidents was 381 and of unreported accidents was 1019, though the figure of one zonal railway is not available. In 1997-98, the number of reported accidents was 396 whereas that of unreported accidents was 1011. The unreported accidents are more than the reported accidents.

I was appointed the Chairman of an Inquiry Committee to inquire into the fire accident of Bombay Mail by former Minister of Railways Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief. The Executive Director (Safety) told me unofficially how the figures were doctored. The Report presented to the House is not the correct report. It does not reflect the correct and exact position existing in Indian Railways. We have to seriously ponder over it.

Why do accidents take place? Whenever an accident takes place, it is attributed to human failure. Why did that poor switchman Bhure Lal commit the mistake? He committed the mistake because track circuit was not provided. Although money was available for track circuit, it was not provided and the accident took place. When I was the Chairman of the Standing Committee, we inquired into that accident. We asked a categorical question to the Chief Rail Safety Commissioner to find out whether the action would have taken place if the track circuit had been provided at Ferozabad. His reply was 'No.' So, when Bhure Lal committed that mistake it was not because of human failure.

I had written to the hon. Minister on an important aspect and received a reply only two or three days ago. This is about the duty hours of the drivers. The reply here is that they are generally not allowed to work more than ten hours. All the three Committees—the Kunzru Committee, the Khanna Committee and the Sikri Committee—have made a strong recommendation in this regard. The Sikri Committee has stated that it was unfortunate that on a matter that has a direct bearing on safety, action has not been started for thirty to forty years. There was an agreement with the loco running staff in 1972 or 1973 and a statement was made by the former Minister of Railways the late Lalit Narain Mishra on the floor of the House that duty hours of the running staff will not be more than ten hours from signing on to signing off.

Let us see how the recommendations of the various Committees are ignored by the Railway Board and what is their view.

The overall duty is being complied, within 12 hours from signing on, except Southern and South-Eastern Railways who have been advised to improve the position. When? It was in 1990. It has not yet been improved. What is the position?

I have with me figures of 1997-98. The total number of trips by drivers is 14,75,731; out of this, the number of trips between 10 and 12 hours overall duty is 5,64,314. That is only 38.2 per cent. It is normally done. The number of trips between 12 and 14 hours is 91,152, which is 6.18 per cent. If drivers are forced to work for more than 12 hours, human failure is bound to take place. Why are the recommendations of those Committees not being implemented for years together? These reports are gathering dust in the Railway Board. I have gone through all the reports—from Kunzru Committee to Khanna Committee. They have made identical recommendations.

The Railway Reforms Committee as well as other Railway Accidents Inquiry Committees have recommended for providing track circuit in all the stations. This is what we were told when Ferozabad accident took place. We were further told that it would be provided. But till now, there are a number of stations where track circuit facility has not been provided.

I have mentioned about track renewals. Safety of the Railways depends on the maintenance of coaches and wagons. The position is the same in regard to maintenance of coaches and wagons. All those Committees, including Wanchoo Committee, have recommended and underlined the importance of ensuring provision of adequate number of washing lines with necessary facilities so that rakes could be properly examined. The recent Khanna Committee has also made a similar observation, a very serious observation. They say:

> "Even 20 years later, these basic facilities for ensuring proper attention to coaches are far from satisfactory. We have indicated our views on the subject in Chapter II. At this point we would only reiterate that coach maintenance facilities should be provided in accordance with prescribed norms on emergent basis."

In various coach depots, these facilities have not yet been provided. For this there is no fund. We have resource crunch. The Railways should prioritise. Which are the priority areas? How internal generation could be increased? How the capacity could be increased?

The opening balance last year of the Depreciation Reserve Fund was Rs. 1446 crore and this year's opening balance was only Rs. 76 crore. The Railway Reforms Committee has recommended that this fund is meant for maintenance of rolling stock, the replacement of over-aged rolling stock. But for that, the fund is not available.

I will take another two or three minutes only and I will not take much time because last time, I spoke elaborately on other aspects.

Now, I turn to Wagon India. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi referred to that. In 1997, when I was the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways, we examined it. It was because the Ministry of Railways took an abrupt decision to go in for 100 per cent tendering system and to wind up this organisation. It was found in 1970s. At that time there was a necessity for this kind of organisation. But in 1997 the Government had decided to wind up Wagon India. We took the evidence of Ministry of Railways of all the wagon builders, both private and public. We found that within four or five years, some new wagon manufacturing companies have come up. They have no expertise. In 1997, these new companies were given orders and they were given some advance also. But they failed to implement the orders. We recommended that CBI should conduct a thorough inquiry into that. There was much hanky-panky in the tendering system in the acquisitions of wagons.

The number of wagon acquisition has increased to 33,000. May be in the Revised Budget, it would be reduced as it happened last time. Last year, in the Budget the planned acquisition was 18,000, but ultimately it was reduced to 10,000. I recently visited a wagon manufacturing unit, Burn Standard. I found that they are getting only sixty per cent of the installed capacity. They

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

have manufactured highest number of wagons. But they get only 60 per cent of the orders, that too at lower prices. It is because the private companies quote lower prices. The private companies can afford to do that because they are given advance and they do not implement the orders also.

No Pricing Committee is in existence now. Previously, there used to be a Pricing Committee, consisting of representatives from Ministry of Heavy Industries and Ministry of Railways and it used to determine the price of wagons. Since there is no Pricing Committee, the public sector units have to accept the lower prices which are below the cost of production. They would incur losses. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister not to reduce the number of acquisition of wagons. West Bengal produces 80 per cent of the wagons. Traditionally, most of the wagon manufacturing industries are located in the State of West Bengal and Bihar.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will take few minutes more. In my area two trains were introduced from Bankura and Purulia. I had made this suggestion during the discussion on the budget.

[English]

Purulia and Bankura are the two backward districts of this country. Purulia is one of the most backward districts of our country. The train which originates form that station should not be made an Express because the people will not be utilise them and they will not be able to travel in them. You can convert it into fast passenger train.

Sir, let me come to my last point. When steam loco-sheds were closed down, when locomotive engines were eliminated, a large number of workers who were engaged in coal and ash handling were rendered surplus.

Now, for years together they are jobless. An assurance was given by the former Railways Minister. You know that if an assurance is given on the floor of the House, it has to be implemented within three months. Already six years have elapsed. That assurance, to absorb the retrenched coal and ash workers, has not been implemented. These workers belong to the Scheduled Caste, the Scheduled Tribe and the poorer sections of our community. There are about 2500 workers in all. Most of them have expired. I urge upon the Railway Minister to at least consider their absorption, which was recommended by the then Railway Minister and an assurance was also given to its effect.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I always say and it is a fact that Orissa has been kept backward. Orissa is not economically backward but it has been kept backward in most of the sectors and Railways is no exception to that. Railways is one of the Central sectors. So far as Railways is concerned, Orissa has been continuously and perhaps deliberately neglected.

During the British period, fifty years after the rest of India saw railway line while Orissa saw it only in the first part of the twentieth century. However during these 46 years before independence more than 1400 kms. of rail line was laid in Orissa, whereas only 600 kms. has been laid during the free India. When Kumari Mamata Banerjee took over the Ministry, we had great expectation. We thought we will get a fair deal from her but our hopes have totally been belied. We are not asking for the sky, the heaven. We are not asking for something unnatural. What is our demand? We have very limited and reasonable demands. I would only point out those demands and how those which have not yet been fulfilled, this is the greatest agony the anguish of the people of Orissa.

Some four years back new railway zones were created. At that time the East Coast Zone was created. We wanted the South-Eastern Railway Headquarters to be shifted there. But we were told that it could not be shifted. It was not done even though Orissa contributes 60 per cent of the Railway income. The East Coast Zone was created in 1996. The then Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda laid the foundation stone in Bhubaneswar. Four years have elapsed since then, but its territorial jurisdiction has not yet been notified. I myself have written at least three letters to the Railway Minister. We get the usual reply saying that it is being looked into. It has not been notified. We wanted all the railway lines inside Orissa be brought under that East Coast Zone. It has not yet been done. It has not yet been made a full-fledged zone. Added to our agony, this year, only Rs. 30 lakh has been provided for the construction of the building of that zone.

The latest estimated cost is Rs. 42 crore. When will it be completed then? That is our greatest agony. We demand that let the territorial jurisdiction be notified quickly and it should be made a full-fledged office at Bhubaneswar so that we can get justice.

Sir, we do not want heaven. But in India what is our position so far as the Railway route is concerned? The State-wise Railway route length per thousand square

kilometre area in various States is like this. In Punjab, it is 42.85 kilometres, in West Bengal-42.45 kilometres, Haryana-34.2 kilometres, Tamil Nadu-30.8 kilimetres, Uttar Pradesh-30.3 kilimetres, Bihar-30.2 kilometres, Gujarat-27.2 kilometres, and Kerala-27.2 kilometres. Sir, I am telling all these things because we want to come to the national average. We do not want to come at par with West Bengal or Punjab or even Bihar. We want to come, at least, at the national level. The all India average is 19.1 per thousand square kilometre. Orissa and Madhya Pradesh are at the lowest rung having only 13 kms per thousand sq. kms. of area. We want a time frame bound programme say within a period of five years or seven years Orissa shall be brought at the national average level. We want this programme. But instead of that what we have got? During the year 2000-2001 Budget we are getting precious little.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak about your constituency.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Sir, it is also my misfortune that whenever I am speaking, you are in the Chair. Sir, kindly give me some time. We have a problem. We have been neglected deliberately. Therefore, you give me some time. You could kindly see that Lanjigarh-Junagarh sector has been provided with only Rs. 2 crore. For Haridaspur Paradeep one crore rupees have been provided and for Angul-Sukinda one crore rupees have been provided, whereas the estimated cost of Lanjigarh-Junagarh is Rs. 105 crore, for Haridaspur and Paradeep, it is Rs. 301.64 crore, and for Angul-Sukinda, it is Rs. 120 crore. Sir, can it be completed within 21st Century? The total of all projects minus BOLT is Rs. 71 crore. I am only quoting the printed figures. I am not manufacturing statistics at home. So far as the work regarding laying of new lines is concerned, Talcher and Bimalagarh sector has been forgotten. This line should be taken up in right earnest. This is our demand since 1960.

So far as the gauge conversion is concerned, India about 9000 kilometres of narrow-gauge and metre-gauge lines have been converted to broad gauge. In Orissa not even a single metre line has been converted. We have only 143 kilometres of narrow gauge line which was built by the then Maharaja Mayurbhanz—from Rupsa to Bangriposi *via* Baripada—and by Maharaja Parlakimidi.-from Naupada-Gunupur *via* Parlakimidi.

We have been demanding that two narrow gauge railway lines should be converted. But the allocation made is a meager one. We want that gauge conversion should be taken up in right earnest.

Coming to electrification, pease look at the railway map of India in too. You would see that in Orissa, out of 2100 kms. of railway route, hardly 150 kms. from Rourkeala to Jharsuguda have been electrified. Track electrification has not been done in the rest of the railway route. Our request is to bring it at par with the national average, if not more, within a period of five years. I hope the hon. Railway Minister would look into it. We have written to her half a dozen of letters. We have also discussed the issue with her. We told her this during the discussions last time when Supplementary Demands for Grants were placed before the House. She had assured us that it would be taken care of. She had also assured us that she would consult us in the month of January. In the month February, I wrote to her saying that she had not consulted us and that she may please look into all these things.

Lastly I would like to reiterate about the lines for gauge conversion, construction of East Coast Zone Buildings, and issuance of territorial jurisdiction notification. Khurda Road-Bolangir, Jakhapura-Banspani, Sukinda-Angul, Haridaspur-Paradeep, Talcher-Bimalagarh, Lanjigarh-Junagarh and track electrification from Kharagpur to Vizag are some of the points we are placing before her. If not now, at least in the Supplementary Budget we hope that we shall get justice from the Railway Minister.

[Translation]

*SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA (Hassan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Railways play at vital role in the progress of a country. It strengthens our unity and integrity. A good railway facility is a must for a vast country like ours.

Sir, Karnataka State struggled for a very long time to find a place in the map of Indian Railways. Ultimately it found a place and the formality has been completed. As you know very well, Karnataka State is the most neglected State. For example, (i) there are about half a dozen daily trains from the capitals of our neighbouring States to New Delhi. There is only one daily train from Bangalore to New Delhi; (ii) the railway line between Bangalore and Chennai has a peculiar status. Jolarpet is in between these two State capitals. On one hand, the railway line between Jolarpet and Chennai is electrified and it is a double line. One the other hand, between Jolarpet and Bangalore the doubling work has not been completed. Electrification of this portion is still incomplete. Why so much of imbalance? Four stalwarts from Karnataka became Railway Ministers in the Centre. Despite their sincere and hard work Karnataka could not get any substantial gain regarding the railway facilities.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri G. Puttaswamy Gowda]

Now, Madam Mamataji is at the helm of affairs and I hope and trust that she should do justice to our State, Karnataka. I convey my sincere thanks to her for giving us something in the current Budget.

(a) Bangalore-Shimoga overnight daily express has been introduced

(b) Jodhpur-Bangalore Express weekly train is being introduced

(c) Ajmer-Bangalore Express weekly train has been introduced

(d) Bangalore-Puttaparthi train is going to be introduced.

But, Madam let me tell you that this is not at all sufficient. It is like providing half a cup of buttermilk to Narakasura. People of Karnataka are dreaming of getting a lot from this dynamic Minister, Miss Mamataji.

Madam, in her Budget speech Part I, Point No. 6, has mentioned about inter-modal transport system. A proposal to this effect has already been sent to the Ministry. The State Government will share two third cost of this project and only one-third cost has to be borne by the Centre.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to clear this very important project immediately.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I shall come to my constituency, Hassan. Geographically, Hassan is the heart of Karnataka State but Sir it is in a very backward state industrially. Transportation of agricultural produce including coconuts, export of coffee, etc., has become extremely difficult in the absence of good roads. World famous temples at Halebedu, Belur, Shravanbelgola are in this district. The most exciting sculptural work of these temples is attracting thousands of tourists from different States and from foreign countries everyday. Hence, there is an urgent need to have a broad guage line between Hassan and Bangalore *via* Sharvnabelegola without any further delay. Further, Hassan-Mangalore broad gauge service should be made available to the passengers. Then the passage between Chennai and Mengalore *via* Bangalore and Hassan would be in a 180-degree straight line. This straight board guage line not only saves time, money, etc. but also earns huge revenue and it will go a long way in annals of history of Indian Railways. Passengers from Chennai, Bangalore and other adjoining areas have to go to Kerala *via* Jolarpet and then take a circuitous route to reach Mangalore. It is like going round Konkan and reaching Mylara. By completing the above mentioned gauge conversion, the distance between two port cities Chennai and Mangalore and from Bangalore to port city Mangalore would be reduced drastically. The total distance between Bangalore and Mangalore *via* Hassan and Shravanabelagola is about 350 kms and the estimated expenditure is about Rs. 480 crores. But surprisingly and shockingly to the people of Karnataka the amount spent on this gauge conversion is not even 30 crores of rupees for the last 5 years. If this attitude continues I do not think in the next two decades we would be able to complete this work. I am hopeful that the Centre would rise to the occasion before the people of Karnataka take to agitation, *hartal, dharna* and rail roko agitations.

Sir, I want a categorical assurance on the floor of this august House from the Hon'ble Minister Miss Mamata Banerjee that she whould be granting at least 150 crores of rupees for the gauge conversion work of Bangalore-Hassan-Mangalore direct route. At the same time, Shatabdi Express must be introduced between Bangalore and New Delhi. Otherwise, like my good friends from Kerala, Sir, I too will be in the well very shortly. Let her give this assurance now itself.

There are other long pending works in my constituency. They are:

1. Shravamabelagola to Mercara *via* Arakalgudana Kushalanagar and Somavarpet
2. Mysore to Mettupallyam
3. Arasekee to Tiputur to Hassan *via* Gandas
4. Mangalore-Madikeri railway line is a very important line and its construction should be taken up immediately.

[Translation]

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House permits, the time of the House may be extended till the Minister completes his reply.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Time limit should be observed I too want to speak for two minutes, I will not speak against Mamataji. Everybody should be given an opportunity to speak for two to three minutes. A long speech is not required to be made. The Members should present the problems of their areas.

Therefore, time limit should be observed. The time of the House may be extended upto 6.30 pm.

[English]

SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA: Sir, the roads in Bangalore are very narrow. It may be called as Garden City of India but there is a steep increase in the number of accidents. The founder of this city Magadi Kempegowda never anticipated these fatal accidents particularly at Kempe Gowda Road, Jayachamarajendra Road, Avenue Road and many other roads which are always over crowded. The breadth of these narrow roads cannot be increased as there are big buildings, cinema halls, showrooms etc. That is why people of Karnataka are demanding for a circular railway for Bangalore, which is a fast growing city in Asia.

Hassan-Mysore conversion work's estimated cost was 30 crores. But 280 crores of rupees have been spent. Engineering Department is working in the interest of Contractors. They are responsible for substandard work. They have spent more than 130% excess amount over the actual cost. This fact has to be inquired either by CBI or by any other high level expert committee.

Finally, I would like to say very briefly about safety, cleanliness and timings. Top priority should be given to safety of the passengers and all the railway level crossings must be provided with guards. Regarding cleanlines, there is some improvement during Miss Mamata's regime. The food, water, sancks, etc., should be very clean. Sweepers at important stations must clean the compartments. Timing is another area where our Indian Railway is far behind. Sir, you might remembder that there was a time when people used to adjust their watches on the basis of arrival and departure of trains.

Sir, with these words, I thank you and conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to give speech. Not taking much time of the House I would like to present the problems of my area before the hon'ble Minister.

Sir, the approval for Guna-Gwalior-Bhind-Etawah rail line was given during the tenure of Shri Madhvrao Scindia. Three rivers Kaveri, Chambal and Yamuna are there on the route of this rail line. Etwaha is famous because of these three rivers. It is ill-famous also due to this very reason. It is the hiding place for dacoits. Hon'ble Minister, the budget for this rail line has increased from Rs. 70 crore to Rs. 80 crore and is continuously escalating. I would like to request that this time the sanctioned funds should be released in lumpsum and construction work should be completed.

Now, I would like to put forth my second demand. The position of traffic jam is assuming serious dimension in Etawah. Due to traffic jams, some marriage ceremonies were delayed and could not be performed on the auspicious time fixed by the priest. Sometimes traffic jam continuous for 6 hours. Due to this the condition of women and children become miserable in every season whether it is the summer, winter or rainy season. The sanction for the construction of two bridges in Etawah was given. The construction work of one is going on, and it was to be completed on 31st March, 1993. In 1991, the then Minister of Railways. Shri Janeshwar Mishra had laid foundation stone of both the bridges. Survey was conducted in respect of both the bridges and foundation stones were also laid the construction work of one bridge is lying incomplete; the work on the other is yet to be started, and its location remains undecided. When I was the Chief Minister, I met Hon'ble Chairman and all the Members of Railway Board. I told them that all of them were expert and that they should construct then at whichever place they think is suitable for it. We want bridges. If someboty's house falls in its way, he should be given compensation, if somebody's fields fall in its way compensation should be paid to him. This bridge was sanctioned on March 31, 1993. I would like you to do something in this regard. Otherwise I do not know how much delay will be caused. You should inaugurate both the bridges. It may be done under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Railways. I will be happy if you would invite me, because it is my home district. I will be grateful if you lay the foundation stone of the bridge alongwith inauguration of the other bridge. You belong to West Bengal. You are a capable leader, you are my sister and also the Minister of Railways. I will be very happy if you accomplish this task.

Now, I come to my third demand, the industry of international level has been set up at Divyapur and Fafoond. The NTPC project has also been set up in that area but no superfast train stops over there. Attention should be paid in this regard. The Ministry of Railways may preside and Minister of State for Railways may inaugurate it, one person may lay the foundation stone and the other may deliver the speech. This way both the tasks will be addressed. If there is no superfast train, the arrangement for stoppage of Gomti Express for a short duration may be made. Similarly, two superfast trains pass from Achchalla, one train stops at one side and other train stops on other side. You should make arrangement for stoppage at Farrakha. Similarly Jodhpur,

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

Howrah Prayagraj and Neelanchal Express should be halted at Etawah. These are our three demands, which people of my constituency have been making for years. The Minister should pay attention in this regard. Similarly we demand that a Jodhpur-Marudhar train should be halted. Alongwith it approval has been given for Mainapuri. Etawah railway line which will caste Rs. 120 crore. You had sanctioned Rs. 10 lakh only, and that is why I staged a walk out from the House during your speech. At least Rs. 50 crore should be sanctioned for this, because Rs. 10 lakh are not enough. In the present social and bureaucratic system, ten lakh rupees will get wasted and nothing would be accomplished. The construction of rail line from Etawah to Mainapuri has been approved, it may be extended upto Etah. This is the most backward area of Uttar Pradesh and is adjacent to the constituency of Mishraji, Padrauna and Deoria, because the people of your area migrate to Mumbai and Calcutta. The survey of this area of Uttar Pradesh was conducted and it was revealed therein that people of this area do not have any other means of employment other than agriculture. They neither migrate to Punjab, nor to Mumbai or Calcutta. They are solely dependent on Agriculture, therefore this area is backward. This area is not having any important rail line. The construction of rail line from Mainapuri to Etawah has already been approved it should be extended upto 45 to 50 km so that there is direct rail line from Mainapuri to Etah. These are our ordinary demands. Please pay serious consideration to these demands. I would be glad, if hon'ble Minister and State Minister lay foundation stone of both the bridges at the earliest. This is my request.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to strongly support the demands for grants for the year 2000-2001 presented by Mamataji. In the words of Urdu Poet-

Bulbul ki Zindagi hai chaman ki Bahar per,
Hindustan ki Zindagi hai railgadi ki raftar per."

Mamataji is making great efforts to ensure safety, security and observance of punctuality. I pray to God for her success. She is sensitive and brave. During her tenure, the Railways will definitely set new landmarks in the country.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards Rajasthan. Rajasthan is the second largest State in terms of area, but if one takes into account length of railway lines in the State, it is found that after independence, Rajasthan has remained backward in this respect. Ever since the unigauge system has been implemented. Some attention is being paid but this work has been left in the middle. The policy in this regard was decided, that the unigauge system would be implemented in the entire country. At that time in Rajasthan the gauge conversion of main rail line which is called the life line and connects state of Delhi, Jaipur, Ajmer, Ahmedabad, Mumbai was undertaken but apart from that, the gauge conversion of rail lines like Khandawa, rail line, and Ajmer-Chittorh, Bhilwara rail line which connect adjoining areas of South Rajasthan, Udaipur, Chittorh, Salambur, Dungarpur, Banswara has not yet taken place. You had earlier given sanction fot it. Funds have been allocated in budget for this purpose but the amount of Rs. 5 crore is like a drop in the ocean. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways to consider it. Udaipur is a very important city from the point of view of Tourism and this line connects South Rajasthan to it. Therefore, some consideration should be paid in this regard. You have made announcement with regard to the construction of rail line from Ajmer to Pushkar and it would be connected with main rail line, it is good. May Brahmaji of Pushkar bless you. May Khwaza Saheb of Ajmer bless you, you have connected Sealadah and Bangalore with Ajmer. The train from Bangalore to Jodhpur has been introduced, but train from Bangalore to Ajmer has not yet been started, I understand you will soon announce the date from which it will be introduced. In the case of Pushkar if Medta, the area associated with Mirabai is connected with Pushkar, then there will be a direct link between Medta, Pushkar and Ajmer. You mentioned about survey of Merta and Beawar but if Merta and Pushkar are also connected then Ajmer will be directly connected to Bikaner. Therefore, attention should be paid to it.

Sir, Hyderabad is the capital of Andhra Pradesh. Lakhs of Rajasthani migrant live in Hyderabad, Sikandrabad and in other cities and they come to Rajasthan every year. They have to get down at Purna station as the stretch upto 60 miles from Purna has been converted into broadgauge and the remaining part from Kachiguda to Purna and Ajmer to Purna still continues to be metregauge.

Now this segment is of 60 Kilometre. Children, their mothers and aged person face a lot of problems in getting in and alighting from the train. Therefore if new train service of broadgauge line is started from Hyderabad *via* Kalyan, Surat, Ahmedabad and Ajmer, this facility will be beneficial to the people besides earning revenue for the Railways.

Delhi-Ahmedabad is an old train service of broadgauge but there is no first class A.C. Coach, in it. Members of Parliament from Ajmer, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Gujarat travel by this train. Earlier two coaches used to

be attached to it but now if only one AC First Class Coach is attached, it would be of great help to Members who are sitting here go to Pushkar and pilgrimage centre of Khwaja's Dargah in Ajmer. It would be better if Shatabadi service is provided in Sunday and Saturday is kept as a rest day. This will help College students as also tourists visiting pilgrimage centre of sufi saint's dargah.

Benefit of broadgauge line has not reached the common man. Withdrawal of long route trains such as Rajdhani Express, Okha, Dwarka and train to Haridwar, which used to run from Delhi to Mehsana and Amhedabad to Agra fort common people at small stations are not able to get their benefit. Much time has passed in the conversion of metre gauge in to broadgauge from Bandikui to Agra fort. Four five years have passed in this work. For converting metre gauge into broadgauge the work was awarded to B.O.T. They did some work slowly, and as a result, the project was again taken over by the railway department. If they do the work speedily, Ahemedabad would be connected to Agra fort. Hon'ble Shri Pathak is present here. A number of trains go to Western U.P., i.e. Tundla, Etawah, Etah etc. These are the same trains which originate from Ajmer and Ahmedabad and pass through Agra but the Bandikui metre gauge section which is a small stretch has not yet been converted. Sir, if this section is converted into broadgauge, this facility would be beneficial for the passengers.

Ajmer is central point of Rajasthan. During freedom struggle Ajmer was battle front for freedom fighters. It is not proper to ignore this city. In ths neighbourhood of Ajmer is the city of Beawar whose population is more than one lakh. People from every part of the country come here to buy Kishangarh marble. But no long route train stops there. Neither super fast train nor any other train stops there. If stoppage is given to the trains there for two-three minutes, then businessmen would not have to get down at Ajmer and come back to Kishangarh or Beawar. This would help them a lot. Nasirabad is not only a Cantonment but there is a Cantonment board also. From there armed forces personnel go to Ajmer and get train of the metregauge line. Therefore Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, Udaipur metregauge track should be converted into broadgauge.

Radhani Express from Delhi to Ahmedabad runs thrice a week. It would be better if it is made a daily train. This will be beneficial for the people of Haryana and Delhi who go to Rajasthan. From here they can go on Friday and come back on Sunday. If it is done the Minister of State for Defence who is sitting here will not face inconvenience. At present there is shortage of bogies in railways. Loco and Carriage are two big factories in which more than 15 thousand workers are employed and they are all skilled workers. They helped the country at the time of war also. If production of coaches is started there their labour would be utilised. Shri Digvijay Singhji has recently visited Ajmer to see that factory the capacity of Loco and Carriage factories should be augmented. Though you have increased the capacity as per the broad gauge requirement, yet workers must be fed with enough work. Production of railway wagons should be started there.

Pooja Express remains stationed at Jaipur the whole day. If it is extended upto Ajmer it will neither entail any financial burden nor will there be any need to attach more bogies. Through this train Ajmer will be directly connected to Amritsar and Jammu. Lakhs of pilgrims visit Pushkar and Khawaja's dargah at Ajmer. If Yatri Niwas is constructed there by the Railway department, it will add to the income of the Railway besides extending lodging facility to the passengers.

With these words I express my gratitude for having given me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me time, but my request, in advance, to you is that my time may not be curtailed because I am the last speaker on the subject.

Sir, I have a few suggestions to make. Western Railway, covers five States. Out of 10,000 kms. route of Western Railway, 5600 kms. route is in Gujarat, and hardly 500 kms. route is in Maharashtra, but the Headquarters of Western Railway is in Mumbai. I do not know the reason for that. I am telling this as a Member from Gujarat, not only on my own behalf but on behalf of all the Members of Parliament that the Headquarters of Western Railway should be in Gujarat, that is, in Ahmedabad because out of 10,000 kms. route of Western Railway 5600 kms. route is in Gujarat itself and not in Maharashtra.

Sir, Indian Railways has a big history. I do not want to go into the history but it is a very big employer in the country and more than ten lakh people are employed in the Railways. The oldest Railway Station in India was at Bharuch in Ahmedabad and not at Kolkata or Mumbai, that may be also remembered. But now, what is the situation of Gujarat as far as Railways is concerned? Gujarat has given to this country great leaders like Dada Mavalankar, Sardar, Gandhi, a Prime Minister and

[Shri Pravin Rashtrapal]

a Finance Minister, but Gujarat has not given a Railway Minister to this country, as a result of that Gujarat is suffering when it comes to the question of Railways.

There are many improvements but the main demand of the Gujarat Government—I am talking here on behalf of the Government of Gujarat—is that work is pending in so many cases as far as Railways is concerned. There are 15 requests of conversion from metre gauge to broad gauge. These requests are not made by any Member or by any passenger associations, but by the Government of Gujarat. All these requests are pending for the last ten years. I want to bring it to the kind notice of the hon. Minister. Nobody is listening to me, even the hon. Railway Minister is not listening to me.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): I am listening to him.

18.23 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, when a senior Member speaks or when there is something from the State of Uttar Pradesh, the hon. Minister notes down all the points, but when I am speaking he is not noting it down. If he does not note down my points, how is he going to reply to them?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I am noting them down.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Member, now the Minister is listening, please come to the point.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, out of the 15 requests, the entire railway line between Delhi and Ahmedabad is converted from metre gauge to broad gauge, but the 40 kms. patch in between Patan and Mehsana is not converted from metre gauge to broad gauge. As a result, the entire district of Patan, where there are so many historical places like Modhera Sun Temple, Rani-ki-Bowl step-well and the famous city of Patan, is neglected. The project has already been approved but not been implemented.

Similarly, a Railway Project for conversion from Viramgam-Bedrajee to Mehsana and Taranga railway line is also approved but it has not been implemented. There is also a demand for conversion of railway line in between Ahmedabad and Udaipur. These are all important conversion lines. I would request the hon. Railway Minister that, at least, the Patan-Mehsana conversion from metre gauge to broad gauge may be completed in another one or two years because it is hardly a 40 km. route.

I would also like to invite the attention of the hon. Railway Minister to a city known as Unjha. Unjha has one of the biggest markets in Asia.

From where, *isabgul, jeera, kirana,* castor-oil seeds other cash crops are going to all over the country. Only one train is stopping at Unjha. Unjha is one of the biggest market places in Asia. Another place is Siddpur. It is famous for *mathru shradh.* Only one train is stopping at Siddpur. I would like to request the hon. Railway Minister that all trains running between Delhi and Ahmedabad should halt at Siddpur and Unjha.

Similarly, there are a very few railway services between Mehsana and Mumbai, and between Palanpur and Mehsana. There is no direct connecting train between North Gujarat and Mumbai. Almost one person either from Siddpur or from Palanpur is going to Mumbai daily. A Mumbai man has to come to Ahmedabad and from Ahmedabad he has to go to Palanpur. Shri Harinbhai will agree with me.

Palanpur has got a diamond cutting industry. Palanpur, Siddpur, and Unjha are the places where diamond-cutting business is going on. It is directly connected with Mumbai. If there is no direct train between North Gujarat and Mumbai, then it will not only affect the passengers but also affect the business and the commercial income of the State and the country because we are exporting diamond and it earns foreign exchange for the country. So, I would request the Government to think about the direct railway line between Mumbai and Palanpur and also between Mumbai and Mehsana. All these requests are already there.

Another point which I would like to point out to the hon. Railway Minister is that whenever we wrote to the Railway Ministry and to the General Manager, Mumbai, we get acknowledgement letters after a month and we do not get any proper reply. Let the General Manager sit at Mumbai but I want that he should camp in Gujarat at least for three or four days in a month. Gujarat is a very big State. We do not want to go to Mumbai for giving a representation. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to take a decision that the General Manager of the Western Railway should camp in Gujarat. He should sit either at Palanpur or at Ahmedabad so as to representations from the Passengers' Associations and also from the people.

I once again make a request that the requests made by the Gujarat Government regarding conversion of metre-gauge into broad-gauge be acceded to and implemented very soon.

Gujarat has got a lot of potential. It has a lot of sight-seeing places. Like Rajasthan, Gujarat has also got many historical places. Gujarat is the only State which is having narrow-gauge, metre-gauge and broad-gauge. There is a national policy regarding conversion of metre-gauge into broad-gauge. It has to be implemented as early as possible.

With these few words, I once again request the hon. Railway Minister to kindly look into the requests which I have made. I had written three or four letters but I have got the reply to only one of my letters. I also make a request to the hon. Railway Minister to kindly look into the requests made by the Government of Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr, Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to extend my thanks to the Minister of Railways that she has done an appreciable job by honouring Railways officials on 10th. All our Members from Maharashtra had gone to meet her and she gave a patient hearing to all their problems. Pune is a big city and an industrial region. Besides this Pimpri, Nasik both have municipal committees. Railway survey has been completed there. Hence it is demanded that allocation should be made in the budget. Our next demand is that Manmad, Malegaon and Indore should be linked with our region. These are important rail lines. This is our demand. Hon'ble Jethamalani ji was in our favour and he advocated our case also and at that time you had told us that you would think about it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Nasik is a district. It is a big and ancient city. This town has the blessing of lord Ramchandraji and Baba Saheb Ambedkar. 'Kumbh' fair is held there but there is no stoppage for trains. There is heavy traffic there. Our demand is that two trains should be provided there. Pushpak train and one more train should stop at Nasik. Grapes and Onion are produced in abundance in Nasik and trains are required for their transportation, but in the absence of trains, farmers are suffering losses. So there should be more trains. The rail line in Maharashtra is two to three thousand km. long but there is no Railway Crossing right from the beginning. Now that the volume of traffic has increased, difficulties are being faced and the rate of accidents has also increased. Survey should be conducted not only for Nasik but for the entire country as trains are required at many places.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir Nandgaon town falls in my constituency and a railway bridge has been approved for this town but that matter is hanging between Maharashtra and the Central Government. I request that immediate action should be taken. Please do not leave this matter for Maharashtra Government. The Central Government should take immediate action in this regard. There is a market committee in Nandgaon. Much problem is being faced in management of traffic. Railway has erected a wall there which should have had a gap of 15 feet. This would ensure smooth flow of traffic.

My last request is that Railway has provided land for 'Rastriya Shala' in Manmad. Now the activities of school have been expanded there. Baba Saheb had gone there and he had given it as a gift. Railways has done a noble thing. They have given land but more land is required. Railway has vacant land there. I would like to request that the demands submitted by the member of Parliament from Maharashtra should be acceded to. It is my request.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will finish my speech in minutes. I would like to tell Hon'ble Minister of Railways that Chhitoni bridge has been built after a long time and trains are coming to Delhi via Raxaul and going to Gorakhpur via Kaptanganj. There is narrow gauge line from Kaptanganj to Siwan which is already approved. A token money of Rs. 10 lakh has been sanctioned for this purpose. I would like that the work which has already been approved may be completed on priority basis. This has been demanded earlier also. It has already been approved....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): You demand is incomplete.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Sir, the broad gauge line approved from Kaptanganj to Siwan, should be laid on priority basis as Rs. 10 lakh have already been approved for it.

My second submission is that Gorakhpur railway station is very much crowded and police has to resort to 'lathi charge' to control the crowd. It is demand of the local people that a duplicate of Vaishali should be run and if that is not possible a special train should be introduced from Bihar or from Gorakhpur to Delhi. This is the most important demand of the people of Purvanchal.

I would like to submit that I had written a letter that in my native place, Katkuian, Padrauna and Lakshmiganj are far away from the road. It is a matter of surprise that the officials, gave in writing that the road had been constructed. Therefore I wrote to the Minister. Mamtaji was not the Minister at that time. I said that the

[Shri Ram Nagina Mishra]

information was wrong and it should be investigated. The investigation report revealed that the road had not been constructed, and that it will be constructed. It is a matter pertaining to my constituency. All three roads are in extremely bad shape. People complain about it. I request that the said rail road should be got constructed.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Thank you Sir. I shall confine myself to four or five specific points on which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you.

Right from the beginning, the main problem which concerns the Railways is the constraint of resources. The Railways are going in for market borrowings and the quantum of market borrowing has been increasing every year. If the Railways fail to increase their internal resources, then in future all developmental works of the Railways will come to a halt. I, therefore, want to suggest one thing. If the Railway Minister finds my proposal fit for the Railways, she can consider it. My suggestion is that the maintenance and repair work of the prestigious passenger trains could be offered to the consumer goods industry or the financial investment companies. Because trains are running across the length and breadth of the country and because these companies are spending huge amounts on advertisements, if the whole passenger train is offered to a particular company for advertisements and if the expenditure on the repair and maintenance of that train is taken from that company, then that way the resources can be mobilised and the maintenance and repair work can be done to the desired extent.

My second point is about the functioning of the Railway Board. Now the railway network has expanded to such an extent that the Railway Board can be given the sole responsibility of the operational side, and the other side, that is, the development and execution side can be taken up by the Ministry itself. So, there should be a specific demarcation of the responsibility of the Railway Board. I find a peculiar thing in the Railway Ministry. The Railway Ministry is supposed to run the whole Ministry. But it has to get everything done through the Railway Board. That is creating a lot of problems. So, the operational responsibility should be given to the Railway Board, and the other things should be kept at the disposal of the Railway Ministry itself.

My third point is about the delegation of power to the General Managers. The General Managers of the Railway Zones do not have any power. Even for very small works, they have to approach either the Railway Board or the Minister. So, some power should be delegated to the General Managers of the Zonal Railways so that whenever the members of Parliament or the public representatives or the passenger bodies approach them, they can undertake small works in their areas. So, that responsibility should be delegated at that level.

There is a complaint of mine which should be considered by the Railway Minister very seriously. What I find, and what Shri Dasmunsi also has complained about in his speech, is that more imports are taking place in the Railways this year. In 1998-99, imports worth more than Rs. 250 crore were made from outside the country and the quantum of import is increasing. The Railway Minister was kind enough to reply that she had already ordered a CBI inquiry into that matter. But even after that, I have very definite information that the Varanasi Locomotive Works has given the order to the GEC of America, ignoring the Indian Company. The Tender Committee had recommended the name of the Indian company which was the lowest bidder, but ignoring that, the Railway Ministry has given the order to the American company.

A multinational company was allowed. All of us are talking about the level-playing field. Where is the level-playing field? The Indian Company, which has done satisfactorily for so many years and which has succeeded, was not given the order and the American Company was given the order. Why are the multinationals being allowed in such a fashion and why is the preferential treatment being given to them? I think the hon. Minister answer to this specific charge in her reply.

Sir, my last point is relating to my constituency. The hon. Minister was kind enough to annunce a new railway line from Tarakeshwar to Bishnupur via Aram Bagh. The survey work for the Tarakeshwar-Aram Bagh portion has been completed. The estimated cost of this was Rs. 76 crore. It has already been considered and approved. The survey work for the remaining portion of Aram Bagh-Bishnupur was undertaken long time back. That survey has to be updated. I would request the hon. Minister to announce a time schedule for updating the survey work of Aram Bagh-Bishnupur portion of the line.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me. The work on doubling of the track between Guntakal and Renigunta, which is of a distance of 309 kilometres, was taken up some 30 years back. There is a balance work of 190 kilometres of doubling of the track, which is pending for the past so many years. This issue has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister of Railways and the hon. Minister has been very kind enough to consider this long-pending demand. This pending

project has been surveyed between 1996-98. About 29 surveys have been conducted and all the reports have been very positive and they have given the feasibility reports. The cost of doubling of pending portion of the track is Rs. 340 crore. This track has a very great return. The revenue earning in this track is Rs. 87 crore per annum. This work needs the kind consideration of the hon. Minister.

I am glad that the hon. Minister has included this project in the present Budget. But, unfortunately, an amount of only Rs. 1 crore has been provided for this very important project which earns 14.64 crore per cent rate of return. As I said earlier, this track is earning a revenue of Rs. 87 crore. I would request that at least an amount of Rs. 100 crore may kindly be provided to this very important project of doubling the track. We hope that during the term of the hon. Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee this project will be completed.

This is very important route between Chennai and Mumbai. My entire constituency lies in between Chennai and Mumbai on this route. This route has a tremendous potential for passenger traffic. There are lots of mineral deposits in this Cuddapah basin. Though there is a tremendous potential, not a single train could be added to this track. For every single train to be added, one train has to be removed. Since Independence, not a single train has been added in this line because this is saturated with goods traffic. Iron ore is being carried from Hospet sector to Chennai harbour in this route. This very important project needs the special attention of this Government and particularly the hon. Minister of Railways.

I appeal to the hon. Minister, through you, that this project may kindly be taken up on priority.

Sir, at least Rs. 100 crore should be allotted to this important project. The survey of a new line was planned about 20 years ago and ultimately during the regime of Narasimha Rao *garu*, the sanction was accorded for survey of Nandyal-Yerraguntla railway line.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, hon. Minister had to reply at half past six.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please conclude now.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Sir, through you, I appeal to the Railway Minister to provide necessary grant for land acquisition.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there are more Members to speak. They will be given only two minutes each. That means, it will only six minutes. Thereafter, the hon. Minister will reply.

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, I congratulate Kumari Mamata Banerjee for her best pro-people Railway Budget. Due to lack of time, I will take only one minute to raise some of my problems. I have only two problems to mention. The first one is the most important problem of removal of railway line at Satyanarayanpur railway station which comes under my constituency, Vijayawada. Looking at public convenience, it was decided earlier to remove the railway track at Satyanaranpur railway station, and a sum of Rs. 50 lakh and 25 acres of land were given as compensation to the Railways by the Municipal Corporation. It is a well-known fact that Vijayawada people are facing a great problem because of the railway line in the heart of the city. The same problem was brought to the notice of the Railway Department. An Inquiry Commission appointed by the Railway Department had examined the matter and concluded that the lifting of the railway track would be useful. The Railway authorities demanded the compensation and the Municipal Corporation has paid it. I would request Kumari Mamata Banerjee to make special efforts to remove the track at an early date by taking action on war-footing.

Secondly, our Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu is very much interested in developing the port at Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh. For construction of a new railway track from Machilipatnam to the port, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed to sanction Rs. 2 crore. I would request Kumari Mamata Banerjee to include this sum of Rs. 2 crore in this Budget.

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Mr. Depty-Speaker, Sir, I have not risen to praise or to criticise Rail Budget. I have studied Rail Budget thoroughly. Mamataji is fond of poetry. I did not find Jalesar anywhere in course of reading entire Railway Budget. I want to recite a couplet-

Apke Pahlu Me gul hi gul hon,
Idhar to gul ki khushbu hi kafi hai.

At least you should have allowed fragrance to come, Shri Rohan Lal Chaturvedi has been the Railway Minister of my area. He had got railway line laid from Tundla to

[Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel]

Etah. Only one train was running on that track—1 B.T.N. 2 BTN, 3BTN and 4 BTN. I had mentioned it in the previous session also. That train plied twice. No permit for buses are being issued there. People of four-five districts are dependent on that train. Whether it is Marriage, funeral, religions ceremony or marketing, all these activities are dependent on that train. However its frequency has been reduced. The officials maintain that they are not getting revenue. It is the responsibility of the Government, GRP and Railway administration. That train covers the shortest distance. I had earlier requested that cancelled trips of 3 B.T.N. and 4 BTN should be restored.

Inspite of raising this issue in the last session, no action was taken for one month. I feel that if action is not taken then our discussion is merely a formality.

Ours is a Jain dominated area. People belonging to Jain community are settled in the rural area of four-five districts and also in Agra division. If a stoppage of Nilanchal Express is provided at Tundla station, it will be very convenient for the people of Agra, Firozabad, Tundala, Etah, Abagarh, Jalesar etc. who go for 'Darshan' of Shikhar ji. It is the biggest demand of the jain commuity of these six-seven districts. I request that you should provide stoppage of that train for one minute at least.

My second demand is that Shatabadi Express runs from Delhi to Bhopal. It halts at Agra after covering 200 km. Its first stoppage is Agra and the second stoppage is Gwalior after 100 km. and thereafter it halts at Jhansi after covering a distance of 200 kms. My point is that it has three stoppages in 400 km. run. The other Shatabadi Express halts at Kanpur after covering a distance of 460 km. Tundla is a big junction which is well connected with all the districts of Agra Division. If Shatabadi Express halts at Tundla, its first stoppage will be at the distance of 220 km.

I do not think there will be much problem in it or due to introduction of this stoppage, there will not be much inconvenience. If you are giving first stoppage at Agra at 200 k.m. then give first stoppage at Tundla at 220 kilometres. Due to this people of all seven districts of Agra division will be benefited. Tourists who come to Agra also go to Lucknow. For them also, this train will be useful. The railway line between Tundla and Etah was laid by Rohan Lal Chaturvedi and therefore, my third demand is that as a mark of homage to him a new train should be introduced. Kasganj is only 38 kilometre from Etah. We are Members of Parliament, many times village people make a demand for the construction of road. The location of some villages is such that with the construction of four kilometre of road only one village is connected and many times with only one and half kilometre of road four villages get connected. If this 38 kilometre railway line is laid then it will act as a ring railway. As a result of this both Agra division as well as Badaun division including Kanpur, Lucknow and Agra will be well connected to Delhi. My request is that this 38 kilometre segment must be connected by rail.

With these words, I conclude my submission. Rest of the things about Etawah have been mentioned by Shri Mulayam Singh. I thank you very much for having given me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Miniser of Railways a very serious matter. The police authorities have seized nearly one crore rupees from the General Manager, Southern Railway, but no action has been taken so far. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to please take appropriate action against the General Manager.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for the opportunity you gave me to reply to the debate. I am also thankful to hon'ble Members also because they have given very good suggestions. Some suggestions are individual, some relate to States and the rest are about the country. We shall look into these suggestions and if there is any genuine demand we can take action thereon. This is true that—

[English]

Railways is the life-line of this nation, and it is the main communication of this country. Therefore, the expectation of the people is very high. Do you know the present situation of the Indian Railways? The Indian Railways run at least 12,000 trains everyday, both passenger as well as goods trains. We have around 7,000 stations, and 1.2 million people used to travel everyday by the Indian Railways. If you take the route kilometres, it is 62,800, and the Indian Railways is the second largest Railways in the world.

The unfortunate thing is that after the Sixth and the Seventh Five-Year Plans, the Indian Railways have been getting less priority. Moreover, the population has also increased many times. Therefore, the demand from the people is very high. The demand of the representatives of the people is a very genuine demand. As people's respresentatives, they are bound to ask for additional trains, stoppages, some developmental work etc., and

there is no harm in that. But the real problem is that we do not have adequate financial resources to meet all these demands.

In the last six months, I have received requests for 800 stoppages for different trains, from various hon. Members. But this House should decide whether these 800 stoppages could be allowed. If they are allowed, what will be the situation for the long-distance trains? What will be the situation for the passengers of the long-distance trains? In Railways, there are passenger trains, there are local trains and there are long-distance trains also. We do have some.

We want to start new trains but the capacity is so low now. There is no alternative capacity. We have to go in for a third line, a fourth line; we have to go in for an alternative pit line; we have to go in for alternative accommondation facilities; and we have to go in for alternative maintenance facilities. Otherwise, we cannot start new trains. The system is so congested. It is high time the Parliament thought about this matter very seriously. The Khanna Committee had recommended that if Indian Railways have to survive, they have to be given a one-time grant. If a one-time grant is given to the Indian Railways, they can generate their resources through innovative ideas and through some non-traditional resources also. But the problem is, we are not getting that one-time grant.

Somebody had said that Indian Railways did not pay dividends. My hon. friend from Bengal has also raised this issue. But one should not forget the fact that this is not the first time that such a thing has happened. It happened in the years 1979-80, 1983-84 and 1984-85. At that time also the financial situation was bad and Indian Railways deferred payment of dividends. Railways paid these dividends in the year 1992-93. One cannot say that Railways do not pay up their dues. They always pay their dues. Electricity tariff for Indian Railways is quite high but it is always paid in time. This time, it was in consultation with the Finance Minister that dividend was deferred. The Finance Minister had agreed that it could be paid when the Railways are in a position to pay. I mentioned it in my Budget speech. Nothing has been hidden from Parliament. We are working in the Ministry for the betterment of the country. We do not have any interest to serve except the interest of the country and the interest of the people of the country.

That is why, though we have financial costraints, we did not hike passenger fares even by a single paisa. On the freight side also, a five per cent increase in the freight of dolamite has no effect on the common people. Motor cars have nothing to do with farmers. Even two per cent hike in freight for steel and coal is negligible and we have shown an alternative way. I mentioned in the Budget speech that we were going to set up a Professional Management Corporation. We started working on it. The Budget has been pending for two months because the Standing Committee had to consider it and give its Report. Now we have discussed it for the socond time. That is why everything has been delayed. But we started the whole process and it is making good progress.

The Chief Whip of the Congress Party raised some valuable points. I would have been happier if he had been present in the House now. I would request Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev to pass on this information to him. He asked as to why wagon orders were not being given through Wagon India all that. Sir, there is a court judgment which said that since Wagon India was not a manufacturing company and just a recommendatory body, there was no need for it to be involved in this process. It is a great verdict. The hon. Member had said that imports were so high in 1998-99. I was not the Minister of Railways then. I have already mentioned what I am continuing. Regarding the cranes, a complaint came from Shri Gadgil, a Congress Member of Parliament.

19.00 hrs.

The order was placed during the time of Congress Government. But when I received a serious complaint about it, I handed over this case to the CBI for investigation.

Sir, I am telling this august House that if any hon. Member has any complaint of serious nature against anything, he should please come to me with specific details, and we will take action against it. But one should not make any allegation against anybody without any evidence. Making allegation without evidence does not look nice.

Sir, I am also facing the same problem. I do not have any interest for these wagon orders. In my life, I have never involved myself in any tender business or things like that. But I am sorry to say that in every tender case, which I have seen, some people spoke for one person and some people spoke for some other person.

So, it will be a very good thing if the Parliament could set up a 'Railway Tender Committee.' I am giving an open offer to the hon. Members of this House to please set up a 'Railway Tender Committee'. I can assure this House that whatever order we get from the Railways, we will get them through this Tender Committee. So, again I am saying that I shall be very happy if a Railway

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

Tender Committee is set up. It is a over burden on us and we do not like it. Whatever guidelines you set up, we will accept them.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Madam, you will create a problem for me....*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: At least, we will be relieved.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That we will streamline. Do not worry.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Regarding open order they said that 'this time, public sector did not get the order and all these things.' But Sir, it is not a fact. Had we given the order according to Government norms, the public sector would not have got this much. As per the Budget provisions, the wagon order should have been only 3,000. But we did not consider the 30 per cent excise duty for the public sector. We are encouraging the public sector. This time, the public sector is getting orders of about 9,300 wagons. You have to appreciate it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): It is 60 per cent.

KUMRAI MAMATA BANERJEE: Why are you shouting?...*(Interruptions)*... You asked something about the Burn Standards. Shall I tell the figures?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): He was the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways at that time.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: All right.

Does he know about the Burn Standard company, Jessop company and Braithwaite company? We have our own coach factories like RCF, ICF, and other companies. We have the other indigenous sectors also. How has he helped them? Even the SAIL is also there. Please remember that this time, we are giving an order of 88,000 metric tonnes to SAIL. By doing so, we will be making the public sector to survive otherwise some people will come and close the public sector. We will do whatever we can, to save them. Our indigenous industry has to be boosted up. This time, we are trying our best to help the public sector.

Sir, some hon. Members raised the issue of scrap. I am also disturbed about the scrap and auction. In this regard, we have already taken a decision that the place of auction has to be shifted, and there must be some alternative, a way out. We know that there are some people who want to involve themselves in the scrap business and other similar things. But I want to make it very clear before this august House that if anybody is found corrupt, may be at a higher level or at a lower level, we do not care, the Department will take severest action against him.

Sir, we are fighting corruption. We are fighting a battle against the money power and muscle power. This is a very rough and tough job. But we are trying our best.

Sir, Shri Basu Deb Acharia mentioned about the Burn Standard company...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen now because you raised this issue. Please ask your State Government to save—whatever they have now—their public sector undertakings.

Sir, the Burn Standards company was given an order of 1,431 wagons during 2001 which is 84 per cent higher than the previous year's order of 779 wagons. They are also having last year's pending order of 203 wagons. Thus, the total order pending with the Burn Standard comes to 1,634 wagons. Sir, he has asked about it. That is why I have given these figures. Otherwise, I would not have disturbed him.

Now, I come to the issue of Sports policy. I am grateful to Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev who raised this issue. This time, we have decided that we will modify the earlier Sports policy.

We will give promotions and more importance to sports persons. Railways have always played a vital role in the field of sports. We included other sports this time. We will take care of whatever you said regarding sports.

Somebody raised the point regarding decentralisation and monitoring committee and that there should be somebody from the Railways so that they should look after and take proper care of all railway matters. We have decided to strengthen the monitoring committee which is in every State. We are going to set up in every State a monitoring commitee with potential officials so that the State will not suffer. The recommendations of the monitoring committee will be implemented at a proper time. In some cases, we are unable to give money. I appreciate the concern of the Members. But what to do. If we are going to complete this project, only Rs. 50,000 crore are to be given. From where will we get this money?

Our hon. Members from Jammu & Kashmir raised a very vital issue that they have been neglected. This time for one railway line, we give Rs. 1 crore and for another railway line, we give Rs. 35 crore. But the problem is

when this project was sanctioned, Shri Dev Gowda was the Prime Minister . He has said that this money will be coming from the Planning Commission, not from the Railway Ministry. From where will we get the money? That is why we stopped to lay the foundation stone and get good publicity without clearing the projects because unless and until the project is cleared, we are not going to lay the foundation stone and this time there is no project in the Budget where it is mentioned with a star mark that it is subject to clearance. Everything is cleared and then we are asking for 11 projects all over the country.

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev raised a very valid point regarding Silchar. I can assure you that I know that there are some problems about Silchar and whatever problems the hon. Member has mentioned. This time the outlay for North-East is 14 per cent. We have increased it. We have some problem in North-Eastern area and in hilly areas. Government has to take care of the North-Eastern problem also. I will certainly take up this matter with the Prime Minister also because North-East deserves special treatment and consideration.

Regarding Silchar, the hon. Member mentioned about opening of an office to look after Kumarghat-Agartala and Silchar-Lumding Project. We will take care of that also. I can assure you that whatever we can do from our side, we will try to do it.

One hon. Member raised the point about accidents which are unreported. An accident is always an accident and it is a most unfortunate thing. On Indian railways, we have 16 lakh employees. It is a fact sometimes because of human failure or sabotage, railway has become the soft target nowadays. This was not the case earlier. But this time you will appreciate that our country is facing tremendous hardship from security point of view. Sabotage is a very common phenomenon in our life and railway has become a soft target.

Regarding security problems, I personally called a meeting of all Chief Secretaries and the GRP people. Law and order is a State subject. It is not our subject. Shri L.K. Advani was sitting here. I have written several letters to the Home Ministry also. But what will the Home Ministry do? That is why, we set up a task force committee also and we have asked them to give us some suggestion so that we can strengthen our security. Until and unless the law is amended, we cannot get all the FIRs lodged and all the Forms to the RPF because they do not have the power and GRP is the State Government Police. Government have their own police. That is why we pay 50 per cent to the GRP. RPF, of course, only looks after the railway property, but they do not look after security. We are having problem. We can discuss this problem after getting the report of the task force committee.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia raised the point about unreported accidents. If there is anything specific, you can bring it to our notice. There are many bridges that have lived beyond their life, many rakes that have become old and there is track fracture and so many other things also. The problem is that we have to give more attention to railways but we do not give good attention. The Railways has to survive because it is a cheaper and pollution free mode of transport. So, if the Railways do not get funds for rail safety, it will be very difficult. I am just informing the House that I am grateful to the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance because they have increased the allocation by Rs. 1,000 crore in this Budget though the social obligation and the safety fund have not been provided. We will pursue this matter again.

Some hon. Members raised a point about rolling stock. Sometimes, we reduce it. This is the first time that whatever we said in the Budget is already in order. We have everything settled already so that the industry and the Railways do not suffer.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: If you could yield, I would like to know whether the order has been released on monthly basis this time.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: No, it is for the year 2000-2001.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had raised a very small issue regarding Uttar Pradesh. I have already discussed it with him. He came to my office and I am grateful for that. We discussed it in detail. I can assure him that we will take care of the small projects that he has raised.

After I placed the Budget, the financial performance came to us. It is very easy just to criticise it....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon'ble Shri Madhu Limaye was one of the stalwart Members of Lok Sabha. He also took part in freedom struggle. Information about action for liberation of Goa came in this House only. He did not avail of any facility after independence. During Emergency he was in jail. His term was extended by six years but he refused to accept it and resigned.

It is good that you stopped issuing passes. It would be better if railway pass facility is provided to Shrimati

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

Champa, wife of hon'ble Shri Madhu Limaye. She also took part in freedom struggle. It would be better Kumari Mamata ji if you order issuance of railway pass. The whole House will agree that pass should be given to Shrimati Champa ji.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Shri Mulayam Singh ji what you said is good. But since my taking of charge, Minister's discretion of providing pass facility has been withdrawn so that common people do not face any problem. However I shall discuss it with you and if something is possible, I shall surely do. I will contact you and find some way out for this.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: All right.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: After placing the Budget, the financial performance of this year came to our hands. I am glad to inform the House that the performance of the Railways during 1999-2000 has been very satisfactory. We have exceeded our loading target of 450 million tonnes and carried six million tonnes extra. We have registered a 35 million tonne growth in the previous year, which is the highest in the history of Indian Railways in any single year in these 50 years. It is because of our 16 lakh dedicated employees and workers, and also customers. The credit should go to them.

The target of freight earnings of Rs. 22,091 crore is likely to be achieved. Similarly, the target of passneger earnings of Rs. 9480 crore will also be achieved. I am glad to announce that in the month of April also, the loading and earnings are showing very encouraging signs across the country. Therefore, I am confident that the targets that we kept for ourselves of 475 million tonnes freight will surely be exceeded. It is because, this time we exceeded all the records. We have already announced the new freight policy. With our dedication and the help from the hon. MPs, we will of course succeed.

Regarding private sector participation, I have mentioned in my Budget speech. We always welcome joint ventures between the State Governments and the Railways. If the private sector want to invest its money for the development of Railways, we welcome that.

Some hon. Members raised the issue of land. We are not selling any land of ours. We have already set up a Task Force. It will formulate the policy and according to the policy, of course, we will go into utilisation of land and air space, for our development purposes. We are not going to privatise it. It may be an apprehension from some corner, but it is not fact at all.

After cyclone in Orissa, that State has some problems. The hon. Members from Orissa have expressed them. In my first Supplementary Demands for Grants, if I remember correctly, I have provided 75 per cent funds to Orissa because we wanted to do something more for Orissa people. Though last time, the Budget allocation for the State was only Rs. 228 crore, this time, I increased it to Rs. 270 crore. Still there may be some problems. Hon. Members mentioned about Daltari-Banspani, Rupsa-Bangiriposi, Khurda Road-Bolangir projects. All I can say at this stage is this.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): What about the notification of the East Coast Zone's territorial jurisdiction? It may be made as quickly as possible.

KRMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: We do not have money. Let us see the project first.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: It is about the notification of the territorial jurisdiction of East Coast Zone, which requires no money.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): East Coast Zone was the first Zone to be established, but the last Zone to be notified. That is the paradox.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: It is under review. I am telling you that we are not going to withdraw the facility from every State. We are telling that instead of withdrawing the facilities, we are setting up monitoring committees in every State. One State should not get the credit and every State should get the credit. We are going to set up this structure.

Hon. Member Shri K.P. Singh Deo mentioned about Rupsa-Bangiriposi, Khurda Road-Bolangir, Haridaspur-Paradeep projects. Shri Swain also mentioned. He personally met me and requested me.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: What about Talcher-Bimlagarh route? It has been pending for the last 45 years.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, how can we do it? This much we cannot do....*(Interruptions)* If you have any such demand then you can meet me. I will discuss it with you. Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya requested again and again about Neemach-Ratlam railway line. We will give priority to this also. Request was also made about Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat railway line. We will give it priority. I am going to inaugurate Maharashtra Development Corporation on 29th. I want that Vidharbha

should be connected with Maharashtra by rail. We are reviewing the position in this regard. We will certainly do something about this later on. We are examining the proposal regarding connecting Vidharbha to Maharashtra. Maharashtra Government has taken up this matter with us.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Why Gujarat is not discussed here, this will not do. I say this Budget will not be passed here....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: This is too much.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Today you must say something about Gujarat, otherwise we will not leave the House today.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: O.K. whatever you want to do you can do that.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: In Budget also injustice was done to us. And here also there is injustice. Only North-East and U.P. are discussed here.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: For Uttar Pradesh we people have earmarked rupees 100 crore more this time but that will be for Lal-Kuan+Bareilly gauge conversion Phase-I action plan.

[English]

I have decided to survey Rishikesh-Karnaprayag line as demanded by Maj. Gen. Khanduri.

[Translation]

Let us take one new line from Amethi to Shahganj *via* Sultanpur. As Shri Mulayam Singh said, priority will be given to Etawah-Mainpuri line. Besides there are some small issues but I do not want to waste the time of Parliament. Even otherwise, we have over spent the time. Attention will be paid to the suggestions which the hon'ble Members gave. With these words I conclude my speech....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

There are so many issues. I cannot reply to each and every demand as the time is up....*(Interruptions)* I will examine the demands of the hon. Members and I will reply to them separately. With these words, I request the hon. Members to pass the Demands for Grants of Railways, 2000-2001....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If any point is not covered, the Minister can send the reply to the hon. Members on those points.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: It is not possible to reply to each and every Member....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not possible for the Minister to reply to each and every Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I expect only one reply regarding the conversion of meter gauge to broad gauge it is the national policy....*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I request the hon. Members to pass the Demands for Grants of Railways, 2000-2001....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: A number of cut motions have been moved by a number of hon. Members to the Demands for Grants of Railways 2000-2001. Shall I put all the cut motions to the vote of the House together? Or does any hon. Member want any particular cut motion to be moved separately?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, I have moved my cut motion No. 1, namely:

> "That the demand under the head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."
>
> Failure to provide Group 'C' and Group 'D' jobs to persons affected due to construction of Talcher-Angul-Sambalpur Rail line in Angul district falling within the jurisdiction of Khurda and Sambalpur divisions of South Eastern Railway. (1)

I will be pressing for cut motion No. 1. If the hon. Minister agrees to it, then I will withdraw. Give me a minute to explain the cut motion. Right from Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief, four hon. Railway Ministers since 1992 till date, have been giving assurance that Group 'C' and Group 'D' jobs would be given to those persons who were affected due to construction of Talcher-Angul-Sambalpur rail line in Angul district. But the DRM of Khurda and Sambalpur say that until and unless the Chairman, Railway Board writes to them personally, they

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

do not wish to implement that assurance irrespective of what the Minister might have told or written to the M.P.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that it is already under process.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Thank you. Then, I withdraw it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that cut motion No. 1 moved by Shri K.P. Singh Deo be withdrawn?

The cut motion no.1 was, by leave, withdrawn.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, I have moved my cut motion No. 265, namely:

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement (page 16:01.01-16.04.04) be reduced by Rs. 100/-

Need for doubling of Bandel-Katwa Railway line. (265)

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI (Barpeta): I would like to speak on my cut motion no. 120. This time, the hon. Minister has sanctioned a project for New-Moynaguri-Jogihop, I thank her for taking up an important project. But only a petty sum of Rs. 4 crore....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are not supposed to speak. You have already moved your cut motion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put the cut motion no. 120, moved by Shri Golam Osmani to the vote of the House.

The cut motion no. 120 was put and negatived.

MR. DPEUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Pal, are you pressing your cut motion?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am not withdrawing it. It was very much there in the last Budget. I am ready to withdraw it if the hon. Minister gives me an assurance.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put the cut motion no. 265, moved by Shri Rupchand Pal to the vote of the House.

The cut motion no. 265 was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put all the other cut motions which have been moved together to the vote of the House.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall not put the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2000-2001 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2001, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the Second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

The motion was adopted.

19.25 hrs.

[English]

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 2 BILL*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item no. 17.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2000-2001 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2000-2001 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I introduce** the Bill.

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*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II-Section 2, dated 19.4.2000

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Ministry many now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2000-2001 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2000-2001 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

19.31 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, April 20, 2000/Chaitra 31, 1922 (Saka)

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Wednesday, April 19, 2000/Chaitra 30, 1922 (Saka)

...

Col./line	For	Read
2/16 (from below)	SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA	SHRI BASU DEB ACHARYA
119/15 260/15 (from below)	SHRI MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE	MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE
135/17	SHRI MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN	MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN
138/15	SHRIMTI SHYAMA SINGH	SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH
221/11	DR. CHANRAN DAS MAHANT	DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT
261/14	MANKEA GANDHI	MANEKA GANDHI
322/18	31.47	31.87
322/15 (from below)	21.4	2.14
540/16	KRMARI MAMATA BANERJEE	KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE

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