

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. V contains Nos. 11 to 20)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, April 17, 2000/Chaitra 28, 1922 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir at the outset I would like to draw your attention towards an important issue. The advocates are on strike for the last fifty days and today the women Advocates have staged an unto-death hunger strike. During these fifty days entire system right from the District courts to High Courts has been paralysed. With profound regret I have to say that during these fifty days the women Advocates of the country have also staged fast un to-death. Therefore, the problems of the Advocates should be discussed first by suspending the all other business of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Today is the first day. Now we will take up Question Hour. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you raise it after the Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am happy that the hon'ble Home Minister is present in the House. This issue is not related to the advocates only but it is also related to common man and the poor people. So the problem of the advocates should be looked into.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after the Question Hour. You can raise it.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The Government have hatched a conspiracy to destroy the entire system. Therefore, I request you kindly to intervene in this matter and suspend all other business of the House so that the problem of the advocates may be discussed. You yourself have been an advocate...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the hon. Members to please take their seats. We will discuss it after the Question Hour. I will allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I request that the problems of the advocates should be solved.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the lawyers are on strike throughout the country. We have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The advocates are being beaten up...*(Interruptions)* Their problem should be got discussed here in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Q. No. 321. Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission on a matter which is of very great importance and urgent in nature. The Leader of the Opposition has tabled an Adjournment Motion on the issue of staggering rise in administered prices...*(Interruptions)*

The rise in administered prices have created an absolutely intolerable situation for the farming community, for those people who are living below the poverty line, for the middle class and also for the lower middle class....*(Interruptions)* The Leader of the Opposition has tabled an Adjournment Motion on this issue of staggering rise in the administered prices. ...*(Interruptions)* We have also given a notice for suspension of Question Hour. We would like to know your views on this matter, on the matter of the Adjournment Motion and on the matter of suspension of Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Adjournment Motion has already been disallowed. You can raise it during Zero Hour. I can allow all of you.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I have given an Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you during the Zero hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All the Adjournment Motions have been disallowed. You can raise it during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Nawal Kishore Rai says.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow all of you during Zero Hour and not now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh, please cooperate with the Chair, Please understand it.

11.07 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Demand and supply of Petroleum Products

*321. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether there is a need to strike a balance between the increasing demand and supply of petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any efforts to control the increasing demand of petroleum products during the last few years;

(c) if so, the result thereof;

(d) whether the Government have assessed the consumption and demand of petroleum products in the private as well as Government sector in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the rate of annual increase of demand and consumption of petroleum products during the last three years?

* Not recorded.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The demand for petroleum products is governed by the growth in the economy. The consumption of petroleum products is an indicator of economic growth. Supply of petroleum products is growing in line with the demand to ensure adequate availability of products for all sectors. At the same time, Government is constantly taking action to conserve petroleum products and to reduce wasteful and inefficient consumption.

The recurring savings due to the conservation efforts are estimated to be as follows:

Year	Qty. in Thousand Tonnes	Value in Rs. Crore
1996-97	1236	675
1997-98	1497	863
1998-99	1768	1049

(d) and (e) There is no separate assessment regarding consumption of petroleum products by the private sector and the Government sector.

(f) The rate of annual increase of consumption of petroleum products in the country has been as follows:

Year	Rate of Increase (%)
1996-97	6.0
1997-98	6.5
1998-99	7.4

The data for the year, 1999-2000 is under compilation.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, in the reply to this question the Government have admitted that the consumption of petroleum products is an indication of economic growth my question was whether assessment has been made regarding consumption of petroleum products in the public and the private sectors? In reply to this question the Government have stated that no such assessment has been made and whereas increase in consumption during early years of nineties was three percent. ...(Interruptions)-

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please cooperate with the Chair. Nothing will go on record except Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have said it categorically that all the Adjournment Motions have been disallowed. I will allow you during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: According to the reply given by the hon'ble Minister there has been six to seven percent increase in consumption as compared to three percent during the early years of the nineties. He has told that this increase is the indication of economic growth. The rate of economic growth has varied from three and half percent to five percent which means our average rate of economic growth has been five percent...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brar, I will allow you during Zero Hour. You can raise it during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not disturb the House. Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? I will allow you during Zero Hour. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your supplementary, Shri Rai?

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: My supplementary question is that whether the Government has made or not any assessment regarding consumption of petroleum products in public and private sectors separately. The

Government have admitted the economic growth. This rate of growth is five percent and there has been five percent growth in consumption...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you in the Zero Hour, not now. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Hon'ble Sir, it has been stated in the information given to me that consumption is higher in public sector. Therefore, through you I would like to know from the Government the reasons for not making assessment for public and private sectors separately and the details of the steps taken for curtailing the said consumption in public and private sectors separately?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am once again appealing to you to please go back to your seats. Do not disturb the Question Hour. I will allow you in the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: I would like to know whether the Government propose to make or not an assessment in this regard separately for the public and the private sector if not, the reasons therefor? The second part of this question is that the details in regard to efforts made to curtail the consumption have not been given. I want to know as to what efforts have been made by the Government to reduce the consumption?...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I want to tell the hon'ble Member as higher the consumption of the petroleum products...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brar, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the economic growth rate depends upon the consumption of petroleum

* Not recorded.

products. During the year 1996-97 the consumption of petroleum products was 79.3% whereas in the previous year its consumption was 90.6 mt.

[English]

It is increasing at the rate of 4.4 per cent.

[Translation]

And the increased consumption of petroleum products...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, results in increased growth rate of economic development of the country. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, just now we had a Leaders' meeting. We have decided that all important issues should be discussed in the House. Please cooperate with the Chair. Please go back to your seats. After Question Hour, I will allow all of you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the proper way to speak in the House. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? You are not respecting the Leaders also.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Economic development of a country is measured through different standards. The consumption of petroleum products is one of the indication. I would like to make the House aware that the use of hydro power per head in our country is 113 whereas the consumption of natural gas and other resources is 927 which is 9 times more. In Japan, its per head consumption is 2520, in England it is 2719 and in Germany it is 2539. Therefore, the criterion of the economic development of the country is the consumption of petroleum products. For this purpose supply is made according to demand. It is helping in the progress of the country.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we could not hear the reply given by hon. Minister due to continue interruptions in the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Government my first supplementary question the reasons for not conducting estimate of consumption of petroleum products by private sector and public sector separately and whether government propose to do so in future. So far as I know, the replay in this regard has not been given.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that I am appealing to you. The whole nation is watching us as to how we are behaving in the House. I have already told you that I will you all in the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What happened to my Adjournment Motion?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have clearly said that all Adjournment Motions have been disallowed. I will allow you in the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I fail to understand. I would like you to allow the Mover of the Adjournment Motion to state her case before taking a decision. You must hear the Leader of the Opposition and only then take the decision. You first listen to her and then take the decision. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am telling you that notices regarding suspension of Question Hour has been disallowed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Then, you must hear her case. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There are so many Adjournment Motions of very important nature. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? How can I run the House if so many hon. Members speak at a time?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir will you allow us after Question hour. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: If you say that it is under consideration and it will be decided after Question Hour, it is all right. But you cannot say that you have disallowed it now.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, you have disallowed notices regarding suspension of Question Hour, not Adjournment Motion. You allow the Leader of the Opposition to state her case before taking a decision. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: You please speak after question hour.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): This is a very important matter. We heard that all Adjournment Motions have been disallowed. That means we do not have an opportunity to discuss them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, I have told you about the suspension of the Question hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Question Hour is important.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is also important ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already told you about the suspension of the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second question asked by the hon'ble Member*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Have you suspended Question Hour? You have said that Adjournment Motions have been disallowed. The decision regarding Adjournment Motion must be taken by you later. Is that correct...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has asked that why the Government has not

furnished the separate figures of consumption by the private sector and the public sector. I would like to say that so far as total consumption is concerned we supply as per the requirement. How economically the Government should consume it is a separate issue, how much we have saved through conservation is different. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down, you please speak separately.

[English]

Please understand that this is Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: We have saved our country's funds through conservation. I have mention in the reply that in the year 1996-97, we have saved Rs. 675 crores in 1997-98 Rs. 863 crores and in 1998-99...*(Interruptions)* In the year 1998-99 we have saved Rs. 1049 crores...*(Interruptions)* We adopt different measures to save the petrol.

KUMARI MAYAWATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say something about reviewing the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Not now, you can speak after Question Hour.

KUMARI MAYAWATI: I would like to know whether the Government will give any assurance about it ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is Question Hour, you can speak after Question Hour.

KUMARI MAYAWATI: Sir, I am also aware that it is Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why the assessment of consumption of petroleum products in public sector and private sectors has not been made separately...*(Interruptions)* What is the reason behind it? No reply has been given in this regard. I want to put my second supplementary also ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand. There is a procedure.

[Translation]

You are not understanding. This is the procedure, how can we divert the procedure.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAYAWATI: I request you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak in Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAYAWATI: Whether the Government will give reply regarding the Constitution review in the Lok Sabha after the Question Hour?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You will be given the opportunity to speak in Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this issue in Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand and let me conduct the Question Hour.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: My second supplementary question is that due to less production the imbalance is created between demand and supply that's why the import of petroleum products during the last financial year was 54 million tonne which is likely to go to the extent of 72 million tonnes this year. We should make efforts to conduct research work, surveys and adopt new techniques so as to increase the production of petroleum products. The Government has been telling this from time to time. Through you, Sir, I would like to say that imbalance in import is affecting the prices of products and the price hike affects the monthly budget of the common man. Therefore, Sir, I would like to know about the research work conducted and measures taken by the Government to increase the production and to bring down the import. So that balance could be maintained between the demand and supply.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Earlier, we used to import diesel and petrol on large scale, but in the last two years the refining capacity of the country has increased. I would like to tell you, how much it has been increased. In 1998-99 total refining capacity was 69.14 million metric tonnes. Last year only i.e. in 1999-2000, we have increased it by 43.40 million metric tonne. It means, at present our refining capacity 112.54 million metric tonne. As our refining capacity is increasing we need not to import diesel and petrol in the future. We can import only crude oil as per requirement of the country. Instead the situation is such that, this year we are in a position to export petrol therefore. There will be no shortage of petrol and diesel. We might have import crude oil only. Through this, the capital of the country could be increased.

The other question asked by him is about the steps being taken to increase the production in private sector. Today, we are importing 70 per cent of our total requirement and out of this only 30 per cent is the crude oil and rest is other petroleum products. We have given 25 exploration blocks contracts not only in India but throughout the world so as to increase our production. We took decision in the month of January and have signed the contract on 12th April. We have given contracts for exploration on large scale at off shore and in deep sea. I hope that the production of crude oil and natural gas in the country will definitely increase.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. Many things have not become clear due to continue interruption in the House. The reply; to my first supplementary question has not been made clear. My question was why the Government has not assessed the consumption of petroleum products in Public sector and in private sector separately. What is the reason behind it? The reply to this has not been made clear. The second question which I had asked is what is the Government's opinion in regard to conducting research work to increase the production and how many research institutes have been opened? What development have taken place in these research institutes? What I intend to ask through this supplementary question has not become clear.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I have clarified it, but I would like to clarify it again that refinery is called "Shodh Karya" in Hindi. Last year the refinery capacity of the country has been increased by 43.4 million metric tonne in total. Earlier it was 69.14. It means at present the refinery capacity of the country is 112.54 million metric tonnes. Therefore, the country has now become independent in the field of refining. The hon'ble Member had asked about the consumption in the Government sector and how much is consumed by the private sector and why the figures in this regard have not been presented. The reason behind it is that the Ministry of Petroleum do not require this, because we have to provide diesel or petrol to every customer. The quantity of diesel or petrol consumed is the indication of the progress of the country. But I have informed the House about the measures being taken to prevent the wasteful expenditure ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: At present petroleum and petroleum products are the main sources of fuel. The demand of it is increasing day by day. We are unable to meet the demand as a result of it, we have to increase its price, which affects agriculture and industry because wherever petro-products are used as fuel, the price hike of petroleum and its products also affect the

price of other products, whether they are agro-based products or industrial products increase which in turn affect the economy of the country. It also affects the economy of the common people. I would like to know whether the Government have formulated or are considering to formulate any such fuel policy which will not only improve the economy, but will benefit the consumer also. The hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply about consumption in Government sector as well in private sector but I would like to know whether the consumption of petroleum products is more in public sector or in private sector and to what extent the government can control it?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has asked about our policy in regard to petroleum. I would like to tell the House that in next 25 years, the proper word for petroleum would be hydrocarbon. The Prime Minister had set up a ministerial committee to decide our policy for next 25 years in regard to hydrocarbons. The hon'ble Minister of Finance was its Chairman. I was also the Member of that committee. The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh and Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Shri Pant were also the Member of Committee and Shri Singh was its secretary. After discussing all the sectors we have prepared Hydro Carbon Vision 2025, report on 23 March. We have presented it before the Prime Minister and today at 12.00 hrs. I am going to present this report before the House. Through that the information about future policy could be obtained. If time permits. I would like to have discussion on that. Keeping aside our political differences the discussion on it should be held. We are ready to hold discussion on it. The other part of the question was about the supply. We are fulfilling the current demand, but the production is not as much as it should be therefore as I have told we have to import 70% of petroleum products from foreign countries. The prices will continue to fluctuate according to the prices of international market. In February 1999, the cost of crude oil was Rs. 3210 in abroad, now it has increased upto Rs. 83000 it means within a year the price of it has risen by the Rs. 5000. If prices are increased in foreign countries it cannot be helped out, but we can import according to our requirement. Therefore demand and supply do not affect the prices in our country. We fulfil all the demand, and prices do not hike due to that. The reason behind price hike is as I have told you that we are importing it on large scale from foreign countries, and the prices there are hiking. And the other reason behind it is that the Government have decided to gradually reduce subsidy on it. This decision was taken by the Congress Government. They had decided to set up an Expert Committee. The United Front Government also took decision on it.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: After a long time, he has got a chance to speak.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Naik ji, I have asked a simple supplementary about consumption in Government sector and in private sector separately.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I have already told you that this type of statistics are not separately maintained. I have told you earlier also.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask that whether the Government is aware that the countries where production of alcohol is more, particularly in United States, they mix 10 per cent alcohol in petrol, it reduces price of petrol, as well as pollution caused by it. In Brazil, approximately 25 per cent alcohol is mixed in petrol which reduces pollution and prices both we are discussing the matter for many days. Whether Government propose to consider over it or not, if not, the reason thereof? The alcohol is produced at large scale in our country, it will not only reduce pollution but also prices and subsequently we have to import less petroleum.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The Government are not only considering it, but have also taken decision in this regard. In last months, we held the meeting of all related sector and Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are the two main sugarcane producing States. We have formulated pilot projects to set up one alcohol based gasoline project in Uttar Pradesh and two alcohol based gasoline projects in Maharashtra, and we will work according to that. In our country this was discussed in 1977 also, but till now no decision has been taken. We have taken the decision in the last months. I would like to tell the House that if these pilot projects proves successful we can start using it at all places, it will help farmers in obtaining more price of sugarcane and will also reduce pollution. This is a good idea and we have taken decision in that regard and if pilot projects proves successful, then the entire country would be benefited from it.

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Minister in his reply has stated that there is a shortage of petroleum products in the country. He is aware that at Bhatinda in Punjab, there is an oil refinery which is a project worth Rs. 16,000 crore. Two years back it was promised that it would be completed within two years. Mr. Minister, what is the progress of that project?

SHRI RAM NAIK: That project has been approved in principle.

[Translation]

There was a proposal to start a project with venture in this field. All the oil companies of our country have agreed to it. Consent of oil companies from abroad is yet to be received. Discussion in this regard is going on. The MPs from Punjab have suggested us, the Chief Minister had also told us, till the partner of joint venture are decided, you can start the work with your own oil companies. For that we have decided to initiate the work with the capital of Rs. 300 crore.

[English]

I have already sanctioned it in the last week. With that amount, that work will start in Punjab very soon.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The hon. Minister in his reply has said that 13 per cent diesel requirement was imported in the last year, 1999-2000. May I know from.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can see the anxiety of other members also in the House. They are more interested to raise supplementaries. Please understand it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Thirteen per cent of the diesel requirement was imported. It is being said that both petrol and diesel requirements envisaged for 2000-2001 show that there will be no imports.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether any calculation has already been made about the potential of the production capacity in different parts of the country, and whether any concrete steps have been taken to win over the serious obstacles already being faced by some of these production units?

SHRI RAM NAIK: We had imported diesel last year, which ended on 31st March, 2000, because some of the new refineries started functioning in between. Now, they are all full-fledged refineries. I have already replied that the present refining capacity is 112.54 million metric tonnes. So, with these, there would not be any necessity for importing either diesel or petrol this year. That is what I have already said. There is no difficulty. All oil refineries are working to their maximum capacities. There is no difficulty, and there is no shortage on that account.

Power projects with foreign collaboration

*322. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreements have been signed by State Governments for construction of power projects with foreign collaboration during the Ninth Plan period;

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

(c) the salient features and the target for completion of each of the projects; and

(d) the position of power generation likely to improve therefrom?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There are 59 private power projects involving investment by foreign companies, which require techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority. Out of these, agreements have been signed by State Governments in respect of 20 projects during the first three years of the Ninth Plan period (1997-2002). The State-wise details and salient features of these 20 projects are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Date of signing of Power Purchase Agreement	Date of Techno-economic Clearance	Commissioning Schedule
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bhadravati TPS (M/s Central India Power). Maharashtra	1072	3.8.1998	29.12.1994	42-48 months from Financial Closure

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Duburi TPP Units 1&2 (M/s. Kalinga Power Corporation), Orissa	500	20.11.1997	29.4.1999	33-36 months from Financial Closure
3.	Gouripore TPP (M/s Gouripore Power Company), West Bengal	150	15.10.1998	19.4.1999	32 months from Financial Closure
4.	Rosa TPP (M/s. Indo- Gulf Fertilizers), Uttar Pradesh	567	24.9.1998	19.9.1997	40 months from Financial Closure
5.	Srinagar HEP (M/s Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.), Uttar Pradesh	330	28.8.1998	26.11.1999	62 months from Financial Closure
6.	Bhilai TPP (M/s Bhilai Power Supply Comp.), Madhya Pradesh	574	17.11.1997	3.10.1997	39 months from Financial Closure
7.	Pithampur DGPP (M/s Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.), Madhya Pradesh	119.7	18.11.1997	10.2.1998	14-17 month from Financial Closure
8.	Ratlam DGPP (M/s GVK Power, Ratlam), Madhya Pradesh	118.63	18.11.1997	10.2.1998	14-17 months from Financial Closure
9.	Vizag TPS (M/s HNPCL), Andhra Pradesh	1040	15.4.1998	25.7.1996	38-44 months from Financial Closure
10.	Ramagundam Extn. (M/s BPL Group) Andhra Pradesh (on ICB Route)	520	29.1.1999	26.6.1997	33-39 months from Financial Closure
11.	Krishnapatnam 'B' TPP (BBI Power Krishnapat- nam Co.), Andhra Pradesh (on ICB Route)	520	9.7.1999	16.6.1998	36-42 months from Financial Closure
12.	Nagarjuna TPP (M/s Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.), Karnataka	1015	23.7.1999	29.4.1999	38-42 months from Financial Closure

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Bangalore CCPP (M/s Peenya Power), Karnataka	107.6	22.10.1999	20.9.1999	19 months from Financial Closure
14.	North Madras TPS-II (M/s Videocon Power), Tamil Nadu	1050	2.2.1998	3.4.1996	42-46 months from Financial Closure
15.	Tuticorin TPP St. IV (M/s SPIC), Tamil Nadu	525	12.2.1998	31.7.1997	39 months from Financial Closure
16.	North Madras TPP (M/s Tri-Sakthi Energy Private Limited), Tamil Nadu	525	19.7.1999	31.7.1998	37 months from Financial Closure
17.	Samayanallur DGPP (M/s Balaji Power), Tamil Nadu	106	21.5.1998	10.2.1998	14-17 months from Financial Closure
18.	Samalpatti DGPP (M/s Samalpatti Power Co. Ltd.), Tamil Nadu	106	22.5.1998	10.2.1998	14-17 months from Financial Closure
19.	Jayamkondam TPP (M/s Jayamkondam Lignite Power Corporation Ltd.) Tamil Nadu (On ICB Route)	500	15.6.1998 (Date of Award)		The promoters are yet to submit their Complete Detailed Project Report to C.E.A. for techno-economic clearance
20.	Ennore CCGT (M/s Dakshin Bharat Energy Consortium), Tamil Nadu (On ICB Route)	1884.64	28.12.1998 (Date of Award)		The promoters are yet to submit their complete Detailed Project Report to C.E.A. for techno-economic clearance

(d) On commissioning of these 20 projects, 11,330 MW of Additional generation capacity will be available.

[English]

SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: It is an established fact that there is a heavy power shortage in the country. The generation is not coping up with the total demand. Among several other reasons for the obvious ills are, planning for generation and mis-match between the supply and demand, the delayed processing of the applications and providing clearance for such projects. The information supplied by the...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Venkateshwarlu, you cannot read in Question Hour. You can ask supplementaries.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is just referring to the notes.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, it is his maiden question.

SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: I would like to know whether the Government of India is contemplating to reduce the time-gap between the date of application and giving of all clearances by opening a single window so

that the generation can be expedited and the power demand can be met early.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI METHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has asked that there is a mis-match between demand and supply. Many projects are pending. What steps the Government is taking in that regard. In reply to this question. I would like to tell that the Union Government is taking stringent measures in this regard. In view of these measures, we have taken some decisions also. We convened a meeting of power ministers of all States on 26th February. A resolution was passed in that meeting stating that Union Government have set certain rules regarding Reforming and Restructuring the pending projects. On the basis of this, the efforts will be made to reform the State Electricity Boards also. At present the economic condition of State Electricity Boards is as such which cannot be improved. Therefore, a resolution regarding reforming and restructuring of pending projects was passed so that efforts could be made to improve the situation.

[*English*]

SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, there is a huge shortage of power and the State Government is even purchasing power from other States to meet the demand. There is an urgent need for arranging the financial closure of the three projects cleared by the Ministry of Power earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Venkateshwarlu, please understand that the Question is on power projects with foreign collaboration.

SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Sir, there are three projects in Andhra Pradesh, namely, Krishnapatnam, Vizag TPS and Ramagundam. I would like to know whether the Ministry would like initiative to call the financial institutions and the applicants for a discussion across the table and finalise the closure in the interest of the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER: The reply also depends on the question.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: The hon'ble Member has asked the question about three projects in Andhra Pradesh. As these projects involves foreign investment, the details are given in the statement itself. I would like to say that the Government has already given clearance

in this regard, but the Andhra Pradesh Government or any other State Government have yet not conveyed any message in regard to ESCROW to the Union Government.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply that 20 new units are being set up out of which two units are proposed to be set up in Uttar Pradesh. One in Roza and other in Srinagar. It has been stated in the reply that this project will be commissioned after 40 months from financial closure. These units were sanctioned 10-12 years ago. At present, there is an acute shortage of power in Uttar Pradesh. I would like to know the time by which the Government would be able to arrange financial closure, the obstacles in this regard and whether the projects could not be commissioned without financial closure? What is the status of these two projects and by when the Government would be able to arrange financial closure so that these units could be commissioned.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, the state have given Escrow about Roza project, but the discussion is continue with the Ministry of Coal. The State Government has not given any information to the Union Government which is resulting delay in finalising the financial closure.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, same reply is being given for the last two years.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: The responsibilities which the State Governments have to take, for that Government of India cannot be held responsible. Therefore, the State Government will give reply within few weeks after discussing the matter with Ministry of Coal. Whatever has been said regarding Srinagar H.E.P., about that I can say that we have given T.C. to those people. After that the action has to be taken by the State Government and we are waiting for that. Thirdly, about Bhilai, I can say that 'ESCROW' has not been given. That can be commissioned after getting Escrow from the Government of Madhya Pradesh...(*Interruptions*) On this subject, I would like to say that the way you have asked question to consider this scheme and I assure you that within sometime about these 20 schemes...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Is this a reply? This is not the proper way of giving reply. You give us time period—one month, two or three months. Same reply is being given for last two years.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India will take immediate action after getting clearance from State Governments.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are saying that let the House run smoothly. But if such replies are given then how the House can run smoothly?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: This project was started during that period when you were Chief Minister but at that time you have not done anything...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: If you are a reformer, you should reform this also...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, part (d) of the question relates to improvement in power generation. But the hon. Member who has asked the question has also raised the matter about shortage of power position in India. My question is this: What is the reason or what are the major causes for the non-performance of the State Electricity Boards? Is it because of the transmission and distribution losses or is it because of the theft of electricity? What is the annual amount of theft of electricity in India? Will the hon. Minister please answer this question?

MR. SPEAKER: This is entirely a separate question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand. This is on power projects with foreign collaboration.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, Q. No. 329 relates to the same subject. The hon. Minister must have been prepared for that. She should have no problem in answering my question.

MR. SPEAKER: No.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I have a related question now itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Not now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the target for power generation by IPPs is fixed as 28,000 MW. As stated by the hon. Minister in reply to the question, out of the 59 projects, only 20 projects were cleared by the Central Electricity Authority. When the target was fixed as 28,000 MW, why is it that after commissioning of all these 20 projects they could achieve only 11,330 MW? How does the Government propose to fill up the gap and what are the difficulties or bottlenecks, and why are the IPPs not coming and the projects are not being cleared?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the biggest problem before government is that of economic financial arrangement. Due to deteriorating condition of State Electricity Boards, the Escrow or any kind of economic assistance are not being received fully. Due to this Government of India is unable to implement these schemes. When this assistance is provided we can take up these projects in hand. As you have asked that there were around 59 projects and out of that 20 projects have been cleared whose capacity is 11,330 M.W. Other projects were not sanctioned because even after the investigation the State Governments have not provided Escrow or any kind of financial assistance to them. Due to this, we could not give approval.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How do you propose to fill up the gap of more than 8,000 MW?

[Translation]

How this gap can be filled up?

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: As soon as the necessary information is received from State Governments, the Government of India will be able to take decision on this issue.

[English]

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Sir, in the list of 20 projects mentioned by the hon. Minister, there is not a single project from the North East. Everybody knows that the North-East has got tremendous hydropower capacity or potentiality. On the one hand you do not have any private participation in the North-East as revealed by your reply, and on the other hand you are saying that the State Electricity Boards should be privatised.

On the other hand, you are not getting any private proposals to tap hydropower potential in the North-East. In this situation, what is the policy of the Government to utilise the hydropower potentiality of the North-East?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question which the hon'ble Member has asked about that I would like to say that it is the policy of Government of India that more hydro-power should be generated instead of thermal power. Whatever, you have said is totally true that in North-East, every small State have got tremendous hydro-power capacity or potentiality. From that point of view, if we take up these projects through Neepco

then certainly we can march forward but we are still making efforts to execute these projects through Neepco. Our efforts are on. The hon'ble Member has asked whether the Private investors are not coming forward in this regard, I can certainly say that if private investors are ready to invest then there will be no hindrance from Government side. I would also like to say that we are in favour of optimum utilisation of hydro-power generation potentiality of small States of North-East. We are bringing the surplus electricity of these states towards power grid of south and efforts are going on to formulate schemes and some schemes are being implemented also. Entire nation could be benefited from the Surplus power produced through these programmes. I am agree with this point of hon'ble Member that we should try to formulate policy to encourage generation of more and more electricity through hydro-power projects.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: (Bolpur): Sir, the hon. Minister accepts the importance of the North-East. In every sphere of national life and national economy, the North-East is lagging behind because it has been totally ignored. Now, it seems that the Government has no project of thier own in the North-East. Are we going to depend only on private sector for the purpose of supply of electricity and the Government of India will have nothing to do with the North-East? What is this? This is total abdication of their responsibility.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to foreign investment, however of the hon'ble Member ask, separate question for hydro power then its complete will also be given.

[English]

Review of Ganga Action Plan

*323. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ganga Action Plan has been reviewed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the remaining part of the Ganga Action Plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ganga Action Plan and the National River Conservation Plan are reviewed regularly at various levels. There is a National River Conservation Authority under the Prime Minister which reviews the Programme. A Monitoring Committee under the Member, Planning Commission and a Steering Committee under Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests review the Programme quarterly. In addition, a mid-term evaluation of the Ganga Action Plan Phase I was undertaken jointly by the Aligarh Muslim University, Roorkee University, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta. The evaluation report has concluded that with the reduction of discharge of organic matter, a necessary first step in restoring the water quality has been achieved to a fair level under the Ganga Action Plan phase-I. It is also mentioned that the Ganga Action Plan phase-I as conceived and implemented is an appropriate programme for application to other river basins. Some shortcomings of the programme were also brought out in the evaluation report and have been taken note of for suitable modification in the subsequent river action plans. These include reduction of discharge of organic matter, regular cleaning of sewage and interception structures constructed under the Ganga Action Plan Phase I, regular training for the staff posted at all levels, resource recovery options to be analysed etc.

A cost benefit analysis of the Ganga Action Plan phase-I was also undertaken by a reputed expert from Harvard Insitute of International Development in Collaboration with local Indian institutes viz. Insitute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, Indian Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow and All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta. The study broadly concluded that inspite of its many shortcomings the Ganga Action Plan phase-I has delivered significant benefits to India. The polluted stretch of the river violating the bathing class standards would have been atleast 740 kms between Kannauj and Varanasi as compared to 437 kms between the same towns with the Ganga Action Plan phase-I. In terms of both cost and time taken, the Ganga Action Plan phase-I compares favourably with those of the other major rivers of the world. The study has concluded that the internal rate of return of the Ganga Action Plan phase-I is well above 10% required of public sector projects.

(c) The scheme of the Ganga Action Plan Phase I which was started in 1985 has been closed with effect from 31.3.2000. However, the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan covering rivers Yamuna, Gomati, Damodar and the main stem of Ganga approved between April 1993 and October, 1996 is presently under implementation and is likely to be completed by the end of 10th Plan.

SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: Sir, this question is regarding the cleaning of polluted water of the *Ganga*. The *Ganga* Action Plan was started in the year 1985, but in the answer, it is stated the *Ganga* Action Plan Phase-I which was started in 1985 has been closed, and the *Ganga* Action Plan Phase-II is under implementation. I find that the *Ganga* river water is being polluted day by day, rather, we find that the tanneries of Kanpur are also polluting the water of the *Ganga*. I would like to know from the Minister whether regular inspections have been taking place to ensure that the industrial effluents do not pollute the river. I would also like to know what action has been taken against the industries polluting the river and how many industries have been fitted with effluent treatment plants.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The Government of India had consciously decided in 1985 to clean up the river *Ganga*. That is why, it had envisaged a plan of action, that is, *Ganga* Action Plan Phase I. The project was envisaged at an estimated cost of Rs. 462 crore. The total expenditure till date is Rs. 452 crore. Out of 261 schemes, 258 schemes have already been completed. Only two schemes are about to be completed in Bihar and one scheme in West Bengal. I think, West Bengal will be able to complete within a month.

Bihar will be taking another two or three months to complete it. Thirty years have been taken for cleaning up of international rivers, like River Thames, River Rhine and River Danube, where as to clean up the River Ganges, we have taken only 15 years. The length of the River Thames is only 250 kilometres, where as the length of the River Ganges in 2,500 kilometres. It means that the length of the River Thames is only one-tenth of the River Ganges. We can say that the River Thames was fully cleaned up only after one hundred years because the Salmon Fish reappeared only after one hundred years...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As far as cleaning up of the River Ganges is concerned, there are some O&M problems, that is, operational and maintenance problems. The O&M process in Bihar is not proper, and to a certain extent it is the same case in U.P. also. We have taken up the matter and we are in constant touch with the State Governments. Our officers are interacting with the State Governments to see that maintenance works are properly taken up. Physically, one hundred per cent work has been completed, but the net achievement or the efficiency of it is only 35 per cent, which is because of overpopulation. The figure is not what we have estimated for the period 1985-2000.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take less time while answering the question because time is short.

SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: The hon. Minister accepted that the achievement is only 30 per cent.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: It is 35 per cent.

SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: There is not much difference between 30 per cent or 35 per cent.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: It is a good achievement.

SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: What action has the Ministry taken against house industries, which have not obeyed the instructions?

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on this subject my question is also very important.

MR. SPEAKER: Right now, hon'ble member is asking supplementary question. Let the Minister reply, what is this?

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, the Minister is saying that the work of making *Ganga's* water free from pollution has been going on for the last 15 years.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the procedure.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The Central Pollution Board has identified 187 grossly polluting units. Ninety-one units have installed effluent treatment plants, and they are operating successfully; 32 units have been closed; 64 units, where effluent treatment plants have been installed, are not operating satisfactorily, and legal action has already been initiated against them.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the *Ganga*, Action Plan was conceived and started by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, when he was the Prime Minister, and there was a definite focus on the scheme which he had visualised. The *Ganga* Action Plan Phase-I has been through several reviews. When the *Ganga* Action Plan Phase-II was planned and approved, it was decided that the National River Conservation Plan would also be integrated with the *Ganga* Action Plan Phase-II. As we have been told in the answer that there is a National River Conservation Authority headed by the Prime Minister, I would like to know when the last meeting was held. Secondly, on the evaluation made of the *Ganga* Action Plan Phase-I, there were certain specific deficiencies pointed like the sewage treatment plants were not being maintained by the State Government. What is being done about that?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: There are three stages in the monitoring mechanism. One is the NRCA, that is, the National River Conservation Authority headed by the hon. Prime Minister, where the respective Chief Minister of U.P., West Bengal and Bihar and the respective Environment Ministers of these States are the Members. This Authority looks after everything. During 1997, eight meetings have been convened. Over and above this, there is a Monitoring Committee headed by the Member, Planning Commission.

12.00 hrs.

It has met 43 times. The Steering Committee headed by the Secretary of the Department has met 28 times. The last meeting of NRCA was held in 1997, that of the Steering Committee was held in 1999, and the last meeting of the Monitoring Committee was held on 7th March, 2000. The recommendations made by the Committee are being addressed.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Consumption, production and import of petrol and diesel

*324. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

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

(a) the annual consumption of petrol and diesel in the country at present;

(b) whether quantity of petrol and diesel is not sufficient in the country to meet the demand;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the quantum of petrol and diesel being imported annually;

(e) the efforts being made to enhance the production of these items during the current financial year and the success achieved so far in this regard;

(f) whether any foreign assistance is also being sought in the production of the oil; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) Consumption of petrol and diesel in the country is estimated at 5.9 Million Metric

Tonnes (MMT) and 39.5 MMT respectively in 1999-2000. The required quantity of petrol is produced indigenously where as a part of the demand of diesel was being met through imports. During 1999-2000, about 13% of diesel requirement was imported.

Since refining capacity for processing crude oil into petroleum products has increased substantially during the last year, no imports of petrol and diesel are envisaged for 2000-2001. However, imports of crude oil would continue.

(e) With the growth in refining capacity, adequate capability for processing crude oil into petroleum products currently exists in the country. During the year 2000-2001, about 27 Million Metric Tonnes of additional crude oil would be processed.

Simultaneously steps have been taken to improve the quality of petrol and diesel. Lead has been totally phased out in petrol since 1.2.2000. Nine diesel hydro de-sulphurisation plants have been commissioned at a total cost of about Rs. 5600 crore to reduce the sulphur content in diesel. This has enabled supply of diesel with 0.25% maximum sulphur content in the entire country since 1.1.2000.

(f) and (g) Government Policy provides for a global tendering process for production of crude oil in which Government companies and private companies, both Indian and foreign, can participate. However, no foreign assistance in the form of loan, grant or project assistance is being sought for the production of oil.

[English]

Hike in prices of LPG and Kerosene

*325. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether the Government have recently increased the prices of LPG, kerosene and aviation fuel;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof;

(c) the annual profit likely to be made by the Government as a result thereof;

(d) the extent to which the subsidy on LPG and kerosene has been reduced due to increase in their prices;

(e) whether the Government propose to roll back the increase in prices of these products in the interest of poor and middle class families;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the number of times the prices of petroleum products increased during the last three year with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) (a) Yes, Sir. Government has increased the ex-storage point price of LPG (Packed Domestic) by Rs. 30 per cylinder PDS kerosene by 2.50 per litre and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) by Rs. 2.00 per litre with effect from mid-night of 22-23 March, 2000.

(b) The revision in the prices has been effected to

contain the growing deficit in the oil pool account due to steep increase in the international prices of crude oil and petroleum products. The increases are in line with the decision taken by the Government in November, 1997 on removal of subsidies on petroleum products in a phased manner.

(c) to (f) The estimated deficit in the oil pool account would come down by about Rs. 5,400 crore on an annual basis. Consequent to the recent revision of the selling prices, the subsidy on LPG (Packed Domestic) and PDS kerosene has been reduced by Rs. 30 per cylinder and Rs. 2.50 per litre, respectively. There is no proposal to roll back the increase in prices.

(g) The details of the revisions in the ex-storage point prices of controlled petroleum products during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Statement showing ex-storage point prices of major controlled petroleum products

	MS 87 Rs./Ltr.	HSD Rs./Ltr.	SKO (DOM.) Rs./Ltr.	LPG (P. DOM)		ATF (DOM.) Rs./Ltr.
				Rs./Kg.	Rs./Cyl.	
AS ON:						
1/1/97	16.06	6.57	2.00	6.90	98.01	10.84
REVISED ON:						
2/9/97	17.06	8.37		7.96	113.01	
7/11/97		7.92				
25/12/97		8.00				
1/3/98		7.84				
4/4/98		7.65				
3/6/98	15.80					
20/5/98		7.54				
9/1/99		6.72				
1/2/99				8.94	127.01	
28/2/99	15.40	6.62		8.73	124.01	10.76
20/4/99		6.88				
6/10/99		9.63				
23/3/2000	15.40	9.63	4.50	10.85	154.01	12.76

Note: Ex-storage point prices are exclusive of duty, freight, local levies etc.

MS-Motor Spirit LPG (P) (Dom)-Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Packed-Domestic)

HSD-High Speed Diesel ATF (Dom)-Aviation Turbine Fuel (Domestic)

SKO (Dom)- Superior Kerosene Oil (Domestic)

Hydro power projects

*326. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for setting up of Hydro Electric Power Projects in Karnataka and other States pending with the Union Government;

(b) the details of capacities likely to be created by these proposed projects and the reasons for the pendency;

(c) whether the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) has been entrusted the task to set up the power projects in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by National Hydro Power Corporation in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No proposal of hydroelectric project of Karnataka is pending with Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for clearance. However, six hydroelectric schemes have been returned to the State Government of Karnataka with a request to re-submit the schemes after the inter-state disputes have been resolved between the concerned States. The details of these schemes are given in the enclosed statement-I.

As far as other States are concerned, five hydroelectric projects with an aggregate capacity of 1050 MW are pending for accord of techno-economic clearance of CEA. The details of these schemes are given in the statement-II. In addition, 90 hydroelectric schemes aggregating 49, 185 MW capacity in various States have been returned to project authorities for re-submission after the various inputs have been tied up and inter-State issues wherever applicable have been resolved.

(c) and (d) Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of Karnataka had submitted proposals to develop hydroelectric projects in the Cauvery river which could not be cleared on account of inter-State disputes. In view of this, Ministry of Power had asked National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) to review the proposals made by the two State Governments and prepare a plan for optimal utilization of the untapped hydroelectric power potential of the Cauvery River. Accordingly, NHPC has prepared a plan for optimal Development envisaging four hydroelectric projects namely, Shivasamudram (270 MW); Mekedatu (550 MW); Rasimanal (200 MW) and Hogenakkal (120 MW) totalling 1140 MW which will generate approximately 2450 MUs of energy. NHPC would be prepared to execute, operate and maintain, these projects, subject to the Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu coming to a mutually satisfactory agreement on sharing of power from these projects. Ministry of Power and NHPC are discussing the matter with the State Governments to arrive at a mutually satisfactory agreement on sharing of power.

Statement I

Hydro electric multipurpose scheme of Karnataka returned for resubmission

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Installed Capacity [MW]	Date of Receipt of DPR	Date of return	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Mahadayi	2x10+2x12.5 +2x150 = 345	8/91	3/92	Involves inter State aspect with Goa
2.	Kabini Dam	1x20 = 20	8/79	5/90	Involves inter State aspect. Located in Cauvery basin
3.	Katla & Palna	Augmentation of power in Kalinadi Basin	11/85	10/87	Involves inter State aspect with Goa

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Shivasamudram Seasonal	2×135 = 270	10/87	10/88	Involves inter State aspect. Located in Cauvery basin
5.	Mekadatu I & II	St. I-180 +St. II-180 = 360	10/96	10/96	Involves inter State with Tamil Nadu. Located in Cauvery basin
6.	Upper Krishna-I [Almatti]	4×70+1×17 = 297	10/96	11/96	Involves inter State aspect with Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra
*7.	Tattihalla Augmentation Scheme	Augmentation Scheme	8/98	9/99	*Does not require concurrence of CEA as estimated cost of project is also less than Rs. 250 crores.

Statement-II*Details of hydro power projects pending consideration for accord of techno-economic clearance*

	State/Project	Capacity [MW]	Date of receipt	Status
1.	Dhamwari Sunda HEP [Pvt.]	2×35 = 70 MW	2/99	Standing Project Appraisal Committee Meeting held on 13.2.2000
2.	Uhi HEP Stage-III	2×50 = 100 MW	11/99	Under examination
3.	Srinagar HEP [Pvt.]	5×66 = 330 MW	3/2000	Fresh Detailed Project Report under examination
4.	Humbarli PSS	2×200 = 400 MW	9/99	Government of Maharashtra to furnish clarifications by 31.5.2000
5.	Balimela HEP	2×75 = 150 MW	5/98	Central Electricity Authority Meeting held on 25.10.1999. Formal clearance to be issued after sorting out Inter-State issues.
Total:		1050 MW		

Share of Rajasthan and Haryana in power projects of Punjab

*327. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the claims of Rajasthan and Haryana relating to sharing of power generation in power projects in Punjab has been mutually agreed upon by Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to resolve the issue in consultation with the concerned State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) To settle the issue of the claims of Haryana and Rajasthan for a share of power generated in the Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project, Mukerian Hydel Project, Thein dam Project, Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC) Stage-II and Shahpur Kandi Hydel Scheme, an agreement was drawn up on 10.5.1984 amongst Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Central Government for making a reference to the Supreme Court, on the question of entitlement of Haryana and Rajasthan in these projects and in case there being such an entitlement to determine the share of each State.

In order to arrive at an amicable settlement the Ministry of Water Resources had convened several meetings with the concerned States. However, no consensus could be reached.

Thereafter, the subject was also discussed in the meetings of Northern Zonal Council held in October, 1997 and February, 1999. In the meeting held on 28.2.1999, it was resolved that separate conference of the Chief Ministers and concerned Ministers of the States of the Northern Zone would be convened to undertaking indepth study of all the relevant issues and factors relating to sharing of water and power and evolve consensus on mutually agreeable parameters.

A meeting of Chief Ministers/Minister of States in the Northern Region was scheduled in April, 1999. However, the meeting could not be held due to Tricentenary celebrations in Punjab and subsequent announcement of General Elections. It is now proposed to convene this meeting. Thereafter, further steps will be taken in accordance with the decision taken in the meeting.

Ongoing Projects

*328. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has recently reviewed the ongoing projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of physical and financial targets set and achieved during the current year, State-wise;

(c) the details of action plan formulated and finalised for 2000-2001 and the next Five Year Plan in implementing the major projects in the States in general and Maharashtra in particular; and

(d) the details of World Bank loan and assistance from other International agencies/private funding likely to be received for expansion and upgrading roads during 2000-2001 in various States particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) Review of progress in respect of on-going projects is a continuous process. As on 31st March, 2000, 35 projects funded by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) as well as external agencies like Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) were in various stages of progress as detailed at statement-I enclosed.

(c) National Highways Authority of India has been mandated to complete 4-laning/6-laning of National Highways forming part of National Highway Development Programme, which consists of Golden Quadrilateral connecting Delhi-Calcutta-Chennai-Mumbai-Delhi and North-South and East-West Corridor from Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Porbandar. Details of projects to be taken up during 2000-2001 are given in enclosed statement-II. The remaining projects on golden quadrilateral including those in Maharashtra are proposed to be taken up and completed by 2003. In so far as the remaining projects of North-South and East-West corridors including those in Maharashtra are concerned, prioritization studies are being carried out. Based on these studies, the balance length will be prioritized in five phases to be taken up and completed by 2009.

(d) Projects expected to be taken up under external funding during 2000-2001 are as under:-

(i) WORLD BANK:-

Sl.No.	Construction Package	NH	State	Length (KM)
1.	Package II-A from km. 393.00 to km. 470.00 [via Sikandra-Bara Road]	2	UP	61.6
2.	Package II-C from km. 38.00 to to km. 115.00	2	UP	77.0
3.	Package III-A from km. 115.00 to km. 158.00	2	UP	43.0
4.	Package III-C from km. 245.00 to km. 317.00	2	UP	72.00
5.	Package IB-B from km. 65.00 to km. 110.00	2	Bihar	45.0
6.	Package IV-D from km. 140.00 to km. 180.00	2	Bihar	40.0
7.	Package V-A & C from km. 180.00 to km. 240.00 and from km. 320.00 to km. 398.00	2	Bihar	138.75
Total:				477.35

The cost of these projects in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is expected to be Rs. 2428 crores. Loan negotiation with the World Bank is, however, yet to commence.

(ii) ADB PROJECT:

Improvement of Surat-Manor section of National

Highway-8 in Gujarat and Maharashtra is proposed to be taken up with the assistance of ADB. The total length of this section is 176 KM (120 Kms. in Gujarat and 56 Kms. in Maharashtra) and estimated cost is Rs. 700 crores. Approval to ADB to the proposed loan is still awaited.

Statement-I

Statement indicating physical and financial progress

Sl. No.	NH	State	Section	Physical Target%	Progress Achievement%	Financial Target	Progress Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	8	Haryana & Rajasthan	Improvement of Delhi-Jaipur Road from Gurgaon (Km. 36.63) to Kotputli (Km. 162.50)	38.7	40.5	117.1	113.1
2.	2	West Bengal & Bihar	Improvement from Raniganj (Km. 474) to Panagarh (Km. 516)	39.6	33.9	53.8	48.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	2	Bihar	Improvement from Barwa Adda (Km. 398.75) to Barkar (Km. 441.44)	41.4	28.0	51.2	39.3
4.	9	Andhra Pradesh	Improvement from Nandigama (Km. 217.0) to Vijayawada (Km. 265.0)	46.0	40.4	32.1	27.3
5.	5	Andhra Pradesh	Improvement from Vijayawada (Km. 3.4) to Eluru (Km. 75.0)	45.6	41.7	94.8	80.9
6.	1	Punjab	Jalandhar Bypass Km. 372.700 to Km. 387.100	5.00	4.69	10.82	9.03
7.	1	Haryana	Delhi border to Smalakhia Km. 29.295 to Km. 44.00	5.00	5.09	7.30	6.24
8.	3	Uttar Pradesh	Agra-Gwallior Section Km. 8 to Km. 24	5.00	6.91	7.22	6.83
9.	3	Rajasthan	Agra-Dholpur Section Km. 41.00 to Km. 52.00	5.00	2.94	3.60	2.69
10.	3	Madhya Pradesh	Km. 60.00 to Km. 70.00 (Chambal Border towards Morena)	5.00	0.20	2.05	0.00
11.	7	Maharashtra	Nagpur-Adilabad Km. 9.200 to Km. 22.30 & Km. 24.61 to Km. 35.00	5.00	7.89	11.98	13.65
12.	7	Andhra Pradesh	Nagpur-Hyderabad section Km. 447 to Km. 464	5.00	0.84	6.96	4.47
13.	7	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad-Bangalore section Km. 22.300 to Km. 34.800	5.00	2.99	4.71	3.53
14.	7	Karnataka	Hyderabad-Bangalore (near Devanhalli) Km. 524.00 to Km. 527.00 Km., 535.00 to Km. 538.00 and Km. 539.00, one Km. 538.	5.00	2.00	3.68	1.83
15.	7	Tamil Nadu	Hathipalli-Hosur section, Km. 33.015 to Km. 48.600	5.00	2.00	6.61	3.30
16.	7	Tamil Nadu	Salem Bypass Km. 199.2 to Km. 207.600	5.00	4.45	3.77	3.10
17.	7	Tamil Nadu	Karur Bypass including Karur ROB	7.78	2.9	12.49	5.81
18.	7	Tamil Nadu	40 laning of Kms. 156-163.4 of Thorpur Ghat	5.00	2.00	4.41	2.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	14	Gujarat	Km. 340 to Km. 350 (near Palanpur)	5.00	5.73	3.14	2.78
20.	25	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow-Kanpur section Km. 11.380 to Km. 21.800	5.00	0.20	2.87	2.87
21.	25	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow-Kanpur section Km. 59.500 to Km. 75.500	5.00	2.00	3.98	4.40
22.	31	Bihar	Purnea-Gayakota Km. 410 to 419 & Km. 470 to 476.150	4.00	2.00	10.74	5.72
23.	31	West Bengal	Dalkhola to Islampore sub-section 1 (Km. 447 to Km. 470)	5.00	2.00	12.37	6.59
24.	31	West Bengal	Dalkhola to Islampore sub-section 2 (Km. 476.150 to Km. 500.00)	5.00	0.20	7.68	7.67
25.	24	Uttar Pradesh	Moradabad Bypass	22.41	19.38	25.89	23.47
26.	8	Rajasthan	Jaipur Bypass (Phase I)	67.4	67.4	44.00	44.00
27.	8	Rajasthan	One ROB at Kishangarh	Complete	Complete	BOT	BOT
28.	4&45	Tamil Nadu	Chennai Bypass (Phase I)	54.00	42.00	28.75	28.75
29.	6	Madhya Pradesh	Durg Bypass			BOT	BOT
30.	8A	Gujarat	Samakhiali-Gandhidham from Km. 306 to Km. 324	86.00	75.00	30.00	28.00
31.	8A	Gujarat	Samakhiali-Gandhidham from Km. 334 to Km. 346	33.00	15.00	18.00	9.00
32.	8A	Gujarat	Samakhiali-Gandhidham from Km. 346 to Km. 36.162	34.00	25.00	13.00	11.00
33.	5	Orissa	Widening to 4-lane and Strengthening of Jagatpur-Chandikhol section (33 Kms.)	Nil	Nil	11.00	11.00
34.	24	Uttar Pradesh	Widening to 4-lane and strengthening of Ghaziabad-Hapur and Hapur Bypass (32.36 Kms.)	16.00	13.00	26.9	26.9
35.	5	Andhra Pradesh	Widening to 4-lane and strengthening of Vijayawada-Chilikaluripet (83.75 Kms.) including Bridge across Krishna river.	22.00	16.00	62.5	62.5

Statement-II*Projects to be taken up during 2000-2001***(a) North-South & East-West Corridor (Phase-II)**

Sl. No.	State	NH No.	Section	Length (Kms.)	4-lane/ 6-lane
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	1A	Jammu-Pathankot section Km. 80.00 to Km. 97.20	17	4-lane
2.	Punjab	1A	Jalandhar-Pathankot section Km. 4.23 to Km. 26.00	22	4-lane
3.	Haryana	1	Km. 44.00 to Km. 66.00	22	4 to 6 lane
4.	Delhi	1	Km. 16.50 to Km. 29.295	13	4 to 6 lane
5.	Uttar Pradesh & Rajasthan	3	Agra-Dholpur section Km. 24.00 to Km. 41.00	18	4-lane
6.	Madhya Pradesh	3	Km. 70.00 to Km. 85.00	15	4-lane
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3	Km. 85.00 to Km. 103.00	18	4-lane
8.	Maharashtra	7	Nagpur-Adilabad section Km. 36.60 to Km. 64.00	28	4-lane
9.	Andhra Pradesh	7	Nagpur-Hyderabad section Km. 464.00 to Km. 474.00 and Hyderabad-Bangalore section Km. 10.00 to Km. 22.30	22	4-lane
10.	Karnataka	7	Hyderabad-Bangalore section Km. 551.00 to Km. 539.00 and Km. 535.00 to Km. 527.00	20	2 to 6 lane
11.	Tamil Nadu	7	B.S.M. Section Km. 163.40 to Km. 180.00	17	4-lane
12.	Tamil Nadu	7	B.S.M. Section K. 180.00 to Km. 199.20	19	4-lane
13.	Tamil Nadu	7	Namakkal Bypass	8.4	4-lane
14.	Kerala	47	Km. 332.60 to Km. 318.00 (Alua to Angamali)	17	4-lane
15.	Uttar Pradesh	25	Lucknow-Kanpur section Km. 21.80 to Km. 44.00	22	4-lane

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Uttar Pradesh	25	Lucknow-Kanpur section Km. 44.00 to Km. 59.50	16	4-lane
17.	Gujarat	8B	Gondal to Ribda Km. 143.00 to Km. 160.00	17	4-lane
18.	Gujarat	14	Km. 350.00 to 370.00 (Near Palanpur)	20	4-lane
19.	Bihar	31	Km. 419.00 to Km. 447.00	28	4-lane
20.	Assam	37	Km. 146.00 to Km. 156.00	10.5	4-lane
(b) Golden Quadrilateral					
1.	Uttar Pradesh	2	Agra-Sikandara (Kms. 199.66 to 398)	193	4-lane
2.	Uttar Pradesh	2	Sikandar-Khaga (Kms. 393-470 & 470-115)	190	4-lane
3.	Uttar Pradesh	2	Khaga-Varanasi (Kms. 115 to 317)	202	4-lane
4.	Uttar Pradesh & Bihar	2	Varanasi-Aurangabad (Kms. 317 to 319 & 0 to 180)	182	4-lane
5.	Bihar	2	Aurangabad-Barwa Adda (Kms. 180 to 398.75)	219	4-lane
6.	West Bengal	2	Panagarh-Palsit	69	4-lane
7.	West Bengal	2	Palsit-Dhankuni	65	4-lane
8.	West Bengal	2	Vivekananda Bridge	6	4-lane
9.	West Bengal	6	Dhankuni-Kharagpur	113	4-lane
10.	West Bengal & Orissa	5 & 60	Kharagpur-Chandikhol	250	4-lane
11.	Orissa	5	Bhubaneswar-Khurda	30	4-lane
12.	Orissa	5	Khurda-Andhra Pradesh/ Orissa Border	70	4-lane
13.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Ichhapuram-Vishakhapatnam	110	4-lane
14.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Ankapalli-Tuni	60	4-lane

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Tuni-Rajahmundry	50	4-lane
16.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Rajahmundry-Eluru	120	4-lane
17.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Chilaluripet-Nellore	175	4-lane
18.	Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu	5	Nellore-Chennai	155	4-lane
19.	Delhi & Haryana	8	Delhi-Gurgaon	21	8-lane
20.	Rajasthan	8	Jaipur Bypass (Phase-II)	38	2-lane
21.	Rajasthan	8	Jaipur-Kishangarh	93	4-lane
22.	Gujarat	NE-1	Ahmedabad-Vadodara (Phase-II)	50	4-lane
23.	Maharashtra	4	Pune-Stara-Maharashtra Border	100	4-lane
24.	Karnataka	4	Haveri-Harihar	58	4-lane
25.	Karnataka	4	Tumjur-Neelmanagalam	45	4-lane
26.	Karnataka & Tamil Nadu	7	Hosur-Karishnagiri	45	4-lane
27.	Maharashtra	6	Amravati Bypass	18	4-lane
28.	Maharashtra	4	Westerly Diversion (Pune Bypass)	34	4-lane
29.	Maharashtra & Gujarat	8	Surat-Manor	176	4-lane
30.	Gujarat	NE-1	Ahmedabad-Vadodara (Phase-I)	43	4-lane
31.	Uttar Pradesh	27	Naini Bridge across Yamuna	6	4-lane

Power projects by Government and private companies

*329 DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals relating to power projects by private and Government companies including their capacity received from States by the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications for power projects processed and the number out of those rejected during the above period alongwith reasons therefor;

(c) the details of total MW of power shortage likely in the coming three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the power shortage in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has received 32 proposals from Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and 55 proposals from State Governments (including SEBs) and Central Public sector Undertakings during the period

1.4.1997 to 31.3.2000. The State-wise information is given in enclosed statement-I. Out of these, 31 schemes aggregating to 16,249 MW were accorded techno-economic clearance and 38 schemes aggregating to 19,929 MW were returned to the project authorities due to non compliance of statutory requirements and submission of incomplete DPRs. 18 projects aggregating to 5242 MW are currently under scrutiny. The details of 38 projects returned to project authorities along with reasons are given in the enclosed statement-II

(c) The details of expected peak shortage (MW) in the coming three years, that is 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 are given in the enclosed statement-III.

(d) The following steps have been taken to meet the shortage and to improve availability of power in the country:

- Incremental capacity addition programme
- Promotion of Inter-state and Inter-Regional power transfers
- R & M of existing generating stations.
- Promotion of measures for demand side management.
- Augmentation of transmission and transformation capacity in the power system
- Reduction of T & D losses.

Statement-I

State-wise Details of power schemes received in CEA from 1997-98 to 1999-2000

(As on 31.3.2000)

State	CEA Cleared		Schemes returned		Schemes under scrutiny		Total schemes received	
	No.	MW	No.	MW	No.	MW	No.	MW
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
H.P.	4	1312	1	260	2	186	7	1758
Punjab	—	—	2	87	1	500	3	587
Rajasthan	5	2493	—	—	1	71	6	2564
U.P.	3	1954	2	1020	—	—	5	2974
Delhi	1	339	2	771	—	—	3	1110
Gujarat	3	1550	2	1000	2	256	7	2806
M.P.	3	2449	5	1890	2	703	10	5042
Maharashtra	1	250	5	2310	1	400	7	2960
A.P.	3	1512	3	800	1	520	7	2832
Karnataka	2	1123	7	3130	4	800	13	5053
Kerala	—	—	—	—	1	128	1	128
Tamil Nadu	1	1873	2	2500	2	358	5	4731
Bihar	—	—	2	486	1	1320	3	1806
Orissa	1	500	1	4320	—	—	2	4820
DVC	—	—	1	1000	—	—	1	1000
Assam	—	—	2	175	—	—	2	175

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sikkim	1	510	—	—	—	—	1	510
Manipur	1	90	—	—	—	—	1	90
Mizoram	1	210	—	—	—	—	1	210
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	1	180	—	—	1	180
Meghalaya	1	84	—	—	—	—	1	84
Total	31	16249	38	19929	18	5242	87	41420

Statement-II

Details of 38 projects which have been returned to project authorities due of non-compliance of statutory requirements/incomplete DPRs from 87 projects received in 3 years (as on 31.3.2000)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/ Executing Agency	I.C. (MW)	Date of receipt in CEA	Brief Status/ Pending inputs
1	2	3	4	5
Himachal Pradesh				
1.	Kutehr (H) —HPSEB	260	12/98	Returned on 21.2.2000 due to non firming up financing and as HPSEB's planning to execute the project through IPP.
Punjab				
2.	Mukerian St. II (H) — PSEB	12.5	12/97	Returned on 1.6.99 for resubmission, Pending inputs are: Land availability, Water availability, MOEF clearance, Evacuation system, R&R Plan and Inter-State Clearances etc.
3.	UBDC St. III (H) — Govt. of Punjab	75	6/99	Returned on 26.7.99 for resubmission. Pending inputs are: Land availability, Water availability, MOEF clearance, R&R Plan, Inter-State clearance etc.
Uttar Pradesh				
4.	Kishau Dam (H) Irrigation Deptt., Uttar Pradesh	600	6/98	Returned on 22.7.99. Pending inputs are: Clearance by Technical Advisory Committee of MOWR, MOEF clearance, Inter-State agreement, Hydrology and Power potential studies etc.

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Lakhwar Vyasi MPP (H) Irrigation Deptt., Uttar Pradesh Delhi	420	9/99	Returned on 8.10.99 requesting project authority to submit DPR for generation portion in accordance with the requirement of CEA.
6.	Bawana CCGT (T) (M/s. Reliance Delhi Power Pvt. Ltd.)	421	9/97	Returned on 19.12.97. Pending inputs are: fuel linkage/transport Water availability. Land availability, State Govt.'s consent u/s 18A etc.
7.	New Delhi TPS (T) (M/s. Apollo Energy Pvt. Ltd.) Gujarat	350	9/98	Returned on 19.11.98. Pending inputs are: Land availability, State Govt.'s consent u/s 18A, NOC of SPCB, MOEF clearances, power evacuation etc.
8.	Hazira CCPP (T) stage-II (M/s. Essar Power Ltd).	500	12/98	Not being processed in CEA and IPP has been intimated on 15.2.99, Scheme will be taken up for examination after submission by the IPP the state Govt.'s consent u/s 18A, Commitment letter from GOG to purchase power.
9.	Sikka TPS Extn. (T) - GEB Madhya Pradesh	500	7/99	Returned on 7.9.99. Pending inputs are: Land availability, Water availability, MOEF clearance, Fuel linkage, SPCB clearance, TFP, Firm completed cost, NOC of NAA etc.
10.	Sanjay Gandhi TPS (T) Extn. Stage-II - MPEB	500	12/97	Returned on 27.1.99. Pending inputs are: Land availability, Water availability, MOEF clearance, Coal linkage, NOC of NAA, TFP, Firm completed cost etc.
11.	Mara PSS (H) -MPEB	450	12/97	Returned on 5.1.99. Pending inputs are: Land availability, water availability, MOEF clearance, Inter-State clearance etc.
12.	Binauda PSS (H) - MPEB	600	1/98	Returned on 1.1.99. Pending inputs are: Land availability, Water availability, MOEF clearance, Inter-State clearance etc.
13.	Kanhan HEP (H) (MPEB/Irrigation Deptt. Maharashtra)	90	3/98	Returned on 24.8.99. Pending inputs are: Land availability, water availability, R&R Plan, MOEF clearance, Inter-State Clearance etc.

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Korba East TPP-Ph. II (T) (M/s. Madhya Bharat Power Corporation)	250	3/98	Returned on 12.5.98. Pending inputs are: State Govt.'s consent u/s 18A, Revalidation of MOU, Water availability, Coal linkage, Land availability, NOC of SPCB.
	Maharashtra			
15.	Bhusawal Extn. (T) —MSEB	1000	2/98	Returned on 17.4.98. Pending inputs are: Land availability, Water availability, MOEF clearance, Fuel availability/transport, NOC of SPCB, NOC of NAA, R&R Plan, Ash utilisation plan etc.
16.	Malshej Ghat PSS (H) — GOM	600	11/97	Returned on 5.1.99. Pending inputs are: Water availability, MOEF clearance, Inter-State clearance etc.
17.	Paras TPS Extn. (T) — MSEB	250	8/98	Returned on 30.9.98 Pending inputs are: Land availability, MOEF clearance, Fuel linkage/transport, Revalidation of NOC of NAA, Ash management plan.
18.	Uran CCGT (T) — MSEB	400	10/98	Returned on 29.12.98. Pending inputs are: MOEF clearance, Fuel linkage/transport, NOC of NAA, Water availability, NOC of SPCB TFP etc.
19.	Chandrapur TPS (T) — MSEB	60	10/98	Returned on 27.1.99. Pending inputs are: Water availability, MOEF clearance, NOC of CIL for use of coal, NOC of SPCB, NOC of NAA, TFP, Ash management Plan and Justification of the project.
	Andhra Pradesh			
20.	Pulichintala (H) — APSEB	60	9/97	Returned on 11.3.99 due to non-finalisation of Integrated Operation working tables by APSEB. Pending inputs are: MOEF clearance and Compliance of Section 29 (3).
21.	Kothagudam TPP (T) —APSEB	500	5/97	Returned on 29.7.97 as the scheme is to be executed by private party which is still to be selected. Other essential input were also not tied up.
22.	Jegurupadu CCGP-II (T) (M/s. GVK India LTd.)	240	12/97	Returned on 10.3.98. Pending inputs are: State Govt.'s consent u/s 18A, Fuel linkage/transport, MOEF clearance, Firm completed cost, Evacuation system, Fuel linkage not allocated by MOP&NG.

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka				
23.	Bangalore TPP (T) (M/s. Pulakeshi Power Co.)	500	9/97	Returned on 18.12.97 Pending inputs are: State Govt.'s recommendation of DPR/Cost, Fuel linkage/transport, NOC of SPCB, MOEF clearance, Firm completed cost, Evacuation system, Water availability, NOC of NAA etc.
24.	Raichur TPP (T) (M/s. Kutub Power Co. Ltd.)	420	11/97	Returned on 24.2.98. Pending inputs are: State Govt.'s recommendation of DPR/Cost, Fuel linkage/transport, NOC of SPCB, MOEF clearance, Water availability, TFP, Firm completed cost etc.
25.	Mysore TPP (T) (M/s. Mysore Power Generation Ltd.)	1000	9/97	Returned on 17.2.98. Pending inputs are: State Govt.'s recommendation of DPR/Cost, Fuel linkage/transport, NOC of SPCB, Firm completed cost, Water availability, State Govt.'s authorisation u/s 18A, TFP.
26.	Raichur TPP Unit-7 (T) (KPCL)	210	8/98	Returned on 12.10.98. Pending inputs are: Fuel linkage/transport, NOC of SPCB, MOEF clearance, Firm completed cost, Water availability and Power evacuation system.
27.	Vijaynagar TPP (T) (KPCL)	500	6/98	Returned on 25.8.98. Pending inputs are: State Govt.'s authorisation u/s 18A, Fuel linkage/transport, NOC of SPCB, MOEF clearance, Water availability, Defence clearance, NOC of NAA, Evacuation system etc.
28.	Tattihalla Augmentation Scheme (H) (KPCL)	—	8/98	Returned on 30.9.99 as the cost of the scheme was less than Rs. 250 Crores.
29.	Mean Shivapur Konnur LNG-based CCPP (T) (M/s. Wesco Power Generation Ltd.)	500	6/99	Returned on 6.9.99. Pending inputs are: State Govt.'s Recommendation of DPR/Cost, MOEF clearance, Water availability, NOC of NAA, State Govt.'s authorisation u/s 18A TFP etc.
Tamil Nadu				
30.	Ennore CCGT (T)	1500	6/97	Returned on 28.10.97. Pending inputs are: Fuel linkage/transport, Water availability, Firm completed cost, NOC of NAA, MOEF clearance, Defence clearance, NOC of SPCB, Evacuation System.

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Kattupalli CCPP (T) (M/s. Chennai Power Generation Ltd.)	1000	12/99	Returned on 27.3.2000. Pending inputs are: Fuel availability/transport, State Govt.'s authorisation u/s 18A, Firm completed cost, Evacuation system, NOC of SPCB, MOEF clearance etc.
	Bihar			
32.	Kanhar PSS (H) (BHPCL)	300	5/99	Returned on 21.7.99. Pending inputs are: Land availability, Water availability, MOEF clearance, Inter-State clearance of CWC, Consent of State Govt. u/s 18A, TFP, Fresh DPR based on current price level etc.
33.	Sankh Stage-II HEP (H) (BHPCL)	186	12/99	Returned on 13.1.2000 as fresh DPR sent by BHPCL was the same which was sent earlier in 12/97 without taking into a/c the earlier CEA/CWC comments. BHPCL to submit fresh DPR based on latest price level.
	Orissa			
34.	Hirma TPP (T)	4320	9/98	Returned on 30.11.98. Pending inputs are: State Govt.'s recommendation on DPR/Cost, Fuel linkage, MOEF clearance, Firm completed cost, TFP, Evacuation system. Project is also listed in the Mega Projects to be done by SIG which will not require TEC by CEA.
	DVC			
35.	Maithon RBTPP (T)	1000	10/97	Returned on 2.2.99 as the project was proposed to be implemented as joint venture with RSES. Other pending inputs are: MOEF clearance, Firm completed cost, Financial package etc.
	Assam			
36.	Lower Kopili HEP (H)	150	6/97	Returned on 21.7.97. Pending inputs are: GOI consent u/s 18A, Land availability, Water availability, MOEF clearance, R&R Plan, TFP etc.
37.	Lakwa Waste heat (T) (ASEB)	25	12/98	Comments on the scheme sent to ASEB as the cost was less than Rs. 250 Crores.
	Arunachal Pradesh			
38.	Ranganadi St-II HEP (H) (NEEPCO)	180	4/98	Returned on 5.6.98. Pending inputs are: Consent of GOI u/s 18A, MOEF clearance, Land & Water availability, Inter-State clearance, Defence angle clearance, TFP, Firm completed cost etc.
Total		19929 MW		

Statement-III*Anticipated power supply position in 2000-2001**(Mid-term appraisal -28097.2 MW)*

Region/ State/ U.T.	Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Avail- ability (MW)	Surplus/ Deficit (MW)	Surplus/ Deficit %	Energy Require- ment (MU)	Energy Avail- ability (MU)	Surplus/ Deficit (MU)	Surplus/ Deficit %
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haryana	4259	1942	-2317	-54.4	22644	12664	-9980	-44.1
Himachal Pr.	750	513	-237	-31.6	3517	2958	-559	-15.9
Jammu & Kashmir	1476	821	-655	-44.4	6463	5172	-1291	-20.0
Punjab	5515	3675	-1840	-33.4	30233	25529	-4705	-15.6
Rajasthan	5218	2417	-2801	-53.7	29655	15780	-13875	-46.8
Uttar Pradesh	10442	5895	-4547	-43.5	56440	42461	-13979	-24.8
Chandigarh	170	58	-112	-66.1	850	448	-402	-47.3
Delhi	3253	1995	-1258	-38.7	19352	15235	-4117	-21.3
Total (NR)	29603	18076	-11527	-38.9	169154	126009	-43145	-25.5
Gujarat	7618	6107	-1511	-19.8	46049	44895	-1154	-2.5
Madhya Pradesh	6606	4140	-2466	-37.3	39931	28225	-11707	-29.3
Maharashtra	12460	10735	-1725	-13.8	78586	68790	-9796	-12.5
Goa	278	294	16	5.6	1373	2335	962	70.0
Daman & Diu	92	7	-85	-92.5	560	50	-510	-91.0
Dadara & NH	139	11	-129	-92.4	876	77	-799	-91.2
Total (WR)	26924	21937	-4987	-18.5	167375	149311	-18064	-10.8
Andhra Pradesh	7064	5852	-1213	-17.2	42710	32973	-9737	-22.8
Karnataka	5141	3967	-1174	-22.8	29543	24398	-5145	-17.4
Kerala	2983	2353	-630	-21.1	14632	13009	-1623	-11.1
Tamil Nadu	6270	4991	-1279	-20.4	38447	32236	-6211	-16.2
Pondicherry	325	121	-204	-62.9	1908	928	-981	-51.4
Total (SR)	20746	17704	-3043	-14.7	127240	106724	-20516	-16.1
Bihar	2186	1746	-441	-20.2	11492	12428	936	8.1
Orissa	2912	2590	-322	-11.1	17859	13657	-4202	-23.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
West Bengal	4236	3240	-996	-23.5	22137	22877	740	3.3
Sikkim	43	73	30	68.6	124	556	432	348.1
DVC	2347	1870	-477	-20.3	12746	13462	716	5.6
Total (ER)	11166	10097	-1070	-9.6	64358	67649	3291	5.1
Arunachal Pr.	84	55	-29	-34.2	307	360	53	17.3
Assam	937	607	-330	-35.3	4710	3815	-895	-19.0
Manipur	174	69	-105	-60.1	629	416	-213	-33.9
Meghalaya	132	216	84	63.6	600	685	85	14.1
Mizoram	130	48	-82	-63.4	449	233	-216	-48.1
Nagaland	64	66	2	2.8	251	299	48	19.0
Tripura	169	101	-68	-40.3	642	576	-67	-10.4
Total (NER)	1610	1253	-357	-22.2	7598	6975	-613	-8.1
A & N	37	21	-16	-43.0	163	81	-82	-50.1
Lakshadweep	7	5	-2	-33.8	25	19	-6	-25.3
All India	90093	69091	-21002	-23.3	535903	456768	-79135	-14.8

Notes: 1. Demand as per 15th EPS.

2. Unallocated power of central projects reckoned in the regional total only.

3. The above power supply position has been worked out by taking into account mid-term capacity addition of 28097 MW during 9th Plan.

Anticipated power supply position in 2001-02

(Mid-term appraisal—28097.2 MW)

Region/ State/ U.T.	Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Avail- ability (MW)	Surplus/ Deficit (MW)	Surplus/ Deficit %	Energy Require- ment (MU)	Energy Avail- ability (MU)	Surplus/ Deficit (MU)	Surplus/ Deficit %
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haryana	4540	2273	-2267	-49.9	24182	15213	-8969	-37.1
Himachal Pr.	809	1043	234	28.9	3826	4074	248	6.5
Jammu & Kashmir	1615	1026	-589	-36.5	7074	5810	-1264	-17.9
Punjab	5814	3961	-1853	-31.9	31997	26421	-5576	-17.4
Rajasthan	5606	2847	-2759	-49.2	31881	17776	-14105	-44.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Uttar Pradesh	11280	6393	-4887	-43.3	61066	43442	-17624	-28.9
Chandigarh	177	70	-107	-60.3	888	475	-413	-46.6
Delhi	3481	2193	-1288	-37.0	20735	15659	-5076	-24.5
Total (NR)	31735	20822	-10913	-34.4	181649	135176	-48473	-25.6
Gujarat	8070	6438	-1632	-20.2	48777	46322	-2456	-5.0
Madhya Pradesh	6953	4764	-2189	-31.5	42028	30307	-11721	-27.9
Maharashtra	13147	12042	-1105	-8.4	82921	72176	-10745	-13.0
Goa	296	300	4	1.4	1481	2359	898	61.4
Daman & Diu	98	9	-89	-90.7	599	59	-540	-90.1
Dadra & NH	150	14	-136	-90.7	946	88	-858	-90.7
Total (WR)	28430	24322	-4109	-14.5	176732	156621	-20111	-11.4
Andhra Pradesh	7483	6881	-602	-8.0	45226	40045	-5182	-11.5
Karnataka	5422	4489	-933	-17.2	31208	27557	-3651	-11.7
Kerala	3226	2413	-813	-25.2	15756	13163	-2594	-16.5
Tamil Nadu	6598	5218	-1380	-20.9	40456	34500	-5956	-14.7
Pondicherry	345	121	-224	-64.9	2025	944	-1081	-53.4
Total (SR)	21975	19547	-2428	-11.0	134671	119522	-15149	-11.2
Bihar	2325	1827	-498	-21.4	12222	12707	485	4.0
Orissa	3072	2590	-482	-15.7	18836	13810	-5026	-26.7
West Bengal	4517	3276	-1241	-27.5	23595	24434	839	3.6
Sikkim	46	73	27	57.6	133	563	430	323.5
DVC	2478	1870	-608	-24.5	13457	13468	11	0.1
Total (ER)	11846	10214	-1632	-13.8	68243	69661	1418	2.1
Arunachal Pr.	94	116	22	23.2	346	603	257	74.3
Assam	986	750	-236	-24.0	4976	4585	-392	-7.9
Manipur	193	93	-100	-52.2	703	511	-192	-27.4
Meghalaya	140	240	100	71.6	638	783	145	22.7
Mizoram	141	61	-80	-56.5	505	289	-216	-42.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Nagaland	68	83	15	22.2	268	462	194	72.4
Tripura	186	123	-63	-33.7	712	667	-45	-6.4
Total (NER)	1722	1610	-122	-6.5	8148	8704	556	6.8
A & N	41	41	0	0.0	180	180	0	0.0
Lakshadweep	8	8	0	0.0	27	27	0	0.0
All India	95757	76563	-19194	-20.0	569650	489891	-79759	-14.0

- Notes: 1. Demand as per 15th EPS.
 2. Unallocated power of central projects reckoned in the regional total only.
 3. The above power supply position has been worked out by taking into account mid term capacity addition of 28097 MW during 9th Plan.

Anticipated power supply position in 2002-03

(from SOG/ongoing and CEA cleared schemes)

Region/ State/ U.T.	Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Avail- ability (MW)	Surplus/ Deficit (MW)	Surplus/ Deficit %	Energy Require- ment (MU)	Energy Avail- ability (MU)	Surplus/ Deficit (MU)	Surplus/ Deficit %
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haryana	4816	2211	-2605	-54.1	25778	15108	-10670	-41.4
Himachal Pr.	878	1306	428	48.8	4170	7001	2831	67.9
Jammu & Kashmir	1749	1119	-630	-36.0	7693	6763	-930	-12.1
Punjab	6132	4139	-1993	-32.5	33757	27932	-5826	-17.3
Rajasthan	6001	3431	-2570	-42.8	34272	22352	-11920	-34.8
Uttar Pradesh	12073	6879	-5194	-43.0	65463	46728	-18735	-28.6
Chandigarh	185	79	-106	-57.5	928	550	-378	-40.7
Delhi	3719	2317	-1402	-37.7	22186	16826	-5360	-24.2
Total (NR)	33860	22657	-11203	-33.1	194247	151067	-43180	-22.2
Gujarat	8530	6568	-1962	-23.0	51557	47196	-4362	-8.5
Madhya Pradesh	7353	5867	-1486	-20.2	44445	38675	-5770	-13.0
Maharashtra	14048	12807	-1241	-8.8	88601	83931	-4670	-5.3
Goa	314	334	20	6.5	1566	2659	1104	71.0
Daman & Diu	106	9	-97	-91.4	653	86	-567	-89.8
Dadra & N H	162	14	-148	-91.5	1022	98	-924	-90.4
Total (WR)	30210	26353	-3857	-12.8	187833	178277	-9556	-5.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	7901	7337	-565	-7.1	47826	41111	-6715	-14.0
Karnataka	5739	4321	-1418	-24.7	33080	26251	-6829	-20.6
Kerala	3437	2910	-527	-15.3	16859	17235	376	2.2
Tamil Nadu	6942	5401	-1541	-22.2	42568	36178	-6390	-15.0
Pondicherry	369	126	-243	-66.0	2167	968	-1199	-55.3
Total (SR)	23227	20558	-2669	-11.5	142500	125267	-17233	-12.1
Bihar	2476	1909	-567	-22.9	13016	13713	697	5.4
Orissa	3348	2598	-750	-22.4	20531	13824	-6707	-32.7
West Bengal	4774	3532	-1242	-26.0	25093	24605	-488	-1.9
Sikkim	49	73	24	48.0	142	564	422	297.3
DVC	2651	1870	-781	-29.5	14399	13469	-931	-6.5
Total (ER)	12666	10559	-2107	-16.6	73181	70854	-2327	-3.2
Arunachal Pr.	103	117	14	13.7	386	689	303	78.5
Assam	1045	739	-306	-29.2	5299	4582	-717	-13.5
Manipur	214	94	-120	-56.0	782	548	-235	-30.0
Meghalaya	150	242	92	61.1	685	821	136	19.8
Mizoram	160	70	-90	-56.1	581	318	-263	-45.2
Nagaland	72	84	12	16.8	286	489	203	71.1
Tripura	203	125	-78	-38.5	783	702	-81	-10.3
Total (NER)	1855	1619	-237	-12.7	8802	9037	235	2.7
A & N	45	37	-8	-17.6	199	166	-33	-16.4
Lakshadweep	9	5	-4	-47.8	29	19	-10	-34.8
All India	101872	81788	-20084	-19.7	606791	534687	-72104	-11.9

Notes: 1. Demand as per 15th EPS.

2. Unallocated power of central projects reckoned in the regional total only.

**Declare Mandatory Environmental
Audit for Companies**

*330. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PAITL:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY
AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Companies Act, 1956 to incorporate environmental audit mandatory for companies keeping in view several judgements of Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check environmental pollution from the existing companies and new companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) A provision (Clause 173 (1) (f)) has been included in the Companies Bill, 1997 pursuant to which a report by the Board of Directors of a company, with respect to "the measures taken for the protection of environment in such manner as may be prescribed" shall be attached to every balance sheet laid before a company in general meeting. The Government will prescribe the manner in which these measures for protection of environment are to be indicated, after the Companies Bill, 1997 is passed. At present this Bill stands referred to the Department related Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

(d) Steps taken by the Government (M/o Environment and Forests) to check environmental pollution from the existing companies and new companies *inter-alia*, include:

1. Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.
2. Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment on a time bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.
3. Ambient Air and Water Quality Standards have been notified.

4. Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipments and shifting of industries from congested areas.

5. Public awareness campaigns on the effect of pollution have been launched.

Allocation for Road transport sector

*331. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation made by the Planning Commission and actual amount released to various States during Ninth Plan period for the purpose of road transport sector;

(b) whether the allocation made for the purpose has been fully utilised;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the projects that have been undertaken, State-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken to fully utilise the allocated amount during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) The Planning Commission has approved a sum Rs. 60.00 crores for the entire Ninth Five Year Plan for Road Transport Sector. No State-wise allocation was made by the Planning Commission, however, the funds allocated and released to State Governments for schemes are as under:

Name of the Schemes

1. National Highway Patrolling Scheme			2. Vehicular Pollution Testing Equipment		
Year	Allocation	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)	Year	Allocation	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	2.50	0.50	1997-98	1.50	30.33
1998-99	2.50	2.00	1998-99	1.50	64.20
1999-2000	3.00	2.75	1999-2000	1.00	49.72
2000-2001	4.00		2000-2001	1.00	

(b) and (c) Allocations made to the State Governments have not been fully utilised in the case of National Highway Patrolling Scheme due to delay on the part of the State Govt. in submitting their proposals. Similarly funds have not been fully utilised in the purchase of Vehicle Pollution Testing Equipment. This is because under this scheme, State Governments are required to purchase the equipment first and then

are eligible for reimbursement of 75% of cost of the equipment. Since State Governments are required to purchase the equipment first and then claim reimbursement only the amount mentioned in para (a) above have been utilised.

(d) The State-wise details of the projects/expenditure undertaken are as under:

Name of the Schemes

1. National Highway Patrolling Scheme			2. Vehicular Pollution Testing Equipment		
Year	State	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Year	State	Amount (Rs.)
1997-98	Nagaland	25.00	1997-98	Meghalaya	2,97,440.00
	Tripura	25.00		Bihar	19,91,268.00
1998-99	Delhi	25.00		Tripura	7,44,090.00
	Sikkim	25.00	1998-99	Kerala	34,34,250.00
	Arunachal Pradesh	25.00		Goa	1,54,983.00
	Meghalaya	25.00		Mizoram	1,50,000.00
	Manipur	25.00		Assam	26,80,600.00
	Pondicherry	25.00	1999-2000	Tamil Nadu	49,72,436.00
	Chandigarh	25.00			
	Bihar	25.00			
1999-2000	Karnataka	25.00			
	Himachal Pradesh	25.00			
	Gujarat	25.00			
	Haryana	25.00			
	Assam	25.00			
	West Bengal	25.00			
	Uttar Pradesh	25.00			
	Madhya Pradesh	25.00			
	Mizoram	25.00			
	Tamil Nadu	25.00			
	Rajasthan	25.00			

(e) The following steps are being taken to utilise the amount allocated for the year 2000-2001.

(i) *National Highways Patrolling Scheme*: A sum of Rs. 4 crores has been provided under the scheme for the financial year 2000-2001. It is proposed to utilise the entire sum by involving NGOs and automobile manufacturers to operate and run the equipment namely, (one 16 tonne crane and one ambulance) along selected National Highways having the highest density of road accidents.

(ii) *Scheme for Central assistance for the purchase of Pollution Testing Equipment*: An allocation of Rs. 1.00 crore has been made in the Financial year 2000-2001. It is proposed to utilise the entire amount by motivating State Govts. to purchase the requisite equipment.

[Translation]

Transmission and distribution losses

*332. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment of losses being suffered in transmission and distribution of power has been made in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken to curtail the loss of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) On the basis of the figures reported by the State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments, the All India Transmission and Distribution loss during 1997-98 was 24 per cent.

(b) The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Transmission and Distribution losses occur on account of energy dissipation in the conductors and the equipment used for transformation, transmission and distribution of power. The technical losses have to be reduced to optimum levels by better design of lines, relocation of distribution transformers, installation of capacitors and use of higher efficiency transformers. Besides technical losses, the commercial and unaccounted losses caused by theft of energy, defective meters, meter reading errors and un-metered supply have to be reduced by energy audit at all levels and hundred per cent metering of all consumers.

The Central Electricity Authority has issued comprehensive guidelines for reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses to the State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments. The following measures have been suggested :—

- Upgradation of operating voltages.
- Reduction of length of LT lines.
- Location of transformers near load centres.
- Adoption of low capacity transformers near consumer premises.
- Installation of shunt capacitors; and
- Improvement in construction and operation techniques.

In the Power Ministers Conference held on 26.2.2000, it has been resolved to undertake the following measures in order to achieve a reduction in the transmission and distribution losses :

- Energy audit at all levels.
- Time-bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001.
- Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.
- Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a unit on a priority basis.

The Rural Electrification Corporation is providing financial assistance to the State Electricity Boards for undertaking system improvement projects in rural areas. The Power Finance Corporation is also providing funds to the State Electricity Boards for System Improvement Projects in urban areas and for installation of capacitors and meters.

Additional funding assistance through a combination of grant and the loan for strengthening and upgradation of the sub-transmission and distribution network by undertaking specific projects will also be available from the current financial year under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). The modalities for implementing the APDP Scheme are being finalised by the Planning Commission in consultation with the Ministry Power.

Statement

*Percentage transformation, transmission and distribution losses (Including commercial losses such as pilferage etc.) in SEBs/EDs during the year 1997-98**

Regions.	S.NO.	SEBs/EDs	1997-98
1	2	3	4
Northern Region	1.	Haryana	33.04 #
	2.	Himachal Pradesh	19.20
	3.	Jammu & Kashmir	47.48 \$
	4.	Punjab	17.90
	5.	Rajasthan	26.46
	6.	Uttar Pradesh	25.00
	7.	Chandigarh	14.95
	8.	DVB (Delhi)	46.86 #
Western Region	1.	Gujarat	19.66
	2.	Madhya Pradesh	19.08
	3.	Maharashtra	17.73
	4.	D&N Haveli	NA
	5.	Goa	23.39
	6.	Daman & Diu	11.27
Southern Region	1.	Andhra Pradesh	31.76
	2.	Karnataka	18.56
	3.	Kerala	17.87
	4.	Tamil Nadu	17.00
	5.	Lakshdweep	15.83
	6.	Pondicherry	13.79
Eastern Region	1.	Bihar	25.41
	2.	Orissa (Gridco)	NA
	3.	Sikkim	20.13
	4.	West Bengal	20.34
	5.	A&N Islands	20.51
North Eastern Region	1.	Assam	30.05
	2.	Manipur	21.50 \$
	3.	Meghalaya	17.93

1	2	3	4
	4.	Nagaland	29.50 \$
	5.	Tripura	29.75
	6.	Arunachal Pradesh	30.99 \$
	7.	Mizoram	47.00 \$

All India Utilities

- * — Data is tentative as reported by SEBs/EDs.
- # — Computed figures.
- \$ — As reported in the annual plan resources paper submitted to Planning Commission.
- NA — Information not yet furnished by SEBs/ED.

[English]

Losses to SEBs

*333. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of loss sustained by the Electricity Boards as on date throughout the country;

(b) the major factors leading to such losses;

(c) the factors of subsidy and cross subsidisation to agriculture sector; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The annual commercial losses (without subsidies) of the SEBs in the country have increased from Rs. 1565 crore in 1985-86 to Rs. 10684 crore in 1997-98. It is increasing year by year.

(b) The major factors for the losses of SEBs are theft and pilferage, high T&D losses and unsustainable cross subsidy leading to large gap between cost of supply and revenue collection. In some States the efficiency of thermal plants is also low.

(c) As per Section 59 of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1984, tariff of various categories of consumers is to be fixed by the SEBs under the overall guidance of the respective State Government and the factors of subsidy and cross subsidisation to agriculture sector would depend upon the policy in vogue of the respective State Government at

the time of fixation of tariff. Conference of Chief Ministers held in 1996 resolved that cross subsidization between categories of consumers may be allowed by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. No sector shall, however, pay less than 50% of the average cost of supply (cost of generation plus transmission and distribution). Tariffs for agricultural sector will not be less than fifty paise per kwh to be brought to 50% of the average cost in not more than three years. However, only States of Assam, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Orissa had agriculture tariff of more than 50 paise per unit in 1998-99. For the year 1997-98, as per the annual accounts of 16 SEBs, the ratio of average realisation from agricultural sector to the average cost of supply was 0.10 as against the corresponding ratios of 1.40 and 1.42 for commercial and industrial sectors respectively.

(d) Government of India has taken a proactive role in reforming State Electricity Boards so that they function on commercial lines. Power Ministers Conference held on 26.2.2000 resolved that reform must be undertaken with determination, vigour and a sense of urgency. The key elements of the Reforms Strategy are:—

- (i) Energy Audit at all levels;
- (ii) Time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001.
- (iii) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.
- (iv) Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a limit on a priority basis.

If above, appears unattainable in the existing Act, Corporatisation/Co-privatisation/Privatisation of distribution would have to be undertaken.

Production of alcohol from sugarcane

*334. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish any pilot projects to produce alcohol from sugarcane for use as additive to motor fuels;

(b) if so, the States where such pilot projects are likely to be located;

(c) the criteria used to select those States for such pilot projects;

(d) the approximate investment in such pilot projects; and

(e) the schedule for implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Government propose to take up pilot projects in UP and Maharashtra to ascertain the effects of using ethanol blended auto-fuel on the environment and to examine operational and financial aspects.

(c) This is only a pilot study and the States selected are two major sugarcane growing States.

(d) and (e) These aspects are yet to be firmed up.

[Translation]

LPG Bottling Plant

*335. SHRI BRAJMOHAN RAM:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

(a) the criteria fixed for installing LPG bottling plants in the country;

(b) the details of LPG bottling plants functioning at present in the country alongwith their capacity, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up LPG bottling plants at various places in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of locations identified therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) LPG bottling plants are set up on the basis of Techno-Economic Feasibility after taking into consideration the demand potential of packed LPG in the nearby consumption zones.

(b) to (d) The details of existing and proposed LPG bottling plants alongwith their capacity as on 1.1.2000 in different States of the country is given in the statement.

Statement*State-wise bottling capacity as on 1.1.2000**(Figs in TMTPA)*

Bottling plant	Oil Co.	Existing Bottling Capacity as on 1.1.2000	New Plants Under VIII Plan (Balance)	Capacity Additions under IX plan Balance	Bottling Capacity Planned as on 1.4.2002
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh					
Vijayawada	IOC	22			22
Cherlapally	HPC	88			88
Kondapalli	HPC	44			44
Vishakh	HPC	44			44
Cherlapally	IOC	44		12	56
Kumool	BPC	22			22
Cuddapah	IOC	44			44
Cherlapally	BPC	44			44
Kakinada/Rajahmundry	BPC			44	44
Khammam	HPC			10	10
Vizag	HPC			44	44
Timmarpur	IOC	44			44
Vizag	IOC			54	54
Cherlapally	IBP			10	10
Kakinada	HPC			22	22
Sub Total		396	0	196	592
Arunachal Pradesh					
	IOC		5		5
Assam					
Bongaigaon	IOC	22			22
Oil Duliajan	IOC	25			25
Silchar	IOC	10			10
North Gauhati	IOC	22			22
Gauhati	IOC		22		22

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bongaigaon	BRPL		22		22
Gauhati	BPC			6	6
Numaligarh	BPC			6	6
Sub Total		79	44	12	135
Bihar					
Jamshedpur	IOC	88			88
Barauni	IOC	15			15
Begusarai	BPC		22		22
Purnea	HPC	10			10
Aurangabad	BPC		22	22	22
Patna	HPC		22	22	22
Jamshedpur	HPC		10	10	10
Bokaro	IOC		22	22	22
Patna	IOC		66	66	66
Bhagalpur	IOC		44	44	44
Sub Total		113	22	186	321
Delhi					
Tikrikalan	IOC	132			132
Madanpur-Khadar	IOC	88			88
Sub Total		220	0	0	220
Goa					
Goa	HPC	22			22
Goa	BPC		10		10
Sub Total		22	10	0	32
Gujarat					
Rajkot	IOC	44			44
Hazira	IOC	44			44
Gandhi Nagar	HPC	26		18	44
Hariyala	BPC	34			34

1	2	3	4	5	6
Ahmedabad	IOC	66		34	100
Ankleshwar	HPC	44			44
Bhavnagar	IOC	44			44
Gandhar	IOC	68			68
Rajkot	BPC			22	22
Navsari/Hazira	BPC			22	22
Kandla	IOC			22	22
Sub Total		370	0	118	488
Haryana					
Karnal	IOC	88			88
Hissar	BPC	22			22
Piyala	BPC	132			132
Jind	HPC	44			44
Bahadurgarh	HPC	44			44
Gurgaon	IOC			22	22
Manesar	IBP			10	10
Sub Total		330	0	32	362
Himachal Pradesh					
Baddi	IOC	22			22
Damta/Sundemagar	IOC			10	10
Bilaspur/Nalagarh	HPC			10	10
Sub Total		22	0	20	42
Jammu & Kashmir					
Jammu	HPC	26		8	34
Pampre	HPC	10			10
Leh	IOC	0	3		3
Jammu	IOC		22		22
Sub Total		36	25	8	69

1	2	3	4	5	6
Karnataka					
Bangalore	IOC	34	—	44	78
Bangalore	HPC	34	—	—	34
Mysore	HPC	22	—	—	22
Hubli	HPC	44	—	—	44
Mangalore	BPC	44	—	—	44
Belgaum	IOC	12	—	—	12
Mangalore	HPC	34	—	—	34
Bangalore	HPC	—	—	22	22
Bellary	HPC	—	—	10	10
Bangalore	BPC	—	—	44	44
Dharwad	BPC	—	—	22	22
Mysore	BPC	—	—	10	10
Shimoga	IOC	—	—	66	66
Sub Total	—	224	0	218	442
Kerala					
Cochin	IOC	44	—	44	88
Trivandrum	BPC	44	—	—	44
Calicut	IOC	22	—	—	22
Palghat	HPC	34	—	—	34
Quilon	IOC	12	—	—	12
Cochin	BPC	—	—	22	22
Sub Total	—	156	0	66	222
Madhya Pradesh					
Bhopal	IOC	88	—	—	88
Bhitoni	BPC	44	—	—	44
Mangalia	HPC	34	—	10	44
Raipur	HPC	44	—	—	44
Pitampur	BPC	22	—	—	22
Gwallior	BPC	—	10	—	10
Bina	BPC	—	10	—	10

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bhopal	BPC	-	-	22	22
Bhopal	HPC	-	-	44	44
Jabalpur	HPC	-	-	44	44
Ujjain	IOC	-	-	78	78
Bilaspur	IOC	-	-	44	44
Guna	IOC	-	-	22	22
Sub Total	-	232	20	264	516
Maharashtra					
Mumbai	BPC	122	-	-	122
Uran	BPC	132	-	-	132
Jalgaon	BPC	44	-	-	44
Sholapur	BPC	44	-	-	44
Mumbai	HPC	65	-	-	65
Aurangabad	HPC	44	-	-	44
Chandrapur	HPC	44	-	-	44
Khapri	HPC	44	-	-	44
Miraj	HPC	44	-	-	44
Chakan	HPC	44	-	-	44
Pune	IOC	22	-	-	22
Manmad	IOC	34	-	10	44
Akola (Dhanaj)	IOC	44	-	-	44
Buldana	BPC	-	6	-	6
Vasai/Virar	BPC	-	-	34	34
Kalyan	BPC	-	-	34	34
Nasik	BPC	-	-	22	22
Pune	BPC	-	-	44	44
Satara	BPC	-	-	22	22
Kolhapur	BPC	-	-	22	22
Nagpur	BPC	-	-	22	22
Nasik	HPC	-	-	44	44
Sholapur	HPC	-	-	10	10

1	2	3	4	5	6
Nanded	HPC	—	—	10	10
Akola	HPC	—	—	10	10
Mumbai-Virar	HPC	—	—	22	22
Usar	HPC	44	—	—	44
Nagpur	IOC	—	—	22	22
Nasik	IBP	—	—	10	10
Mumbai/Palghar	IBP	—	—	10	10
Sub Total	—	771	6	348	1125
Meghalaya	IOC	—	5	—	5
Manipur	IOC	—	10	—	10
Mizoram	IOC	—	5	—	5
Nagaland					
Dimapur	IOC	—	5	—	5
Orissa					
Balasore	IOC	44	—	—	44
Khurda	BPC	10	—	—	10
Khurda Road	HPC	44	—	—	44
Jharsuguda	IOC	—	—	22	22
Haidiagada	IOC	—	—	10	10
Sub Total		98	0	32	130
Punjab					
Jallundhur	IOC	68	—	—	68
Lalru	BPC	88	—	—	88
Hoshiarpur	HPC	22	—	—	22
Patiala	IOC	—	34	44	78
Bhatinda	BPC	—	—	22	22
Rajpura	HPC	—	—	22	22
Sub Total		178	34	88	300
Rajasthan					
Swaimadhopur	IOC	44	—	—	44
Ajmer	IOC	22	—	—	22

1	2	3	4	5	6
Jaipur	BPC	10	—	—	10
Jadhpur	HPC	22	—	—	22
Udaipur	BPC	10	—	—	10
Bikaner	IOC	22	—	—	22
Jaipur	IOC	—	—	44	44
Bikaner	BPC	10	—	—	10
Ajmer	BPC	—	—	44	44
Kota	HPC	—	—	44	44
Ajmer	HPC	—	—	22	22
Jaipur	HPC	—	—	22	22
Jhunjhunu	IOC	—	—	22	22
Bhilwara	IOC	—	—	22	22
Sub Total		140	0	220	360
Sikkim					
Rongpo	IOC	5	0	0	5
Sub total		5	0	0	5
Tamilnadu					
Coimbatore	BPC	68	—	—	68
Tuticorin	BPC	20	—	—	20
MRL	BPC	75	—	—	75
Salem	IOC	34	—	—	34
Trichy	IOC	22	—	—	22
Gummidipoondi	BPC	44	—	—	44
Ennore	IOC	—	66	—	66
Gummidipondi	HPC	34	—	—	34
Madurai	IOC	22	—	—	22
Myladuthari	IOC	6	—	—	6
Thanjavur	BPC	—	22	—	22
Elayangudi	IOC	—	10	—	10
Mannargudi	IOC	—	—	6	6
Irugur	HPC	—	—	10	10
Ennore	HPC	—	—	10	10

1	2	3	4	5	6
Madurai	HPC	10	—	—	10
Errode	IOC	—	—	34	34
Coimbatore/Dharmapuri	IOC	—	—	34	34
Chengalpet	IOC	—	—	44	44
Nagapattinam	IBP	—	—	10	10
Sub Total	—	335	98	148	581
Tripura					
Bishalgarh	IOC	5	0	0	5
Uttar Pradesh					
Kanpur	IOC	64	—	0	64
Mathura	IOC	88	—	—	88
Allahabad	IOC	34	—	—	34
Haldwani	IOC	22	—	—	22
Haridwar	IOC	22	—	—	22
Varanasi	IOC	44	—	—	44
Trisundi	IOC	12	—	—	12
Bareilly	BPC	10	—	—	10
Lucknow	BPC	22	—	—	22
Kasna	HPC	44	—	—	44
Unnao	HPC	96	—	8	34
Gorakhpur	HPC	22	—	—	22
Farukhabad	IOC	22	—	—	22
Sultanpur	BPC	6	—	—	6
Saleempur	BPC	22	—	—	22
Jhansi	BPC	—	10	12	22
Loni	BPC	—	—	44	44
Roorke	BPC	22	—	—	22
Gorakhpur	BPC	—	—	10	10
Kanpur/Auraiya	BPC	—	—	22	22
Maini	BPC	22	—	—	22
Jagdishpur	HPC	—	—	34	34

1	2	3	4	5	6
Loni	HPC	—	—	22	22
Kashipur	IOC	—	—	68	68
Muzaffarnagar	IOC	—	—	44	44
Loni	IOC	—	—	88	88
Gonda	IOC	—	—	34	34
Lucknow	IOC	—	—	34	34
Aligarh	IOC	—	—	22	22
Etawah	IOC	—	—	34	34
Shajahanpur	IOC	—	—	34	34
Balia	IOC	—	—	12	12
Kheri	IOC	—	—	22	22
Mughalsarai	IBP	—	—	10	10
Sob Total	—	504	10	554	1068
West Bengal					
Kalyani	IOC	44	—	—	44
Durgapur	IOC	64	—	24	88
Haldia	IOC	20	—	—	20
Paharpur	HPC	44	—	—	44
Uluberia	BPC	44	—	—	44
Budge Budge	IOC	44	—	—	44
Durgapur	BPC	—	10	12	22
Raiganj	BPC	10	—	—	10
Chandannagar	IOC	—	—	88	88
Malda	IOC	—	—	22	22
Siliguri	IOC	—	—	22	22
Calcutta	HPC	—	—	34	34
Burdwan	HPC	—	—	10	10
Haldia	IBP	—	—	10	10
Sub Total	—	270	10	222	502
Total States	—	4506	309	2732	7547

1	2	3	4	5	6
Union Territories					
Pondicherry	IOC	10	—	—	10
Andaman & Nicobar					
Port Blair	IOC	0	5	—	5
Total-UTs	—	10	5	0	15
Grand Total		4516	314	2732	7562

Bottling Plants Proposed for Resitement

at

Oil Duliajan (25 Tmtpa) Digboi (loc-Aod)

Bpcr, Mumbai (122 Tmtpa) Kalyan (34 Tmtpa), Vasai/Virar (44 Tmtpa), Usar (New-44 Tmtpa)

Hpfr, Mumbai (65 Tmtpa) Augmentation at Existing Usar Plant.

*[English]***Appointment of SCs/STs in higher Judicial Administration**

*336. SHRI BUTA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes categories have been given adequate representation under different organizations under his ministry;

(b) if so, the total number of persons appointed to the posts of Chairman, Member, Part-time Member and Member Secretary to the Law, Justice and Company Affairs Commission of India during the last five years and the number of those belonging to the SCs/STs appointed to the said posts and their percentage to the total number of posts; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) to (c) The following Commissions/Organisations are functioning in this Ministry:-

- (i) Law Commission of India
- (ii) National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution

- (iii) Income Tax Appellate Tribunal
- (iv) National Legal Services Authority
- (v) Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board
- (vi) Election Commission of India
- (vii) Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission
- (viii) Company Law Board
- (ix) Supreme Court of India and High Courts

During the last five years, 56 members were appointed in the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal out of which 11 belong to SCs and 3 belong to STs. The percentage with regard to the aforesaid total member of posts comes to 19.64% and 5.36% respectively. In case of the aforesaid organizations/Commissions other than Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, no reservation is provided for in the matter of appointment of Chairpersons/Members. However, during the last five years, in the case of FERA Board, out of 8 appointments made, 3 belongs to SCs and 1 belongs to STs; in the case of Company Law Board, 6 appointments were made out of which 1 person belongs to SC and 1 person belonging to ST was offered the appointment but did not join; in the case of Election Commission, one of the Members belongs to ST; in case of MRTP Commission, 7 persons were appointed, but none belong to SC or ST and in the case of Law Commission of India, 9 persons were appointed out of which 1 belong to SC and 1 belongs to ST. Thus, efforts are always made to give due representation to persons belonging to SCs/STs in this Ministry.

Expansion of Major ports

*337. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA:
SHRI VAIKO:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for expansion of major ports in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such proposal is lying pending with Public Investments Board;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be cleared alongwith the targeted date of the completion of this expansion work;

(e) the details in terms of estimated investment and resource mobilisation;

(f) whether there is also a proposal to extend the facilities at Haldia port further to the south along the river covering Nandigram and Khejuri Police stations; and

(g) if so, the current position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) Steps have been taken to create additional capacity in existing major ports under various plan schemes as well as through private sector investment. A new Port at Ennore, 25 Kms. North of Chennai is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 950 crores with assistance from Asian Development Bank with a capacity to handle 16 million tonnes of coal. A total 157 million tonnes of capacity is expected to be added in Major Ports during the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002).

(c) and (d) At present, two Projects namely, Revised Cost Estimate for construction of a new Port at Ennore near Chennai and Revised Cost Estimate for the replacement of seven sub-marine pipelines at Marine Oil Terminal at Mumbai Port are pending with Public Investment Board (PIB). Targeted date of completion of these projects is July, 2000 and June, 2000 respectively.

No time frame for clearance of PIB can be indicated. However, all efforts are made to seek PIB clearance expeditiously.

(e) An investment of Rs. 8543 crores has been envisaged for major Ports during 9th Five Year Plan of which Rs. 1645 crores would be provided as budgetary support and the balance Rs. 6898 crores would be met

from the Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) of the Major Ports. In addition, an investment approximately to the tune of Rs. 8000 crores is targeted to be raised through private sector participation.

(f) and (g) There is no such proposal at present.

[Translation]

New Technologies and Digital Microwave System

*338. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to engage the India based multinational companies to install new technology and digital microwave system in the telecom transmission network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for identifying new technologies and digital microwave system;

(d) the proposed telecom coverage and benefits likely to be accrued by adopting these new technologies; and

(e) the details of programme chalked out for execution of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) There is no proposal to engage the India based multinational companies to install new technology and digital microwave system in the telecom transmission network.

The new technologies should be state of art, capably of meeting the traffic requirements, suitable for the areas where the equipments are to be deployed and cost effective.

The new technologies selected for the Department of Telecom Services (DTS) network viz. Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) systems on optical fibre, Dense wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM) systems and SDH microwave systems would enable DTS to provide world class telecom service to all parts of our country. The benefits would be augmentation of the DTS network to meet the increasing demands for voice, FAX, data and internet services.

The action plan for execution of new technologies and digital microwave are as follows:

- (i) Under Sanchar Sagar Phase-I Project, 10 rings of 2.5 Gbps (Giga bites per second) SDH optical fibre systems covering approximately 17000 route Kms. are under execution and six rings have been commissioned during 1999-2000.
- (ii) Under Sanchar Sagar Phase-II Project, 30 rings of 2.5 Gbps systems are planned to be commissioned by March 2001.
- (iii) Approximately 3000 Route Kms. of 20 Gbps DWM systems are planned for 2000-2001.
- (iv) 155 Mbps (Mega bits per second) SDH digital microwave systems are being inducted in a big way and more than 500 TRs (Transmitters- Receivers) have been commissioned during last two years.

[English]

Conversion of NBFes into Nidhi Companies

*339. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of nidhi companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956 have got away with thousands of crores of rupees from gullible investors or public depositors;

(b) if so, the action being taken against those nidhi companies;

(c) whether a large number of non-banking financial companies have recently converted into nidhi companies under the Companies Act, 1956;

(d) if so, the details of such companies registered and have started their functioning, State-wise;

(e) whether the Register of Companies has conducted any inquiry to know the reasons of converting such NBFs into nidhi companies;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government propose to set up a high powered committee for efficient regulation of nidhi companies under the Companies Act, 1956;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the steps taken by the Government to control the functioning of these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) In a number of cases, it has come to the notice of the Government that the depositors have approached Company Law Board for relief. In some cases the Government have also received complaints against some of the nidhi companies regarding non-payment of deposits, the details of action taken by the Government in these cases of prominent nidhi companies are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (f) No. The Government has not notified any NBFC as a Nidhi since 1996.

(g) and (i) The Government have constituted a nine-member committee on 23.03.2000 under the chairmanship of Shri. P. Sabanayangam, including a representative from Reserve Bank of India. The Committee will submit its report within three months. The Committee will examine in depth various aspects of the functioning of Nidhis, its operational dynamics and suggest appropriate framework for the growth of nidhi companies on proper corporate lines.

Statement

Name of the company against whom complaints were received	Action taken by the Government
1	2
M/s. Kuber Mutual Benefits Ltd., Meerut and M/s. Trikone Mutual Benefits Ltd., Lucknow.	The companies were inspected under section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956. On the basis of information available in the inspection report both the companies were denotified as a nidhi vide notification Nos. GSR 226 (E) dated 26.3.1999 and GSR 282 (E) dated 23.4.1999 respectively.

1

2

M/s. Alwarpet Benefit Fund Ltd., Chennai

On a petition filed by the Government the Company Law Board vide its order dated 6.10.1999 has appointed three Government directors in this nidhi company.

M/s. RBF Nidhi Ltd., Chennai

The Company Law Board on a petition filed by the Government appointed 6 directors besides a Chairman superseding the earlier Board of Directors of the company vide its order dated 18.1.2000.

M/s. Thiru-vi-ka-Nagar Benefit Fund Ltd., Chennai

The Government have appointed one Special Officer in exercise of the powers under Notification No. GSR 737 (E) dated 1.11.1999.

M/s. Incan Mutual Benefit Ltd., Lucknow

The Company Law Board have passed an order for repayment of deposits, Reserve Bank of India will initiate necessary action on non-compliance of the same.

*[Translation]***Pollution in Ganga**

*340. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred to make Ganges free from pollution during the last three years;

(b) whether several factories are still causing pollution in the river Ganges and if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether desired results have not been achieved by the treatment plants installed under the first phase of Ganga Action Plan; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The total funds released by Government on cleaning of River Ganga and its tributaries viz. Yamuna, Gomati and Damodar during the last three years is as under:

1997-98	Rs. 85.60 crore
1998-99	Rs. 90.01 crore
1999-2000	Rs. 89.05 crore
Total	Rs. 264.66 crore

(b) Out of 187 identified grossly polluting industries along Ganga, effluent treatment plants are operating satisfactorily in 91 units, 32 units are closed and in 64 units effluent treatment plants are not operating satisfactorily which are facing action under the environmental law.

(c) and (d) In the first phase of the Ganga Action Plan only about 35% of the pollution presently generated in towns along the Ganga has been tackled. The remaining pollution has been taken up under the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan. Despite the problems of operation and maintenance of assets in Bihar and to a large extent in Uttar Pradesh, wherever the works of the Ganga Action Plan Phase I have been completed and made functional, the river water quality has shown improvement. However, full improvement in river water quality can be expected on completion of the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II.

Telephone Quota

3429. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing rules for providing telephone connection on priority basis under the discretionary quota;

(b) the number of applications received from each State and Jabalpur district for telephone connections during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(c) the number of telephone connections provided to each State particularly in Rajasthan and the said district under the above quota during the above period;

(d) the number of applications out of these lying pending and rejected during the above period; and

(e) the time by which the remaining applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Copy of the existing rules are given in enclosed statement.

(b) Data regarding applications received is not maintained.

(c) to (e) The information regarding applications which have been sanctioned are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Copy of Office Order No. 11-04/98- PHP dated 24th September, 1998; and No. 11-07/99-PHP dated 14.1.2000.

Subject:- Out-of-turn connections for telephone-Discretionary quota.

The out-of-turn quota for telephone will henceforth be exercised at the following level as per percentage mentioned below.

(1) Minister of Communications	1.00%
(2) MOS (Communications)	0.50%
(3) Chairman (TC)	0.25%

Further, revised vide order

No. 11-07/99-PHP dated 14.1.2000.

The percentage will be calculated as the number of DELs (Direct Exchange Lines) actually released in the immediately preceding year. The Out-of-Turn Telephone Allotment Committee constituted vide Circular 1-44/1/96-CAB dated 16.7.97 stands abolished forthwith.

2. The discretionary quota will be exercised as per the existing guidelines being followed by the above mentioned Out-of-Turn Telephone Allotment Committee (now abolished). However, the following changes in the guidelines are made.

- (i) Category of social workers and journalists is added in the existing eligible categories.

- (ii) The eligibility age for being treated as Senior Citizen will be 65 years instead of 70 years.

3. The cases for out-of-turn allotment of telephone will continue to be processed by the PHP Section and ADG (PHP) will be the nodal officer who will maintain all records.

4. TAC quota at 100 connections (maximum) per TAC will continue to be operated. In so far as quota for Members of Parliament is concerned this will be operated as per directions of Hon'ble Speaker and Hon'ble Chairman Rajya Sabha subject to Court orders if any.

5. Exercise of all quotas put together should in no case exceed the overall limit prescribed by the Hon'ble High Court in the case of Shri Vinod Kumar Choudhury Vs MTNL in CW No. 713/91 where the quota for Out-of-Turn allotment will not exceed 3% of the total number of connections granted in the whole of country in the immediately preceding year.

6. Telephone connections sanctioned out-of-turn will be installed only after due registration by the applicant.

7. These orders come into force with immediate effect.

8. This issue with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Communications.

sd/-

(P.K. Ray)

Asst. Director General (AHP)

To

1. Director, Prime Minister's Office with reference to PMO No. 180/50/C/5/98-ES-1 dated 21.9.1998.
2. Director, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. PS to Hon'ble Minister (C).
4. PS to Hon'ble MOS (C).
5. PPS to Chairman, Telecom Commission.
6. PPS to Member (S)/ Member (T)/Member (F)/ Member (P), TCHQ.

(PS/PPS are requested to ensure that necessary registration particulars are provided in the SANCTIONED

APPLICATIONS for out of turn telephone connections. The categories of the guidelines under which the case is sanctioned may also please be indicated.).

Sd/-
(P.K. Ray)
Asst. Director General (PHP)

Copy of Office Order No. 11-07/99- PHP dated 14.01.2000.

OFFICE ORDER

Subject:- Out-of-turn connections for telephones-discretionary quota.

Consequent on creation of the post of Secretary, DTS it has been decided that the discretionary power for grant of out of turn telephone connections shall be exercised by Secretary, DTS and Chairman (TC) to the extent as mentioned below:-

- | | |
|-------------------|---------|
| I. Chairman (TC) | (.125%) |
| II. Secretary DTS | .125% |

The above decision has been taken in partial modification of this office order No. 11-4/98-PHP dated 24.9.1998. Rest other conditions remain unchanged. These orders come into force with immediate effect. This issue with the approval of Hon'ble MOC.

sd/-
(P.K. Ray)
Asst. Director General (PHP)

CRITERIA FOR ALLOTMENT OF OUT OF TURN TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

(a) Applicants suffering from prolonged and serious illness like Cancer, serious kidney diseases, cirrhosis of Liver.

(b) Widows, genuinely placed in highly adverse social condition.

(c) Genuine victims of natural calamities and man-made catastrophes who do not have telephone facilities. This should include cases of terrorist threats also.

(d) Senior Citizens of India (65 years and above).

(e) Public servants performing arduous nature of duties but not provided with telephone at residence by their employers.

(f) Statutory, Government aided and Government recognised Educational Institutions.

(g) Persons with Disability as defined in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal) Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995. (weightage for higher levels of Disabilities).

(h) Any extraordinary case deserving special consideration, for reasons to be established and recorded in writing.

(i) Eminent sports persons who bring glory for the nation at national/international levels subjects to production of relevant certificates.

(j) Social workers and Journalists.

As notified vide Officer Order no. 11-4/98-PHP dated 24.9.98

Copy of Circular No. 7-2/98-PHP dated December 22, 1998.

To

All Chief General Managers Telecom Circles/Districts
Chief General Manager, MTNL, New Delhi/Mumbai CMD,
MTNL, New Delhi.

Subject: Governance of out of Turn telephone connections recommended by Members of Parliament.

As you are aware of the fact that the decision of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha to restore the privileges of Hon'ble MPs (Lok Sabha) to recommend out of turn telephones came under legal scrutiny in the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in the matter of Verghese George Vs Union of India and others in the O.P.No. 11507 of 1998/ T. A copy of the Interim Stay Order passed by the Hon'ble High Court, Kerala had been conveyed to all concerned vide this office endorsement dated 31.7.1998.

2. It is hereby intimated to all concerned that the said O.P.No. 11507 of 1998 has been disposed of by the Hon'ble High Court on 10.12.1998. The Hon'ble High Court of Kerala has prescribed the following set of guidelines to be followed strictly for governance of out of turn telephone connections recommended by Hon'ble MPs.

- (i) The out of turn telephone connections shall be given to the persons residing within the constituency of the Hon'ble MP (LS/RS).
- (ii) Hon'ble MPs will be required to give a statement/certificate in their recommendation letter that the concerned individual is in urgent need of telephone connection.

- (iii) The out of turn telephone connection will be given only to the persons who are included in the current waiting list. Nobody who has not already registered for telephone connection is entitled to get this out of turn allotment.

3. As directed by the Hon'ble High Court, the names of the persons allotted out of turn telephone connections from the MP quota alongwith the guidelines should be published.

4. It is also hereby informed that the annual recommendation of out of turn telephone connections from MP quota has been increased from 25 to 50 (Fifty) connections per calendar year for each Hon'ble MP.

5. The aforesaid provisions come into force with immediate effect.

6. For the Calendar year 1998, recommendations of the Hon'ble MPs may be honoured upto 31.3.1999 instead of 31.12.1998, as a special case.

7. The guidelines laid by Hon'ble High Court, Kerala may kindly be brought to the notice of all Hon'ble MPs (Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha) related to your Circle/district.

This issue with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Communications.

sd/-
(R.K. Ray)
Asst. Director General (PHP)

Copy of Circular No. 5-02/2000-PHP dated March 1, 2000.

Subject: Members of the Consultative Committee/Parliamentary Committee for Ministry of Communications-quota for sanction of telephone connections on out of turn priority basis.

The quota of Hon'ble MPs (LS/RS) to recommend out of turn telephone connections was increased from 25 to 50 telephones in a calendar year. This was circulated to all the CGMs *vide* our Circular No. 7-2/98-PHP dated 22.12.98. Consequent on revision of this quota a need was felt to revise the additional quota available to Hon'ble MPs (*vide* Circular No. 16-59/91-PHA dated 21.7.93) who are members of the Consultative Committee and or Parliamentary Committee for Ministry of Communications.

2. It has now been decided that the additional quota available to Hon'ble MPs (LS/RS) who are also members of Consultative Committee and/or Parliamentary Committee for Ministry of Communications, stands revised to 30 (Thirty) telephones in a calendar year within their

respective constituencies. This revised additional quota shall be operative from the current calendar year i.e. 2000.

3. It is also requested that this may kindly be brought to the notice of all the Hon'ble MPs concerned in your circle.

4. Consequent to issuance of this circular and earlier circular No. 7-2/98-PHP dated 22.12.98, the Circular No. 16-59/91-PHA dated 21.7.93 stands superseded.

This issues with the approval of Hon'ble MOC.

sd/-
(P.K. Ray)
Assistant Director General (PHP)

To

All the Chief General Managers, Telecom Circles/Telephone Districts. The Chief General Managers, MTNL, Delhi/Mumbai.

CGM, MTNL, New Delhi.

Laying of underground cables in santa

3430. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint about irregularities being committed as well as not following the prescribed norms by the Madhya Pradesh Telecom Circle, Bhopal in laying of underground cables, in Satna city and other districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued any order to stop the work as the holes digged up to lay the cable were not covered;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have made any enquiry into the work of laying of cables by the contractors;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir, One complaint was received alongwith a newspaper

cutting of Deshbandhu dated 24.1.2000 in the circle Telephone Advisory Committee meeting held on 31.1.2000 in respect of Satna city and rural areas of Satna District.

(b) The complaint was related to irregularities of cable 1 laying in Satna city and rural areas of Satna District. It was mentioned that during jointing of Optical Fibre cable, joint indicators and cement rings are not provided and bricks are not provided below and above the Optical Fibre cable laid and the standards of cable laying are not being followed.

(c) No Sir.

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

(e) and (f) Acceptance testing of cable laying work is done by department as per prescribed norms. Circle Vigilance Office has also inspected the cable work and found the same according to the standards.

(g) Does not arise in view of (e&f) above.

[English]

Officers of Indian Forests Service

3431. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that allegations have been made against certain senior IFS officers of the Forest Department of Sikkim for amassing huge wealth and property disproportionate to their known sources of income;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action so far taken and the reasons for not ordering the probe/enquiry by the CBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Certain complaints had been received regarding possession of disproportionate assets by Shri Tanka Ram Sharma and Shri Sona Tsering Bhutia, IFS officers of Sikkim cadre. The complaints were duly enquired into by the Vigilance Department of the State Government of Sikkim which has exonerated the officers. An inquiry by the CBI would not therefore be necessary.

Faulty Telecom Services in Rohru

3432. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representation from Senior Citizen's Welfare Council, Rohru, Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh regarding faulty telecom services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the telecom officials found guilty of dereliction of duty and for providing uninterrupted telephone service there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A representation was received from Shri K.C. Kaith, General Secretary, Senior Citizens Welfare Council, Rohru, district Shimla regarding:-

(i) Poor telecom services in Rohru Sub-Division.

(ii) Non-availability of group dialling facility from Rohru to Shimla.

(iii) Restoration of Telephone No. 48157 working from Rohru exchange, disconnected due to non-payment of outstanding bills.

(c) The reply was given by General Manager, Shimla on 16.11.1999 covering all the points of representation. Since no official found guilty of dereliction of duty, no action was required.

Amendment in Coastal Regulation Zone

3433. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has criticised the Government over the amendments in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), 1991 allowing storage of hazardous materials and construction activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government to protect the marine life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Storage of 13 categories of petroleum products is permitted in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ). Proposals for such storages are considered by the empowered committee constituted by the Ministry of Surface Transport. While according environmental clearance, it is ensured that necessary environmental safeguards/mitigation measures are incorporated in the project so as to protect the marine life.

Purchases of Stationery Items by MTNL

3434. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL make purchases of stationery, cleaning and other related items from Kendriya Bhandar as per the Government order;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Apna Bazar of the wholesale store at Moti Nagar are the authorised outlets to make Government purchases in items of the Government order;

(d) if not, the reasons for the MTNL making purchases from unauthorised sources violating the Government orders; and

(e) the action Government propose to take to ensure that MTNL make purchases of quality products at most competitive rates from Kendriya Bhandar or other authorised agencies forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, by and large such materials are purchased from these sources. However for the bulk purchases of these items, tenders are being floated as per the MTNL's purchase policy, Kendriya Bhandar and Super Bazar can also participate in these tenders as they are in the mailing list.

(c) No Sir.

(d) As per the record no such purchase has been done.

(e) Purchases are being made at most competitive rates by floating open tenders as per purchase policy of MTNL, where Kendriya Bhandar or Super Bazar can also participate.

Mega Power Projects by Foreign Companies

3435. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some developed countries and foreign power giants have expressed their willingness to set up mega power projects in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to permit them to set up mega power projects in India; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the shortage of power is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Under the revised Mega Power Policy announced by Government of India in November, 1998, certain power projects have been identified as mega power projects, both in the public as well as private sector. Under this policy, the identified projects in the private sector would be awarded, as far as possible, through a process of International Competitive Bidding (ICB). The ICB process has already been initiated in respect of the Pipavav Mega Power Project (2000 MW) in Gujarat. The Hirma Power Project (6×660 MW) in Orissa, for which the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in September, 1994, is being developed by M/s Cepsa of Hong Kong on the negotiation route. Some foreign as well as Indian companies have evinced interest in developing the Pipavav project.

(b) The following foreign companies have evinced interest in the development of the Pipavav project:-

S.No.	Name of the Foreign Company	Country	Mega Power Projects for which interest evinced

1	2	3	4
3.	National Power	U.K.	Pipavav
4.	ABB Energy Venture	Sweden	Pipavav
5.	Interger	U.K.	Pipavav
6.	Shell	Holland	Pipavav
7.	British Gas	U.K.	Pipavav
8.	Bayernwerk A.G.	Germany	Pipavav
9.	TNBE (Tenaga National Berhad Engineers)	Malaysia	Pipavav
10.	CLP International	China	Pipavav
11.	CEPA, Asia	Hongkong	Pipavav

(c) As already mentioned above, M/s CEPA have already been identified as the promoters for development of the Hira Mega Power Project in Orissa. The decision to permit the selected developer for the Pipavav project to set up this project can be taken only after the selection process of the preferred bidder gets completed.

(d) An additional capacity of around 15000 to 20000 MW is likely to be added through the identified Mega Power Projects and the power shortage would be addressed to this extent.

[Translation]

Cleaning of Chambal River

3436. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for cleaning of river Chambal in Kota (Rajasthan);

(b) if so, the date on which the said scheme was cleared;

(c) the details of works to be carried out under the said scheme and the amount likely to be spent thereon;

(d) the share of the State Government in the estimated expenditure of the scheme;

(e) whether the State Government has allocated its share of amount and initiated the work; and

(f) if so, the time by which said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Cleaning of river Chambal in Kota (Rajasthan) is part of the National River Conservation Plan which was approved in July, 1995. The works to be covered in the scheme include interception, diversion and treatment of sewage, improved wood based crematoria, low cost sanitation, ghat development and public awareness. The approved cost of work is Rs. 12.44 crore.

(d) to (f) The scheme is fully funded by Government of India except the cost of land, wherever needed, which is to be borne by the State Government. The components of low cost toilets, ghat development and crematoria for Kota town have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 63.85 lakhs. An amount of Rs. 37 lakhs has been released to the State Govt. for implementation of works at Kota. The share of State Government will be required at the time of land acquisition for the component of sewage treatment only. The scheme is targeted for completion by March, 2005.

[English]

PCO in Tamil Nadu

3437. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public telephone booths working in Tamil Nadu as on date;

(b) whether these booths are not functioning properly and satisfactorily;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of public telephone booths closed in the State during the last three years;

(e) the loss suffered in this account; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for smooth functioning of public telephone booths in the State particularly in Sivganga and Ramnad districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, the number of public telephone booths working in Tamil Nadu as on 29.2.2000 are 65154.

(b) and (c) Sir, the PCOs are working satisfactorily.

(d) The PCOs are mostly closed due to non-payment of dues/violation of terms and conditions and in some cases on franchises request. These are reconnected on receipt of payment/appeal for restoration depending on merits of the case. During last three years, 653 PCOs have been closed.

(e) No loss is suffered due to these disconnections as the users have option to use other PCOs.

(f) Following steps have been taken/proposed to be taken for smooth functioning of PCOs:

(i) Whenever a complaint is received from CPO, immediate action is taken to attend to complaint.

(ii) Senior officers and Vigilance officers also make surprise checks to ensure that PCOs are functioning properly.

(iii) Transmission media have been upgraded for smooth functioning of PCOs. In Sivganga and Ramnad district transmission media has been upgraded to the extent of 72% to facilitate satisfactory working of PCOs. The remaining 28% of media is proposed to be upgraded during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Public Telephone Facility

3438. SHRI MANSINGH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats provided with the Public telephone facility in Gujarat, district-wise;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats proposed to be provided with such facility during 2000-2001, district-wise;

(c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided to the remaining Gram Panchayats in the State; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide better telephone facility in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 12,396 Gram Panchayats have been provided with public telephone facilities in Gujarat. District-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The remaining, 1092 Gram Panchayats will be covered by March, 2000 progressively. Year-wise break up has not yet been decided. Private Fixed Service Provider are to cover these Gram Panchayats.

(d) All exchanges in Gujarat are electronic exchanges. Reliable media is being provided progressively to improve STD services. For village public telephones, new technologies are being inducted. Maintenance has been stepped up to reduce fault rate.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of District	Gram Panchayats with Public Telephone facility	Gram Panchayats yet to be covered
1	2	3	4
1.	Ahmedabad	613	27
2.	Gandhinagar	70	0
3.	Amreli	530	26
4.	Bharuch	684	28
5.	Kutch-Bhuj	533	71
6.	Bhavnagar	740	113
7.	Panchmahal	876	176
8.	Sabarkantha	669	4
9.	Jamnagar	598	59
10.	Junagadh	848	73

1	2	3	4
11.	Mehsana	987	58
12.	Kohda	899	0
13.	Banaskantha	779	46
14.	Rajkot	814	26
15.	Surendranagar	620	0
16.	Surat	731	128
17.	Vadodara	750	156
18.	Valsad	602	86
19.	Dang	53	17
Total		12396	1092

[English]

Pollution at Exploration and Production Sites

3439. SHRI MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the kind of pollution caused in high seas where exploration and production of gas and oil is carried out;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether oil spills from ships and tankers along Jamnagar, Gujarat are regular occurrence leading to region being rendered wasteland and killing of fish; and

(d) if so, the alternatives to oil and pollution planned by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mobile Zoos

3440. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered as well as unregistered mobile zoos operating in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have banned the unregistered mobile zoos in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of assistance, if any, given to such registered mobile zoos by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The State-wise list of mobile zoos which applied for registration is given in enclosed statement. The list is as on 4.8.1993 i.e. cut of date for making applications by zoos which were operating before the notification of the 'Recognition' of Zoo Rules, 1992 under Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

No Mobile Zoo has been given registration by Central Zoo Authority to operate in the country. Under section 38 H of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, operation of un-registered zoo in the country is illegal. During evaluation of the mobile zoos it has been found that the animals were being kept in small cramped cages in totally unhygienic conditions. These mobile zoos were also found to be acquiring wild animals in violation of Wildlife (Protection) Act. In view of these findings the Central Zoo Authority and Central Government have decided not to grant recognition to mobile zoos. This decision has also been upheld by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. No financial assistance has been given to any mobile zoo by the Government.

Statement

Name of the Mobile Zoos which applied for recognition to the Central Zoo Authority by 04-08-1993, i.e. cut of date for making applications by zoos which were operating before the amendment of the Act

Bihar

1. Ajanta Tourist Zoo, Patna, Bihar
2. Amar Tourist Zoo, Patna, Bihar
3. Bajrang Zoo, Darbhanga, Bihar
4. Bharat Zoo, Gulzara Bagh, Patna
5. Diamond Tourist Zoo, Patna
6. Gemini Tourist Zoo, Patna
7. New Janta Travelling Zoo, Patna

8. New Ramond Tourist Zoo, Patna

[Translation]

9. Ramond Tourist Zoo, Patna

New Telephone Connections

10. Sri Pramod (Touring Zoo), Muzaffarpur, Bihar

3441. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

11. Tourist Janta Zoo, Patna

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

Tamil Nadu

12. Maniunatha Mini Zoo (Mobile)

(a) the number of telephone connections provided during 1999-2000, State-wise;

Uttar Pradesh

13. Azad Chiryaghar (Touring), Uttar Pradesh

(b) the number of telephone connections proposed to be provided in the country during 2000-2001, State-wise;

14. Bajrang Touring Zoo, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

(c) whether arrangements for their upkeep and repairs have been effectively made; and

15. Bharat Mini Zoo, Chilkana, Uttar Pradesh

(d) if so, the maximum time taken by the maintenance staff to rectify a fault?

16. Bhartiya Touring Zoo, Lalbagh, Uttar Pradesh

17. Bina Kamal Golden Zoo, Uttar Pradesh

18. New Pardeshi Touring Zoo, Hardoi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of telephone connections provided during 1999-2000 State-wise are given in enclosed Statement-I.

19. Pardeshi Chiryaghar, Sitapur

West Bengal

20. Anita Mobile Zoo, Baruipur, Parganas South

(b) The number of telephone connections proposed to be provided in the country during 2000-2001, State-wise are given in enclosed statement-II.

21. Chitra Touring Zoo, J.N. Sarkar Street, Calcutta

22. Famous Mobile Zoo, Howrah

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Complaints are attended and repairs are carried out as and when reported. Majority of faults are rectified within the specified time frame of 48 hours.

23. Jaya Mobile Zoo, Howrah

Zoos which applied after 04.08.1993**Statement-I****Uttar Pradesh****No. of Telephone Connections provided during 1999-2000**

24. New Jai Hind Zoo, Agra, Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of State	The No. of telephone connections provided during 1999-2000
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	655088
2.	Assam	61162
3.	Bihar	125170
4.	Gujarat	374022
5.	Haryana	117436

25. Jaihind Zoo, Agra, Uttar Pradesh

Note: Three mobile zoos, 2 from Madhya Pradesh and 1 from Rajasthan have Filed a writ petition in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. However they did not make any application to the Central Zoo Authority.

1. Lakshmi Touring Zoo, Madhya Pradesh

2. Hira Golden Zoo, Madhya Pradesh

3. Ganesh Touring Zoo, Rajasthan

1	2	3
6.	Himachal Pradesh	60027
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	22158
8.	Karnataka	364716
9.	Kerala	350055
10.	Madhya Pradesh	154816
11.	Maharashtra	657868
12.	North East	43801
13.	Orissa	89036
14.	Punjab	208288
15.	Rajasthan	182395
16.	Tamilnadu	546170
17.	Uttar Pradesh	418217
18.	West Bengal	310493
19.	Delhi	176733
Total		4917659

Note: Gujarat State includes Daman Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli (U.T.).
 Kerala State includes Lakshadweep (U.T.).
 Maharashtra State includes Goa and Mumbai.
 North-East Telecom Circle includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura State.
 Punjab State includes Chandigarh (U.T.).
 Tamilnadu includes Chennai and Pondicherry (U.T.).
 West Bengal includes Sikkim State, Calcutta and Andaman Nicobar State.

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of State	The No. of telephone connections proposed to be provided during 2000-01
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	575000
2.	Assam	55000
3.	Bihar	260000
4.	Gujarat	250000
5.	Haryana	150000
6.	Himachal Pradesh	60000

1	2	3
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	50000
8.	Karnataka	425000
9.	Kerala	450000
10.	Madhya Pradesh	120000
11.	Maharashtra	740000
12.	North East	50000
13.	Orissa	100000
14.	Punjab	250000
15.	Rajasthan	210000
16.	Tamilnadu	700000
17.	Uttar Pradesh	490000
18.	West Bengal	445000
19.	Delhi	200000
Total		5580000

Note: Gujarat State includes Daman Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli (U.T.).
 Kerala State includes Lakshadweep (U.T.).
 Maharashtra State includes Goa and Mumbai.
 North-East Telecom Circle includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura State.
 Punjab State includes Chandigarh (U.T.).
 Tamilnadu includes Chennai and Pondicherry (U.T.).
 West Bengal includes Sikkim State, Calcutta and Andaman Nicobar State.

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Uttar Pradesh

3442. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps functioning at present in Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of LPG agencies/Petrol Pumps set up in the said district during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of LPG agencies/Petrol Pumps likely to be set up in the said district during 2000 and 2001; and

(d) the number of persons on the waiting for LPG connections in the said district and the time by which they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) At present there are 16 retail outlet dealership and 4 LPG distributorships in operation in district Fatehpur of Uttar Pradesh. During the last three years 1 retail outlet and 1 LPG distributorship were set up in the district.

(c) To meet the increased demand, 5 retail outlet dealerships and 4 LPG distributorships are to be set up in district Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh.

(d) Waiting list for new LPG connection as on 1.2.2000 in district Fatehpur is about 3328. The waiting list upto 1.12.1999 is likely to be cleared by 31.12.2000.

[English]

Telecom Facilities

3443. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone consumers of Karjat and Khopoli areas of Maharashtra have submitted any requests/complaints to the Union Government as well as to Maharashtra Telecom Circle, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of such requests/complaints; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility to Farmers

3444. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided telephone facility to farmers in backward rural areas on lower rates; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Government announced a package of concessions in 1995 applicable to subscribers (including farmers) of Rural areas. These included concessions in Registration, Rental, Free call limits and call charges etc. Despite Telecom Regulatory Authority's Tariff Order of March, 1999 stipulating *inter-alia* increase in rental and call charges in rural areas, Government decided to retain the concessions made available to Rural subscribers in 1995.

[English]

Clearance to Kuriarkutty-Karappara Project

3445. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have agreed to reconsider the proposal for the Kuriarkutty-Karappara Project in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The proposal was earlier rejected from both forestry and Environmental angles in the interest of wildlife conservation in the area. Revised proposal for forestry clearance has been received from the Government of Kerala in January 2000. Reconsideration of the proposal for environmental clearance would be possible only after a decision is taken on forestry clearance.

Petrol Pump in Bankura District of West Bengal

3446. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a petrol pump at Sonamukhi Municipal area in the district of Bankura in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the time by which advertisement for the same is likely to be published;

(c) whether the Government propose to sanction the said petrol pump in favour of A.D.P. Farmer's Service Cooperative Society on merits;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Oil Companies have issued advertisement for 2 retail outlet dealerships at Sonamukhi in Bankura district of West Bengal. As per the existing policy, selection of dealers is made by the Dealer Selection Board for the State on merit on the basis of interview of the eligible candidates who apply against the advertisements of the oil companies. Cooperative Societies can also apply for the dealerships/distributorships against the advertisements.

Reserves of Gas and Petrol

3447. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:
SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP:

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

(a) whether any new reserves of gas and petrol have been found in the country particularly in the NER recently;

(b) if so, the quantity of gas and petrol likely to be tapped from these wells, State-wise; and

(c) the likely savings in respect of foreign exchange due to tapping of gas and petrol from these reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The saving would depend upon the quantity and quality of crude oil and natural gas actually produced from the discovered fields and the international prices.

Demand and Supply of LPG in Sikkim

3448. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of LPG in Sikkim during each of the last two years;

(b) whether there has been any shortage in supply of LPG cylinders in the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the shortage in LPG in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The demand and sale of LPG in Sikkim during the last two years is as under:-

Year	1997-98	1998-99
Demand	2599 (MT)	2922 (MT)
Sale	2617 (MT)	2868 (MT)

(b) to (d) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending on the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Government has a plan to release 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

Plan Allocation for Development of Environment and Forests in U.P.

3449. SHRI JAWAHAR LAL JAISWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds utilised out of the allocation made for the development of environment and forests in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years apart from the expenses met on the salaries and maintenance; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has released Rs. 6422.64 lakhs, Rs. 6538.16 lakhs and Rs. 7948.76 lakhs during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively to the State of Uttar Pradesh for the development of Environment and Forests. State Government has utilised Rs. 6350.42 lakhs and Rs. 9565.79 lakhs in 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively. Utilisation figures are not available for 1999-2000. The whole amount is to be spent on the components approved for taking up developmental activities under various schemes.

*[Translation]***National Highways in Rajasthan**

3450. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways passing through Rajasthan and the amount allotted and spent thereon during the last three years;

(b) whether any scheme with regard to constructing by-passes for National Highways and constructing the bridges is pending with the Government for implementation;

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

(d) the names of National Highways passing through Rajasthan which are to be changed into four lane Highways alongwith the distance;

(e) the extent to which the work has been completed and the time by which the remaining work is targetted to be completed; and

(f) the assistance provided by the Government for the maintenance of these National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Eleven National Highways with aggregate length of 4410 km pass through the State of Rajasthan. The details of allotment of funds for development and maintenance of National Highways and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years are as under:

Year	Allocation	Expenditure (Rupees in lakhs)
1997-98	8265	8365
1998-99	13174	13111
1999-2000	24428	22018

(b) No such proposal is pending for sanction.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The requisite information is as under:

NH No.	Name of work	Length	Target date of completion/Remarks
3	(i) Agra-Dholpur Section.	11 km	May 2001
	(ii) Agra-Dholpur Sec.	17 km	Engagement of consultant for project preparation done.
8	(i) Shahjahanpur-Kotputli Section.	55 km	December 2000
	(ii) Kotputli-Amer Section.	86 km	Already widened to four lane.
	(iii) Jaipur-Kishangarh Section.	93 km	Being taken up as 6-lane divided carriageway on BOT basis and is expected to commence by December 2000.
	(iv) Kishangarh-Udaipur Sec.	312 km	Consultant has been appointed for detailed engineering/project preparation at present and indentifying preferred alignment via Bhilwara and Chittorgarh. Detailed engineering is expected to be completed by July 2001.
	(v) Udaipur-Ratanpur Section.	125 km	The award of work is expected by December 2000.

(f) During 1999-2000, a sum of Rs. 4447 lakhs was allotted for maintenance of all National Highways in

Rajasthan. Besides, a sum of Rs. 4967 lakhs was allotted under Special Repairs programme.

*(English)***Acceptance of Safety net in I.R.C.C.**

3451. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI ANADI SAHU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by I.R.C.C. to protect the interest of Corporations's employees as announced for given acceptable safety net in the event of Corporation closer;

(b) the total number of meetings held/called by management with each & every recognised Union/ Association till date;

(c) the details of proposals submitted/likely to be submitted before the Board on safety net and the reasons for not calling the remaining recognized Association by management; and

(d) the details of proposals received by Corporation and steps being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) The existing employees may opt for voluntary retirement from service as per the existing scheme, failing which they will be entitled to compensation on closure as per the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(b) After the decision of the Government to wind up IRCC, the Management has not called any recognized Union/Association for any meeting. However, a delegation consisting of representatives of IRCC Officers Welfare Association and IRCC Employees Welfare Association had met Chairman & Managing Director of IRCC on 09.03.2000 to discuss issues arising out of the decision of the Government to wind up IRCC.

(c) The Board in its meeting held on 16.03.2000 had adopted the Government decision on winding up of IRCC as also the compensation package of existing VRS scheme to be made available to the employees. The decision of the Board has since been notified for the information of the employees of IRCC.

(d) Two separate proposals addressed to Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport have been received by the IRCC Management from IRCC Officers Welfare Association and IRCC Employees Union on 15.3.2000. The same are under consideration.

Four laning to Cherthala-Alleppey Kayam Kulam National Highway

3452. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide four lane facilities to the Cherthala-Alleppey Kayam Kulam portion of National Highway; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Modernisation of Telephone Services**

3453. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any initiative to modernise the telegraph services in Jammu and Kashmir;

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

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Microprocessor based electronic message Switches like store and Forward Message Switching System (SIMSS) and Electronic Key Board Concentrators (EKBC) have been provided to link and network telegraph offices for quick transmissin of telegrams. Bureau fax Service has been provided for Fax facilities. District wise details are given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) No separate budgetary provision is made for telegraph services.

(e) The modernisation is an ongoing process and the remaining Districts will be covered on need-basis.

Statement**Details of the modernisation work in J&K**

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Whether Modernised	Facilities Available
1.	Jammu	Yes	EKEC, FAX
2.	Kathua	-do-	EKBC Port, FAX
3.	Udhampur	-do-	EKBC Port, FAX
4.	Rajouri	-do-	EKBC Port, FAX
5.	Poonch	-do-	FAX
6.	Srinagar	-do-	SFMSS Port, EKBC Port, FAX
7.	Leh	-do-	EKBC Port, FAX
8.	Anantnag	Not Yet	—
9.	Baramula	-do-	—
10.	Kupwara	-do-	—
11.	Pulwama	-do-	—
12.	Doda	-do-	—
13.	Kargil	-do-	—

Energization of Pumpsets in Bihar

3454. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any programme of energization of irrigation pumpsets in rural areas of various States during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, the targets set and the achievements made in this regard along with the financial assistance provided for the purpose during the above period, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether despite encouraging results under the scheme, the provision of funds under the scheme over the period remained almost static; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and provision of funds likely to be made available to States for energization of pumps during 2000-2001 and Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of physical targets and achievements of pumpsets during the Eighth Plan period and funds released by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) under various schemes including pumpset energisation are given in enclosed Statement I and II.

(c) and (d) Pumpset Energisation Programme is determined and decided by the State Electricity Boards keeping in view the availability of financial resources. Rural Electrification Corporation gives loan assistance to the schemes sponsored by the State Electricity Boards provided they are technically feasible and financially viable. State Electricity Boards programme for energisation of pumpsets during the year 2000-01 or for the Ninth Plan as a whole has not been received so far. However, Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has set a target of energisation of 7,40,000 pumpsets during the first three years of the Ninth Plan period. Out of the target set, REC has already achieved energisation of 6,49,000 pumpsets at the end of December, 1999.

Statement-I**Progress of Pumpset Energisation during Eighth Five Year Plan under REC Programmes**

S.No.	State	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
		Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48000	102978	53000	91485	53000	87742	53000	37145	22500	44914
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	2955	2592	1000	1909	1000	1746	1000	610	1300	1689
5.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Gujarat	14500	12260	18000	18030	18000	18001	28000	15084	17450	20370
7.	Haryana	5000	8692	6500	4005	5000	3230	6000	2501	4000	1849
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	92	100	148	150	150	150	201	150	254
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	216	200	210	100	667	150	1012	150	305
10.	Karnataka	11000	15718	18500	23249	5000	55982	55000	38891	35000	30516
11.	Kerala	7000	11778	1800	8636	1000	13035	15000	12517	9000	11029
12.	Madhya Pradesh	25000	50198	15000	38478	12000	45026	12800	41855	32500	44882
13.	Maharashtra	35000	46284	44000	54261	43000	87954	47000	92395	53500	62855
14.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Nagaland	45	-	20	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	5500	3241	3500	2607	3500	2772	3500	2280	1800	702
19.	Punjab	6000	6096	3500	5495	4000	10224	5000	11004	7500	7552
20.	Rajasthan	18000	19594	16300	22544	13350	21058	17530	17616	15650	20779
21.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	18000	38405	37400	40587	40000	40617	40000	40849	32000	37113
23.	Tripura	-	100	80	90	100	40	100	26	-	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11500	10562	9500	11760	11789	9305	14239	20963	16500	15846
25.	West Bengal	6500	2021	4850	1931	800	1348	1910	1007	1200	337
Total:		214000	330827	232030	323429	211769	398877	300379	335446	250000	300792

Statement-II**Disbursement of Funds During 8th Plan Period Under REC Programmes
including Pumpset Energisation**

Sl. No.	States	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	Total 8th Plan
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4815	10493	13221	10329	1787	40645
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	450	525	2779	1555	1199	6508
3.	Assam	276	0	3600	3000	13	6889
4.	Bihar	377	289	588	0	0	1254
5.	Goa	0	0	0	0	197	197
6.	Gujarat	2503	3658	4409	4640	4205	19415
7.	Haryana	2123	1825	1598	1053	1076	7875
8.	Himachal Pradesh	431	481	1307	1299	1470	4988
9.	J&K	706	404	926	1567	1800	5403
10.	Karnataka	2970	3512	5004	6871	8520	26877
11.	Kerala	909	1431	1597	4179	4824	12940
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9134	12221	16158	15055	13362	65930
13.	Maharashtra	3301	5647	9299	9730	8599	36576
14.	Manipur	729	943	709	1348	1980	5709
15.	Meghalaya	558	210	0	386	0	1154
16.	Mizoram	763	1227	819	741	337	3687
17.	Nagaland	200	212	11	80	175	678
18.	Orissa	1079	2363	1700	1582	2052	8776
19.	Punjab	1060	1592	2497	2153	3219	10521
20.	Rajasthan	5804	7221	7704	7065	9200	36994
21.	Sikkim	320	317	30	0	0	667
22.	Tamil Nadu	2500	4952	7779	7243	7646	30120
23.	Tripura	476	793	648	565	633	3115
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4168	7129	9253	1886	6004	28440
25.	West Bengal	1774	1753	2089	566	423	6605
26.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Others			9072			9072
Total		47426	69198	102797	82893	78721	381035

*[English]***Facilities to Senior Citizens**

3455. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:
SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to give some concessions in telephone calls as well as telephone bills in favour of old age persons particularly senior citizens;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that a retired Government servant requires some sympathetic consideration from the Government in this age; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No Sir. However, senior citizens are entitled for priority telephone connections under Non-OYT Special Category.

(b) and (c) Retired Government Servants, presumably being low callers are also covered under

the alternative tariff package applicable to low calling subscribers.

Rural Electrification in North Eastern States

3456. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether against the national average of 86%, the North Eastern States have only 73% of electrified villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the percentage of population deprived of this facility of electrification in the North-Eastern States, State-wise; and

(c) the target fixed for the Ninth Plan period and achievements made so far in this respect, as against the national average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI METHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of percentage of village electrification in North Eastern States at the end of December, 1999 and details of targets and achievement under REC programme during the first three years of Ninth Plan period are given below:

S. No.	States	Total Villages 1991 census	Villages Electrified Dec., 1999*	%age	Ninth Plan Targets	Period# Achievements (Prov.)
1.	Aru. Pradesh	3649	2147	59	265	100
2.	Assam	24685	19019	77	310	20
3.	Manipur	2182	1992	91	195	104
4.	Meghalaya	5484	2510	46	80	43
5.	Mizoram	698	688	99	23	16
6.	Nagaland	1216	1163	96	0	10
7.	Tripura	855	808	95	55	20
Total		38769	28327	73	928	313
All India		587258	506144	86	7000	7484

* Source CEA's data on village electrification.

9th Plan Period 1997-98 to 1999-2000 (up to December, 1999 under REC).

Construction of by Pass on NH-52

3457. SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the construction of a by pass at Mangaldoi Town of Assam on National Highway No. 52 in order to reduce the heavy traffic thereon;

(b) if so, the budgetary allocation made during the current financial year; and

(c) if not, the time by which the requirement of the people of Mangaldoi Town is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Provision of Rs. 2.00 crore for land acquisition for the bypass is being made in Annual Plan 2000-2001.

(c) It is too early to indicate the time frame for the construction of Mangaldoi by pass.

Unauthorised sale of Petrol in Orissa

3458. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the sale of petrol on roads by unauthorised persons in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to stop the unauthorised sale of petrol in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The oil marketing companies have informed that they are not aware of sale of petrol on roads by unauthorised persons in Orissa.

(b) Does Not arise.

Inadequate Paste Material on Stamps

3459. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postage stamps particularly Rs. 1 and Rs. 3 denomination have almost no glue affixed on

the reverse, with the result that the stamp does not stick to the envelop and the recipient of the envelopes is forced to pay extra charges as the stamps gets lost during transit; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure sufficient gum or glue is affixed to the postage stamps of all denominations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Some complaints regarding inadequate gumming of Postage stamps have been received in the past and instructions were immediately issued to India Security Press, Nashik, which prints these items of postage, to improve the quality of gumming and adhesivity, as per the prescribed norms and to ensure that gumming material of good quality is used for this purpose.

In the meantime, the Department is providing extra gum at the post office counters.

(b) As stated above.

Identity Cards to Voters in Delhi

3460. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for issuance of Electoral Photo Identity Cards with electoral registration officers of Delhi as on March 31, 2000;

(b) whether any target dates have been fixed by the electoral officers for completing the photo-session and issuing of identity cards to the respective applicants;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether a wide publicity is proposed to be done in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the other steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) As per the information furnished by the Chief Electoral

Officer, Delhi, out of a total electorate of 87,07,531, the number of persons issued with Electoral Photo Identity Cards, free from any defects is 5,800,683. The remaining 2,906,848 electors (33%) are yet to be issued Photo Identity Cards.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. According to the Election Commission of India the scheme of issue of photo identity cards to electors is not a project but an on going programme and no time limit can be fixed for completion of such a programme. The registration of electors is a continuous process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of election process). Therefore, the scheme of issue of these Identity Cards to the registered electors is also a continuous programme and every new elector has to be covered by the scheme. The Commission is making efforts to cover the remaining electors and provide them Photo Identity Cards.

(e) to (g) The Election Commission of India will give wide publicity whenever the campaign for the issue of Photo Identity Cards is taken up.

Sittings of MRTP outside Delhi

3461. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolies Restrictive and Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has fixed a number of sittings of the commission outside Delhi during the last three years;

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

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon and the number of cases disposed of in each sitting during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to curb the unjustified expenditure on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details have been furnished in the Statement enclosed.

(d) The Monopolies & Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTP Commission) is a quasi-judicial body located at Delhi. The Commission may sit at such places in India and at such times as may be most convenient for the exercise of its powers or functions in terms of section 16 (1) of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969. The Commission has reported that the sittings outside Delhi were held mostly for recording evidence so as to cater to the needs of litigants and witnesses who may find it difficult to attend proceedings at Delhi as and when required. The Commission has also reported that cases may not be disposed of by holding sitting outside Delhi but such outside sittings would help in disposal of more cases. The sittings were held outside Delhi to tide over shortage of accommodation in the Commission. The office of Director General of Investigation and Registration (DGIR) had also to depute its officers/advocates to attend those cases which were initiated by him. The Government has been impressing on the MRTP Commission to consider not holding the hearing outside Delhi in view of the tight budgetary position and the need for strict austerity.

Statement

Sl. No.	Station of sitting outside Delhi	Date/Period	Expenditure incurred	Cases disposed off
1	2	3	4	5
1997-98				
1.	Hyderabad	27 April '97 to 01 May, '97.	Each sitting-wise expenditure is not maintained in the Commission. Expenditure incurred during 1997-1998 is Rs. 2,85,000/- Approx.	The sittings of the Commission were generally arranged outside Delhi for the purpose of 'recording evidence'. The cases are not disposed of in one sitting of the Bench.
2.	Mumbai	14-16 May, '97		
3.	Ahmedabad	17-23 May, '97		
4.	Chennai	17 July, '97		
5.	Chennai	28 July to 01 Aug, '97		
6.	Ahmedabad	06-12 Sept., '97		

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Bangalore	18-26 Sept., '97		
8.	Chennai	19-21 Nov. '97		
9.	Thiruvananthapuram	25-28 Nov. '97		
10.	Mumbai	12-16 Dec. '97		
11.	Ahmedabad	17-18 Dec. '97		
12.	Mumbai	03-06 Feb, '98		
13.	Bangalore	22-24 March, '98		
14.	Secunderabad	25-26 March, '98		
1998-1999				
1.	Ahmedabad	04-12 April, '98	Each Sitting-wise expenditure is not maintained in the Commission. Expenditure incurred during 1998-1999 is Rs. 2,46,000 Approx.	
2.	Ahmedabad	27-29 July, '98		
3.	Thiruvananthapuram	12-16 Sept. '98		
4.	Chennai/Hyderabad	16-22 Nov, '98		
5.	Chennai	13-18 Feb, '99		
6.	Bangalore	03-08 March, '99		
7.	Secunderabad	09-10 March, '99		
1999-2000				
1.	Ahmedabad	26-30 April, '99	Each sitting-wise expenditure is not maintained in the Commission. Expenditure incurred during 1999-2000 is Rs. 2,20,000/- Approx.	
2.	Amritsar	24-25 Sept., '99		
3.	Ahmedabad	11-15 Oct., '99		
4.	Allahabad	23-26 Oct., '99		
5.	Ahmedabad	27-28, Dec. '99		
6.	Chennai	30 Jan-03 Feb., 2000		
7.	Ahmedabad	13-16 Feb., 2000		
8.	Chennai	23-24 March, 2000.		

Telecom Facilities in Rajasthan

3462. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural telephone in Churu district of Rajasthan have been crippled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of P.C.Os sanctioned and installed in the district during the last three years till date;

(d) the number out of them lying closed;

(e) the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to activate the P.C.Os lying closed by improving the telephone services; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

The rural telephone in Churu District of Rajasthan are generally working satisfactorily.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) PCOs sanctioned:

Year	VPT	STD	Local	Total
1997-98	182	144	45	371
1998-99	46	120	25	191
1999-2000	18	410	—	428
PCOs installed:				
1997-98	182	86	45	313
1998-99	46	130	25	201
1999-2000	17	141	—	158

(d) 98.

(e) 31 PCOs are disconnected due to non-payment and 67 are faulty.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Tenders have been floated for the rectification of faulty VPTs and the faulty 67 VPTs will be set right within next three months.

Import Duty on Kerosene

3463. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pre-budget discussion was held with the Ministry of Finance to consider reducing import duties on crude oil and petroleum products in view of the steep hike of these products in global market product price;

(b) if so, the reasons for hiking the import duty only on kerosene;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce import duty on kerosene; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) There were pre-budget consultation between Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Ministry of Finance to consider reducing import duties in view of the steep hike

in global product prices. Duties have since been revised in the Union Budget presented in the Parliament on 29.02.2000. There is no import duty on PDS kerosene. Import duty on kerosene under Parallel Marketing Scheme has, however, been increased from 30% to 35%, keeping the overall interest of consumers and Petroleum Sector in view. This may also discourage any attempt to adulterate diesel with kerosene. There is no proposal to reduce the duty on kerosene.

Telephone Facility in Villages

3464. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages which are without telephone facility in the country at present including percentage thereof in each of the State, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to give preference to Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh for providing the said facility;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) In the country, 232886 villages (38.3%) are without telephone facility as on 1-4-2000. State-wise details are in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) Government policy is to provide telephone facility in all the villages of the country including those in Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh by March, 2002.

Statement**Telephone Facility in Villages**

State	Total Nos. of Villages	Uncovered Villages	Percentage of uncovered Villages
Andaman & Nicobar	282	8	2.8
Andhra Pradesh	29460	6081	20.6
Assam	22224	8043	36.2
Bihar	79208	54285	68.5
Gujarat	18125	4202	23.2
Harayana	6850	43	0.6
Himachal Pradesh	16997	6633	39.0
Jammu & Kashmir	6764	2971	43.9
Karnataka	27086	1265	4.7
Kerala	1530	0	0.0
Madhya Pradesh	71526	25028	35.0
Maharashtra	42060	10890	25.9
Goa	407	36	3.8
Arunachal Pradesh	3599	3003	83.4
Manipur	2394	1710	71.4
Meghalaya	5629	4443	78.9
Mizoram	770	151	19.6
Nagaland	1192	597	50.1
Tripura	862	206	23.9
Orissa	46989	24081	51.2
Punjab	12687	564	4.4
Rajasthan	38634	14907	38.6
Tamil Nadu	17991	146	0.8
Uttar Pradesh	115249	45226	39.2
West Bengal	38378	18223	47.5
Sikkim	427	164	38.4
Delhi	191	—	0.0
	607491	232886	38.3

Loan by NTPC to Power Projects

3465. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation was ranked ninth largest power generator in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith power generated by National Thermal Power Corporation during the last three years;

(c) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has raised loan to part finance its ongoing projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the criteria laid down by National Thermal Power Corporation to finance the ongoing projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) As per global comparison of utilities by Thermal Generation Output (Gwh) 1996 by Market Line International Ltd., U.K., National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) was ranked 9th in terms of thermal generation. However, this ranking in terms of thermal generation further improved to 6th position in 1997 and 1998 Report of Datamonitor PLC, U.K.

The details of power generation by NTPC plants during the last 3 years are as follows:-

Year	Generation (MUs)
1997-98	106290
1998-99	109505
1999-2000	118677

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Loans to the tune of Rs. 1850 crores have been tied up by NTPC from doemstic financial institutions and banks during 1999-2000. NTPC also has further offers for around Rs. 5000 crores for which terms and conditions are under discussions with various Banks/ Financial institutions.

(e) Financing of NTPC projects is generally on the basis of debt equity ratio of 70:30 with equity portion funded from NTPC's internal resources.

[Translation]

Bank Accounts of M.T.N.L.

3466. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bank accounts of M.T.N.L. have been sealed;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) All the bank accounts of MTNL were attached on 27-3-2000 by the Income Tax Deptt.

(b) The assessing officer assessed the income of the Assessment Year 1997-98 and disallowed license fee and accordingly a demand of Rs. 209 crores was raised by the Income Tax Deptt. MTNL approached the Assessing officer, the Commissioner of Income Tax and CBDT to stay the demand as appeal against assessment order has been filed.

Since the request was rejected by all the above authorities, MTNL Board decided to file a writ petition before the Hon'ble High Court. Being Public Sector Undertaking, MTNL has to approach the Committee on dispute for resolving the dispute as per OM dated 24-1-94 issued by the Cabinet Secretariat in terms of the Supreme Court order in ONGC Vs Collector of Central Excise as reported in 1994 (70) ELT 45 (SC). MTNL informed the assessing officer, i.e. Jt. Commissioner of Income Tax and Commissioner of Income Tax informing them that the case is pending before COD and requesting not to take any adverse action against MTNL. MTNL was confident that the Income Tax Deptt. will not take such action of attachment of bank accounts as MTNL was not an assessee in default. on 27-3-2000 all the bank accounts of MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai were attached by the Assessment Officer, on 28th March, 2000, after the hearing in the High Court, Court directed the Income Tax authorities to lift the freezig of MTNL's Bank Accounts immediately to enable MTNL to make the payment. Accordingly, on 29th March, 2000, the Income Tax authorities have withdrawn the attachment order.

(c) MTNL was forced to file a writ petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. Court felt that since MTNL has paying capacity for Rs. 200 crores based on the plea made by Income Tax Deptt., that their collection target has to be met directed MTNL to deposit the amount. The case was posted on 26th April, 2000 to examine merits of the case.

[English]

Non Functioning of MARR System

3467. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Multi Access Rural Radio System at different places of the country are non-operational;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on March 31, 2000, State-wise and U.T.-wise;

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

(d) the number of MARR units in the country showing O-metre reading especially in Maharashtra and telecom district at Yavatmal as on March 31, 2000;

(e) whether the investments made for rural connectivity is not being used effectively; and

(f) if so, the financial status for maintenance provision system especially at Gram Panchayat level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Out of 211313 MARR Village Public Telephone commissioned in the country, 41147 Village Public Telephone on MARR system are faulty as on 31.03.2000 and 24284 VPTs are disconnected due to non payment. Details of faulty VPTs on MARR are as follows:

State	MARR VPTs Commissioned	MARR VPTs Faulty
1	2	3
A&N	146	18
Andhra Pradesh	12399	206
Assam	9293	2629
Bihar	14281	6443
Gujarat	7413	292
Haryana	3634	604
H.P.	2842	642
J&K	2601	489
Karnataka	14692	463
Kerala	32	0
M.P.	25553	7165
Maharashtra	18750	805
Goa	98	4
Orissa	11542	6683

1	2	3
Punjab	6195	192 (Including Chandigarh U.T.-3)
Rajasthan	17703	2685
Tamil Nadu	7200	710
U.P.	41103	7380
West Bengal	12059	2477
Calcutta Telecom Distt	56	12
Arunachal Pradesh	437	185
Manipur	623	338
Meghalaya	1105	259
Mizoram	522	153
Nagaland	510	107
Tripura	425	175
Sikkim	70	30
Pondichery	29	1
Total	211313	41147

(c)

1. Testing of VPTs are carried out daily from the exchange. Any VPTs not responding on two consecutive days are being treated as faulty.
2. Testing of MARR links are carried out daily from the Base station.
3. Meter reading are checked fortnightly and low reading is taken as an indication of the system not performing properly and are being especially checked.
4. VPTs holders have been asked to book their fault at Telephone exchange/JTO incharge.
5. Repair centres are in the process of being set-up in each circle.
6. AMC is being entered into with supplier of the systems.
7. Monthly/Weekly performance report (Suggested by NPC) have been implemented.

8. SSA Heads are holding meetings with Villagers to sort out the grievances.
9. Flying squads have been constituted at circle/ TCHQ Level.
10. Following new Technologies are being tried in the network for induction:

WLL (Wireless in local loop).

C.DOT- TDMA PMP system (C. DOT development time division multiple access point to multipoint system)

Satellite Based Terminals for remote and inaccessible areas.

11. Unserviceable MARR systems would be replaced, after covering remaining villages with VPTs, progressively.
12. The VPTs disconnected for non payment would be shifted to the new location/Operators after waiting for payment for 3 months.

(d) In country total 29958 MARR VPTs are showing zero meter reading. In Maharashtra and Telecom District Yavatmal MARR VPTs showing meter reading are 1193 and 288 respectively.

(e) No Sir, investment made for rural connectivity is being used except.

1. Some MARR VPTs are under disconnection due to non payment of bills. Action is being taken to reallocate them.
2. Some MARR VPTs are located in Gram Panchayat offices of Branch Post Office which are kept open for a limited hours.
3. Some MARR VPTs which are faulty.

(f) There are no separate funds allocated for maintenance of MARR Village Public Telephone. These are being maintained from out of the funds allocated for maintenance of exchanges systems.

Optical Fibre Cables

3468. SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have invested more than Rs. 3,000 crore in laying optical fibre cables across the country through D.O.T. since eighties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether by bringing the I.U. Net, the Government have ignored the claims of its own agencies to implement a Natural High Speed Data Network using its own know-how and experience; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department has laid 1,71,297 Kms of optical fibre cable till March, 2000. Total expenditure on this account up to Feb. 2000 has been approximately Rs. 4888 crores.

(c) and (d) No Sir. The Government and other agencies in India have not been ignored, rather their association as stake holders in the project, will enable them to fully participate in all the affairs of the project including the implementation of the project itself. I.U. Net brings with it the knowledge of Carnegie Mellon University, U.S.A. in the areas of High Speed Networking and Computing, which are essential before the proposed high-speed data equipments can be put to effective use.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Haryana

3469. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Haryana particularly in Bhiwani district as on March 31, 2000, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided in the State particularly in the said district during the last three years till date, district-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the State; and

(d) the number of telephone connections proposed to be provided during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of people on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Haryana as on 31.3.2000 was 73262 and that in Bhiwani district was 2672. District-wise details of wait-listed persons are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) District-wise details of telephone connections provided during the last three years in Haryana is given in enclosed Statement-II and the number of telephone connections provided in Bhiwani district during the last three years is given below:-

Name of District	No. of Telephone connections provided during		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Bhiwani	1816	4325	2830

(c) and (d) It has been planned to provide 1,50,000 new telephone connections in Haryana during the current financial year to clear the waiting list. District-wise details are given in enclosed Statement-III. It is proposed to make telephone available on demand in Haryana during the year 2001-2002.

Statement-I

District-wise details of waitlisted persons for new telephones in Haryana as on 31.3.2000

Sl. No.	Name of District	Waiting list as on 31.3.2000
1	2	3
1.	Ambala	3552
2.	Yamunanagar	2194
3.	Panchkula	1752

1	2	3
4.	Karnal	4264
5.	Kaithal	4291
6.	Kurukshetra	4691
7.	Panipat	3202
8.	Faridabad	8272
9.	Gurgaon	4716
10.	Hissar	4801
11.	Sirsa	4243
12.	Fatehabad	3055
13.	Rohtak	2250
14.	Bhiwani	2672
15.	Jhajjar	2641
16.	Sonepat	9410
17.	Jind	586
18.	Rewari	3144
19.	Mohindergarh	3526
Total		73262

Statement-II

District-wise details of telephone connections provided during the last three years in Haryana

S.No.	District	DELs provided during 97-98	DELs provided during 98-99	DELs provided during 99-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ambala	7281	7469	8738
2.	Yamunanagar	3418	8024	6309
3.	Panchkula	511	1377	1453
4.	Karnal	2869	7071	7427
5.	Kaithal	1046	4095	3294
6.	Kurukshetra	4289	7012	7531
7.	Panipat	7807	7573	5760
8.	Faridabad	10986	9881	14292

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Gurgaon	9491	8525	18511
10.	Hissar	7973	3454	5571
11.	Sirsa	3216	2592	5597
12.	Fatehabad	1681	2972	3834
13.	Rohtak	2050	5320	2709
14.	Bhiwani	1816	4325	2830
15.	Jhajjar	1238	4615	1976
16.	Sonepat	2390	7001	8057
17.	Jind	2981	3028	7007
18.	Rewari	1869	1253	4614
19.	Mohindergarh	1631	651	1926
Total		74543	96238	117438

Statement-III*District-wise details for new telephone provided during the year 2000-01 in Haryana*

Sl. No.	District	DELs proposed to be provided during 2000-01	Sl. No.	District	DELs proposed to be provided during 2000-01
1.	Ambala	7000	11.	Sirsa	7500
2.	Yamunanagar	6000	12.	Fatehabad	5000
3.	Panchkula	2000	13.	Rohtak	6000
4.	Karnal	8000	14.	Bhiwani	6000
5.	Kaithal	5000	15.	Jhajjar	4000
6.	Kurukshetra	8000	16.	Sonepat	10000
7.	Panipat	4000	17.	Jind	7000
8.	Faridabad	27000	18.	Rewari	6000
9.	Gurgaon	20000	19.	Mohindergarh	4000
10.	Hissar	7500			
Total:		150000			

*[English]***Optical Fibre Cable Link with Singapore**

3470. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have an optical fibre cable link between India and Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated cost to be involved therein;

(c) whether the Government have made any study on this project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, presently there is no proposal to have an optical fibre cable link connecting India with Singapore.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Improvement of National Highways

3471. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the road percentage of National Highways system out of the total road network in the country;

(b) whether the Government are aware that out of the total 1,62,000 kilometres length of State and National Highways, a major part i.e. 64 percent is one lane, only two percent four lane and the remaining part is two lane; and

(c) if so, the Government propose to tackle the problem of excessive transportation of the roads in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The NH network is about 1.7% of the total road length in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The NH network is being continuously upgraded depending on the availability of resources to meet increasing demands of road transport.

[*English*]

Device to Control Pollution

3472. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved any device to control pollution due to coal burning brick kilns in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Government have evolved environmental standards to control pollution from brick kilns. Emission standards for particulate matter and the required stack height for small, medium and large scale brick kilns have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act. Existing moving chimney trench kilns are to be dispensed with and no new moving chimney kilns are to be allowed. The particulate matter emission limits are achievable by installing fixed chimney high draught kiln and/or settling chamber.

WESCO Disconnected Power Supply to Rourkela Steel Plant

3473. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western Electricity Supply Company (WESCO) has disconnected the power supply to the Rourkela Steel Plant and the Rourkela township;

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

(c) the efforts made to intervene and get the power supply restored to RSP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The power supply to Rourkela Steel Plant and Rourkela township was disconnected at 18.25 hrs. on 11.2.2000 due to non-payment of arrear dues amounting to Rs. 13.95 crores and the supply was restored at 21.20 hrs. on 12.2.2000. Subsequently, the dispute is reported to have been amicably settled according to Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) Order.

Scrutiny of CAG by TRAI

3474. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is being taken out of the scrutiny of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to cover the TRAI under audit's purview?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Under section 23 (2) of the TRAI Act, the accounts of TRAI shall be audited by the CAG at such intervals as may be specified by him. This provision empowering the CAG to audit the accounts of TRAI has not been affected by the amendment to section 23 (2) of the Act, which has only inserted an explanation for the removal of doubts, stipulating that decisions of the Authority taken in discharge of its functions under clause (b) of sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of Section 11 and section 13, being matters appealable to the Appellate Tribunal, shall not be subject to audit under this section.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

Sashan Chemicals Ltd.

3475. SHRI. M.O.H. FAROOK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sashan Chemicals Limited and Chemfab Ltd. have renewed their licenses according to the norms enumerated the compliance with the judgement of Green Bench, Supreme Court with regard to control of pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of workers died in the Sashan Chemicals inside the chemical pit of the plant since its inception and the criminal cases registered and their status at present;

(d) whether the effluent and obnoxious material which is discharged into the sea is killing fish and endangering the marine life and affecting breeding ground for various species;

(e) if so, whether Government propose to close these chemical industries; and

(f) if not, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir According to the Pondicherry Pollution Control Committee, these units have taken steps to control pollution and environmental risks.

(c) Five workers had died in 1991. Criminal prosecution was launched by the Additional District Magistrate, Pondicherry in 1991, and a conditional order

for the immediate closure of the factory was passed. The unit was then allowed to be reopened by the Chief Inspector of Factories only after ensuring full safety of the unit certified by a competent team of experts, and the criminal proceedings were then dropped in June, 1992.

(d) According to the Pondicherry Pollution Control Committee, no adverse effects on marine life have been observed.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The units are periodically monitored by the Pondicherry Pollution Control Committee to ensure compliance with the prescribed standards.

[Translation]

Allotment of Kandla Port Land

3476. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land earmarked for Kandla Port;

(b) the total land actually utilised for the port and other activities;

(c) the area of land lying unutilised;

(d) whether the Government would issued necessary instructions to the Kandla Port Trust to negotiate with the State Government for the release of the surplus land in Kandla area for the industrial development of this backward region; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) A total area of land of Kandla Port Trust is 2,29,511 acres including 2,20,416 acres submerged land. A total land of 23,031 acres has been utilised by the Kandla Port Trust. The land which is lying unutilised is earmarked for expansion of the Port and port related facilities in future.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Salaries of TRAI Staff

3477. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the salaries of the Chairman and the Members of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) are higher than the highest paid Civil Service in the world;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to curb their emoluments and power in consultations with the C.A.G.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Restructuring of Posts

3478. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had passed a proposal in regard to promotion of permanent labourer as phone mechanic, phone mechanic to TTA and TTA to JTO;

(b) if so, whether a rule to this effect was framed prior to August, 1999 that a phone mechanic completing five years of service would be promoted to the post of TTA on passing the screening test;

(c) if so, the circumstances which necessitated change in the said rules and filling up the posts of TTA through the competitive examination now;

(d) whether it takes 15 to 25 years including both temporary and permanent service to become a phone mechanic at present;

(e) if so, whether a field worker is eligible to appear in the competitive examination in such a situation;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government propose to restore the orders of August, 1999 in this regard; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. However, Group 'D' officials were made eligible to appear in the qualifying screening test to the cadre of Telecom Mechanic.

(b) Yes, Sir. But subject to the availability of vacancies.

(c) Rapid technological advancements and nature of job of TTA necessitated increase in qualification and better qualified officials. Hence, change in recruitment rules were made to enhance entry qualification and process of selection.

(d) Telecom Mechanic is a restructured cadre and officials who opted to move into restructured cadre and eligible are made Telecom Mechanics under walk-in group/ screening test. Hence, number of years for becoming Telecom Mechanic depends on various parameters and cannot be generalised.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) There is no provision in Recruitment Rules for competitive examination for Telecom Mechanic.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise in view of (g) above.

[English]

Connecting Cochin Port to National Capital

3479. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have included the Cochin Port, Kerala, in the newly proposed National Highway Development project connecting all major ports to the National Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the funds are proposed to be raised for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Salem-Cochin Section of National Highway No. 47 has been included in the National Highway Development Project.

(c) The National Highways Authority of India will finance the project through budgetary sources, cess on petrol and diesel, external aid (World Bank, ABD loan, etc.), market borrowings and private investments.

[Translation]

Disposal of Plastic Wastes

3480. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is extremely concerned about the disposal of plastic wastes;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in regard to the extent of damage caused to the environment due to plastic wastes in the rural and urban areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute has developed an easy method to convert the plastic wastes into a biodegradable wastes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The National Plastics Waste Management Task Force set up by the Ministry of Environment and Forests has studied the problem of environmental damage due to plastic wastes and has recommended a package of preventive, promotional and mitigative measures to deal with this problem.

(d) and (e) The Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram has developed a starch-based biodegradable thermoplastic which can be used as a substitute to low density polyethylene (LDPE). This material can be used for manufacture of films and disposable plastic articles. The material is biodegradable in soil and depending on the starch content in the material, the time required for biodegradation is 4-6 months or 2-5 years.

[English]

National Highway No. 31

3481. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the erosion of River AIE has touched the National Highway-31 in the district of Bongaigaon in Assam;

(b) whether the above erosion would further extend during the coming rainy season washing away the portion of NH-31 disconnecting North East with the rest of the country through road; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect occurring of such havoc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Last year National Highway 31 at Km. 967 was badly threatened by River AIE due to change in its course

towards National Highway. The erosion started when the river was about 80 meter from NH and it continued to erode till the river bank distance reduced to about 30 meter from NH. Steps have been taken to contain further erosion by way of bank protection works.

Amendments in Constitution

3482. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make certain amendments in the Constitution in order to improve the functioning of legislature, judiciary and the executive;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these amendments are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The Government presently has no proposal to make any amendment in the Constitution concerning the functioning of legislature, judiciary and executive. The Government has, however, set up a 'National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution'. The Commission shall examine, in the light of the experience of the past 50 years, as to how best the Constitution can respond to the changing needs of efficient, smooth and effective system of governance and socio-economic development of modern India within the framework of Parliamentary democracy and to recommend changes, if any, that are required in the provisions of the Constitution without interfering with its basic structure or features. The Commission will submit its report within one year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Assistance for Afforestation to Bihar

3483. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance given by the Government to Bihar for afforestation during the last three years; and

(b) the number and details of the variety of trees planted under the Government sponsored schemes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Under the centrally sponsored afforestation schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests central assistance of Rs. 523.62 lakhs was provided to Bihar during the last three years.

(b) Tree planting on public lands including forest lands in all States is monitored under Point No. 16 (b) of the Twenty Point Programme. During the last three years, trees were planted on about 37,500 hectares in Bihar. Number of trees planted per ha. depends on the guidelines of the respective schemes. The species for plantations are selected by the State Governments taking into account the local climatic and edaphic conditions.

[English]

U.S. Echelon Surveillance System

3484. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Echelon Surveillance System is capable of monitoring telephone, fax, E-Mail Communications relayed by Satellite anywhere;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Communications, business interests and security are exposed to risk and rendered vulnerable as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Details about the existence of such a surveillance system are not available with the Ministry of Communications. However, concerned Ministries have been addressed to furnish details, if available with them.

Threat of Pollution to Tajmahal and Konark Temple

3485. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any plans to save the Taj Mahal and Konark Temple of Orissa from the threat of pollution and other kind of such activities that can endanger the monuments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) A scheme, namely, Taj Protection Mission is already under implementation to prevent the Taj Mahal from the threat of pollution. There is no such plan for the Konark Temple of Orissa.

Under the Taj Protection Mission the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has identified a number of projects which will lead to protection and improvement of the environment in the Taj Trapezium Zone. These projects relate to improvement of electricity supply, upgrading drinking water supply, drainage and sewage system, construction of roads, municipal solid waste management and afforestation. Projects are under way for improving the industrial processes and prevention of pollution from industries by use of cleaner fuels. Ambient air quality monitoring stations between Mathura and Agra have been set up by the Mathura Refinery. In addition, the U.P. Pollution Control Board has also provided a number of ambient air quality monitoring stations around the Taj Mahal. The Central Government has constituted a Taj Trapezium Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 equipped with various powers and functions for monitoring, planning and improving the environment in the area.

Privatisation of Power

3486. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether after privatisation of power in Orissa, the private operators are refusing to electrify the rural areas in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of Orissa is in a continuous dialogue with the private companies to improve the supply of electricity to rural areas.

[Translation]

Maintenance of National Highways

3487. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways in various parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) the number out of these which are damaged, State-wise;

(c) the scheme formulated by the Government for the maintenance of these National Highways; and

(d) the time by which these National Highways are targetted to be repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) A Statement giving details is enclosed.

(b) The entire network is kept in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(c) and (d) Maintenance and repair of National Highways (NHs) is a continuous process. However, Government has drawn a programme for improving riding quality of all National Highways under a special repair programme in a phased manner.

Statement

List of State-wise National Highways in the Country

Sl. No.	Name of State	National Highway No.	Total Length (in Kms.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4,5,7,9,16,18,43,63,202,205,&214	3910
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52 & 52A	352
3.	Assam	31,31B,31C,36,37,37A,38,39,44,51,52,52A, 52B,53,54,61,62,151 & 152	2706
4.	Bihar	2,6,19,23,28,28A,30,30A,31,32,33,57,77,78, 80,81,82,83,84, & 85	3539
5.	Chandigarh	21	24
6.	Delhi	1,2,8,10 & 24	72
7.	Goa	4A,17,17A & 17B	269
8.	Gujarat	NE-1, 6-Extn., 8,8A,8B,8C,8D, 14,15 & 59	2241
9.	Haryana	1,2,8,10,21A,22,65,71,71A,72 & 73	1361
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1A,20,21,21A,22,70,72 & 88	1188
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1A,1B & 1C	738
12.	Karnataka	4,4A,7,9,13,48,63,206,207,209 & 212	3394
13.	Kerala	17,47,47A,49,208,212 and 213	1230
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3,6,7,12,16,25,26,27,43,59,69,75,78,78,79,86 & 200	5174
15.	Maharashtra	3,4,4B,6,7,8,9,13,16,17,50,59,204 & 211	3626
16.	Manipur	39,53 & 150	954
17.	Meghalaya	40,44,51 & 62	717
18.	Mizoram	44A,54,54A,54B & 150	857

1	2	3	4
19.	Nagaland	36,39,61 & 150	369
20.	Orissa	5,5A,6,23,42,43,60,200,201,203 & 215	2863
21.	Pondicherry	45A & 66	53
22.	Punjab	1,1A,10,15,20,21,22,64,70 & 71	1328
23.	Rajasthan	3,8,11,11A,12,14,15,65,76,79 & 89	4381
24.	Sikkim	31A	62
25.	Tamil Nadu	4,5,7,7A,45,45A,45B,46,47,49,66,67,68,205, 207,208,209 & 210	3681
26.	Tripura	44 & 44A	400
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2,3,7,11,19,24,24A,25,25A,26,27,28,29,56, 56A,56B,58,72,73,74,75,76,86 & 87	4570
28.	West Bengal	2,6,31,31A,31C,32,34,35,41,55,60,80 and 81	1951
Total			52,010

Telephone Exchanges and STD/ISD Facilities in Jamnagar

3488. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise and provide STD/ISD facilities at various telephone exchanges in Jamnagar district of Gujarat during 2000-2001;

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

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during the said period; and

(d) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. STD/ISD facility is already available in 61 Telephone Exchanges out of 73 Exchanges working in Jamnagar District. The remaining 12 exchanges, listed below, are planned to be provided STD/ISD facility during 2000-2001.

1. Beraja 2. Jamvanthali 3. Khandhera 4. Kharedi 5. Medi 6. Motapanchdevda 7. Nana Vadale 8. Navagam 9. Pithad 10. Rinari 11. Sadodar 12. Vadpanchasara.

(c) No separate allocation of funds is made for provision of STD facility.

(d) The said work is likely to be completed during 2000-2001 subject to availability of resources.

[English]

World Bank Assistance for Road Projects in Maharashtra

3489. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by the World Bank for various road projects in Maharashtra during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of utilisation of such assistance, project-wise; and

(c) the financial assistance made/likely to be made available for road projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Roads other than National Highways are essentially

subject of the State Government. On National Highways in Maharashtra, a project of four laning between Bassein Creek and Manor is in progress with World Bank assistance since 1997-98, which is costing Rs. 263.52 crore. Upto February 2000, an expenditure of Rs. 157.88 crore has been incurred. The project is likely to be completed during 9th Plan period.

**Waiting List for Telephone Connections in
Tamil Nadu**

3490. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN:
DR. V. SAROJA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Tiruchendur and Rasipuram regions in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of telephone connections proposed to be provided in the said regions during 2000-2001 and the next financial year, separately;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up electronic telephone exchanges in these regions to clear the waiting list;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the said regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKADAR): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Tiruchendur is 3097 and Rasipuram region is 4288 in Tamil Nadu as on 31.3.2000.

(b) The number of telephone connections proposed to be provided in the said regions during 2000-2001 and next financial year separately are as follows:

Name of the region	Telephone connections likely to be provided during the year	
	2000-2001	2001-2002
Tiruchendur	4000	Enough telephones will be provided so that telephones are available on demand by March, 2002.
Rasipuram	3000	-do-

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. 12 electronic exchanges will be commissioned/expanded in Tiruchendur and 10 electronic exchanges in Rasipuram region during the year 2000-2001 and step will be taken to make telephone available on demand during the next financial year.

Shortage of Employees

3491. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the telecom circles in Madhya Pradesh as on December 31, 1999;

(b) whether there is shortage of employees in these circles;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKADAR): (a) There is only one Telecom Circle in Madhya Pradesh as on December 31, 1999.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is general shortage of staff in technical cadres due to non-recruitment in Group C&D cadres except Junior Telecom Officers (JTOs). For JTOs, no direct recruitment has been made after 1996 because of revision in recruitment rules necessitated due to Fifth Pay Commission recommendations.

(d) Madhya Pradesh Telecom. Circle has been permitted for direct recruitment in the cadre of Telecom Technical Assistants (TTAs) and Drivers. Recruitment Rules for JTOs have been revised based on the recommendation of Fifth Central Pay Commission with upward revision in the pay scale and enhanced entry qualification. UPSC is taking action for recruitment of JTOs since it has now become gazetted Gr. 'B' cadre.

**Manufacture of Spurious LPG Cylinders
and Regulators**

3492. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

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

(a) whether any raids have been conducted on units/factories engaged in the manufacture of spurious LPG cylinders and gas regulators in Delhi so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such factories;

(c) the number of cases of violation of the terms and conditions of the licences granted to the private companies/persons for manufacture of LPG cylinders noticed by the Government during the last three years and till date; and

(d) the details of action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Oil Marketing Companies are procuring LPG cylinders from the manufacturers, approved by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and holding statutory approval from Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE) and Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS).

Oil Industry technical team makes surprise visit to enlisted suppliers to check the manufacturing activity/quality as per Indian Standard specification and in case of technical deficiencies are observed during the visit, the placement of orders on such units is suspended by industry. During the last three years, there have been no reported violations by any manufacturers from whom the Oil Industry has been procuring LPG cylinder.

Use of Muscle Power in Elections

3493. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) the steps taken to prevent use and show of arms and weapons during elections;

(b) whether any amendments have been or are being made to prevent such use or show of arms to disrupt free and fair elections; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The Election Commission of India has informed that it issues instructions from time to time to the State Governments for putting restrictions on possession of arms during the period commencing with the date of announcement of election till the completion of the elections. These instructions have been recently further modified in the light of observations of the Supreme Court of India in C.A. No. 4298 of 1994, providing that prohibitory orders may be passed by the District Magistrate under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure where he considers it necessary so to do.

Financial Assistance from Foreign Countries

3494. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any type of Government or Non-Government financial assistance from foreign countries for new construction or reconstruction work of National Highways for the year 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds distributed to the Karnataka State Government for the purpose;

(d) whether any special project has been created by the Union Government for revival of National Highways for the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. However, an important project called National Highway Development Programme has been recently approved by Government. The project envisages 4/6 laning of National Highways linking the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta as also the North South corridor linking Kashmir to Kanyakumari and East West corridor linking Saruashtra to Silchar in an aggregate length of approximately 13,000 km. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 54,000 crore.

[Translation]

Transmission and Distribution Losses

3495. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
DR. NITISH SENGUPTA:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had fixed any target during the Eighth Five Year Plan to reduce the power due to transmission and distribution losses;

(b) if so, the estimated total percentage of such losses in the beginning and at the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any targets to reduce such losses during the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) In the Power Ministers Conference held in January, 1993, it was decided that the losses in transmission and distribution be reduced by a minimum of 5% during the Eighth Plan.

(b) The T&D losses as a percentage of energy available for supply were 22.83% in the beginning of 8th Plan i.e. 1991-92 for the country as a whole. The losses at the end of the 8th Plan i.e. in the terminal year 1996-97 were 24.53%.

(c) and (d) As per the 9th Five Year Plan the T&D losses should be reduced at least by 1% during each year of the 9th Plan.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Orissa

3496. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Orissa with their capacity particularly in Cuttack at present, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the capacity of the existing telephone exchanges in the State and the said district during 2000-2001;

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

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose for the said period;

(e) whether a telephone exchange which was sanctioned for Malipada under Khurda district in the State has been installed so far;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) At present, 862 exchanges with total capacity of 526061 lines are functioning in Orissa. The District-wise details are given in enclosed statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The Demands of Grant for the year 2000-2001 are yet to be approved by the Parliament. The funds for setting up new telephone exchanges and modernizing the existing exchanges in Orissa for the year 2000-2001 will be fixed only after the Demands for Grants for the year 2000-2001 are approved by the Parliament.

(e) to (g) Malipada falls under the local area of Jankia exchange. All the 30 applicants have been given telephone connections by laying underground cable from Jankia to Malipada.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Exchange	Equipped capacity	Capacity addition during 2000-01
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Balasore	44	24436	6000
2.	Bhadrak	27	12472	5000

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Nuapada	10	3792	2000
4.	Kalahandi	23	11212	3000
5.	Dhenkanal	32	12648	4000
6.	Angul	32	25048	6000
7.	Kenojhar	33	15054	3000
8.	Sambalpur	26	22485	5500
9.	Bargarh	35	11748	3000
10.	Jharsuguda	15	12040	4500
11.	Deogarh	4	1544	500
12.	Cuttack	48	61272	15000
13.	Jajpur	34	12228	3000
14.	Jagatsinghpur	30	10008	3000
15.	Kendrapada	21	6600	3000
16.	Khurda	56	93480	16000
17.	Nayagarh	16	4392	4500
18.	Puri	28	19312	6000
19.	Bolangir	26	14112	5000
20.	Sonepur	11	2800	1000
21.	Mayurbhanja	41	15292	4500
22.	Sundargarh	53	45296	13000
23.	Ganjam	93	45596	9000
24.	Gajapati	13	3024	2000
25.	Boudh	10	2392	1500
26.	Kandhamala	25	5660	2500
27.	Koraput	31	17602	4500
28.	Rayagada	24	8940	4000
29.	Nowrangpur	14	3712	3000
30.	Malkangiri	07	1864	2000
Total:		862	526061	145000

**Four laning of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar
National Highway**

3497. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the date by which the four laning of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar section of National Highway road is likely to be completed;

(b) whether the Government have also a proposal to take up the four laning work of the Bhubaneswar-Khurdha section of National Highway No. 5 during the current year;

(c) if so, the fund allocation made for the said road; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the completion of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) The work is targetted to be completed by 30-6-2000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The specific fund allocation is to be made from the allocated to National Highways Authority of India, after the cost of construction is finalised.

(d) Regular monitoring is done by Ministry of Surface Transport and funding agencies. The work is in advance stage of progress.

Development of Coastal Area of Konkan

3498. SHR ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recieved any proposal from the Maharashtra Government for the development of coastal area of Konkan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date from which the proposals are pending for approval/sanction of the Union Government;

(d) whether any scheme related to Ratnagiri District has been included in the proposal; and

(e) if so, the time by which the pending proposal are likley to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):(a) to (c) One proposal relating to construction of a Mumbai-Mahad Expressay has been received by this Ministry for environmental clearance. However, the file on the above has been closed since requisite information has not been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

(d) No proposal relating to Ratanagiri District has been received.

(e) A decision on the project will be taken after the requisite information is recieved from the Government of Maharashtra.

[Translation]

LPG Bottling Plant at Bhagalpur in Bihar

3499. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the installation of bottling plant in the Mauja Kurban, Ambai, Maheshpur and Badar Alampur in Bhagalpur district has been accorded approval;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Bihar has acquired land for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in the installation of the bottling plant and the time by which it is likely to be installed and start operating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) LPG Bottling plants are set up on the basis of techno-economic feasibility after taking into consideration the demand potential of packed LPG in the nearby consumption zones.

Under IX Plan, Indian Oil Corporation Limited is to set up a LPG Bottling Plant at Bhagalpur. Indian Oil Corporation Limited is awaiting the offer of suitable land for the setting up of Bottling Plant. Normally construction of LPG bottling plant takes around 34 months from the date of takeover of land.

[English]

Public Sector Undertakings Circumventing Norms

3500. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
 SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
 SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
 SHRI CHANDRANKANT KHAIRE:
 SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Public Sector Undertakings Circumventing Norms" appearing in the 'Hindu' dated March 4, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken a serious view of the non co-operative attitude of the Public Sector Undertakings and other Government Departments for hiring outside agencies for jobs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to issue the instructions to the erring undertakings of Government Departments to follow the norms and guidelines fixed therefor; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
 (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Purchase of Tankers by SCI

3501. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 500 dated February 28, 2000 and state:

(a) the details of the two proposals received by the Government from Shipping Corporation of India for acquisition of 7 vessels, i.e. 4 Aframax tanker and 3 LR-II crude oil tankers separately;

(b) the details of cost at the individual stage of these proposals;

(c) the number of times where these proposals were sent back to SCI by the Government and received back

from the Shipping Corporation of India alongwith the revised costs and the present cost of these vessels; and

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
 (a) and (b) The SCI had submitted two proposals to Government for consideration as per details given below:

(i) Acquisition of four Aframax Tankers of 110,000 DWT each at a cost of US\$ 35.98 million per vessel from Hyundai Heavy Industries Limited, South Korea.

(ii) Acquisition of three LR-II Crude oil tankers of 83,500 DWT each—two from Hyundai Heavy Industries Limited South Korea at a cost of US\$ 35.46 million per vessel and one from Indian shipyard viz. Cochin Shipyard Limited Cochin at net evaluated price of US\$ 34.4 million.

(c) The proposals were not sent back to SCI by Government. However, SCI was asked to exercise 'due diligence' so as to ensure best competitive and advantageous price, especially in view of the global softening of price of such vessels. In the process there has been exchange of correspondence between SCI and Government. The SCI have since re-assessed the requirement of crude oil tankers in the light of future need of such tankers by Indian Oil Corporation and decided to go ahead with acquisition of only a limited number of tankers instead of all three proposed earlier. Now there is no proposal with Government for acquisition of three LR II crude oil tankers.

(d) No time limit could be fixed, however the investment decision can be taken at the earliest possible.

Development of Forests in Karnataka

3502. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any study to develop forests in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL

MARANDI): (a) and (b) The State Government has made a detailed study and prepared a comprehensive plan of 20 years as State Forestry Action Programme for sustainable development of forests in the State. During this period, besides developing and strengthening the institutions, State has proposed a programme for regeneration of 3.09 million-hectare natural forests and plantation of 0.12 million-hectare non-forest lands. Total financial requirement for these programmes of 20 years is Rs. 113377 million, which is, much more than the current level of financial investments in forestry sector of the State.

[Translation]

Assistance to Voluntary Organizations

3503. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are extending any assistance to the voluntary organisations for the environment related activities;

(b) if so, the State-wise amount provided in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether any irregularities have been committed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement showing the state-wise details is laid is enclosed.

(c) to (e) A few complaints indicating some irregularities in relation to grants-in-aid schemes for afforestation, regarding lower survival percentage and inadequate post-planting maintenance, etc. have been received from time to time. These are got examined through State Forest Departments and remedial actions taken accordingly.

Statement

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Financial Assistance Provided During		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	52.99	48.69	60.21
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	00	00	9.39
3.	Assam	8.03	7.42	6.93
4.	Bihar	38.69	36.17	53.74
5.	Chandigarh	00	00	2.39
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	00	00	0.20
7.	Delhi	32.40	48.94	27.98
8.	Goa	1.02	1.02	0.58
9.	Gujarat	11.62	21.15	11.27
10.	Haryana	00	0.30	3.38
11.	Himachal Pradesh	00	00	14.46
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.93	2.14	9.36
13.	Karnataka	41.49	24.89	29.31
14.	Kerala	00	0.51	13.21

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.58	7.21	19.62
16.	Maharashtra	11.95	13.05	14.67
17.	Manipur	00	3.84	34.11
18.	Meghalaya	00	1.09	0.27
19.	Mizoram	00	00	2.37
20.	Nagaland	00	15.72	25.00
21.	Orissa	7.78	2.22	22.45
22.	Pondicherry	00	00	0.40
23.	Punjab	00	0.27	4.28
24.	Rajasthan	12.08	8.57	10.25
25.	Sikkim	00	1.00	2.72
26.	Tamil Nadu	37.64	30.73	18.02
27.	Tripura	00	0.22	3.37
28.	Uttar Pradesh	38.76	46.52	52.58
29.	West Bengal	27.77	30.52	24.16

[English]

Indo-US Agreement on Environment

3504. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-US agreement on Environment has been signed recently;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) whether experts of Tata Energy Research Institute has raised objection in this regard;

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

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No Sir However, a Joint Statement on Cooperation in the field of Energy and Environment was signed between the Union External Affairs Minister and the US Secretary of State on 22.3.2000 at Agra.

(b) The Joint Statement provides the frame-work for cooperation between India and the United States of America in the field of Energy and Environment and further expresses the intention of the two countries to create a Joint Consultative Committee to foster greater bilateral cooperation, Government-to-Government dialogue, and further encourages public and private sector cooperation in these sectors.

(c) and (d) In a published article, the Director of the Tate Energy Research Institute has expressed apprehensions on safeguarding of the interest of India and of other developing countries, involved in negotiations under the Frame-work Convention on Climate Change.

(e) The Government has not taken any commitments that are inconsistent with its position in the ongoing multi-lateral negotiations on environmental issues or with its goals of sustainable economic development.

Reduction in Telephone Tariff

3505. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the existing Telephone Tariffs for STD and ISD calls;

(b) whether the Government have any specific plans to increase the number of Cellular telephone/Mobile telephone users in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of income generated through private companies participation in the field of Telecommunications network to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The powers to fix/revise tariffs for various telecom services have been transferred to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India by virtue of Sec. 11 (2) of the TRAI Act, 1997. Accordingly the TRAI notified the Telecom Tariff Order 1999 on 15.03.99 wherein STD and ISD rates have been reduced by 20% and 21% respectively in the first year. The Department of Telecom Services, as one of the service operator, has implemented the above reductions.

(b) and (c) With a view to increasing the number of Cellular Telephones, Government has introduced private participation in provision of Cellular Mobile Telephone Services for which 42 licences have been granted initially. Licences have also been granted to MTNL and the Department of Telecom Services to operate these services.

(d) The details of the income for the period from 1994-95 to 1999-2000 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Statement showing Licence Fee Collected (During each financial year)

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1994-95	5.39
1995-96	1360.38
1996-97	1249.40
1997-98	2011.79
1998-99	742.59
1999-2000	2680.05
Total	8049.60

Production of LPG by Refineries

3506. DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the refineries in the country are producing LPG as per their installed capacity;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to produce LPG at full capacity to meet domestic demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The total LPG Production in the country (including fractionators) during the year 1999-2000 as compared to its Original Estimates for PSU's and JVC/Pct. Sector Refineries is given as under:-

(Qty. in Thousand Metric Tonnes)

	Original Estimates	Actual (Provisional)
PSU Refineries	1723	1684
JVC/PVT Ref.	1785	805
Fractionators	1732	1991
Total	5240	4480

It can be observed that the LPG production during the last year is lower mainly at Joint Venture Company/Private Refineries.

(c) The total production for 2000-2001 is expected to be 6216 TMT which is higher by 1736 TMT as compared to 1999-2000. The domestic demand of LPG as per estimates for year 2000-2001 is 6707 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT). Hence to meet the domestic demand some imports would be made.

National Forestry Action Plan

3507. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to create a banking institution to give a boost to forestry funding;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard as on date;

(c) whether in order to implement the National Forestry Action Plan, the level of investment in Forestry Sector is required to be enhanced; and

(d) if so, the plans envisaged by the Government to enhance the level of investment in forestry sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) For enhancing availability of funds for implementation of National Forestry Action Programme, number of options have been examined including setting up of a Forest Development Bank. No decision has been taken to set up the Forest Development Bank.

(c) Yes, Sir. The level of investment in Forestry sector needs to be enhanced to implement the National Forestry Action Programme.

(d) It is estimated that Rs. 1339 billions would be required over a period of twenty years to implement the National Forestry Action Programme. The annual allocation for forestry sector has been stepped up by the Central government and the State governments have been requested to step up their allocation to forestry sector. The Planning Commission was requested to increase allocation to forestry sector in the remaining years of the IX Plan and X Plan. Shelf of projects have been prepared to secure funding from external agencies.

Bench of Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh

3508. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any demand from the Uttar Pradesh for setting up of a bench of Allahabad High Court in western Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a)

to (d) Representations have been received from time to time from various Bar Associations etc. for setting up of a Bench of the Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh. However, no specific, complete proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Jaswant Singh Commission, in this regard. As such, it has not been possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.

[Translation]

Post Offices

3509. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new Post Offices are not being set up in the country despite meeting the criteria fixed in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The new post offices are being set up in the country subject to fulfilment of the norms and availability of Extra Departmental posts to be sanctioned by Ministry of Finance and availability of funds.

(b) and (c) No reply called for in view of (a) above.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

3510. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:
DR. (COL. RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Himachal Pradesh especially in Simla, in big cities of Jammu and Kashmir and the each taluka of Chikkaballapur region as on March 31, 2000; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting lists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections as on 31-3-2000 are indicated as below:

W/L as on 31-3-2000	
Himachal Pradesh	23905
Shimla	Nil
<i>In big cities of Jammu & Kashmir</i>	
Jammu	12226
Srinagar	14411
<i>Chikkaballapur Region (Karnataka)</i>	
Chikkaballapur (Taluk)	579
Gudibanda (Taluk)	252
Bagepalli (Taluk)	377
Gowribidanur (Taluk)	1476
Sidlaghatta (Taluk)	722

(b) The existing waiting list as indicated against (a) above is likely to be cleared progressively during the current financial year by expansion of the capacities of the existing exchanges and also by installation of new exchanges at the places of demand.

[Translation]

Review of Constitution

3511. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

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

(a) whether the problems regarding land reforms, unemployment, malicious and spiteful acts, child education and child labour remain unresolved after 80 time amendments in the Constitution during 52 years;

(b) whether the amendments contemplated are for creation of Presidential Form of Government, compulsory functioning of the Parliament for five years and change in the judicial system;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to precipitate further amendments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Despite 79 amendments made so far in the Constitution much still needs to be done regarding problems relating to land reforms, unemployment, malicious and spiteful acts, child education and child labour. Therefore, the "National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution" has been constituted to examine as to how best the Constitution can respond to the changing needs of efficient, smooth and effective system of governance and socio-economic development of modern India within the framework of Parliamentary democracy and to recommend changes, if any, that are required in the provisions of the Constitution without interfering with its basic structure or features.

(b) The Government presently has no proposal to make any amendment in the Constitution for creation of Presidential Form of Government or for compulsory functioning of the Parliament for five years or for change in the judicial system.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Construction of Coastal Highway

3512. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a bridge across Damanganga river and a coastal highway from Lakpath in Kutch to Maharashtra border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work relating to construction of this stretch of the Highway as also the bridge across the Damanganga river had been taken up by the UT Administration at the instance of Planning Commission;

(d) whether the estimates prepared earlier by the Ministry of Surface Transport for approval; and

(e) if so, the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The construction of Coastal Highway in Daman including bridge across Damanganga river is proposed to be taken up by U.T. Administration but its details have been finalised. The construction and development of rest of Coastal Highway from Lakpath in Kutch to Maharashtra Border is a State subject.

(c) Yes, Sir. Project preparation work has been taken up.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Surface Transport does not prepare the estimate. The estimate submitted to Ministry by the U.T. Administration has been returned for modification and resubmission.

Discrepancy in Telephone Dues

3513. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rs. 100 cr. discrepancy in telecom dues" appearing in the 'Statesman' dated March 10, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The news item primarily deals with 'discrepancy' in the interest calculation on the outstanding dues which is linked to the subscriber base in case of Metro Cellular Operators and the extension of deadline for payment of all outstanding dues granted to the operators upto 15th March, 2000. The facts of the matter and reaction of the Government thereto are as under:

As per the existing Licence Agreements, the licence fee in case of eight Cellular (metro) operators for each of the first three years is a fixed amount. From the fourth year onwards, it is linked to the subscriber base and the same had earlier been charged provisionally based on the subscriber figures furnished by the Licensees. On verification of the subscriber figures, it was found that these figures were neither being reported correctly by the licensees, nor proper records were being maintained for verification by a majority of these eight licensees. The subscriber base arrived at, based on the findings of a three member committee appointed for the purpose of verification of subscriber base, was higher than the figures reported by the licensees. As a result both the licence fee, and consequently, the interest on delayed payments got revised upwards. On account of subscriber base verification, the licence fee dues outstanding as on the cut-off date of 31.7.1999 in terms of the migration package went up by Rs. 86.87 crores (from Rs. 146.52 to

Rs. 233.39 crores) and the interest liability also accordingly increased by Rs. 30.03 crores upto actual date(s) of payment. The total difference came to Rs. 116.90 crores.

Regarding the alleged miscalculation, it is stated the calculation are correct and have been made based on the revised subscriber figures. However, in the letter issued to the operators, it was indicated that the amounts are provisional subject to finalization at a later date. This would be based on availability of further records, if any and subject to verification of the same.

As regards M/s Bharti and M/s Reliance who are holding Basic Service Licences, the demand has not been for grant of extension in effective date of payment as brought out in the news-item, but for extension of effective date of licence in terms of the Migration Package. The Migration Package offered to the licensees envisaged notional extension of effective date of licence by a period of six months for the purpose of calculation of outstanding licence fee dues upto the cut-off date of Migration, subject to the condition that where extension of effective date had been given earlier due to whatever circumstances, further extension would be given after deducting the period of extension already given subject to the total extension period not exceeding six months.

In the context of implementation of New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) and resolution of problems of existing operators, a policy regarding migration of the existing licensees to NTP-99 regime of revenue sharing arrangement was approved by the Government on 6.7.1999. As a result, a Migration Package was offered to the existing Basic and Cellular Service licensees on 22.7.1999. The prescribed due date of 31-1-2000 for payment of the full outstanding license fee dues in terms of the Migration Package was extended to 15-3-2000 but with additional penalties viz., 2% per month on pro-rata basis on short fall of securitisation for delays beyond 31-12-2000 and 3% per month on pro-rata basis on delays in payment beyond 31-1-2000. The deadline in case of the only company M/s Spice Communication Limited, who could not fulfil the conditions by the extended date, was further extended by the Government upto 15-4-2000 with further additional penalty.

[Translation]

Dispensaries under P&T Officer Jabalpur

3514. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dispensaries functioning under the Jabalpur Posts and Telegraph Department and the places where these are located;

(b) the amount provided for the said dispensaries for purchasing medicines and other materials every year and the amount provided to them during the last three years;

(c) the amount spent each year during the said period along with the material on which it was spent;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints of irregularities in the purchase of medicines;

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

(f) whether the strength of medical and para medical staff deployed there is far less than the sanctioned staff strength in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof, category-wise; and

(h) the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There are three P&T Dispensaries at Jabalpur & their locations are: Disp. No. I—Telecom Factory Compound, Wright Town, Jabalpur. Disp. No.—II CTO compound, Near High Court, Jabalpur, Dispp. No. III—TTC Compound, Ridge Road, Jabalpur.

(b) Total Budget provision for these dispensaries for the period was:

(Rs. in lakhs)				
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	
Disp. No. I	27.28	20.55	44.51	
Disp. No. II	21.09	15.89	28.03	
Disp. No. III	9.46	7.13	10.11	

(c) Amount spent on medicines during the period:

(Rs. in lakhs)				
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Disp.	No.I	32.16	28.78	44.51
Disp.	No.II	22.60	15.88	23.03
Disp.	No.III	7.44	6.36	5.04
(upto 15.12.99)				

Expenditure on other materials for all the dispensaries at Jabalpur:

(Rs. in lakhs)			
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
	1.03	1.14	1.14

(d) Yes, complaints against a local chemist were received regarding frequent stoppages of day to day supply of medicines to the patients and excess billing.

(e) Amount of excess billing has been adjusted from the subsequent bills which were pending at that time.

(f) and (g) There is some shortage in the cadre of medical & para-medical staff as indicated below:

Disp- No. I	Vacant	Sanctioned strength
Pharmacist	2	3
Lab. Tech	1	2
Staff Nurse	1	1
Disp. No. II.		
Medical Officer	1	Posting made but has not yet joined.
Staff Nurse	1	1
Nursing Orderly	1	1
Disp. No. III		
Medical Officer	1	2

(h) Action for recruitment of paramedical staff is underway. As regard Medical Officer, vacancy can be filled when Ministry of Health & Family Welfare allots Medical Officer.

[English]

Villages Covered by LPG in Kerala

3515. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered by LPG in Kerala; and

(b) the steps taken to meet the shortage of LPG in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As per the extant policy, LPG distributorships are set up at locations offering commercial viability for an independent LPG distributorship. At present, 225 LPG distributorships are operating in the State of Kerala which cover urban, urban-rural and some rural areas.

(b) At present, the demand on LPG customers enrolled with the PSU Oil Companies in the State of Kerala is being met by and large.

[*Translation*]

Shortage of Postal Orders

3516. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of postal orders of proper denominations in various rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to make available postal orders of all denominations in all the small and big post offices so that youths in various rural areas of the country could apply for various competitive examinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No general shortage of Indian Postal Orders of proper denominations in various rural areas of the country has been reported. Temporary shortage of Indian Postal Orders of Rs. 20/- denomination in West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh, Rs. 10/- denomination in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and Rs. 2/- denomination in Jammu & Kashmir Postal Circles was noticed.

(b) This was due to non-fulfilment of indents by India Security Press, Nashik.

(c) Suitable action for procurement and supply of the said denomination has been taken.

[*English*]

Dealerships of Lubricants to SCs/STs

3517. SHRI SURESH PASI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various public sector oil companies under his Ministry appoint/engage persons/firms as dealers for transportation carry and forward as well as sale of various petroleum products such as Lubricants;

(b) if so, whether any provisions have been made for reserving a quota in such dealerships/agencies for SCs/STs;

(c) if so, the number of such dealerships awarded to the persons belonging to the SCs/STs during the last three years as compared to the total dealerships and their percentage; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Oil marketing companies appoint persons/firms as dealers/reseller, transporters and distributors for marketing of various petroleum products including lubricants and have appointed clearing and forwarding agents.

(b) to (d) As per the Government's guidelines 25% of dealerships/distributorships are reserved for SCs/STs. Appointment of dealers/distributors is a continuous process and every effort is made by the public sector oil marketing companies to maintain the required reservation percentage for SCs/STs. However, the transportation contract is generally awarded on tender basis and the lowest quote gets the assignment.

Demand and Supply of LPG Connections

3518. DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of LPG connections are not being made according to the demand of the same in the different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending on the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Government has a plan to release around 1 crore LPG connections during the

year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

Cargo Traffic at Calcutta and Haldia Port

3519. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cargo traffic handled by Calcutta Port and Haldia Port during the last two years;

(b) whether cargo handling capacity in the ports was utilised fully during the above period;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether these ports are expected to handle more cargo traffic during the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) The details of cargo traffic handled by Calcutta and Haldia Ports during the last two years are as under:-

Calcutta Dock System (In million tonnes)

	1998-99	1999-2000
POL (Crude)	3.08	3.67
POL Products Vegetable oil & other liquid	2.63	2.61
Other cargo (including containerised cargo)	3.45	4.03
	9.16	10.31
Container (in TEUs)	1,32,291	1,47,296

Haldia Dock Complex (In million tonnes)

	1998-1999	1999-2000
	1	2
POL (Crude)	5.30	6.74
POL Product	5.20	4.10
Thermal Coal	4.02	3.22
Coking Coal	3.05	3.28
Fertilizer	0.11	0.12

	1	2
Fert. Raw Material	0.29	0.35
Container	0.43	0.43
Other	1.82	2.46
	20.22	20.70

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The cargo handling capacity in the Ports of Calcutta and Haldia was not fully utilised during the last two years due to non-materialisation of traffic. At Haldia Dock Complex, M/s. SAIL has not fully utilised the leased berth capacity (Berth no. 5).

(d) and (e) During the current year, traffic level is expected to remain almost the same for Calcutta Dock Sytem. Import of certain commodities like Sugar, Vegetable oil etc. is expected to go down while exports of certain items like steel, engineering goods may go up. So far as Haldia Dock Complex is concerned, this port is expected to handle more cargo traffic during the current financial year. The projected traffic for the year 2000-2001 at CDS & HDC are at the tune of 10.01 million tonnes and 22.70 million tonnes respectively.

Drop in Pollution Level

3520. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any marked drop in pollution levels in Delhi, with the adoption of Euro-II standard in respect of automobiles and adoption of CNG as fuel in commercial vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the comparative figures showing the levels of pollution in air at main traffic junctions and industrial area; and

(c) the comparative figures showing presence of such pollutants in Mumbai, Calcutta and Madras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The adoption of Euro-II standards and CNG as fuel in automobiles form a part of the various steps taken, including the upgradation of fuel quality, traffic management, closure of industrial units in non-conforming areas, etc., for portecting and improving the environment in Delhi. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the levels of ambient air quality in Delhi in 1999 have shown improvement compared to 1998 which is as follows.

Annual average of various pollutants in Delhi

	1998					1999				
	SO ₂ (ug/ m ³)	NO ₂ (ug/ m ³)	SPM (ug/ m ³)	Parti- culate lead (ng/m ³)	Carbon Mono- oxide (mg/m ³)	SO ₂ (ug/ m ³)	NO ₂ (ug/ m ³)	SPM (ug/m ³)	Parti- culate lead (ng/m ³)	Carbon Mono- oxide (mg/m ³)
Traffic Junction	25.0	63.0	426.0	136.0	5.45	22.0	60.0	418.0	70.0	4.24
Industrial Areas	20.2	34.7	367	105.0	—	19.7	33.7	365.0	65.0	—

According to the CPCB, the ban on plying of buses more than 8 year old and pre-1990 autos and taxis from

1st April, 2000, has also resulted in improvement in ambient air quality in Delhi as indicated in the following table:

Ambient air quality data at ITO station, Delhi)

	Before ban on buses, autos and taxis					After ban on buses, autos and taxis.					
Date	27.3 2000	28.3 2000	29.3 2000	30.3 2000	31.3 2000	1.4 2000	2.4 2000	3.4 2000	4.4 2000	5.4 2000	6.4 2000
Parameter (24 hourly)											
SO ₂	20	24	26	22	36	—	—	20	27	22	17
NO ₂	64	72	84	70	86	—	—	46	57	53	49
SPM	466	588	528	470	473	-	-	426	349	445	439
RSPM	222	198	243	209	243	-	-	185	223	218	113

(c) Ambient levels of pollutants in industrial areas of

Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai are given in the following table:

City	1998			1999		
	SO ₂ (ug/m ³)	NO ₂ (ug/m ³)	SPM (ug/m ³)	SO ₂ (ug/m ³)	NO ₂ (ug/m ³)	SPM (ug/m ³)
Mumbai	21.7	24.9	226.0	22.9	45.1	451.0
Calcutta	40.8	34.3	286.0	64.8	37.9	310.0
Madras	13.1	15.7	126.0	8.7	14.0	113.0

Safe Driving Manual

(b) if so, the details thereof;

3521. SHRI RASHID ALVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Safe Driving Manual with clear enunciation of the rules of the road has been brought out by an Austrian specialised agency;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement this movement throughout the country and impart training to drivers to reduce the road accidents and fatalities in the county;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any study in regard to road accidents during the last three years in comparison to developing countries like Singapore, Germany and USA; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The manual gives comprehensive information for drivers and would also be a useful tool for driver instructors in planning a structured approach to training. This will help achieve better understanding of traffic control devices, rules of road, skills and attitudes which all combine to make a responsible and safe driver.

(c) The Government of India is supporting such activities subject to availability of funds.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

LPG Agencies in Bihar

3522. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

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

(a) the total number of LPG agencies approved and opened during the last three years in Bihar;

(b) the number of LPG agencies functioning at present in each of the District in the State;

(c) the details of LPG agencies proposed to be opened during the current and next year;

(d) the number of advertisements issued for various places for setting up of LPG agencies in Bihar during the past three years; and

(e) the number of LPG connections released during the above period and the percentage of increase in the allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR):

(a) During the last three years 19 LPG distributorships were opened in Bihar.

(b) As on 1.10.1999 there were 217 LPG distributorships in operation in Bihar.

(c) to (e) In addition to the locations pending from previous Marketing Plans 105 LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing plan 1996-98. Locations included in the Marketing Plan are advertised by the oil companies from time to time Selection is made by the Dealer Selection Board on merit based on interview of the eligible candidates. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

During the last three years about 311446 LPG connections were released in Bihar.

[Translation]

LPG Connections Sanctioned by Former Minister

3523. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 2983 dated December 20, 1999 regarding LPG connections sanctioned by former Minister and state:

(a) whether the information sought about LPG connections sanctioned by former Minister has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The complete information is still required to be collected from various field offices of the PSU Oil Marketing Companies.

[English]

Civil and Criminal Cases Pending In Supreme Court

3524. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Civil as well as criminal cases pending in Supreme Court and the High Courts as on March 31, 2000; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear these cases expeditiously in order to help the aggrieved party in dispensation of justice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of both Civil and criminal cases to help the aggrieved party in dispensation of justice. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes. Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, provides for legal aid to certain economically weaker sections of the society.

Statement

Statement of Civil and Criminal cases pending in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts.

	Civil	Criminal	as on	
Supreme Court	16,590	3,674	1.4.2000	
Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Civil	Criminal	as on
1.	Allahabad	690666	125366	9/99
2.	Andhra Pradesh	127047	8518	12/99
3.	Bombay	260105	24098	12/99
4.	Calcutta	268342	37356	9/99
5.	Delhi	152308	18593	6/99
6.	Gauhati	33034	5003	12/98
7.	Gujarat	105403	16129	12/99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9345	2583	12/99
9.	J & K	69917	2034	9/99
10.	Karnataka	78128	4359	9/99
11.	Kerala	87015	9888	12/99
12.	Madhya Pradesh	63121	40699	12/99
13.	Madras	323712	33383	9/99
14.	Orissa	105242	9306	9/99
15.	Patna	66962	15950	9/99
16.	Punjab & Haryana	148837	29160	9/99
17.	Rajasthan	97720	21778	9/99
18.	Sikkim	170	33	9/99
Total		2687074	404236	

Closure of Calcutta Port Trust

3525. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering closure of Calcutta Port Trust;

(b) if so, whether the Government are planning to sell off the Calcutta Port Trust's estate;

(c) if so, how much resources are expected to be raised through such exercise; and

(d) if not, the liabilities of the Trust in money terms and the manner in which the Government propose to clear them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Shortage of Power in Bihar

3526. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of power in Bihar;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to remove the shortage of power in the State during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the N.H.P.C., N.T.P.C. and the power Grid Corporation in association with the State Government to overcome the shortage of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) There is no shortage of power in the Eastern Region of which Bihar is a constituent. Details of power supply position prevailing in the State of Bihar 1999-2000 are as under:-

Requirement	8912 MU
Availability	8348 MU
Shortage	564 MU
(%) :	(6.3%)

The State of Bihar has been experiencing energy shortage primarily due to constraints in its transmission and distribution system and inability to meet full payment obligations of NTPC and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited for availing requisite quantum of central sector power to meet their full requirement.

Powergrid Corporation of India Limited has undertaken many projects for strengthening of Eastern Regional Powergrid including strengthening of power system in Bihar.

CBI to Take Cognizance of Wild Life Offences

3527. DR. (COL. RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have directed the Central Bureau of Investigation to take cognizance of offences under the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of section 55 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972), has authorised the officers of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (CBI), now below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, to file complaints with regard to offences punishable under the said Act.

(c) Does not arise.

Petrol/Diesel outlets and LPG Agencies in Punjab

3528. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petrol/diesel outlets and LPG agencies published calling of applications by different oil companies during the last three years in Punjab;

(b) the number of applications out of the total considered for allotment of such outlets during the above period; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) During the last three years oil companies have issued advertisements for 49 retail outlet dealerships and 94

LPG distributorships in Punjab. Out of the above allotment has been made for 8 retail outlets and 11 LPG distributorships during the above period.

[Translation]

Pench Tiger Sanctuary

3529. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pench Tiger Sanctuary (Karmaghiri National Park) in Sivan district of Madhya Pradesh has been conserved as a Tiger Project;

(b) if so, the progress of the Tiger Project there;

(c) the number of tigers killed in the road accidents or by electrocution or poachers during the last three months; and

(d) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Pench Tiger Reserve was established in 1992 over an area of 757.897 sq. kms. Main activities under the Project Tiger are habitat improvement, development of communication network, fire protection and development of infrastructure for protection of wildlife. Government of India has sanctioned the following amounts for the Pench Tiger Reserve under the Project Tiger Scheme during the last three years;

1997-98	Rs. 36.558 Lakhs
1998-99	Rs. 27.080 Lakhs
1999-2000	Rs. 41.80 Lakhs

Due to these efforts the population of tiger and other animals is increasing steadily. The population estimate of last two years as reported by the State Government are as follows:

Animal	1998	1999
Tiger	45-46	47-51
Leopard	29-34	30-36
Gaur	525-575	544-574
Cheetal	6800-6900	7510-7600
Sambar	2200-2300	2300-2380
Nilgai	1350-1400	1390-1530

(c) None.

(d) Does not arise.

Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat

3530. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Gujarat particularly in Dahod region, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges set up during the last three years till date in the State and the said region, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up some new telephone exchanges and modernise the existing exchanges during 2000-2001 in the State and the said regions;

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

(e) the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The details of number of telephone exchanges functioning and set-up in last three years in Gujarat and Dahod District are given in enclosed statement.

(c) All the existing 2163 telephone exchanges are electronic and modernised. 100 new telephone exchanges are proposed to be set-up during the year 2000-2001 in Gujarat.

(d) Six new exchanges are proposed in Dahod at Kadwal, Bordi, Chosala, Mirakhedi, Pethapur and Kalia-Kota. The locations for remaining new exchanges are being finalised.

(e) The Demands for Grant for the year 2000-2001 are yet to be approved by the Parliament. The funds for setting up new telephone exchanges in Gujarat for the year 2000-2001 will be fixed only after the Demands for Grants for the year 2000-2001 are approved by the Parliament.

(f) The hiring of building is in progress and equipment is being ordered.

Statement

District-wise details of no. of telephone exchanges functioning and set up in last three years in Gujarat and Dahod district.

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of telephone exchanges functioning as on 31-3-2000	No. of telephone exchanges set-up during the year		
			1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Ahmedabad	44	03	01	03
2.	Gandhinagar	107	04	04	02
3.	Amreli	117	03	06	05
4.	Bharuch	84	02	04	03
5.	Narmada	16	-	01	01
6.	Bhavnagar	104	05	01	02
7.	Kutchh (Bhuj)	130	04	04	08
8.	Dahod	33	-	01	01
9.	Panchmahal	73	02	02	04
10.	Jamnagar	100	-	01	02
11.	Junagadh	87	01	03	15
12.	Porbander	26	01	-	03
13.	Savarkantha (Himatnagar)	126	01	03	07
14.	Mehsana	146	04	10	06
15.	Patan	70	-	04	10
16.	Kheda (Nadiad)	94	01	01	05
17.	Anand	74	-	-	01
18.	Banaskantha (Palanpur)	189	07	11	16
19.	Rajkot	138	06	12	06
20.	Surat	99	02	01	01
21.	Surendranagar	99	04	07	10
22.	Vadodara	109	07	06	05
23.	Valsad	36	01	01	01
24.	Navsari	59	-	-	04
25.	Dang	03	-	-	-
Total		2163	58	84	121

*[English]***Ships Sunk in Mumbai Port**

3531. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many ships had sunk in the Mumbai Port before the independence and thereafter;

(b) if so, whether wreckage of such ships are still remain sunken because of non-clearance of port by the concerned authorities;

(c) if so, whether these sunken wrecks are threatening the ships and fishing boats approaching Mumbai Port;

(d) if so, the details of ships/fishing boats hits with these wrecks and sank in the port during the past five years;

(e) the loss of lives and property occurred by fishermen and traders as a result thereof;

(f) the reasons for not clearing the wrecks from the port by the Port Authority; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which wrecks are likely to be clear?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Orders Through Internet by Oil Companies**

3532. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petroleum companies propose to book orders of its customers through Internet in view of the ongoing utility of Internet and to meet the increasing competition in the commercial sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) At present, a refill can be booked through telephone call, post-card to distributor, booking slip through refill booking box or personal visit to the showroom. Efforts are on to introduce progressively automated and interactive systems for booking refill which inter-alia include pager system, interactive voice response system (IVRS), Internet etc. for different markets.

Integrated Forestry and Ecological Development Scheme in MP

3533. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent Integrated Forestry and Ecological Development Scheme for various districts to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be approved by the Union Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not approving this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) There is no scheme in the name of "Integrated Forestry & Ecological Development Scheme" operated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. However, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Afforestation & Eco-Development Project Scheme" is currently under implementation. A statement on projects being implemented in the State of Madhya Pradesh is enclosed.

(d) Four project proposals in respect of Balaghat, Chhindwara, Raigarh and Damoh districts received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for treatment of degraded forests and adjoining lands could not be sanctioned for want of sufficient funds under the scheme.

Statement

Statement of projects with approved financial outlays for the IX Plan sanctioned under Integrated Afforestation & Eco-Development Project Scheme for the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Rs. in Lakhs	
District	Fin. Outlay
Bhind	166.90
Raisen	163.20
Mandsaur	140.04
West Nimar	176.51
Bastar	43.63
Hoshangabad	114.36
Chhatarpur	161.82
Dhar	123.83
Guna	186.30
Sarguja	175.95
Rajnandgaon	144.97
Datia	175.34
Chindwara	158.94
Mandla	70.69
Total	2002.48

[English]

Tata to Takeover Badarpur Power Station

3534. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Badarpur Bijlighar Tata Ko Bechane Ki Yojana" appearing in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated January 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 POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Tata Electric Company made a presentation to Ministry of Power on the Badarpur Thermal Power Station in January, 2000. The presentation by Tata Electric Company was on a model in which disinvestment by the Government in the power station was suggested to bring operational efficiency and fiscal discipline. Government has not taken any decision to sell the Badarpur Thermal Power Station so far.

Existence of Ganga Canal with two Roads

3535. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the manifold increase in traffic on the Dehi-Hardwar-Dehradun-Mussoorie route;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the existence of the Ganga Canal with two roads running along its banks throughout;

(c) the tourist potential of developing these roads on either side of the canal both to decongest the present overused Highways as well as to encourage tourism;

(d) whether the Government are considering for taking over and developing this alternate route; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir. Delhi-Hardwar-Rishikesh-Badrinath is NH-58, whereas Rishikesh-Dehradun is NH-72. However, Dehradun-Mussoorie, is not a National Highway.

(b) Yes Sir. Those two roads are service roads of the Irrigation Department under the Government of Uttar Pradesh and do not form part of the National Highway network.

(c) These Canal roads fall under the jurisdiction of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for their development. As such Central Government is not concerned with the same.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal of taking over these roads as National Highways.

Private Participation in Port Sector

3536. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have laid down some guidelines for private sector participation in the port sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the Government have succeeded in mobilising private sector participation in this regard; and

(d) whether some negotiations are under progress and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following areas have been identified in the guidelines for private sector participation in Major Ports:-

- (i) Leasing out existing assets of the Port.
- (ii) Construction/creation of additional assets.
- (iii) Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector.
- (iv) Pilotage.
- (v) Captive facilities for Port based industries.

(c) and (d) So far, 13 projects of 52.80 MT capacity with investment of Rs. 3926 crores have been approved. 8 projects of 34.4 MT capacity involving an investment of Rs. 3500 crores are under various stages of bidding process.

[*Translation*]

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps for SC/ST

3537. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Petrol Pumps/LPG agencies out of the total allotted to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so far;

(b) whether there is any proposal to fill up the backlog of reserved quota for the allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) As on 1.10.1999 there were a total of 17299 retail outlet dealerships 5838 LPG distributorships allotted to different categories were functioning all over the country. Out of the above, 1579 retail outlet dealerships and 941 LPG distributorships pertain to SC/ST categories. Locations earmarked for SC/ST category are filled up from the candidates belonging to that category.

[*English*]

Village Public Telephones by Private Operators

3538. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "DoT issues ultimatum to the basic operators" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 15, 2000;

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

(c) whether all private operators have met their target of providing village public telephone (VPT);

(d) if so, the details of operators who have not achieved the half of the target;

(e) whether the Government propose to cancel the licences of these operators;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof;

(g) whether the Government have given extension to some of the operators to meet the targets; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the issues in the said news item. The operators' projections must have gone haywire due to their own failures. Government has taken appropriate steps to resolve their problems so as to facilitate availability of licensed telecom project. The migration package offered to these operators did not envisage any dilution or obliteration of their committed performance obligations and the NTP 99 clearly stipulates

that the new policy framework would be applicable to new/future licensees only.

(c) Yes, Sir. Five out of the six Licensees have not provided even a single VPT. The sixth licensee M/s BTNL has provided only 12 VPTS so far.

(d) None, Sir.

(e) and (f) Government is taking appropriate action under the provisions contained in Licence Agreements.

(g) and (h) It has been intimated to the operators that there shall neither be any dilution nor obliteration of their committed performance obligations in the licence agreements.

Production Cost of LPG Cylinder

3539. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production cost of a 14.2 kg L.P.G. cylinder, including freight charges, commission to distributors, etc., as on date, company-wise;

(b) whether the oil companies have been advised to reduce the cost of production of L.P.G. cylinders; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the oil companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Production cost of petroleum products including LPG would vary from refinery to refinery depending upon the cost of crude oil, processing charges, Marketing Cost, filling charges, freight, distributors, commission, taxes, other duties etc. However, oil companies are paid import parity price for LPG uplifted in bulk. The weighted average price which is called the tariff adjusted import parity refinery gate price for the month of April, 2000 has been provisionally fixed at Rs. 16106.68/MT.

(b) and (c) The process of cost reduction measures is a continuous one. Measures have been taken by the Oil Companies to reduce the production cost of petroleum products including LPG such as refining, marketing and filling cost including optional logistical planning of transportation, strict control on operating losses etc.

National Highways in Orissa

3540. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of National Highways in Orissa constructed during the last three years;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred thereon during the said period;

(c) the target fixed for the National Highways with regard to the State during Eighth Five Year Plan and the extent to which the same have been achieved; and

(d) the amount of money earmarked for the new National Highways and maintenance work of the existing National Highways in Orissa for the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected.

Branch Post Offices

3541. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Branch Post Offices sanctioned and opened in Maharashtra and Gujarat during the last three years, separately district-wise;

(b) the number of Villages in these States where post offices do not exist; district-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide postal facilities in the villages of both the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of Branch Post Offices sanctioned and opened in Maharashtra and Gujarat during the last three years are given in enclosed statement-I.

(b) The number of villages in these States where post offices do not exist is given district-wise in statement-II.

(c) The justified proposals as per norms are opened subject to the availability of posts to be sanctioned by Ministry of Finance as also available financial resources.

Statement I

The number of Branch Post Offices sanctioned & opened in last three years in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Name of District	Maharashtra			Name of District	Gujarat		
	Branch Post Offices sanctioned & opened during last three years				Branch Post Offices sanctioned & opened during last 3 years		
	1997-98	98-99	1999-2000		1997-98	98-99	99-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Aurangabad	—	1	1	Ahmedabad	—	2	—
Jalna	—	—	1	Banaskantha	1	1	5
Beed	—	—	2	Gandhinagar	1	—	—
Dhule	3	5	—	Mehsana	3	1	—
Nandurbar	—	1	3	Patan	—	1	—
Nashik	1	—	1	Sabarkantha	2	2	4
Nanded	—	2	5	Amreli	—	—	—
Parbhani	2	—	1	Bhavnagar	—	—	—
Latur	1	1	—	Jamnagar	—	—	—
Jalgaon	2	3	2	Junagarh	1	2	—
Osmanabad	1	6	—	Kuchch	—	—	—
Ratnagiri	2	6	6	Porbandar	—	—	1
Kolhapur	1	6	—	Rajkot	1	—	1
Sangli	—	4	1	S'Nagar	1	—	—
Singhudurg	3	7	3	Anand	—	—	—
Thane	—	2	4	Bharuch	1	—	2
Raigad	3	7	2	Dahod	—	8	—
Mumbai	—	—	—	Dangs	—	—	—
Satara	2	2	1	Kheda	—	1	1
Solapur	1	1	—	Narmada	—	—	—
Ahmednagar	2	4	2	Navsari	—	1	1
Pune	3	1	1	Panchmahal	2	8	6
Akola	—	3	—	Surat	2	1	1
Amravati	—	1	2	Vadodara	1	—	4
Buldhana	2	1	1	Valsad	2	3	2
Total					18	31	28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bhandara	2	1	—				
Chandrapur	2	1	—				
Gadchiroli	1	1	2				
Nagpur	—	1	4				
Wardha	—	—	—				
Yeotmal	1	1	1				
Total	35	69	46				

Statement II

Number of Villages in Maharashtra and Gujarat States where Post Offices do not exist.

Maharashtra		Gujarat	
Name of District	No. of Villages without post office as on 31.3.99	Name of District	No. of Villages without post Office as on 31.3.99
1	2	3	4
Aurangabad	1057	Ahmedabad	224
Jalna	756	Banaskantha	936
Beed	958	Gandhinagar	6
Dhule	547	Mehsana	356
Nandurbar	608	Patan	216
Nashik	1225	Sabarkantha	632
Nanded	1081	Amreli	309
Parbhani	1137	Bhavnagar	468
Latur	643	Jamnagar	431
Jalgaon	1006	Junagarh	457
Oshanabad	449	Kuchch	488
Ratnagiri	908	Porbandar	119
Kolhapur	679	Rajkot	434
Sangli	336	S'Nagar	341
Singhudurg	380	Anand	136

1	2	3	4
Thane	1701	Bharuch	337
Raigad	1457	Dahod	753
Mumbai	—	Dangs	253
Satara	921	Kheda	265
Solapur	536	Narmada	347
Ahmednagar	918	Navsari	101
Pune	1182	Panchmahal	618
Akola	1207	Surat	693
Amravati	1285	Vadodara	1087
Buldhana	959	Valsad	179
Bhandara	1606		
Chandrapur	1487		
Gadchiroli	1302		
Nagpur	1373		
Wardha	810		
Yeatmal	1495		
Total	30009		10386

Telephone Connections in Buldhana

3542. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications on the waiting list for telephone connections in various telephone exchanges under Buldhana district of Maharashtra;

(b) the details thereof exchange-wise; and

(c) the step taken by the Government to provide telephone connections at the earliest and for expansion of telephone exchanges in the said district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The number of applications on waiting list for telephone connections in various telephone exchanges under Buldhana district of Maharashtra on 31-03-2000 was 2260. The exchange-wise details are given in enclosed statement.

(c) It is proposed to add 8300 lines to the main exchanges of Buldhana district during the current year by opening new exchanges and expanding the existing exchanges to provide new telephone connections to the wait listed persons and new applicants.

Statement

NAME OF DISTRICT : BULDHANA

Exchange-wise Waiting List Status as on 1.4.2000

1.	Buldhana	248
2.	Dhad	3
3.	Chandol	5
4.	Deulghat	16
5.	Dudha	16
6.	Dongarkhan	51
7.	Masrul	13
8.	Madh	12
9.	Raipur	10
10.	Padali	29

11.	Sakhali Bk	74	45.	Rohana	2
12.	Mhasala Bk	0	46.	Malkapur	120
13.	Chikhli	63	47.	Narvel	1
14.	Amdapur	60	48.	Dasarkhed	16
15.	Undri	20	49.	Datala	9
16.	Sakhrkherda	34	50.	Motala	17
17.	Kelwad	31	51.	Kothali	29
18.	Eklara	10	52.	Shelgaon Bazar	46
19.	Uttaradpeth	21	53.	Pophali	13
20.	Shendujan	19	54.	Rohinkhed	3
21.	Mera Bk	0	55.	Dhamangaon Badhe	5
22.	Mera Kh	36	56.	Korhala Bazar	1
23.	Isoli	0	57.	Shelapur Bk.	34
24.	Deulgaon Raja	75	58.	Pimpri Gawali	25
25.	Sindkhed Raja	20	59.	Wadaji	10
26.	Kingaon Raja	25	60.	Warkhed	1
27.	Dusarbid	10	61.	Liha BK	21
28.	Deulgaon Mahi	2	62.	Nimkhed	1
29.	Andhera	42	63.	Shegaon	75
30.	Jambhora	44	64.	Manasgaon	8
31.	Malkapur Pangra	6	65.	Jawala	2
32.	Singaon Jahagir	18	66.	Pahurjira	0
33.	Jalgaon Jamod	73	67.	Matergaon	4
34.	Jamode	9	68.	Jahori	0
35.	Madakhed	25	69.	Pimpalagon Raja	6
36.	Pimpalagon Kale	26	70.	Kalegaon	0
37.	Sangrampur	49	71.	Hiwarkhed	15
38.	Sonala	16	72.	Boraidgaon	11
39.	Asalgaon	14	73.	Shirli	0
40.	Paturda	9	74.	Palshi	2
41.	Bawanbir	11	75.	Shahpur	0
42.	Khampur	87	76.	Pimpri Gawali	7
43.	Khampur	0	77.	Nandura	59
44.	Gondhanapur	7	78.	Tikodi	22

79.	Shemba	19
80.	Wadner	17
81.	Chandur Biswa	7
82.	Wasadi	16
83.	Nardhed	3
84.	Mehakar	103
85.	Dongaon	22
86.	Janephal	26
87.	Deulgaon Sakharsha	0
88.	Shenla	7
89.	Deulgaon Mali	8
90.	Sultanpur	0
91.	Bibi	28
92.	Hirdeo	12
93.	Hiwara BK	33
94.	Anjani BK	3
95.	Lonar	24
96.	Shelgaon Deshmukh	28
Total		2260

Telcommunications Network in Maharashtra

3543. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWTHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rural Telecommunications Network in Maharashtra is not working properly and mostly remains non-functional;

(b) if so, the details thereof including assessment made by Technical committee in this regard;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation;

(d) whether the Government propose to expand, develop, upgrade and modernise Telecommunication Network in rural areas of Maharashtra during 2000-2001;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the funds allocated for the purpose during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. The rural telecommunications network in Maharashtra is generally working staisfactorily.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) The steps taken by Government to improve Telecom Services in rural areas are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The following plans have been made for rural areas:-

Sl. No.	Item	Maharashtra	Goa	Total
1.	New Exchanges	345	5	350
2.	DELS	95,000	5000	1,00,000
3.	Net/sw Capacity	1,45,000	5000	1,50,000
4.	OFC (Kms)	9000	200	9200

(f) Demands for Grants for the year 2000-2001 for Department of Telecom Services has not been approved by the Parliament as yet. Statewise allocation of funds will be done only after approval of DFG by the Parliament.

Statement

Steps taken by Government to improve Telecom servipes in rural areas

For Telephone Exchanges:

1. All exchanges in rural areas have been converted into electronic exchanges.

2. Reliable media is being provided to all the exchanges in rural areas and by year 2002 all exchanges shall be connected on reliable media.

3. Stand by generators and maintenance-free batteries are being installed to take care of frequent power failures in rural areas.

4. Daily testing of subscribers line is done from the exchanges.

5. Laying of more and more underground cables to reduce the length of open wire lines for giving the telephone connections.

For Village Public Telephones:

1. Testing of village public telephones daily from the exchange.
2. Testing of MARR links daily from the Base station.
3. Flying squads have been constituted at Circle/ TCHQ level.
4. Annual maintenance contract are being finalized with the supplier of the system.
5. New technologies are being tried in the network for provision of village public telephones viz. WILL (wireless in local loop), CDOT TDMA PMP systems and satellite based terminals for remote and inaccessible areas.

LPG Agencies in Aurangabad and Ahmednagar, Maharashtra

3544. SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several segments in the Aurangabad and Ahmednagar districts of Maharashtra where no LPG agencies exist;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up LPG agencies in these districts; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) LPG agencies are opened in a phased manner at the economically viable locations all over the country including in Aurangabad and Ahmednagar Districts of Maharashtra. To meet the current demand, there are 11 LPG distributorships in Aurangabad and 20 LPG distributorships in Ahmednagar functioning. In Order to meet the increased demand, 8 and 9 additional LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plans for Aurangabad and Ahmednagar Districts of Maharashtra, respectively.

Use of L.P.G. as Alternative Fuel

3545. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has suggested to the Union Government for amending the Motor Vehicles Act specifying the standards to be adopted while permitting the use of LPG as an alternative fuel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Necessary action has been initiated by the Government to amend the relevant provision of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

[Translation]

Crude Oil from Mumbai High Oilfields

3546. SHRI HARI BHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of crude oil produced from the Mumbai High Oilfields in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) whether the production of the crude oil is less than the target fixed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to explore maximum crude oil from the Mumbai High Oilfields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The production of crude oil from Bombay High v/s the targets during last three years was as under:-

(Figs. in MMT)

Year	Target	Achievement
1996-97	13.928	12.040
1997-98	10.769	12.434
1998-99	12.050	11.586

The main reason for shortfall in production is that the main producing reservoirs of this oilfield have entered the natural declining phase. Some of the wells are flowing with high gas oil ratio and increasing water cut.

(d) In order to improve the performance of the field and increase the recovery factor, a monitorable action plan has been prepared by the expert committee which includes:-

- (i) Reservoir characterisation for better understanding of the complexities of the multi-layered reservoir of Bombay High field through the recently acquired 3-D seismic data.
- (ii) Drilling of in-fill wells to exploit by passed/undrained parts of the giant field.
- (iii) Re-distribution of injection water for improved conformance.
- (iv) Re-completion of poor performing wells.
- (v) Engaging of reservoir consultant of International repute by ONGC for planning the future development strategy to improve the recovery from the field.
- (vi) Engaging of services of the experts by ONGC on application of Gel technology on trial basis in some identified wells for controlling excessive gas and water production and conformance control in injectors.

[English]

Exploration of Methane Gas

3547. SHRI RAMAKANT ANGLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken the exploration of coal based methane gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas identified for such exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) ONGC has been granted Petroleum Exploration Licensee (PEL) for exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in North Raniganj in West Bengal. ONGC has also initiated exploration of CBM as an R & D project and has drilled six wells—two in Durgapur in West Bengal and four in Parbatpur block in Jharia coal field as part of its R & D activity.

The Government of India has approved the policy for exploration & exploitation of CBM in the country. This policy provides for offer of blocks for exploration and exploitation of CBM through open global competitive bidding. Nine blocks have been identified in the states of Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh and consultations have been initiated with the concerned state Governments on the offer of blocks.

Work allotted by Mormugao Port Trust to Border Road Organisation

3548. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works allotted by the Mormugao Port Trust to the Border Road Organisation;

(b) whether these works have been started;

(c) if so, the time by which these works are likely to be completed; and

(d) the criteria laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The details of the work allotted by Mormugao Port Trust to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and their date/likely date of completion is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimated cost	Date/likely date of completion
1	2	3	4
1.	Construction of a four lane road from Verma junction to Sada junction for a length of 18.348 kms and improvement of road leading from Vasco Road Over Bridge (ROB) of Mormugao Harbour into 2 lane for a length of 2.825 km.	Rs. 74.03 crores (cost of the work allotted to BRO is Rs. 53.00 crores)	June, 2001

1	2	3	4
2.	Paving the area around old Power House between ROB and Gate No. 9 and alongside BG railway track at the general cargo berth No. 10 & 11.	Rs. 3.92 crores	April, 2000
3.	Asphalting the area between Gate No. 9 and Dumper House.	Rs. 0.81 crores	31.5.1999
4.	Paving of 10,000 sq. mtrs. of area near Operation Building at Gate No. 9	Rs. 1.00 crores	May, 2000
5.	Construction of a road from A.O. building of Port Signal Station.	Rs. 1.26 crores	December, 2000

The works at Sl. No. 1 to 3 have been started.

(d) The above works have been allotted to Border Roads Organisation on nomination basis in view of organisation's competence, expertise and experience in the area of Road construction.

Reforms in the Power Sector

3549. SHRI DEVENDRA PRADAD YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any exercise has been made by the Government recently to analyse the achievements or otherwise of the goals of power reforms taken up in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the main causes identified for failure of the power reforms programme in achieving the desired results stating the areas of unsatisfactory performance; and

(d) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far five States namely Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have passed their Reform Acts and unbundled their Electricity Boards. Only Orissa has privatised distribution. Rajasthan has passed its Reforms Act but it is yet to be implemented. Besides this fourteen States namely Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, UP, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and West Bengal have notified constitution of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. However,

tariff orders have been issued only by Orissa State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

(c) Orissa is the only State to have privatised its entire distribution. The performance of distribution companies has begin to show improvement despite extensive damage caused to systems by the Super Cyclone. It is expected that the distribution companies will start making current payment for their power purchase by the end of the current year thereby achieving financial viability. In respect of other States it is too early to assess the impact of reforms.

(d) Government of India has taken a proactive role in reforming State Electricity Boards so that they function on commercial lines. Power Ministers Conference held on 26.2.2000 resolved that reform must be undertaken with determination, vigor and a sense of urgency. The key elements of the Reforms Strategy are:

- (i) Energy audit at all levels;
- (ii) Time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December 2001;
- (iii) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.
- (iv) Strengthening/upgradation of sub transmission and distribution system by taking sub station as a limit on a priority basis.

If above appears unattainable in the existing Act Corporatisation/Co-privatisation/Privatisation of distribution would have to be undertaken.

Use of Money Power in Rajya Sabha Elections

3550. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that money power has played a great role in the recently concluded elections to the Rajya Sabha; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check misuse of money power in a blatant manner to bring the entire parliamentary system in to disrepute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of allegations made in this regard as reported in the newspapers. Some corrective steps have also been suggested which are under examination by the Government.

Illegal Sale of Petrol/Diesel in Tamil Nadu

3551. SHR P.D. ELANGOAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to curb the illegal sale of adulterated petrol/diesel popularly known as Madras Petrol in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of retail outlets caught and sealed for selling adulterated diesel/petrol in Tamil Nadu during the last two years; and

(c) the position of supply and sale of diesel and petrol in the country in both quantity and value-wise during each month for the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under the direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

(b) During the last two years, the oil marketing companies have taken appropriate action against 46 retail outlets in Tamil Nadu for selling adulterated diesel/petrol.

(c) The supply position during the last two years has generally been in accordance with demand.

LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps in Tamil Nadu

3552. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of petrol pumps and LPG dealership/agencies which were approved but not sanctioned or called for interview during the last three years in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the reasons for not allotting petrol pumps/LPG agencies in the said State;

(c) whether a large number of persons registered for LPG connections are awaiting for more than three years in Thiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the waiting lists are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In the State of Tamil Nadu, in addition to the locations pending from previous marketing plans, 59 retail outlet dealerships and 155 LPG distributorships have been included in the RO and LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98. Retail Outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships included in the marketing plan are advertised from time to time by the oil marketing companies for selection of dealers/distributors in a phased manner. Selection process was stayed on account of announcement of general elections and enforcement of Model Code of Conduct. Dealer Selection Boards have since been dissolved. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

(c) to (e) The waiting list for LPG connections in the district Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu was 22819 as on 1.4.2000. Instructions have been issued to the oil companies to release 1 crore new LPG connections during the year 2000 in order to liquidate the waiting list as on 1.12.1999.

Four Laning of Jammu-Pathankot National Highway

3553. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for upgrading Jammu-Pathankot National Highway into four lane Highway;

(b) whether the Government have sought financial assistance in this regard from the corporate world and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also approached the World Bank or Asian Development Bank for financial assistance in this regard;

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

(e) the number of deaths in road accident in this Highway during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Jammu-Pathankot Section (NH-1A) falls on North-South corridor of the National Highway Development Project. Consultancy contract for preparation of Detailed Project Report for 4 laning of Km. 80-97.2 of Jammu-Pathankot has been awarded on 10.4.2000 and targeted to be completed within six months. The prioritisation study for balance section of the NH are being conducted by NHAI.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The information is being collected from the Police Authorities.

Legislation on Bio-Diversity

3554. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact legislation to strengthen the involvement of the local self-Governments over the biological resources in their areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee for drafting biodiversity legislation has been constituted and has submitted its recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is formulating a legislation on biodiversity with the broad objectives of conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. The proposed legislation envisages setting up of Biodiversity Management Committees by local self-governments.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government had set up an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. M.S.Swaminathan in August 1998 for recommending a suitable draft of the biodiversity legislation. The Committee submitted its report in October 1998. The Government has taken into consideration the recommendations of this Committee while preparing the biodiversity legislation.

MTNL Shares

3555. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL had decided to list its shares on the New York Stock Exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which MTNL shares likely to be listed; and

(d) the extent to which it enhance the value of its share holdings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) After listing on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), the existing GDR holders already listed on London Stock Exchange would be given option first to convert into ADRs (American Depository Receipts)

(c) Expected to be listed within next 2 months. However, the above date of listing is subject to a number of other issues including the response time of US regulators (SEC).

(d) The NYSE is the largest securities market in the world. Listing on the NYSE and SEC Registration would enhance MTNL's value as perceived by its investors. Since MTNL's account get subjected to greater scrutiny, the company's image will go up in the minds of investors

as a highly transparent company. Further, listing in NYSE will enable a large number of NRIs abroad to buy equity in a blue chip company of India.

Appointment of SCs/STs in Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

3556. SARDAR BUTA SINGH:
SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR:

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

(a) whether the persons belonging to the SCs/STs categories have been given adequate representation while appointing to the posts of President, Senior Vice-Presidents, Vice Presidents and Members of the ITAT;

(b) if not, the reasons, therefor; and

(c) the total number of persons posted as President, Senior Vice-President, Vice-Presidents and Members of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal as on January 1, 1996 and the number of those belonging to the SCs/STs appointment to the said posts and their percentage to the total number of posts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The posts of President, Senior Vice-President, Vice-President in the Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal, are Group-A posts and are filled by promotion. As such the reservation orders are not applicable to these posts. However, in the case of appointment to the posts of Member in the Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal which are also Group 'A' posts, the appointments are made through direct recruitment. As such reservation orders are followed for recruitment to these posts. Total number of persons posted as President, Senior Vice-President Vice-President and Members of ITAT, as on 1-1-1996, is 62. Number of SCs and STs officers out of this is 8 and 6 respectively. Their percentage to the total number of posts is 10.53% and 7.89% respectively.

Modernisation of Panvel Post Office

3557. SHRI RAM SHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise Post Office at Panvel in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Panvel Head Post Office has been partially modernised during 1996-97. The remaining modernisation work of Panvel Head Post Office will be taken up during the current financial year i.e. 2000-2001.

Construction of Navigation Canal from Mahe River

3558. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a project report from Kerala for the development and construction of a Navigation Canal from Mahe river to Valapattanam river of the West Coast Canal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is under consideration.

Forcible Sale of LPG Stoves by Dealers in West Bengal

3559. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some dealers at Durgapur and Raniganj under the district of Burdwan in West Bengal, are pressurising the customers to buy gas stoves from them at higher prices at the time of release of new gas connection; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) PSU Oil Companies have not received any complaints in the recent past against their LPG distributors operating at Durgapur and Raniganj under the district of Burdwan in West Bengal.

(b) Does not arise.

Petrol Pumps in Karnataka

3560. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of diesel/petrol pumps outlets functioning at present in Karnataka State alongwith location thereof;

(b) whether applications were invited for allocation of dealership for various petroleum products in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the progress of allotment in each case as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Presently there are 1049 retail outlet dealerships in operation in Karnataka.

(b) and (c) Oil companies have issued advertisements for 43 RO dealerships 9 SKO/LDO dealerships and 195 LPG distributorships. Out of the above LOIs for 18 retail outlet dealerships, 1 SKO/LDO dealership and 101 LPG distributorships have already been issued.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps in Rajasthan

3561. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations where new petroleum outlets and L.P.G. agencies are proposed to be set up in Rajasthan during the current financial year;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any survey to find out new locations for setting up of LPG agencies/petrol pumps in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to make available L.P.G. to the desiring persons in the rural areas of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Oil Companies conduct feasibility surveys periodically to identify viable locations for setting up dealerships/distributorships in different parts of the country including in Rajasthan. Locations found feasible are included in the Marketing Plans and advertised by the Oil Companies from time to time for selection of dealers/distributors through Dealer Selection Boards. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview. Accordingly, in addition to the locations pending from previous marketing plans, 40 ROs and 115 LPG distributorships have been included in the 1996-98 Marketing Plan for Rajasthan.

[English]

Telephone Connections in Andhra Pradesh

3562. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh is poised to have the largest number of telephone connections in the country very soon;

(b) whether at present, Maharashtra is leading in Telephone connections;

(c) if so, the comparative details in both States, District-wise;

(d) the number of telephone connections provided in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years till date, district-wise;

(e) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the State at present, district-wise;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list;

(g) whether all the villages have been provided telephone facility in the State; and

(h) if not, the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) At present Maharashtra State has the maximum number of telephone connections in the country with 44.16 lakh telephone connections while Andhra Pradesh has 22.2 lakh telephone connections. The growth rate of telephone connections recorded during 1999-2000 in Andhra Pradesh

was 41.66% whereas in Maharashtra the growth rate was 16.91% Comparative details of both States, district-wise are given in enclosed statement I and II.

(d) The details for the telephone connections provided during last three years in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise is given in enclosed Statement-III.

(e) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the State, district-wise is given in enclosed Statement-IV.

(f) Telephone exchanges are being expanded and new exchanges are being opened to clear the waiting list progressively by March, 2001.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. Out of 29460 villages, 23379 have been provided with telephone facility. Remaining 6081 villages will be covered progressively by March, 2002.

Statement-I

Andhra Pradesh

District-wise Telephone Connections as on 31-3-2000.

Sl.No.	Name of District	Telephone Connections
1	2	3
1.	Adilabad	42706
2.	Ananthapur	74901
3.	Chittoor	93835
4.	Cuddapah	53779
5.	East Godavari	132020
6.	Guntur	130042
7.	Hyderabad	611226
8.	Karimnagar	74901
9.	Khammam	60413
10.	Krishna	165177
11.	Kumool	70822
12.	Mahaboob Nagar	43009
13.	Medak	45563
14.	Nalgonda	61043
15.	Nellore	64095

1	2	3
16.	Nizamabad	57484
17.	Prakasham	55459
18.	Rangareddy	31927
19.	Srikakulam	28647
20.	Viseakhapatnam	121354
21.	Vizianagaram	29869
22.	Warangal	56708
23.	West Godavari	122501
Total		2227487

Statement-II

Maharashtra

Status of Telephone Connections as on 31-3-2000.

Sl.No.	Name of District	Telephone Connections
1	2	3
1.	Ahmednagar	91086
2.	Akola Including Vashim	45744
3.	Amravati	49969
4.	Aurangabad	73139
5.	Beed	21920
6.	Bhandara Including Gondia	26240
7.	Buldana	27973
8.	Chandrapur	33245
9.	Dhule Including Nandurbar	42274
10.	Gadchiroli	5506
11.	Gaigaon	75720
12.	Jalna	16045
13.	Kalayan	283471
14.	Kolhapur	119893
15.	Latur	32518
16.	Nagpur	150031

1	2	3
17.	Nanded	36865
18.	Nashik	154222
19.	Osmanabad	17490
20.	Parbhani Including Hingoli	25574
21.	Pune	461429
22.	Raigad	68194
23.	Ratnagiri	39581
24.	Sangli	98642

1	2	3
25.	Satara	65486
26.	Sindhudurg	18524
27.	Solapur	71359
28.	Wardha	23309
29.	Yeatmal	25196
30.	Mumbai	2213388
Total		4415833

Statement-III

The number of Telephone Connections provided in Andhra Pradesh during last three years District-wise

SL. No.	Name of District	Telephone Connections Provided		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Adilabad	7679	8008	12347
2.	Ananthapur	7282	15508	27413
3.	Chittoor	8608	21048	31009
4.	Cuddapah	4563	11517	19020
5.	East Godavari	13027	20440	45036
6.	Guntur	11365	23072	39153
7.	Hyderabad	47020	95077	128196
8.	Karimnagar	11007	16900	25684
9.	Khammam	4048	15032	21685
10.	Krishna	16068	24809	40259
11.	Kurnool	8155	12270	23144
12.	Mahaboob Nagar	3941	7405	15333
13.	Medak	4500	8100	12956
14.	Nalgonda	7497	13560	22426
15.	Nellore	9098	13505	22502
16.	Nizamabad	7742	11500	22542
17.	Prakasham	9002	11533	10948

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Rangareddy	2428	6978	20577
19.	Srikakulam	2069	5756	11022
20.	Visakhapatnam	12022	23754	30319
21.	Vizianagaram	3490	4772	10484
22.	Warangal	2900	7514	22604
23.	West Godavari	12976	26922	42229
Total		216487	404980	655088

Statement-IV*Andhra Pradesh**District-wise waiting list as on 31-3-2000*

Sl. No.	Name of District	Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Adilabad	7314
2.	Ananthapur	8709
3.	Chittoor	31949
4.	Cuddapah	15807
5.	East Godavari	24685
6.	Guntur	17250
7.	Hyderabad	45774
8.	Karimnagar	25661
9.	Khammam	15109
10.	Krishna	14278
11.	Kumool	7417
12.	Mahaboob Nagar	12819
13.	Medak	11796
14.	Nalgonda	27175
15.	Nellore	13268
16.	Nizamabad	9436
17.	Prakasham	9241

1	2	3
18.	Rangareddy	14269
19.	Srikakulam	3360
20.	Visakhapatnam	23261
21.	Vizianagaram	1966
22.	Warangal	25011
23.	West Godavari	11683
Total		377058

*[Translation]***Construction of Post Office Buildings in Bihar**

3563. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post office functioning in the rented buildings in Bihar at present, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct the buildings of the Post Offices especially for G.P.O. in the State;

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

(d) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of post offices functioning in the rented buildings in Bihar at present, is 1380. The district-wise break up is given in enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir. The Government does not propose to construct the buildings of the post Offices especially for GPO in the State as there is only one GPO in the State which is already functioning from a departmental building at Patna. Other buildings for post Offices will be considered for construction on the basis of operational requirements, plan priority and available resources.

(c) No reply called for in view of (b) above.

(d) No reply called for in view of (b) above.

Statement

Construction of Post Office building in Bihar

Sl. No.	Name of Districts	No. of Post Offices functioning in rented buildings
1	2	3
1.	Patna	99
2.	Nalanda	29
3.	Bhagalpur	39
4.	Banka	09
5.	Munger	15
6.	Bhojpur	38
7.	Buxar	29
8.	Gaya	41
9.	Jehanabad	21
10.	Nawada	15
11.	Vaishali (Hajipur)	26
12.	Jamui	10
13.	Lakhisar	05
14.	Shekhpura	07
15.	Aurangabad	27
16.	Dhanbad	58
17.	Bokaro	33
18.	Girdih	20
19.	Hazaribagh	47
20.	Chatra	05
21.	Kodarma	07
22.	Palamau	26

1	2	3
23.	Garhwa	06
24.	Ranchi	57
25.	Gumla	10
26.	Lohardagga	03
27.	Kaimur	08
28.	Singbhum (E) Jamshedpur	35
29.	Singbhum (W), Chaibasa	33
30.	Dumka	29
31.	B. Deoghar	20
32.	Godda	08
33.	Sahebganj	13
34.	Pakur	08
35.	Begusarai	29
36.	Khagaria	13
37.	Champan (East), Mothiari	38
38.	Champan (West), Bettiah	21
39.	Darbhanga	43
40.	Muzaffarpur	57
41.	Madhubani	38
42.	Purnea	20
43.	Katihar	21
44.	Araria	09
45.	Kishanganj	05
46.	Samastipur	38
47.	Saharsa	15
48.	Madhepura	16
49.	Supaul	17
50.	Sitamarhi	23
51.	Sheohar	01
52.	Siwan	36
53.	Gopalganj	20
54.	Saran	49
55.	Rohtas	35
Total		1380

*[English]***LPG Connections in A.P. and Maharashtra**

3564. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on waiting list for L.P.G. connections in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) the time by which those are on waiting list; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for early clearance of waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The number of persons on 1.1.2000 on the waiting list registered with the LPG distributors of the PSU Oil Companies are about 8.87 lakhs in the State of Andhra Pradesh and about 5.53 lakhs in the State of Maharashtra.

New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending on the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Government has a plan to release around 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

*[Translation]***Environment Policy on Pollution**

3665. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced/proposed to announce any environment policy to check the level of pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of rules and regulations enacted so far to combat pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Government had released a 'State of Environment Report' in 1999, which covered matters relating to prevention and control of pollution, solid wastes,

hazardous substances management, cleaner technologies and related issues. The Government policy on environment is also enunciated in the National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development (1992), the Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution (1992), and the National Forest Policy (1988).

(c) The statutory framework to combat pollution includes the following.

- (i) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Rules made thereunder.
- (ii) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act 1977 and Rules made thereunder.
- (iii) The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 and Rules made thereunder.
- (iv) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made thereunder.
- (v) The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and Rules made thereunder.
- (vi) The National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995.
- (vii) The National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997 and Rules made thereunder.

*[English]***Construction of National Highway in Kerala**

3566. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total National Highways covered by Kerala State;

(b) the details of the ongoing construction works on the National Highways in Kerala;

(c) the total amount to be spent for the expansion and development of National Highways during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether there is any proposal to four lane any National Highways in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the ongoing four lane work in the State, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Kerala State is covered by seven National Highways having an aggregate length of 1350 Kms.

(b) 13 Major works consisting of four bridge works, one road & bridge work and 8 nos. of road works are in various stages of progress.

(c) During first 4 years of 9th Plan i.e. from 1-4-1997 to 31-3-2001, the total amount to be spent for the expansion and development of National Highways is Rs. 288.50 Crore. Amount to be spent during remaining 1 year of 9th Plan i.e. 2001-2002 depends upon the overall availability of funds and can not be indicated at this state.

(d) and (e) Four laning from Aluva and Aroor to Cherthala of NH-47 is nearing completion and from Kochi to State border at Valayar of NH-47 is to be taken up as a Spur to North-South corridor under the National Highway Development Project to be executed by National Highways Authority of India. Land Acquisition for four laning from Aluva to Angamaly is presently in progress.

Separate Bench of Orissa High Court

3567. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for setting up of a separate bench of Orissa High Court at Kenjhargarh;

(b) whether the Government have examined the above proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which this bench is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Extinction of Cheetah

3568. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Marzar species of cheetah has become extinct in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government for the protection of the cheetahs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Asiatic Cheetah has been extinct from the country since 1947. The main reasons for its extinction were loss of habitat and excessive hunting.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Village Public Telephone Facility

3569. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of villages proposed to be covered by the public telephone facility during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):

To achieve the objective of covering all the villages in the country by March, 2002, a target to cover 339, 659 villages was fixed for the 9th Plan State-wise detail as per Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Total No. Villages	Villages proposed to be covered by the public telephone facility during the Ninth Five Year Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	282	171
2.	Andhra Pradesh	29,460	8,188

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	22,224	14,380
4.	Bihar	79,208	63,639
5.	Gujarat	18,125	4,202
6.	Haryana	6,850	340
7.	Himachal Pradesh	16,997	11,922
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	6,764	4,711
9.	Karnataka	27,066	9,565
10.	Kerala	1,530	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	71,526	36,159
12.	Maharashtra	42,060	15,935
13.	Goa	407	82
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	3,599	3,092
15.	Manipur	2,394	1,917
16.	Meghalaya	5,629	4,977
17.	Mizoram	770	219
18.	Nagaland	1,192	720
19.	Tripura	862	385
20.	Orissa	46,989	30,816
21.	Punjab	12,687	680
22.	Rajasthan	38,634	21,309
23.	Tamil Nadu	17,991	953
24.	Uttar Pradesh	115,249	77,898
25.	West Bengal	38,378	27,171
26.	Sikkim	427	228
27.	Delhi	191	—
Total		607,491	339,659

Payment to Depositors

3570. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to replies given to Unstarred Question Nos. 14 and 2998 dated November 29, 1999 and December 20, 1999 respectively and state:

(a) whether M/s. Helios Corporation Limited, Patna has repaid the first instalment that was due on February

29, 2000 along with update interest to the depositors as per CLB orders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the competent authority to issue directions to the RBI to ensue timely payments

to the depositors or action taken against the defaulting party?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) M/s Helios Corporation Ltd. is a Non-Banking Finance Company. Deposits of such companies are regulated under RBI Act. Reserve Bank of India has informed that it has not so far received any affidavit from M/s. Helios Corporation Ltd., Patna indicating compliance of Company Law Board order dated 07.10.99. The Reserve of India is, however, receiving complaints from depositors for non-repayment of deposits by the Helios group of companies.

(b) and (c) Position has already been indicated at Part (a) above.

(d) M/s. Helios Corporation Ltd., alongwith M/s. Helios Finance & Investment Ltd., in the Group have moved Calcutta High Court against Company Law Board orders dated 07.10.99. In view of the complaints, Reserve Bank of India has decided of file winding up petition in Patna High Court in the case of M/s. Helios Corporation Ltd.

Super Thermal Power Station at Ramagundam

3571. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of power generated by the National Thermal Power Corporation super thermal power station at Ramagundam during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the power generation at NTPC Ramagundam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The energy generation at Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station of NTPC (2100 MW) during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as under:-

Year	Energy Generation (MU)
1997-98	16366
1998-99	15863
1999-2000	16651

(b) and (c) The energy generation target of 16000 MU has been fixed for Ramagundam Super Thermal

Power station for the year 2000-2001 as against the target of 15120 MU fixed for 1999-2000. NTPC will also undertake expansion of Ramagundam STPS by addition of 500 MW capacity in Stage-III at an estimated cost of Rs. 1818 crores (at Quarter III 1998 price level). Various linkages/clearances, TEC of CEA have been obtained for the project.

Cost of Power Generation

3572. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the expected average cost during the current period of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Cost of power generation in the country is higher than that of the international level;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The estimated cost of installation per MW for Hydro and Thermal power projects accorded techno economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) during the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000 varies from Rs. 3.40 crores to Rs. 7.47 crores for Hydro projects and Rs. 4.50 crores for Coal based thermal projects and from Rs. 2.80 crores to 3.20 crores for CCGT projects (depending upon the size of the plant).

(b) to (d) It is difficult to compare the cost of power generation in the country viz a viz international level due to differences in the cost of fuel, fuel transportation, capital cost, differences in tax regime etc.

Postal Mail Network

3573. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the onset of electronic communications, the daily mail traffic in the Postal Department has fallen down considerably especially in Metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, city-wise;

(c) whether such a fall is likely to impact on the Postal infrastructure;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the status of postal mail network of India in comparison to world wide network at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Despite the onset of the electronic communication there is no overall reduction in the mail traffic in the country. This is evident from the total mail traffic handled by the Department as given in the table below. The figures of mail traffic handled during the year 1999-2000 is not available as yet.

Year	Total Mail Traffic
1996-97	1479.52 crores
1997-98	1545.75 crores
1998-99	1549.82 crores

In fact, in some of the metros, like, Bangalore, Chennai, Calcutta and Hyderabad the volume of mail has increased or has remained steady. However, there is some marginal fall in traffic in Delhi. In Mumbai the Metro mail traffic for the year 1997-98 shows a fall over the figure of 1996-97 but that happened due to the policy of the Department to de-congest mail traffic of Mumbai by diverting mail of the neighbouring districts by alternative direct routes, to speed up mail movement and deliveries in those areas.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) & (b) above.

(d) Though there has been no decline in the mail traffic handled by the Department, steps are taken on a continuous basis to increase mail traffic by improving the quality of service. Some of the steps have been:-

- (i) Installation of automatic mail processing systems at Mumbai and Chennai;
- (ii) Computerisation of Registration Sorting work in the mail offices;
- (iii) Computerisation of Transit Mail Offices in a phased manner;
- (iv) Segmentation of mail into various channels, called Green Channel, Metro Channel, Rajdhani Channel, Business Channel etc;

(v) Regular monitoring of mail processing system and delivery work;

(vi) Live mail Survey at regular intervals both in rural and urban areas to streamline mail transmission and delivery system.

(e) As regards the status of postal mail network of India in comparison to world wide network, during the period from 1993 to 1997, the volume of letter post items has increased world-wide by 4.5% as compared to 21.17% in India during the same period. Regarding Postal Network, India has the largest network of Post Offices in the world with 1,54,149 Post Offices across the country.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Chhatarpur Postal Division, M.P.

3574. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from public representatives regarding the problems of employees and irregularities committed in the Chhatarpur Postal Division in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the demands of the employees; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to resolve the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the representations are as below.

(i) Representations received in 1996-97

- A representation dated 06.12.96 from Shri George Fernandes, Member of Parliament regarding misuse of powers of the post of Divisional Head, Chhatarpur by Shri S.D. Vashistha and his immediate transfer addressed to the then Minister of Communications.
- A representation dated 04.01.97 from Ms. Uma Bharti, Member of Parliament regarding misuse of powers of the post of Divisional Head, Chhatarpur by Shri S.D. Vashistha and his immediate transfer addressed to the then Minister of Communications.

(ii) Representation received in 1999

- Representation from Shri Satyavart Chaturvedi, Member of Parliament addressed to Minister of Communications regarding misbehaviour with a member of the staff, non compliance of rules and regulations, corruption by ASPOs Tikamgarh, irregular Extra Departmental appointments, harassment of staff and irregularities in granting of allowances by Shri S.D. Vashistha, Supdt. of Post Offices, Chhatarpur.

(c) Inquiries were conducted into the said representations received in 1996-97.

Most of the allegations against Shri S.D. Vashistha, Superintendent of Post Offices, Chhatarpur could not be proved. There was no case against the officer from vigilance angle. Therefore, it did not appear justified to shift the officer without valid ground for his transfer from the said division. Suitable replies were also given to the public representatives who had taken up the case of the problems of the employees and irregularities committed in Chhatarpur Division.

As regards the representation received against the officer in 1999 the same is under examination.

[English]

Competitive Pricing Regime for STD Calls

3575. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for providing of telecom services at cheaper rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether STD calls would be priced at cheaper rates during non-peak and peak hours;

(d) if so, whether the existing equipment and STD lines do not operate at full capacity during a major part of the day;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to introduce a more competitive pricing regime for STD calls;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the additional revenue likely to be collected therefrom; and

(i) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to study the possible correlation between lower priced STD calls and total revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Representations from Public and Consumer Organisations to reduce the rates of telecom services are received from time to time. The power to fix tariff for telecom services has since been vested in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India by virtue of Sec. 11 (2) of the TRAI Act, 1997.

(c) STD rates have been reduced by around 20% from 1st May 1999. In addition concessional rates already exist during the off-peak hours.

(d) and (e) The STD equipment is designed to handle the peak hour traffic. However, the traffic during a 24 hour cycle varies due to the 4 tier tariff structure and subscribers needs. During some part of day and the late night hours when the traffic is slack, circuits do not carry traffic up to their full capacity. This, however, is a normal feature in practically all telecom networks of the world.

(f) to (h) The TRAI in their tariff order have given flexibility to the operators to offer alternative tariff packages to their subscribers within the ceilings prescribed. In a way this itself introduces an element of competition in pricing of STD calls. However, as explained in answer to (c) above, the question of additional revenue does not arise.

(i) As per the information available so far, the reduction of STD charges has decreased the revenue instead of increasing it thereby indicating absence of positive elasticity between lower priced STD calls and total revenue.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

3576. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any scheme to promote the use of official language in the Golden Jubilee year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in enclosed statement.

[*Translation*]

(c) In view of the replies given in (a) and (b) above, question does not arise.

Statement

Statement showing the details of programme being organised/proposed during the official language Golden Jubilee Year

1. At the very outset of the Golden Jubilee year, a Hindi fortnight was celebrated from 14th September to 30th September, 99. During this period various programmes/competitions were organized.
2. In each quarter Hindi Work-shops are being organised.
3. House journals are being brought out by different field offices of the Ministry. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has brought out Hindi periodical called "Tarang" and also Compiled one book as "Naman" in Hindi.
4. In Hindi speaking areas, Telephone directories are being made available in Hindi.
5. All the three departments of the Ministry have been computerized and training was imparted to the staff to make use of Hindi on computers and Hindi soft-ware has been loaded.
6. Hindi Advisory Committee of the Department of Post, Department of Telecom and Department of Telecom Services are being reconstituted.
7. Instructions have been issued to all Offices to promote the use of Hindi in their day to day Official Work and to achieve the targets set by the Department of Official Languages.
8. All India Official Language conferences are being/proposed to be held during the year in different circle offices.
9. A Calendar of various cultural programmes has been framed and accordingly events are being held. Various competitions are being organized for the family members of the employees of the Departments.

Identity Cards to Voters

3577. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

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

(a) whether the Election Commission of India has requested the Government to make arrangements for issuance of identity card to all voters in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the States where the voters identity cards have been issued to all the voters till December, 1999;

(c) the details of those States where production of identity cards were made mandatory for casting votes in the elections held in February, 2000 along with the basis on which such a decision was taken;

(d) whether the Government of Haryana has issues identity cards to all its voters;

(e) if so, the details of those States which have expressed their inability to do so;

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the orders of the Election Commission and casting the votes on the basis of identity card will be made madatory in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Photo Identity cards have not yet been issued to all electors in the country. About thirty-eight crore electors representing 62% of the eligible electors of the country have so far been provided Photo Identity Cards. The scheme has so far not been extended to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The work has also not started in Assam and Mizoram till now, although the programme has been extended to these States. According to the Election Commission, the scheme of issue of Photo Identity Cards to electors is not a project but an ongoing programme and no time limit can be fixed for completion of such a programme. The registration of electors is a continuous process (except for a period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of election process). Therefore, the scheme of issue of Photo Identity Cards to the registered electors is also a continuous programme and every new elector has also to be covered by the scheme.

(c) The production of Electoral Photo Identity Cards was insisted upon in the recently held general elections to the Legislative Assembly of Haryana in February, 2000. The Commission had also prescribed other means of identification for the electors not provided with Photo Identity Cards.

(d) No, Sir, Out of a total of 11,107,835 electors, 9831,338 electors have been issued Photo Identity Cards in Haryana.

(e) No State/Union territory has expressed its inability to implement the programme of Electoral Photo Identity Cards. However, the scheme has so far not been extended to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The work has also not started in Assam and Mizoram till now, although the programme has been extended to these States.

(f) The Government has extended its support for this programme and is providing necessary funds for this programme which is sharable between the Union and the State Governments on 50:50 basis.

(g) The scheme is being monitored by the Election Commission and it has stated that complete coverage of the entire electorate is not possible at a given point of time due to new additions in the Electoral Rolls. At present, the Government has no proposal to make production of Photo Identity Cards mandatory at the time of voting. It may also be stated that the orders of the Election Commission issued in 1994 are sub-judice before the Supreme Court of India.

Cases Pending in Criminal Courts

3578. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of criminal cases pending in various High Courts are more than that of Civil cases;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure expeditious disposal of these cases on the lines of civil cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGAOPAL): (a) and (b) No, sir. However, available information is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Government has been taking a series of steps to simplify procedures and speed up the disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission etc. Keeping this in view, the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 1994 is under consideration of the Parliament. The Law Commission, in its 154th Report has also made a number of recommendations in this regard.

In addition to the above, the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts have taken a number of steps for expeditious disposal of cases, viz., grouping and classification of cases involving similar question of law, setting up of specialised benches, computerization of records, etc.

Various other measures have also been taken by the Government including appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates for the disposal of petty criminal cases. Further, in pursuance of directions given by the Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 1.5.96 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1128 of 1996, Common Cause Vs UOI, the Subordinate Courts have been directed to close cases involving minor offences, pending for two years and more in which proceedings have not commenced.

In addition, pursuant to the orders passed on 13.10.1999 and 7.12.1999 by the Supreme Court of India, in the case—R.D. Upadhyay Vs State of Andhra Pradesh & Others, the Central Government has also written to all the State Governments and UT Administrations to take urgent necessary steps for expeditious disposal of cases of undetials who are languishing in various jails in the country.

Statement

Statement of Civil and Criminal Cases Pending in the High Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Civil	Criminal	as on
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	690666	125366	9/99
2.	Andhra Pradesh	127047	8518	12/99

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bombay	260105	24098	12/99
4.	Calcutta	268342	37356	9/99
5.	Delhi	152308	18593	6/99
6.	Gauhati	33034	5003	12/98
7.	Gujarat	105403	16129	12/98
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9345	2583	12/99
9.	J & K	69917	2034	9/99
10.	Karnataka	78128	4359	9/99
11.	Kerala	87015	9888	12/99
12.	Madhya Pradesh	63121	40699	12/99
13.	Madras	323712	33383	9/99
14.	Orissa	105242	9306	9/99
15.	Patna	66962	15950	9/99
16.	Punjab & Haryana	148837	29160	9/99
17.	Rajasthan	97720	21778	9/99
18.	Sikkim	170	33	9/99
Total		26,87,074	4,04,236	

Natural Mineral Water Products

3579. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to an advertisement 'Himalayan Natural Mineral Water' appearing in the 'Times of India' dated February 11, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government have given any such permission or tested these products before marketing through the advertisement;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the advertiser under the MRTP Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Facilities to Internet Access Providers

3580. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will th Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has beer drawn to the news-item captioned "DoT proposes five year I-T holiday for net access providers" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated January 12, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of financial implications of the proposals vis-a-vis growth prospects of the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All the news items appearing in leading newspapers (especially financial newspapers), which have a bearing on policy issues, are duly considered as a part of budgetary exercise including the question of providing infrastructure status to Internet service providers.

(c) The question of including Internet Service Providers (ISPs) under the definition of "Infrastructure facility" was duly considered by the Government and a decision was taken not to extend this definition to Internet service providers under the Income Tax Act. However, the benefit of duty concession on import of certain infrastructure equipment has been allowed to ISPs for establishing their network.

(d) As the financial implications of the proposal depend on number of service providers availing the benefit and the extent of profit, if any, derived by them, it is not possible to quantify the financial implications.

Purchase of Power from Pakistan

3581. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to purchase power from Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the power tariff per megawatt and the manner in which transmission cost is likely to be shared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) There was a proposal to purchase power from Pakistan. Two rounds of discussion were held on power supply from Pakistan. During the second round of discussion, Government of Pakistan confirmed availability of 300 MW of capacity to export to India for next ten years which could be increased to 600 MW as per availability during certain periods of time depending upon technical limits of the system on either side. The methodology for arriving at tariff, rates and operating agreements for purchase of power was also discussed. However, no final decision has yet been taken in this regard.

[Translation]

Expansion of Rural Electrification Scheme

3582. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the rural electrification scheme in various States during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of target set forth during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the estimated amount earmarked for the purpose and the number of persons likely to be benefitted in the States from the said scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Planning Commission finalises targets and financial outlays for the States on an annual basis depending upon the availability of financial resources and also the readiness of States to take up extended rural electrification programme. Planning Commission have envisaged to electrify 30,000 villages and energise 20,00,000 pumpsets in the country during 9th Plan Period. Planning Commission have not finalized State-wise targets and financial outlays for the Ninth Plan Period. However, Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has set a target of electrification of 7000 villages and energisation of 7,40,000 pumpsets during the first three years of the Ninth Plan Period. Out of the targets set, REC has already achieved electrification of 6281 villages and energisation of 6,49,000 pumpsets at the end of December, 1999.

[English]

Lahore Bus Service

3583. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to withdraw the Lahore bus service; and

(b) if not, the details of the benefits to the country therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts for SCs/STs/Handicapped

3584. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Handicapped lying vacant in this Ministry;

(b) the date from which these posts have been lying vacant; and

(c) the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production and Consumption of Natural Gas

3585. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

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

(a) the total quantity of natural gas produced in the country during the last three years and upto December 1999, year-wise;

(b) the percentage of the total quantity of natural gas utilised during the said period; and

(c) the quantity of natural gas which could not be utilised along with the estimated cost thereof during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The total quantity of natural gas produced and percentage utilised for the last three years and upto December 1999 are as under:

(Billion Cubic Metres (BCM))

Year	Production	%utilised
1996-97	23.255	92.4
1997-98	26.401	92.9
1998-99	27.428	93.8
April to Dec. 99	21.348	94.5

(c) The quantity of natural gas which could not be utilised for the last three years and upto December 1999 is as under:

Year	Unutilised (BCM)
1996-97	1.760
1997-98	1.879
1998-99	1.712
April to Dec. 99	1.168

No definite value can be assigned to the unutilised gas because the quantum of gas was not saleable either due to technical reasons or due to adverse economics of development or due to exigencies of development stages of the field.

[English]

Construction of Bridge over Bharali River

3586. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for construction of a road bridge across Jia Bharali river to connect Tezpur with Jamugurhat;

(b) if so, whether the project has been sanctioned;

(c) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said bridge is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) There is a proposal to construct a bridge across Jia Bharali river near Chowkighat to reduce detour of NH-52 substantially. The project report earlier proposed by the consultant is required to be completely reviewed as river has changed its course during last monsoons. The consultant has suggested model study for the project before preparing fresh proposals. Assam PWD is taking necessary steps to entrust the work of model study to a specialised agency.

It is too early to indicate estimated cost and the time schedule for completion of the bridge.

National Highway Development Project

3587. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to connect the entire country by a network of roads, any limit of distance in kms. has been fixed for a region to access a National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether this limit is likely to be cut to half at the later stage;

(d) whether some State Highways are likely to be declared as National Highways for achieving the goal;

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

(f) the plans of the National Highways Authority of India if any, for financing and completion of the National Highway Development Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NH network is to be expanded gradually with the final objective of ensuring that a National Highway from any part in the country is accessible within 50 Kms.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Expansion of NH network is a continuous process.

(f) National Highways Authority of India has been mandated to execute the National Highway Development Project. The finances for implementation will be made available from cess on petrol and diesel, external aid (loan from World Bank, ADB etc.), market borrowing and private Investments.

[Translation]

Appointment of Public Representatives at Kandla Port

3588. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations in regard to appointment of Public Representatives at the Kandla Port Trust have been received by the Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of action taken thereon;

(c) the total amount involved in the business done at Vadinar Port during each of the last five years; and

(d) the financial gains and other benefits reaped by the Union and State Government separately during the above said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The total amount involved in the business done at Vadinar Port during the last five years is as under:-

(Rupees in Crores)

Year	Capital employed	Revenue
1994-95	187.52	33.09
1995-96	208.27	35.38
1996-97	228.26	37.32
1997-98	250.60	42.68
1998-99	287.45	61.62

There is no financial gains and other benefits reaped by the Union and State Government separately during the above period.

[English]

MARR-System in Maharashtra

3589. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Multi Access Rural Radi (MARR) System telephone installed by DoT in Maharashtra, particularly in Thane District;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding non-functioning of these systems;

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

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) MARR system telephone have been installed to provide Village Public Telephone in 18,848 villages in whole of Maharashtra including 576 villages in Thane District.

(b) to (d) Complaints have been received about the unsatisfactory working of MARR systems. The performance of the MARR technology has not been upto the expectations. Government has taken several steps as mentioned below for improvement in service.

- (i) Monitoring and Supervision has been stepped up;
- (ii) Defective/missing batteries equipments and Solar Panels are being replaced wherever necessary;
- (iii) More staff has been trained for repairs of equipment. Workshos have been set up in several circles to repair the faulty equipment. Faulty equipment is also being repaired by the suppliers under Annual Repair Contracts.

[Translation]

Hydel and Thermal Power Stations in Bihar

3590. SHR BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the names of the places in Palamu and Garhwaha in Bihar where the Government propose to set up hydro or thermal power stations alongwith the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Following hydro electric projects in Garhwa/Rohtas and Palamau districts of Bihar have been returned to project authorities by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for resubmission:

1. Kadhwan H.E. Project (450 MW): The DPR of the Kadhwan H.E. Project (5x90 MW) estimated to cost Rs. 759.90 crore (January, 1994 price level) in Garhwa and Rohtas districts of Bihar was received in CEA in February, 1995 from Bihar Hydro Electric Power Corporation (BHPC). Kadhwan is a multi purpose storage project on river Sone with irrigation, hydro power and flood control as the main objectives. The DPR was

returned to BHPC in March, 1995 with a request to submit a consolidated project report for multi-purpose project in coordination with Department of Water Resources, Government of Bihar.

2. Kanhar Pumped Storage Scheme (300 MW): The DPR of Kanhar Pumped Storage Scheme (3x100 MW) in Palamau district of Bihar estimated to cost Rs. 242.80 crore (1989 price level) was received from BHPC in January, 1990. The DPR was returned to BHPC in July, 1990 for revision in consultation with Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar and compliance with comments of CEA/CWC.

There is no proposal received in CEA from BSEB or other agency for setting up of thermal power station in Palamau and Garhwa of Bihar.

[English]

Pollution in Yamuna

3591. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA:
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of industries discharging effluents into Yamuna;

(b) the extent of pollutants detected before entering Haryana and Delhi and after passing through the two States;

(c) whether the Delhi Government has sought any assistance from the Union Government for cleaning and reducing the level of pollution in the Yamuna river;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of programmes chalked out to train field staff on environmental aspect including PIL filed by vigilance Groups of NGOs in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL

MARANDI): (a) The details of industries discharging effluent into Yamuna are given below:

S.No.	State	No. of Industries	Type of Industries
1.	Haryana	302	Sugar, Starch, Distillery, Paper, Fertilizer, Refinery, Textiles, Organics, Tannery, Dyeing, Electroplating and Pesticides.
2.	Delhi	2616	Electroplating, Anodising, Pickling, Dyeing, Heat Treatment and Service stations for cars and vehicles.
3.	Uttar Pradesh	63	Textile, Electroplating, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, Dairy Products, Chemical, Sugar, Tannery, Paper, Petrochemical, Distillery, Soft Drinks.

(b) Pollution in river water is indicated by Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand, Dissolved Oxygen and Faecal Coliform. The average values of these

parameters in the river water for the period from April 1998 to March 1999 alongwith the prescribed standard values are given below.

Parameters	Hathni Kund (Entry in Haryana)	Palla (Entering in Delhi)	Agra Canal (out Delhi)	Standard values
Dissolved Oxygen (milligram/liter)	10.3	9.7	1.4	5.0 (minimum)
Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (milligram/liter)	1.0	1.7	10.6	3.0 (maximum)
Faecal Coliform (most probable number/100 mili-Liter)	4732	1232	1287	1379070

(c) and (d) Under the Yamuna Action Plan, financial assistance of Rs. 16.29 crore for construction of two sewage treatment plants each of 10 million liters per day capacity and one electric crematorium has been provided to Delhi. In addition, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has sought external financial assistance through Government for the rehabilitation of the sewerage system of Delhi. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 436 crore out of which the proposed share of Government is Rs. 320 crore and that of Delhi is Rs. 116 crore. The project has been posed for external assistance.

(e) The following steps have been taken by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to train and employ field staff on environmental aspects and to clean the river Yamuna:

- (i) Appointed 5 Project Directors to ensure improvement of Water Quality in 5 major drains causing major water pollution to river Yamuna;

- (ii) Set up Five Vigilance Squads to ensure stringent action against defaulting units;
- (iii) Fifteen common effluent treatment plants are being set up for treating industrial effluents in 21 industrial areas. For three common effluent treatment plants viz. Mangolpuri, Mayapuri and Wazirpur Industrial Area, work orders have already been awarded.
- (iv) Sixteen new sewage treatment plants are being constructed out of which 8 have already been completed.

In addition, the Government of Haryana has constituted technical teams of senior officers and field staff for regular monitoring of all the identified industries. Surveillance Squads constituted by the State Pollution Control Board conduct surprise inspections of major pollution industries.

**Reserves of Petrol and Natural Gas in
Mahanadi Basin**

3592. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

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

(a) whether huge reserves of Petrol, Oil and Natural Gas found in the offshore and onshore of Mahanadi basin and also in the Bay of Bengal have been discovered; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken for the proper exploitation of petrol, Oil and Natural Gas in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No huge reserves of crude oil and natural gas have been discovered in Mahanadi onshore and offshore area and Bay of Bengal. However, 13 hydrocarbons bearing structures have been discovered in Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery basins and Andaman offshore. Out of these,

three oil bearing structures are under commercial production. Steps are being taken for development of commercially viable finds.

Difference in Prices of Petroleum Products

3593. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a difference in the prices of the petroleum products between India and the neighbouring countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The difference in prices of petroleum products between India and neighbouring countries varies from product to product. The prices of major petroleum products, whose prices are administered in India, and that in the neighbouring countries collected from the respective market sources by the Oil Coordination Committee as on 01-03-2000 are as under:-

Country	Kerosene		Diesel		LPG		Petrol		ATF	
	(Rs/Lit)	%	(Rs/Lit)	%	(Rs/kg)	%	(Rs/Lit)	%	(Rs/Lit)	%
India (Delhi)	2.67	100.0	14.04	100.0	10.68	100.0	25.94	100.0	14.54	100.0
Bangladesh	11.04	413.5	11.04	78.6	17.19	161.0	17.91	69.0	13.77	94.7
Sri Lanka	9.15	342.7	11.41	81.3	16.68	156.2	29.70	114.5	12.21	84.0
Pakistan	9.46	354.3	9.67	68.9	15.95	149.3	24.37	93.9	9.40	64.7

*% is Indicated with Indian Price as base.

Stake of IOC in Balal Oilfield in Iran

3594. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has approached the French Multinational ELF to acquire 35 percent stake in the Balal Oilfield in Iran;

(b) if so, details thereof with objectives behind such move;

(c) the likely amount to be invested in U.S. Dollar in the project;

(d) whether this project would ensure additional supply of crude oil in the country;

(e) if so, the quantum thereof alongwith extraction price involved therein;

(f) whether IOC and ELF propose to conduct joint research and development activities in India; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (g) IOC has held some discussions with Elf Aquitaine regarding its interest in participation in that field. However, IOC and Elf have entered into a MOU for collaboration in selected areas including research and development.

[Translation]

Speed Post Facility in Bihar

3595. SHRI SUBODH ROY:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide Speed Post facility in Bhagalpur, Shekupura, Lakhisarai and Jamui districts of Bihar during the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Speed Post facility under State Speed post network system is already available at the District Headquarters of Bhagalpur, Shekupura, Lakhisarai and Jamui Districts in Bihar.

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

[English]

Report by Sub Group on Telecom.

3596. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sub-group which was examining the problems of telecom operators has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the recommendations of the group are binding on Government;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any controversy between VSNL and FLAG telecom;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (e) Government have constituted a Group a Telecom and IT Convergence. This Group has set up a Sub-Group to identify and recommend measures for resolution of the subsisting problems in the telecom sector with a view to ensuring expeditious implementation of NTP'99; as well as for identification and resolution of subsisting problems in the implementation of the Internet Service Providers (ISP) policy and to recommend measures for the rapid spread of E-commerce.

The recommendations of the Sub-Group are to be considered by the Group on the Telecom & IT Convergence. The Government will take action on the recommendations of the Group after considering all related aspects in the matter.

The Government has already accepted the First Interim Report of the Sub-Group, regarding the extension of January 31, 2000 deadline for making payments of the balance amount of 65% of the licence fee under the migration package to March 15, 2000. This decision has been implemented.

The Second Interim Report of the Sub-Group has been submitted to the Group. The Group is yet to give its recommendations on this report to the Government.

The third Interim Report of the Sub-group is expected to be submitted shortly to the Group.

(f) to (h) Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have represented to the Sub-group that they should be allowed to have direct access to FLAG submarine cable. The issue is governed by a commercial arrangement between VSNL and FLAG. The matter is under the consideration of the Sub-group. A view will be taken on the basis of the recommendation of the Group.

**Telecommunications and Postal Facilities in
Uttaranchal**

3597. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 141 dated March 6, 2000 regarding inadequate telecommunication and postal network and state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide the Telecommunications and postal network facilities to the remote, under-developed hilly regions of Uttaranchal;

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

(c) the number of villages in districts Pauri Garhwal, Chamoli and Rudraprayag which have been provided these facilities and the number out of them yet to be provided, district-wise;

(d) whether the existing Telecommunication facilities in the small towns and villages of these districts are non-functional; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government to make them functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. All the villages not yet having telecom facility are proposed to be covered progressively by March, 2002. Postal network facilities are also proposed to be provided by opening new post offices wherever justified on the basis of the prescribed norms and on availability of resources. However, mail delivery service is available in all the villages.

(b) (i) *Plans for telecom facilities:-* VPTs in all the remaining villages, 19 new telephone exchanges and about 51,000 telephones are proposed to be provided. Telecom district-wise details are given in the Table-1 of enclosed statement.

(ii) *Plans for postal network facilities:-* On the basis of norms Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBPOs) are justified at 6 places (details are given in Table-2 statement-I) in different districts of Uttaranchal. These will be opened subject to the availability of funds and sanction of ED posts by Ministry of Finance.

(c) (i) *Telecom Network:-* District-wise information is given below:

Name of District	Total No. of Villages	Villages provided with telecom facilities (VPTs)
Pauri Garhwal	3476	559
Chamoli	1081	274
Rudraprayag	480	240

Remaining villages do not have telecom facilities yet.

(ii) *Postal network facilities:-* District-wise details of Post Offices are given as under.

Name of District	Villages having Post Offices
Pauri Garhwal	418
Chamoli	221
Rudraprayag	114

Remaining Villages do not have post offices but mail delivery service is available.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The telephone exchanges are working properly. Some of the VPTs on MARR are, however, not functioning satisfactorily. The MARR technology has not been found very reliable. Lack of infrastructure facilities like stable power supply, efficient road communication are other reasons for unsatisfactory performance of VPTs. Government has taken several steps as mentioned below for improvement in service.

(i) Monitoring and Supervision has been stepped up;

(ii) Defective/missing batteries and Solar Panels and equipments are being replaced wherever necessary;

(iii) More staff has been trained for repairs of equipment. Workshops have been set up in several circles to repair the faulty equipment. Faulty equipment is also being repaired by the suppliers under Annual Repair Contracts.

(iv) Reliable transmission media is being provided progressively.

Statement**Table-1****Telecommunications**

Sl. No.	SSA	Target of DELs	Exchanges Planned
1.	Almora	6000	2
2.	Kotdwar	8000	6
3.	Nainital	16000	2
4.	Dehradun	18000	2
5.	Uttar Kashi	3000	7

Table-2**Postal**

Sl. No.	Village	District	Division
1.	Shiree	Uttarkashi	Tehri
2.	Bansu	Rudraprayag	Chamoli
3.	Deolibhanigram	Rudraprayag	Chamoli
4.	Sankari	Tehri	Tehri
5.	Mawakot	Pauri	Pauri
6.	Sadhunagar	Udhamsingh Nagar	Nainital.

Construction of By-Pass Road on Mangalore-Hassan National Highway

3598. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimates for bypass road near Channarayapatna and construction of a parallel bridge near Sakaleshpur on Mangalore-Hassan National Highway have been prepared;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) to (c) The alignment proposals and estimate for land

acquisition, amounting to Rs. 510.00 lakh for the bypass have been received recently from the Karnataka State P.W.D. The construction work of the bypass can be started only after land acquisition is completed.

No proposal for construction of a parallel bridge near Sakaleshpur on Mangalore Hassan section NH-48 has been received from the State P.W.D.

Merger of Regulatory Commissions

3599. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission have suggested to the Government to merge some of the regulatory commissions into one;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Government of India have not received any suggestion from Central Electricity Regulatory Commission for merger of some of the regulatory commissions. However, the Ministry of Power received a proposal from the Government of Nagaland for the constitution of a Joint North Eastern Electricity Regulatory Commission for the four States namely Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland. Since the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 does not have an express provision for constitution of a Joint State Electricity Regulatory Commission for two or more States, the Government of India introduced the Electricity Regulatory Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1999 in the Lok Sabha in the last winter session. The Bill provides for constitution of a Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission upon agreement between two or more States or one or more States and the Central Government in case of Union Territory. The Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Energy.

Supply of Diesel to Assam

3600. SHRI ABDUL HAMID: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of diesel supplied to Assam during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the quantity supplied is adequate to meet the requirement of the State; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The total quantity of diesel supplied to Assam during the last three years is as follows:-

(Figures in T.M.T.)

Year	Quantity
1996-97	355
1997-98	319
1998-99	328

The quantity supplied has been according to the requirement of the State.

Setting up of Eco Clubs

3601. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides financial assistance for setting up of eco-clubs in schools to impart environment education;

(b) if so, number of eco-clubs established all over the country during the last two years and financial assistance provided to each State, State-wise; and

(c) the concrete steps taken to encourage and mobilise participation of children in various environmental conservation activities in their localities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of eco-clubs established/renewed all over the country during the last two years (1998-99 and 1999-2000) were 1604 and 1879 respectively. A Statement showing the state-wise financial assistance is enclosed.

(c) Some of the steps taken to encourage and mobilise participation of children in various environmental conservation activities in their localities through eco-clubs are:

- imparting practical knowledge about local environmental problems through lectures, science experiments, audio-visual aids etc.
- regular monitoring of activities of eco-clubs by coordinating agencies.
- awarding prizes for 3 outstanding eco-clubs in each of the 50 clusters on the basis of their activities.

Statement

(Amount in Rupees)

S. No.	Name of State	Financial assistance provided	
		1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,12,400	1,27,000
2.	Assam	27,800	27,800
3.	Bihar	48,800	80,600
4.	Goa	1,61,800	3,18,800
5.	Haryana	29,800	—
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	38,800	49,800
7.	Karnataka	72,600	1,04,400
8.	Kerala	50,800	50,300

1	2	3	4
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1,27,200	1,84,000
10.	Maharashtra	26,800	66,800
11.	Manipur	—	31,800
12.	Nagaland	31,800	38,800
13.	Orissa	1,38,200	1,57,000
14.	Punjab	26,800	—
15.	Rajasthan	—	36,800
16.	Tripura	21,800	49,800
17.	Tamilnadu	84,400	1,34,000
18.	Uttar Pradesh	3,22,200	4,20,000
19.	West Bengal	92,400	1,15,000
20.	Steel Authority of India Ltd. New Delhi, for its plants in various States	2,48,00	2,47,000
Total		17,62,400	22,39,700

[Translation]

Power to Every House

3802. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide power to every house in the country by the year 2012; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) On the basis of perspective planning studies, the Central Electricity Authority has assessed the requirement of installed capacity of 2,40,000 MW by 2012 in order to provide power on demand to all sector of the economy.

The Government proposes to ensure the availability of power by undertaking the following measures:

- Accelerated capacity addition programme by Central Public Sector Utilities and State Utilities.

- Improving all the operational efficiency and availability from existing power plants through Renovation/Modernization and life extension programmes.
- Reduction of T & D losses by implementing the projects to strengthen the sub-transmission and distribution network.
- Promoting energy efficiency and conservation.
- Providing a legal framework for mandating corporatization and commercial functioning of the State Electricity Boards and Utilities with the object of improving their financial health.
- Facilitating inter-regional transfer of power by establishing the necessary transmission network; and
- Establishing an administrative, financial and regulatory framework to encourage investment by private sector in the areas of generation, transmission and distribution.

[English]

Policy on Allocation of Power from New Projects

3603. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently announced a policy on allocation of power generated from its new projects by converting the existing Gadgil formula;

(b) if so, whether some of the State Electricity Boards have agreed to undertake power reforms;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the new policy would affect on the working of State Electricity Boards and overcome power shortages in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to treat the "Gadgil formula" for allocation of power to the States/UTs as guidelines for new Central generating stations.

(b) and (c) Conference of Chief Ministers and Power Ministers was held in New Delhi on 26.2.2000. The Conference discussed various measures for improving viability of State Electricity Boards including compulsory metering and distribution reforms. The conclusions arrived at in the Conference are given in the Statement.

(d) The 'guidelines' would enable reforming states in getting additional allocation of power from 15% unallocated quota from Central power stations and also from new power projects.

Statement

*Resolutions of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers
Conference held on 26.02.2000*

The Power Ministers' Conference took note of the impending difficult situation facing the power supply industry in the country due to continuing decline in commercial viability of the sector as a whole. It noted the fact that:-

1. Outstanding dues of CPSUs have been increasing and have now reached Rs. 23,000 crores. This trend if maintained would adversely

affect their current operations apart from inhibiting their future expansion plans.

2. Financial closure for private power projects is becoming increasingly difficult.
 3. The states are unable to finance new projects on their own.
 4. Increases in budgetary support from state governments as well as Central government for this sector is not feasible due to fiscal deficits.
- II. The primary factors responsible for this unsustainable financial situation are:
- (i) Theft and pilferage at the macro level are estimated to be over Rs. 20,000 crores per annum.
 - (ii) Technical losses in transmission & distribution for the country are also too high.
 - (iii) Large number of the thermal stations in the state sector run at an operational efficiency of less than 40%.
 - (iv) The average annual operational losses of the State Power Sector for the country is over Rs. 12,000 crores.
- III. It was also recognised that the cross subsidies cannot be sustained if industrial tariffs make industry non-competitive in the new environment of increasing globalisation with elimination of quantitative and other restrictions. It becomes necessary to ensure that Indian industry is not handicapped by unsatisfactory power supply or by tariff which makes it non-competitive. Further, the consumer, including the farmer has a legitimate claim for uninterrupted good quality power supply. His willingness to pay reasonable costs is underestimated.

RESOLUTIONS

1. The Power Ministers' resolved after taking into account all the problems facing the power sector, that with the intention of achieving commercial viability and providing power at reasonable rate to all, reform must be undertaken with determination, vigor and a sense of urgency. Delay in reform only increases the financial cost of reforms, and the burden of liabilities only increases. Reforms must

begin to show results within the next 2-3 years. The key elements of the reform strategy are:-

- a. Energy Audit at all levels.
 - b. Time-bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December 2001.
 - c. Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.
 - d. Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as an unit on a priority basis.
2. If the above appears unattainable in the existing set up corporatization/cooperatization/privatization of distribution, would have to be undertaken.
 3. Since a large number of thermal stations within the State Sector are running at a PLF below 40%, immediate Renovation & Modernisation including Life Extension would need to be undertaken on an urgent basis. Similarly, R&M/LE would require to be undertaken for old hydel power plants on priority.
 4. Effective functioning of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions is essential for rationalization of tariff, and balancing the interests of the consumer and the need for commercial viability of the utilities in the environment where private sector participation in the industry is expected to gradually increase.
 5. Unbundling and corporatization of State Electricity Boards/bench-marking through separate distribution profit centres/corporations/companies may facilitate the Regulatory Commissions in promoting competition within the power supply industry-competition being the key to lower prices.
 6. It was noted that the power system network in country has an unmatched reach to consumers and with the installation of optic fibre cables along the existing power lines using its right of way, it has the potential of generating very large resources in the coming years by providing facilities for multipurpose communication including cable TV, IT services, Telecom services, etc. Hence efforts need to be made to creatively tap this potential source of large revenue from convergence.

7. In order to promote reforms, a new draft central legislation which obviates the need for separate enactments for the States, is being considered. The draft Bill submitted by the NCAER would form the basis for a national debate and a consensus on the contents of the new Bill. The States would be sending their detailed comments on this draft Bill, to the Ministry of Power at the earliest.

Decrease in Prices of Petroleum Products by OPEC

3604. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the OPEC have recently decreased the prices of petroleum products;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce the prices of petroleum products in consonance with the proposed decrease in the prices of petroleum by OPEC;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) OPEC members excluding Iran in their meeting held on 27.3.2000 have agreed to increase the production of crude oil by 1.45 million barrels per day. With the increase in production and availability of crude oil, the prices of crude oil is expected to decrease which may also have a resultant impact on petroleum product prices in international market. The Government constantly monitors these developments so as to make suitable adjustments in prices of petroleum products in the country.

Closure of Balmer Lawrie and Company

3605. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to close down the Balmer Lawrie & Company Ltd., Alleppey;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to implement a new project in the unit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Marine Freight Container Division of Balmer Lawrie & Co. Limited at Aroor, Alapuzha District, Kerala had been idling since November, 1998 for want of orders. The viability of this unit had come under strain since then and operation of plant was at stand still. The continued operation of the Division threatened to lead the entire company to sickness.

(c) and (d) Discussion have been held on 13th April, 2000 with the State Government of Kerala who have agreed to submit a viable revival proposal or consideration within a month.

Officers sent abroad for Training course

3606. SHRI SURESH PASI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government nominates 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 persons sent abroad for both the short term and long term training courses abroad by his Ministry 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 for not nominating adequate number of SCs/STs Officers for the said training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) This Ministry has not nominated any officers for training abroad by itself. However, nominations are sent to the Department of Personnel and Training against their circulars, as and when received, inviting nominations for training abroad.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Utilisation of Funds by REC

3607. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated by the Rural Electrification Corporation to States during the last two years;

(b) the names of the States which have properly utilised these funds; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Rural Electrification Corporation to encourage the alternative power resources in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Details of funds allocated by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) under RE Programme to States and the funds utilised by them during the last two years are given in enclosed statement.

(c) REC extends loans for small generation projects. During the IX Plan REC has sanctioned loans for about 30 MW of small generation projects. In addition, during the 9th Plan, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources Proposes to support projects for deployment of 3 lakh solar lanterns, 2 lakh home lighting systems, 4 thousand pumps and 2.1 MW of village power plant and other systems including street lights.

Statement

Allocation and Disbursement of Funds under REC Funded Schemes during the last two years

Sl. No.	States	1998-99		1997-98	
		Allocation	Disbursement	Allocation	Disbursement
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5530	24866	4865	6094
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1450	662	1225	1174

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	850	82	1975	0
4.	Bihar	3450	0	1765	147
5.	Goa	700	361	25	386
6.	Gujarat	5300	31296	3570	3931
7.	Haryana	970	2357	1435	836
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1100	3041	750	2060
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3000	3178	1250	2187
10.	Karnataka	9100	29486	4800	8655
11.	Kerala	2900	13703	1765	5200
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16000	13461	9900	6826
13.	Maharashtra	10350	23991	7160	26976
14.	Manipur	1200	1326	1020	1359
15.	Meghalaya	900	0	680	0
16.	Mizoram	800	444	450	256
17.	Nagaland	450	333	175	173
18.	Orissa	3600	8841	2240	3612
19.	Punjab	1750	3614	1655	3314
20.	Rajasthan	12800	22872	8330	12009
21.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	7850	16433	5200	11476
23.	Tripura	600	753	500	323
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8800	13719	6920	9011
25.	West Bengal	2050	29	2320	322
26.	Delhi	0	0	25	0
Sub-Total		101500	214848	70000	106327
Othres*		23500	5412	7500	3054
Total		125000	220260	77500	109381

*Include grant for KJP/ECP and disbursement made for RE Cooperatives and SPDGS

*[English]***Leased/Procured by Different Ports**

3608. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the same/similar marine and mechanical machines are being leased/procured by different ports;

(b) whether the terms and conditions prescribed for such lease/procurement of such machines are different for different ports;

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

(d) whether Government are considering achievement of reduction of such costs, avoidance of duplication of similar work by different ports, uniformity of terms and conditions of lease/procurement etc.,

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Ports have their own standard tender documents containing more or less similar basic conditions alongwith special conditions suiting the individual circumstances of the Ports. Centralised short-listing of venders has been recently done for supply of marine and mechanical equipment with a view to avoiding delay in pre-qualification/short-listing of venders by individual Ports. The Ports would be required to invite commercial/financial bids only from these short-listed venders, thus saving time.

Shipping sector Outlay

3609. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Shipping sector outlay during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the plan outlay has been proportionately spent during the first two years of the Ninth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details of expenditure incurred on the existing schemes and new schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) The Government have allocated an outlay of Rs. 5752 crores to Shipping Corporation of India Limited for the 9th Plan period for acquisition of vessels.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The details of the outlay allocated and expenditure incurred on the existing and new schemes are as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Outlay Allocated	Actual Expenditure		
		Existing schemes	New schemes	Total
1997-98	885.19	145.41	169.64	315.05
1998-99	1162.61	629.49	242.52	872.01

*[Translation]***Telecom facility**

3610. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any work to increase the capacity of the existing telephone exchanges and provide modern communication facilities in Mandavi and Betia regions of Gujarat and Bihar respectively during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the number of telecommunications and postal employees found involved in corruption cases in these regions during the said period and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Following progress has been made:-

Mandavi Region (Kutch, Gujarat)-

- 5 exchanges of 128 port expanded to 256 port.

-2 satellite exchanges opened.

- 1 exchange of 200 lines replaced with 512 port exchanges.
- 1 exchange expanded from 424 line to 1000 lines.
- Optical Fibre Connectivity provided to 5 exchanges.

Mandavi Region (Surat, Gujarat)-

- Optical Fibre Connectivity available to all exchanges.
- 2000 lines exchanges planned for 2000-2001.

Betia Region (Bihar)-

- Betia exchange expanded by 2000 lines-
- Bagha exchange expanded by 1400 lines
- Narkajtiaganj exchange expanded by 400 lines.
- Valmikinagar exchange expanded by 72 lines.

(c) No Telecom and Postal employee of Mandavi and Betia regions of Gujarat and Bihar respectively were found involved in corruption cases during 1999-2000.

Forest Fire

3611. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent and the nature of damage caused owing to forest fire and other diseases in the Government Forest area during the last three years State-wise;

(b) whether any special measure is being taken by the Government to check forest fire and save the trees from the diseases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Forests are damages due to forest fires and other diseases in various states. The subject matter is primarily the responsibility of the state Governments who maintain data on forest fires and other diseases. However, Forest Survey of India data on forest fire attributes about 50% of country's forest area as fire prone and that about 3.73 million ha of forest area is annually affected by fires, causing an annual loss which

has been very moderately estimated as Rs. 440 crores. While estimating the loss only the replacement costs of seedlings/plants has been considered and other intangible losses have not been taken into account as these are not measurable. As reported by the state governments, sal forests have been affected by the sal borer in Madhya Pradesh and some parts of Uttar Pradesh during last three years. Also it has been reported that Sheesham trees died on a large scale in 1997 in Bihar due to abnormal climatic conditions and attack of roots by the fungus. Major steps taken by the government for prevention and control of forest fires and other diseases are under:

- (i) A scheme Modern Forest Fire Control Methods is being implemented in eleven states of the country.
- (ii) Guidelines have been issued to the state governments to involve local communities in protection of forests under Joint Forest Management Programme.
- (iii) To provide more financial outlay, state governments have been advised to treat forest protection as a plan item.
- (iv) Categorywise marking of the sal borer affected sal trees has been done to deal with the situation and remove the diseased trees so that the disease may not spread.
- (v) In the area where Sheesham trees have died, state government has been advised to remove the dead and dying trees, check debarking of trees on road sides and canal banks and raise mixed plantations instead of pure crop.

[English]

Post offices in Sikkim

3612. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices functioning in Sikkim at present;

(b) the number of Post Offices opened in the State during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to open some more Post Offices in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of Post Offices functioning in Sikkim at present as on 31.3.2000 is as follows.

(i) Head Offices	01
(ii) Sub-Offices	19
(iii) Extra Departmental sub-offices	06
(iv) Extra Departmental Branch Offices	180
Total	206

(b) The number of Post Offices opened in the State during the last three years is as follows:-

1997-98	3
1998-99	7
1999-2000	2

(c) The proposal to open two Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices is under consideration, subject to justification as per norms and also subject to availability of Posts to be sanctioned by Ministry of Finance as also to the availability of funds.

(d) The details of the location thereof is as follows:-

- (i) Melli
- (ii) Niya Mazing

Setting up of National Judicial Commission

3613. SHRI MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
DR. V. SAROJA:

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

(a) whether the judiciary is opposed to the proposal of the Government for setting up of the National Judicial Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have decided to set up the National Judicial Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions and its constitution; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) The Government proposes to set up a National Judicial Commission which would recommend judicial appointments in High Courts and Supreme Court of India and draw up a code of ethics for the judiciary. The proposal, however, would require Parliamentary legislation.

The Government of India has, so far, not received any opposition from the judiciary in this regard.

Agreement between India and U.S.A.

3614. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently signed any agreement with U.S.A. to develop telecommunications;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the fields immediately to be benefitted therefrom and its likely impact on the telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. Department of Telecommunications/Department of Telecommunications Services under Ministry of Communications have not signed any agreement with U.S.A. to develop Telecommunications.

(b) and (c) Nil in view of (a).

Transit and Trade for Petro Products through Bangladesh

3615. SHRI R.L. BHATIA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN QWASI:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "proposal to ship petro products through Bangla" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 11, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether a final decision has been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which it is likely to be taken;

(e) whether this proposal is covered under the existing Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol agreed in principal for movement of petroleum products through Bangladesh waterways; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the outcome so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of Lok Sabha.

Rebids for Equipment Contracts

3616. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "NTPC decided to ignore Ministry on rebid" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated March 6, 2000;

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

(c) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation have been violating the advice of the Union Ministry for rebids for equipment contracts for some gas based power projects; and

(d) if so, the facts and details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) had draw up an expansion plan for four gas based projects, viz. Kawas CCPP-II, Jhanor-Gandhar CCPP-II Anta CCPP-II and Auraiya CCPP-II of a capacity of 650 MW each aggregating to 2600 MW targeted for commissioning within the 9th Plan period. The bidding process for these projects were initiated by NTPC during 1998 and till date the bids could not be finalised due to various technical reasons and non-responsive bid. As the projects are of vital national importance, government is

anxious that no further time in implementing these projects is lost due to various operational reasons.

NTPC was accordingly advised by the Ministry in the public interest to finalise the bids by negotiating with the bidders on the basis of a legal opinion taken from the Additional Solicitor General. However, NTPC, taking into account certain major deviations on various specifications and requirements, treated both the bids as non-responsive and decided to rebid. Government has left the matter to the NTPC Board being a Navratna Company for a decision. A review of bidding conditions has been undertaken by NTPC and rebidding is being done by providing adequate time to the bidders for better competition and response.

[Translation]

Construction of overbridge on NH-7

3617. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the construction of the overbridge on National Highway No. 7 at Meihar Nagar in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Railways have approved the said overbridge in its budget but the work in regard to connecting the both ends of the said bridge is to be done by Public Works Department;

(c) whether the Department of Surface Transport has contacted or made correspondence with Department of Railways in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) For construction of the ROB on NH 7 at Meihar Nagar, land has been acquired and general arrangement drawing has been approved by the Ministry. It is proposed to take up this work on BOT basis, as such the work is not required to be included in the budget of Railways.

Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust

3618. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether coastal gulf area become narrow after the construction of Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust;

(b) if so, whether due to this the local fishermen are facing difficulties while landing their boats at the time of tides;

(c) if so, whether the Government have formulated any time bound programme or package scheme to facilitate fishermen to enter into sea by widening this narrow coastal gulf area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The main harbour and approach channels have not narrowed due to construction of Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust. There is adjoining creek known as Nahva creek perpendicular to berths and this creek is having entrance of about 150 meter width through which fishermen approach their villages. The Port has placed markers along this route to improve navigational safety. Even prior to construction of the Port, deeper pockets of the channel were limited and fishermen were able to enter the creek only during high tide times.

Except Nahva Creek, there is no change in Mumbai harbour conditions for movement of Trawlers of fishermen.

Use of Alcohol as fuel

3619. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

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

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government to run motor vehicles on Alcohol in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of places where the above said scheme is likely to be introduced at first; and

(d) the quantum of petrol likely to be saved with the introduction of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Government propose to take up pilot projects in UP and Maharashtra at 2 or 3 locations to ascertain the effects of using ethanol blended auto-fuel on the environment and to examine other operational aspects.

(b) This can be established only after the implementation of the pilot projects.

[English]

Allocation for National Highways Projects

3620. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation for the National Highways projects has been declining in each and every plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to hike the budgetary allocation for the National Highway projects;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the amount allocated to the West Bengal during the last three years for the purpose and allocated for 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The allocation for NH Projects has been steadily declining as percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This has happened due to pressing demands from other Sectors.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The plan allocation for the year 2000-2001 is proposed to be hiked to Rs. 2506 crores against Rs. 2163 crores for the year 1999-2000.

(e) The amount allocated during the last three years in West Bengal is as under:-

Development of National Highways (Rs. in lakhs)

1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
5375.00	7150.94	5138.02

Maintenance and Repairs (Rs. in lakhs)

1997-98	1998-1999	1999-2000
3264.94	2757.83	3700.00*

*Also allocated an additional amount of Rs. 2560 lakhs under special repairs programme. Budget for the year 2000-2001 has not been passed by the Parliament.

Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station

3621. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station at Salakati in Assam;

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

(c) the present status of Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station in regard to disinvestment and improvement in power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Restructuring of SEBs

3622. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested a three-pronged strategy for restructuring of State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to make State Electricity Boards profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The special group on Power Sector Reform for Prime Minister's council on Trade and Industry headed by Shri G.P. Goenka, President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), made following recommendations, among other things, about the restructuring of the State Electricity Boards;

- Break up monolithic State Electricity Boards into four corporations to look after thermal generation, hydel generation, transmission and distribution.
- Privatise distribution through management contracts, joint ventures, or full fledged licenses. This should be done through competitive bidding with transparent criteria.
- Privatise transmission, either completely or partially through joint ventures with not more than 26% government equity.
- Recognize that reforms must begin with transmission and distribution, especially distribution, not with generation.

— For agriculture, increase tariff over a pre-announced three year period to Rs. 0.50, Rs. 0.75 and Rs. 1.10 per unit.

— Take subeidization away from State Electricity Boards and move it to State budgets. Target subsidies only at the poor, subject to a threshold monthly consumption of electricity.

(c) Government of India has taken a proactive role in reforming State Electricity Boards so that they function on commercial lines. Power Ministers Conference held on 26.2.2000 resolved that reform must be undertaken with determination, vigor and a sense of urgency. The key elements of the Reforms Strategy are:

- (i) Energy audit at all levels;
- (ii) Time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December 2001;
- (iii) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.
- (iv) Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a limit on a priority basis.

If above appears unattainable in the existing Act Corporatisation/Co-privatisation/Privatisation of distribution would have to be undertaken.

[Translation]

Power to U.P. from Central and State Power Projects

3623. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the rate at which power is being supplied to Uttar Pradesh from the Central and State power projects separately;

(b) the power projects of Uttar Pradesh which have been cleared so far or pending with the Government during the last three years;

(c) the manner in which these projects are proposed to be financed; and

(d) the action plan formulated by the Government for smooth functioning of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The

details of the tariff for sale of power from the existing Central Sector Power Projects of NTPC, NHPC and NPCIL in the Northern Region in which U.P. is having its share of power is given in enclosed statement-I.

A statement-II indicating the cost of generation of existing Thermal and Hydro Power Projects of UPSEB for the year 1998-99 is enclosed.

Details of Central Electricity Authority cleared power projects and schemes under examination in U.P. during

the last three years are given in enclosed Statement-III.

The details of the financial package for the Central Electricity Authority cleared power projects in U.P. are given in enclosed Statement-IV.

Various issues of Independent Power Producers setting up generation facilities in Uttar Pradesh were also discussed in the meetings of Crisis Resolution Group headed by the Minister of Power to sort out last mile problem in achieving the financial closure.

Statement I

Tariff for sale of Power from existing power stations of NTPC (as on 14.5.99).

S.No.	Name of Power Stations	Capacity (MW)	State	Variable Charges* (P/KWH)	Annual Fixed Charges (Rs/Crs) @ 16% ROE W.E.F. 1.11.98	Tariff** (P/KWH) at norm Level of 68.5%PLF	Remarks/ Tariff Validity
1.	Singrauli STPS	2000	U.P.	37.05	325.90	66.65	Tariff due for Revision W.E.F. 1.11.97
2.	Rihand STPS	1000	U.P.	34.83	478.74	122.51	Tariff due for Revision W.E.F. 1.11.97
3.	FUGTPS ST-1	420	U.P.	55.83	221.71	153.03	Further Revision due W.E.F. 1.4.97
4.	Dadri GPS	829.78	U.P.	69.39	240.14	119.40	1.4.97 to 31.3.99
5.	Auriya GPS	663.36	U.P.	61.92	160.20	103.41	Tariff due for Revision W.E.F. 1.4.97
6.	Anta GPS	419.33	Rajasthan	61.27	92.92	99.34	Tariff due for Revision W.E.F. 1.4.97

* Variable charges exclude Fuel Price Adjustments

** Excluding the impact of Tariff on Account of Additional Capitalisation Done by NTPC and effect of F.E.V. Variation during the period 1992-93 to 1996-97 recently notified by Ministry of Power.

Tariff for sale of power from nuclear power stations of NPCIL

S.No.	Name of Power station	Capacity (MW)	Tariff (P/KWH)
1.	Narora APS	440	163.71 W.E.F. 17.7.96 to 19.5.98 164.27-W.E.F. 20.5.98 Onwards

Year Wise Tariff details of Hydro projects of NHPC (as on 14.5.99)

ACC & AEC Figures in Rs. crores.

S.No.	Name of Projects	Capacity (MW)	1997-98		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2000-02	
			ACC	AEC	ACC	AEC	ACC	AEC	ACC	AEC	ACC	AEC
1.	Salai St. I & II	690	63.09	103.64	67.84	106.30	50.55	106.72	40.59	111.59	32.30	114.90
	(Paise/Kwh)			38.60		39.59		40.49		41.59		
2.	Chamera St. I	540	251.90	144.83	217.56	147.94	184.92	151.61	150.74	155.53	91.15	159.37
	(Paise/Kwh)			99.87		102.02		104.54		107.25		109.90
3.	Thankpur	94.2	49.28	24.21	40.27	24.85	32.43	25.23	21.15	26.21	13.65	27.08
	(Paise/Kwh)			61.33		63.07		64.80		66.53		68.75
4.	Un	480			344.78	219.16	356.50	224.53	335.98	229.70	293.82	234.95
	(Paise/Kwh)					97.23		99.61		101.90		104.23

ACC—Annual Capacity charge

AEC—Annual Energy charge

Statement-II

Statement showing cost of generation for Thermal and Hydro power projects of UPSEB for the year 1998-1999

S. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	cost of Generation (P/KWH)
1	2	3	4
(A)	Thermal		
1.	Obra 'A'	5×50 = 250) 3×100 = 300) 550	181.07
2.	Obra 'B'	5×200 = 1000	110.81
3.	Harduaganj 'B'	2×50 = 100) 2×55 = 110) 230	333.88
4.	Harduaganj 'C'	2×60 = 120) 1×110 = 110) 230	325.93
5.	Panki Extn.	2×110 = 220	216.31
6.	Parichha	2×110 = 220	255.59
7.	Tanda	4×110 = 440	258.53
8.	Anpara 'A'	3×210 = 630	94.04
9.	Anpara 'B'	2×500 = 1000	159.91

1	2	3	4
B.	Hydro		
1.	Dhakrani	$3 \times 11.25 = 33.75$	20.58
2.	Dhali Pur	$3 \times 17 = 51$	9.81
3.	Kulhal	$3 \times 10 = 30$	15.23
4.	Khara	$3 \times 24 = 72$	63.13
5.	Ram Ganga	$3 \times 66 = 198$	21.84
6.	Tiloth	$3 \times 30 = 90$	31.31
7.	Galogi	3.00	1.07
8.	Modh. Pur	$3 \times 31 = 93$	27.15
9.	Hir Gajni	$2 \times 2.5 = 5.0$	22.6
10.	Chittaura	$2 \times 1.5 = 3$	37.62
11.	Salawa	$2 \times 1.5 = 3$	57.51
12.	Bhola	$4 \times 375 = 1.50$ $2 \times 6. = 1.20$	88.35
13.	Chibro	$4 \times 60 = 240$	14.88
14.	Pathri	$3 \times 6.8 = 20.4$	24.02
15.	Rihand	300	12.96
16.	Matatila	$3 \times 10.2 = 30.6$	16.70

Statement III*Details of power projects in U.P.***A. Schemes cleared by Central Electricity Authority**

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Capacity (MW)	Financing of Project
1.	Vishnuprayag HEP By M/s J.P. Industries	4×100	Details of Financing of these projects are given in Annexure -IV
2.	Rosa TPS By M/s Indo Gulf Fertilizer & Chemical Corp.	2×283.5	
3.	Auraiya CCPP St. II By NTPC	650	
4.	Rihand STPP By NTPC	2×500	
5.	Maneri Bhali HEP St. II	4×76	
B.	Schemes under examination:-		
1.	Srinagar HEP By M/s Duncan North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.	$4 \times 82.5^*$	
2.	Jawaharpur TPS By M/s Jawaharpur Power (India) Pvt. Ltd.		

*In lieu of 5x66 MW Srinagar HEP of UPSEB cleared earlier by Central Electricity Authority and TEC subsequently transferred in favour of DNHPC on 26.11.99 from UPSEB.

Statement-IV**Power to UP from Central and State Power Projects****Tentative Financial Package**

Sl No.	Source of Finance	Foreign Component Million US \$	Indian Component Rs. Crores
1.	Equity		
	1.1 J.P. Industries	—	190.00
	1.2 Public Issue	—	185.00
	1.3 UPSEB	—	25.00
	Sub —Total (1.1 to 1.3)	—	400.00
2.	Debt		
	2.1 Package I — Indian Financial Institution	—	619.00
	2.2 Package II-Public NCD Issue	—	159.42
	2.3 Package II-Buyers Credit Finance through ECA	63.75	
	2.4 Package IV- Buyers Credit Finance in F.C.	59.14	—
	Sub — Total Debt (2.1 to 2.4)	122.89	778.42
Total Project Cost		122.89	1178.42

Package terms as proposed by company

Item Name of the Source	Package I IFI (Rs. Crores)	Package II NCD (Rs. Crores)	Package III Buyers Credit Finance through ECA Million US \$	Package IV Buyers Credit Finance in F.C. Million US \$
Amount	619.00	159.42	63.75	59.14
Int. Rate	19.055%	17.50%	8.00%	8.00%
Repayment Period (yrs)	12	10	12	7
Moratorium Period (Yrs)	0	0	0	0
Up-front Charges Issue	1.05%	—	—	—
Expenses	—	6%	—	—

Note: 0 Construction Period of 5 years whichever is less.

Rosa thermal power project: 2x283.5 MW in U.P. by M/s INDO GULF Fertiliser and Chemical Corporation Ltd. (IGFCC).
Tentative financial package
(as per IGFCC letter dated 21st August, 1997)

Debt/ Equity Ratio	Debt Equity	70% 30%
Equity		
Indian	(i) Promoters	
	Birla Group	Rs. 1970.008 million
	(ii) Public	Rs. 3429.271 million
Foreign	Power-Gen-Plc	US\$ 53.4376 million

DEBT*

Source	Currency	Amount	Repayment Period (years)	Moratorium (years)	Rate of Interest
Foreign Loan				0	
Forex Term Loan	US \$ Million	261.354	12	0	7.35%**
Rupee Term Loan					
Indian Financial Institution/Indian Banks	Rs. Crores	774.869	10	0	17.00%

*The total project finding will be limited to capital cost of the project approved by the Authority.

** Applicable for construction period. For operation period, interest rate shall be 9% which includes Bank guarantee charges @ 1.6%pa.

Auraiya CCGT power project stage-II (650MW) by M/s NTPC in U.P.

1. Tentative Financial Package

FE rate 1 US \$ Rs. 39.50

	F.C. (US\$) (Millions)	I.C. (Rs. Crs.)	Total (Rs. Crs.)
(a) Equity			
(i) Internal Resources	—	546.22	546.22
(b) Debt			
(i) E.C.B.	243.84	—	963.20
(ii) D.C.B.	—	311.37	311.37
Total (Debt + Equity)	243.84	857.59	1820.79

II Terms of finance (Completed cost)

	ECB US \$ (Million)	DCB (Rs. Crs.)
(i) Amount of Debt	243.84	311.37
(ii) Interest rate (fixed)	8.5%	17.0%
(iii) Repayment Period	7 years bullet	7 years bullet
(iv) Upfront Charges	1.5%	1.5%

Rihand STPP Stage-II (2x500 MW) in UP by NTPC

I. tentative financial package

D/E Ratio 70:30

F.E. rate 1 US\$ = Rs. 42.50

	F.C. (US \$) (Millions)	I.C. (Rs. Cr.)	Total (Rs. Cr.)
A. Equity			
(i) Internal Resources	—	1214.90	1214.90
B. Debt			
(i) E.C.B.	368.35		1565.49
(ii) D.C.B.	—	1269.10	1269.10
Total (Debt + Equity)	368.35	2484.00	4049.49

II Terms of Finance (Completed Cost)

	ECB US \$ (Million)	DCB (Rs. Crs.)
(i) Amount of Debt	368.35	1269.10
(ii) Interest rate (fixed)	8.5%	16.0%
(iii) Repayment Period	7 years bullet	7 years bullet
(iv) Upfront Charges	1.5%	1.5%

Manaeri Bhali HEP St. II (4x76 MW)-UP by UP Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.

I. Tentative Financial Package

Completed Cost

S.No.	Source of Financing	Amount	% of Total Outlay
1.	Debt		
(i)	PFC	600.00	67.68
(ii)	Govt. of UP	245.50	
	Total	845.50	-

S.No.	Source of Financing	Amount	% of Total Outlay
2.	Equity		
(i)	(UP JVN Ltd.)	403.68	32.33
		1249.18	100%
II. Terms of Finance			
(i)	Source of Debt Finance	PFC	UP Govt.
(ii)	Amount of Debt	Rs. 600.00 Crs.	Rs. 245.5 Crs.
(iii)	Interest Rate (Fixed)	15%	12%
(iv)	Interest Tax	2% (on interest)	
(v)	Repayment Period	10 years Quarterly repayment	20 years
(vi)	Moratorium Period	6 months after COD	2 years
(vii)	Financing Charges	1%	
(viii)	Interest Repayment	Quarterly Repayment 6 months after first disbursement	

[English]

**LPG Agencies in Pudukkottai District
of Tamil Nadu**

3624. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG dealers of various oil companies in Pudukkottai District in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether LPG dealers are not located in Taluk headquarters so as to serve neighbouring villages; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to allot more LPG dealerships in order to serve all areas in a better way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to

(c) There are 2 LPG distributorships functioning at present in Pudukkottai District in Tamil Nadu. To cover more areas, including Taluka Headquarters, 6 more LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan for Pudukkottai District in Tamil Nadu.

STD/ISD/PCO Booths

3625. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths working at present in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the number of such booths proposed to be set up during 2000-2001, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The number of STD/ISD/PCO working at present and proposed during 2000-2001, Circle-wise, are given in the Statement.

Statement

STD/ISD/PCO Booths

Name of Circle	No. of STD/ISD/ PCOs (as on 29.2.2000)	Targets for 2000-2001
1	2	3
1. A&N	154	35
2. Andhra Pradesh	29248	7500

	1	2	3
3.	Assam	5355	1125
4.	Bihar	11950	5250
5.	Gujarat (including Daman & Diu and D&N Haveli)	30260	7500
6.	Haryana	8404	2250
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1864	750
8.	J&K	2125	750
9.	Karnataka	26295	4500
10.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep)	17008	2250
11.	Madhya Pradesh	18485	5250
12.	Maharashtra (including Goa)	32724	6000
13.	North-East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura)	2326	715
14.	Orissa	4954	750
15.	Punjab (including Pondichery)	21071	1875
16.	Rajasthan	19082	2250
17.	Tamilnadu (including Pondichery)	11974	6000
18.	U.P. (East)	27191	7500
19.	U.P. (West)	16460	3750
20.	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	5653	3750
21.	Mumbai	16730	6000
22.	Calcutta	11734	4500
23.	Delhi	11563	3750
24.	Chennai	7596	6000
	Total	3,40,206	90,000

Telephone Connections in Post Offices of Orissa

3626. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone connections have been provided in all the Post Offices in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of Post Offices where this facility is yet to be provided; and

(c) the time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provided in all the Post Offices of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 3946 Post Offices in Orissa Circle do not have telephone facility.

(c) Telephone connections to the Post Offices not having the same are provided by Telecom authorities subject to the availability of resources.

LPG Agencies in Bihar

3627. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations in Muzaffarpur, Vaishali and Sitamarhi districts of Bihar where the LPG agencies are proposed to be set up and the time by which these agencies are likely to be set up;

(b) the details of schemes and targets for opening LPG agencies, petrol pumps and kerosene outlets in all the block headquarters of the above mentioned districts;

(c) the position of demand and supply of petrol, diesel and kerosene in these districts; and

(d) the reasons for scarcity of these products and the action taken to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Oil Companies propose to set up 7 LPG distributorships each in Muzaffarpur and Vaishali districts and 5 LPG distributorships in Sitamarhi district of Bihar.

(b) LPG distributorships, petrol pumps and SKO/LDO dealerships are opened at different locations meeting Oil

Industry's viability norms including at Block Headquarters. Accordingly, Oil Companies have proposal to set up dealerships/distributorships in the above districts as under:

Product	Muzaffarpur	Sitamarhi	Vaishali
RO	10	8	4
SKO-LDO	1	5	2
LPG	7	5	7

(c) and (d) Generally demand of petrol/diesel and Kerosene is being met in full in the above districts. During a fortnight in January, 2000 due to certain technical problems, HPC experienced shortage of petrol. However, there was no shortage of diesel and Kerosene. The situation had subsequently normalized.

Amendment in Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1958

3628. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring amendment in the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 so as to enable minor and major ports to enter into the joint ventures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow Foreign Direct Investment in minor port sector for the development of infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, a Bill proposing amendment to the Major Port Trusts Act 1963 to enable the Major Port Trust to enter into a Joint Venture including with minor ports is under the consideration of the Parliament.

(c) and (d) The minor ports are under the administrative jurisdiction of the concerned Maritime State.

Rural Electrification

3629. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide electricity to every village in the country;

(b) if so, the progress made as on date in this connection, State-wise;

(c) the total number of single point connections provided in the country under the Kutir Jyoti Programme during the last three years; and

(d) the total number of villages likely to be electrified during the Ninth Plan period, State-wise;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYWANTI MEHTA): (a) Priority areas for village electrification are determined and decided by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards. Further, the progress of rural electrification is a continuous process which would largely depend upon the availability of financial resources for creating infrastructure systems and availability of power in the States.

(b) State-wise status of electrification of villages as

on February, 2000 is given in enclosed statement-I.

(c) The total number of single point connections provided in the country under the Kutir Jyoti Programme during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Nos.
1999-2000	1,98,416 (Provisional)
1998-1999	5,29,914
1997-1998	3,72,692

(d) Planning Commission fixes the target of village electrification on an annual basis keeping in view the availability of financial resources and past performances of State Electricity Boards. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has set a target of 7000 villages during the first three year of the Ninth Plan period. Out of the targets set, REC has already achieved electrification of 6281 villages at the end of the December, 1999. Details are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

State-wise status of Village Electrification as on Feb. 2000

Sl. No.	States	Total inhabited village (1991 census)	Number of villages electrified as on Feb. 2000	
1	2	3	4	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26586	26565	Fully electrified. Balance not feasible
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2147	
3.	Assam	24685	19019	Progress reported to the end of 11/99
4.	Bihar	67513	47862	
5.	Goa	360	360	
6.	Gujarat	18028	17940	Fully electrified. Balance not feasible
7.	Haryana	6759	6759	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	16826	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6477	6315	Progress reported to the end of 3/98
10.	Karnataka	27066	26681	Progress reported to the end of 1/2000
11.	Kerala	1384	1384	

1	2	3	4	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	71526	68313	
13.	Maharashtra	40412	40412	
14.	Manipur	2182	2001	
15.	Meghalaya	5484	2510	Progress reported to the end of 12/99
16.	Mizoram	698	691	
17.	Nagaland	1216	1163	Progress reported to the end of 11/99
18.	Orissa	46989	35125	
19.	Punjab	12428	12428	
20.	Rajasthan	37889	35172	
21.	Sikkim	447	405	
22.	Tamil Nadu	15822	15822	
23.	Tripura	855	810	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	112803	89038	
25.	West Bengal	37910	29563	
Total (States)		586165	505311	
Total UTs		1093	1090	Fully electrified. Balance not feasible
Total (All India)		587258	506401	

Statement II*Number of Villages electrified in the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan*

S. No.	State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Target	ach. @	Target	ach. @	Target	ach. @
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	*		*	0	*	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	100	100	85	0	80	0
3.	Assam	230	20	40	0	40	0
4.	Bihar	330	5	100	8	0	6
5.	Delhi*	*	*	*	0	*	0
6.	Goa*	*	*	*	0	*	*
7.	Gujarat*	0	9	0	4	*	0
8.	Haryana*	*	*	*	0	*	*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	H.P.	0	0	0	0	32	4
10.	J&K	30	14	30	184	15	0
11.	Karnataka*	0	217	*	13	15	2
12.	Kerala*	*	*	*	0	*	0
13.	M. P.	500	463	300	300	300	37
14.	Maharashtra*	*	*	*	0	*	0
15.	Manipur	80	52	40	50	75	2
16.	Meghalaya	50	27	30	16	0	0
17.	Mizoram	15	12	5	3	3	1
18.	Nagaland	0	0	0	10	0	0
19.	Orissa	250	800	450	817	580	636
20.	Punjab*	*	*	*	0	*	0
21.	Rajasthan	480	698	450	685	450	132
22.	Sikkim*	*	*	*	0	*	0
23.	Tamil Nadu*	*	*	*	0	*	0
24.	Tripura	35	15	10	3	10	2
25.	Uttar Pradesh	500	851	450	711	400	357
26.	West Bengal	400	48	10	83	0	142
Total		3000	3270#	2000	2873**	2000	1321

(*) 100% Electrified States (©) Source:CEA

(#) Excluding 21 Villages of A.P. and 40 Villages of Nagaland declared not feasible by CEA.

(**) Excluding 14 Villages of Arunachal Pradesh as per CEA.

[Translation]

Power Equipments

3630. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power is being wasted on large scale in the country due to sub-standard quality of the power equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to enact any law to penalise the manufacturers of sub-standard power equipments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) A large quantum of power goes waste owing to energy inefficient and sub-standard equipments/appliances. The Government has introduced the Energy Conservation Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha to provide for efficient use of energy and its conservation. The Bill, inter alia, will enable Government to:-

(a) Specify norms for process and energy consumption standards for any equipment, appliance which consumes, generates, transmits or supplies energy;

(b) Prohibit manufacture or sale or purchase of specified equipment unless such equipment or appliance conforms to energy consumption standards; and

(c) Direct display of such particulars on label on equipment or appliance specified.

The Bill also provides that if any manufacturer fails to comply with the provisions of the above clauses, he shall be liable to a penalty in monetary terms which shall not exceed Rs. 1.0 lakh for each failure and in the case of continuing failure with an additional penalty which may extend Rs. 10,000/- for every day during which such failure continues.

[English]

National Environmental Tribunal Act, 1995

3631. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the follow up action taken by the State Government in effective implementation of the provision of National Environmental Tribunal Act, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action to be taken in this regard during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government is in the process of setting up the National Environment Tribunal.

LNG based Mega Power Plant in Karnataka

3632. SHRI KOLUR BASAVAN GOUD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sought permission from the Government to set up LNG-based mega power project in the coastal area of the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) In the Memorandum of Agreement between the Ministry of Power and the Government of Karnataka signed on 12.2.2000 for supporting their reform programme a request has been made for NTPC to set up an LNG based 2000

MW generating station in Karnataka. Government of India will consider the feasibility of doing so.

[Translation]

Development of Sanctuaries and Parks in Maharashtra

3633. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHÁLE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government have sent any schemes for approval of the Union Government regarding development and maintenance of sanctuaries, national parks and reserved forests; and

(b) if so, the details of the plans approved out of them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Funds released to Maharashtra Government under various schemes, for development and maintenance of sanctuaries, national parks and reserved forests during the year 1999-2000 are as follows:

S. No.	Name of the scheme	Funds released (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	123.43
2.	Project Tiger	134.765
3.	Modern Forest Fire Control Methods	10.00
4.	Association of STs and Rural Poor in regeneration of degraded forests on usufruct sharing basis	37.94
5.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Project	17.18
6.	Area oriented Fuel-wood and Fodder Project	120.91

Recruitment of Employees by Marmugao Port Trust

3634. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees recruited by the Marmugao Port Trust during the last three years, post-wise;

(b) whether these recruitments were as per prescribed guidelines; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Recruitment done during the last three years from April 1997 to March 2000.

Class	I	II	III	IV	Total
	11	2	165	195	373

(b) The recruitment rules in respect of Class I, II, III & IV posts is as per the prescribed guidelines and also as per circular issued by the Govt. of Goa from time to time in respect of Class III & IV posts.

(c) In respect of Class I & II posts, the vacancies are advertised in the local and National papers as per prescribed guidelines. In case of Class III & IV, the vacancies are notified in the local Employment Exchange and in addition the vacancies are advertised through the Newspapers having wide circulation, in case there is no sufficient response from Employment Exchange.

Protests against review of Constitution

3635. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether dalits, minorities and weaker sections of the society have protested against move to review the Constitution of India in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed and injured during the demonstration in the country particularly in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, State-wise; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rural Electrification

3636. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to grant some subsidy for rural electrification of tribal villages and dalit bastis in States;

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

(c) the number of tribal villages and dalit bastis likely to be covered under the proposed subsidy, State-wise;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have recently decided to grant subsidy of Rs. 16.67 crores for the year 2000-2001 for electrification of tribal villages and dalit bastis in the country. The subsidy will be routed through the Rural Electrification Corporation.

(b) and (c) State-wise targets proposed for electrification of tribal villages and dalit bastis are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise targets proposed for electrification of Tribal villages and Dalit Basties

Sl. No.	States	Electrification of Tribal villages (Nos)	Electrification of Dalit Basties (Nos)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	250
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	60	0
3.	Assam	20	0
4.	Bihar	0	84
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	16
6.	Karnataka	0	100
7.	Kerala	0	80
8.	Madhay Pradesh	100	700
9.	Maharashtra	0	100
10.	Manipur	60	0
11.	Meghalaya	10	0
12.	Mizoram	3	0
13.	Nagaland	2	0
14.	Orissa	100	300

1	2	3	4
15.	Rajasthan	50	300
16.	Tripura	10	0
17.	Uttar Pradesh	0	500
18.	West Bengal	0	10
Total States		415	2440

Inconvenience to consumers by MTNL

3637. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL disconnect the out-going telephone service of the telephone subscribers on the grounds of non-payment of telephone bills inspite of facts that payments of the bills shown as out-standing in MTNL, records has been made well before the due date by the consumers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue directions to MTNL authorities to keep its records up-to-date to avoid inconvenience to consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Except in the event of genuine/inadvertent error, there is no instruction to disconnect the outgoing telephone facilities if payment have been made.

(c) and (d) Instructions already exist to ensure the correctness of the disconnection list. Subscribers also have the facility in MTNL to make payments through pay in slips where the payment is accounted for on line. New counter equipment has also been procured to speed up the accounting of payments on a real time basis, whereby wrong disconnection can be avoided.

New projects of National Highways in Tamil Nadu

3638. SHRI P.D. ELANGOAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new projects undertaken in Tamil Nadu for laying of various National Highways;

(b) the details of the funds allocated for the same and approximate time to be taken for the completion of these projects;

(c) the status of the four laning of National Highway No. 7;

(d) the funds allocated to each section of work; and

(e) the reasons for the slow progress of the work in the stretch between Thoppur and Hosur, Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) 48 works costing about Rs. 61.97 Crore have been sanctioned by the Ministry during the Annual Plan 1999-2000. All the works are targetted for completion by March, 2002.

(c) Four laning of National Highway No. 7 (south of Lakhnadon) is being done in a phased manner by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under their National Highway Development Project (NHDP). In Phase-I, five projects of four laning of a length of 40.58 Kms. have already been awarded at an estimated cost of about Rs. 120 Crore. These works are in various stages of progress and are targetted for completion by December, 2001.

(d) The funds are made available from the over all budget of NHAI depending upon the progress and requirement of each work.

(e) The work of four laning between Thoppur and Hosur near Dharmapuri town has not been taken up by NHAI for want of adequate land width required for four laning in this section.

Special Designated Wild Life Courts

3639. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsem captioned "Shahtoosh trade thrives, courtesy lack of conviction" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 30, 2000;

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

(c) the reasons for not sanctioning the special court or specialist lawyers and the total number of Shahtoosh seizer cases pending with the court of law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Tibetan Antelope, from which the Shahtoosh is derived is included in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Hunting of Tibetan Antelope and trade in its product is prohibited under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Tibetan Antelope, killed for making Shahtoosh shawls, is highly endangered species. One of the major reasons for the illegal trade in Shahtoosh is the lucrative price in the national and international market. The enforcement agencies have seized many illegal shawls etc., from the offenders and have registered cases against them.

(c) Government of India have requested the State Governments to set up special courts in consultation with the High Courts, to deal with offences relating to forest and wildlife. As per the available record, 14 cases of shahtoosh seizure are pending with the court of law.

Shortage of Power in J&K

3640. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total power requirement of J&K and the actual power being supplied from different power stations outside the State;

(b) the total outstanding arrears of J&K Government due to the Ministry of Power as on date; and

(c) the total amount recovered so far and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to recover the remaining outstanding dues from the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The details of power requirement of Jammu and Kashmir and actual power supplied from different power stations to the State for the past three months from January, 2000 to March, 2000 are as under:-

Figures in MU

	Jan. 2000	Feb. 2000	March, 2000
1. Requirement	595	545	580
2. Availability:			
(i) State's own generation	24.9	35.6	56.4
(ii) Central sector stations including NHPC's, Salal & Uri HPSs located in J&K	305.3	355.7	381.3
(iii) Assistance from:			
(a) Punjab	20.4	18.3	13.8
(b) Western Region	3.4	0.4	0.5
(iv) Total availability	354	410	452
3. Shortage (%)	241 (40.5)	135 (24.8)	128 (22.1)

(b) As on 29.2.2000, outstanding dues payable to Central Sector Power Corporations viz. REC, NTPC, NHPC and PGCIL by J&K was Rs. 1235.56 crores including surcharge of Rs. 518.41 crores.

(c) Out of total outstanding amount of Rs. 465.03 crores as on 31-12-1996, recovery to the extent of Rs. 285.80 crores from Central Appropriation from Jammu & Kashmir has been made upto March, 2000.

Ministry of Power has been writing to Government of Jammu & Kashmir and Ministry of Home Affairs and CPSUs to power development Department, Jammu & Kashmir for liquidation of outstanding dues from time to time.

Mellat Thermal Power Project

3641. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fourth unit of Mejia Thermal Power Project has been sanctioned by his ministry; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The fourth unit of Mejia Thermal Power Project has not been sanctioned as yet. But, DVC have initiated feasibility study at the cost of Rs. 20 lakhs. After feasibility is established, detailed project report will be prepared for obtaining Techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority.

Profit earned by Public Sector Oil Companies

3642. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the details of profit earned by the Public Sector Oil Companies during the last three years, company-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Profit earned by Public Sector Oil Companies.

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	Name of PSUs	Profit after tax during		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation	2033.65	2677.78	2754.49
2.	Oil India Ltd.	220.14	268.84	291.60
3.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	606.87	1020.31	1059.92
4.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	1408.22	1706.50	2213.52
5.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	612.22	701.16	901.26
6.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	432.6	532.7	701.23
7.	IBP Co. Ltd.	25.54	31.56	35.23
8.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	14.21	16.41	16.83
9.	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.	(-)2.69	(-)4.88	0.45
10.	Madras Refineries Ltd.	102.18	129.28	204.93
11.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	92.93	220.41	338.23
12.	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.	29.07	67.99	34.26
13.	Lubrizol India Ltd.	33.84	31.05	41.24
14.	Engineers India Ltd.	72.05	73.24	117.77

Interest on Security of Cylinders

3643. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give interest on the money paid to the LPG agencies by the consumers as security of cylinders; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The deposit is taken by the oil companies as security against LPG equipment loaned to the customer is refundable as and when the equipment is surrendered.

The deposit is utilised to maintain adequate inventory of LPG equipments in the usable condition at all times so as to service the customer's requirements. On an average 1.5 cylinder per customer is required to be maintained by the oil companies for servicing their requirements. Hence, no interest is paid on the Security deposits.

Telephone Directory

3644. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of printing and distribution of telephone directory for Hyderabad city;

(b) the time by which the new telephone directory is likely to be distributed in the city;

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Hyderabad Telecom District to give some concession to the telephone subscribers for not supplying the telephone directories; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Tenders were called for printing of Yellow Pages Directory but the response was poor. It has been decided to print the directory departmentally. However the directory is available on CD ROM and web site of Andhra Pradesh Telecom Circle "WWW. AP-TELECOM.GOV. IN"

(b) Directory will be made available within four months.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Directory is available on CD ROM and web site. Directory enquiry service 197 is available free of cost.

Allocation by World Bank in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh

3645. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated by World Bank for the National Highways in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of the National Highways likely to be renovated/developed with the funds involved in each National Highway; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Roads other than National Highways are essentially subject of the State Government. On National Highways a project of four laning between Basseln Creek and Manor in Maharashtra is in progress with World Bank assistance which is costing Rs. 263.52 crore. Upto February 2000, an expenditure of Rs. 157.88 crore has been incurred. World Bank has provided no assistance for development of National Highways in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Construction of Post Office Buildings

3646. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether land for construction of post offices buildings in Gulganj of Chhatarpur district and Jatara of Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh has been acquired;

(b) if so, the date on which this land was acquired and the time by which the building was proposed to be constructed;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from public representative regarding encroachment on the departmental property by outsiders; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Land at Gulganj in Chhatarpur district and Jatara in Tikamgarh district are available for construction of building for post offices.

(b) Land at Gulganj has not been purchased by the department. During the period of British Rule this piece of land was given to the postal department for the stay of Dak runners. Subsequently, Gram Panchayat Gulganj transferred it to the postal department without any cost. The total area available is about 1380 sq. ft. The land at Jatara has been purchased by the department on 8.3.1979. The cost of land was Rs. 20,650/-. At both the places at present there is no proposal for construction of post office building.

(c) Department has received representation dated 7.12.1999 from Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) alleging encroachment on these two properties.

(d) The above mentioned two properties are free from encroachment.

Construction of motels on NHs

3647. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand for the construction of motels/vishram sthals on the National Highways has been made;

(b) if so, whether the National Highways Authority of India has looked into such demands; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Demands are being received for providing rest areas and wayside amenities along the National Highways. Wayside amenities like truck parking, bus laybys are being provided in the various projects being taken or likely to be taken up on the National Highways sections under National Highways Authority of India.

Extinction of Wild Life species

3648. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the wild life species in the country and the species which are on the verge of extinction out of them; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to save these species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) India has nearly 46,000 species of plants and about 81,000 species of known fauna that form part of wildlife habitat in the country. Of these, nearly 622 species of plants and 276 species of animals experience various degree of threat.

(b) Various programmes are being implemented for conservation of plants and animals, including threatened species. These include:

Survey, identification and monitoring of the floral and faunal resources by the BSI and ZSI respectively.

In situ conservation through Protected Area Network consisting of National Parks and Wildlife, Sanctuaries, designation of representative ecosystems as Biosphere Reserves, species conservation programmes such as Project Tiger and Project Elephant.

Eco-development activities in and around Protected areas.

Programmes for scientific management and wise use of wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs.

Ex-situ conservation through Botanical Gardens and Zoological Parks.

Enactment of various legislations like Indian Forest Act, Wildlife (Protection) Act, Forest Conservation Act, Environment Protection Act etc., to provide adequate protection to the wildlife.

Review of Constitution

3649. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

(a) the norms and criteria adopted for the appointment of Chairman, Members and Secretary of the National Commission to review the working of the Constitution;

(b) whether the Government have received any request from the recognized political parties for their representation on the said Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The Chairperson of the National Commission to review the working of the Constitution has been selected on the basis of his knowledge and expertise on constitutional issues and the working of the democratic institutions of the nation. Members of the Commission have been selected on the basis of their proven expertise and knowledge in the field of constitutional law, economics, politics, law, sociology, political science and other relevant subjects.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of LPG

3650. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

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

(a) whether the Government are importing LPG to meet its demand in the country;

(b) if so, the quantity of LPG imported and the domestic production of LPG to meet the demand of LPG in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government have made separate assessment of the cost of LPG produced in the country and the imported LPG;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the production cost of LPG produced in different areas of the country and the reasons for the difference in the costs;

(f) the rate of amount increased in the demand and supply of LPG in the country during the past three years; and

(g) the average percentage of quantum of LPG supplied for domestic and commercial use in the country during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production and quantity of LPG imported during the last three years was as under:-

(Quantity in Thousand Tonnes)

Year	Production	Import*
1997-98	3454	1087
1998-99	3568	1525
1999-2000	4480 (Provisional)	1324 (Provisional) ⁺

*excludes import by private parties.

+Figures from April, 1999 to February, 2000.

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

(f) The rate of increase of demand and supply of LPG during the last three years was as under:

1997-98	12.6%
1998-99	11.40%
1999-2000	17.6%

(g) The average percentage of quantum of LPG supplies for domestic and commercial use in the country during the last three years was about 94.6% and 5.4% respectively.

[English]

Escrowability of SEBs

3651. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Wary FIs turn heat on SEBs, revise escrow projections" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated January 10, 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 POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In several States the total number of projects planned in the private sector, taken together with the projects being taken up by the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) themselves or by the Central Power Generating Companies, have a combined capacity in excess of the capacity of the States to give escrow cover to these projects. Because of the financial weakness of the SEBs, absence of any competition and inability to rationalise tariffs, the Private Power Producers are experiencing difficulties in infusing capital into the power sector. Financial health of State Electricity Boards has been on the decline reducing their escrowable capacity. These issues were discussed in the Power Ministers Conference held on 26.2.2000 and the commitment to supply quality power on demand at reasonable rates to all consumers was re-emphasised. To achieve this, it was resolved that the reforms must be undertaken with determination, vigor and a sense of urgency. The key elements of Reform Strategy will be reduction/elimination of power theft, energy audit and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system, unbundling of State Electricity Boards etc.

These measures which have been deliberated upon in the Conference of 'Power Ministers' and measures like corporatisation/cooperatisation/privatisation in the field of distribution of electricity, 100% metering of all consumers etc., are expected to rationalise tariffs in the States thereby progressively enabling them to recover their cost and generate greater resources to support capacity addition and improving the reliability and adequacy of power delivered to the consumers. The matter was also discussed in the meeting of Crisis Resolution Group (IRG) and a plea has been made to IFIs to assess the strength of State Electricity Boards on the basis of reform measures undertaken by them rather than on the Escrow Cover.

LPG Agencies/Petroleum outlets Allotted by various Oil Companies

3652. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail petroleum outlets and LPG agencies leased by HPCL, IOC and BPC by passing the Oil Dealers Selection Board during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether these selections were made on the basis of any rules and guidelines;

(c) if so, whether it amounts to bypassing rules and guidelines of Supreme Court regarding allotment of the same;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to convert such leases into permanent allotment;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the number of such lease agreements exceeding three years time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (g) HPC, IOC and BPC have reported that they have not allotted any retail outlet dealerships or LPG distributorships by-passing Dealer Selection Boards during the last three years. However, as per the Government policy they have issued LOIs to the wife/next of kin of the Kargil martyrs in which the selections have not been made through Dealer Selection Boards.

Iranian Gas Pipeline

3653. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether Pakistan has finally agreed for laying of gas pipeline from Iran to India through its territory;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions of such accord;

(c) the time by which the work of laying gas pipeline between Iran and is likely to be started and completed; and

(d) the details of payments to be paid to Pakistan for extending this transit facility to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) There has been no formal communication from the Government of Pakistan in this regard.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Telegraph Act, 1885

3654. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 970 dated February 28, 2000 regarding Telegraph Act and state:

(a) whether the Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the changes made therein;

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be submitted;

(d) the details of other archaic Acts presently being implemented by the Department of Posts;

(e) whether the Government propose to replace the said Act; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):

Sir, presumably the reference has been made to Unstarred Question No. 570 dated 28th February, 2000. The reply to the question is as follows:

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Sub-Group constituted for this purpose is expected to submit a report to the Group after which the matter will be considered by the Group. The report of the Sub-Group is still to be finalised.

(d) to (f) Certain amendments to the Indian Post Act, 1898 are under consideration.

Gas Pipeline from Dabhol to Talasari in Maharashtra

3655. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lay down pipeline for gas between Dabhol to Talasari in Maharashtra by a Meta Gas Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representations have been received by the Govt. to oppose this proposed gas pipeline; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. M/s Metropolis Gas Company Pvt. Ltd. (Met Gas) a subsidiary of M/s. Enron proposes to lay a pipeline of about 360 Km. (excluding lateral pipelines) from Dabhol to Talasari passing through Raigarh District for transportation of regassified gas to the industrial consumers in the State.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government's role is to appoint the Competent Authority for purpose of acquisition of right of use in land under the provisions of the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962 and to issue relevant notification under the Act for acquisition of Right of Use (ROU) in land. As per the Act, objections regarding acquisition of ROU are to be disposed of by the Competent Authority. The appeals with regard to compensation lie with the concerned District Judge. The position has been explained to the concerned parties.

Cellular Telephone Service by MTNL

3656. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL's cellular telephone service suffers from frequent ruptures due to "Dropped calls";

(b) if so, whether the MTNL has not been able to solve this problem so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps the MTNL propose to take to improve its cellular service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The present service provided by MTNL is by using CDMA technology. At the time of launch of this service, a

diagram indicating the coverage to be provided by this service was provided to all the subscribers and it was also published in the newspapers. The reasons for this limited coverage was because of the non-contiguous area between different base stations.

(b) and (c) After the launch of this service by using CDMA technology, different aspects like network topology, traffic pattern have been studied and on the basis of these inputs, MTNL is taking appropriate action for increasing the coverage area. Number of base stations is being increased from 5 to 9, so that we have more or less a contiguous area coverage.

(d) (i) The plan is to increase the number of base stations as mentioned in reply to (b) & (c).

(ii) In addition to these Mobile Telephone, numbering around 5600, MTNL is proposing to increase the number of Mobile Telephones to 6500. Besides this, a 30k Mobile Telephone provision is also being made by commissioning equipment using the same CDMA technology in Delhi. This equipment is likely to be installed in a period of 6 months time. MTNL is also in the process of commissioning 100k lines GSM Cellular Mobile system in Delhi. It will provide a complete contiguous coverage of the whole of the city. This service is likely to take off in the 3rd quarter of this year. This service will fully conform to GSM2+ Standards. This service will support teleservices, bearer services and supplementary services. This service will have Voice Mail Service and Short Message Service Cell broadcast. This service will have intelligent Network platform. It will be possible to use Prepaid SIM, Personal Number, Virtual Private Network Service, Freephone Services, Premium Rate Service, Universal Number services by using this platform.

[Translation]

Allotment of LPG connections in Daltonganj and Gadhwa districts of Bihar

3657. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new LPG connections released by various LPG agencies located at Daltonganj and Gadhwa Districts of Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the details of persons on waiting lists for LPG connections in these districts as on date;

(c) whether some of the LPG agencies in these districts remained closed for some period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up more LPG agencies in Bihar in the near future; and

(f) if so, the details of locations identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The total no. of new LPG connections released by PSU Oil Marketing Companies in Palamau (Daltonganj) and Gadhwa Districts of Bihar, during the last three years are as under:-

	Palamau	Gadhwa
1997-98	342	444
1998-99	2122	780
April, 99 to Jan, 2000	2214	1799

(b) As on date, the waiting list registered with LPG distributors of PSU oil companies in Daltonganj is 2005 and 'Nil' in Gadhwa Districts of Bihar.

(c) and (d) In these districts, only one distributor namely M/s. Arun Enterprises, was suspended during the period of September, 1997 to May, 1999 due to involvement of distributor by malpractices/irregularities etc.

(e) and (f) In order to meet the increased demand, 105 LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plan 1998-99 for Bihar.

[English]

National Forestry Research Plan

3658. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Forestry Research Plan being implemented across the country emphasises legal backing for the Joint Forest Management Committee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. National Forestry Research Plan,

under preparation, gives due emphasis on the adoption and backing to Joint Forests Management (JFM).

(b) Joint Forest Management (JFM) has been listed among the priorities of National Forestry Research Plan (NFRP). Research Projects on JFM related issues have been formulated and prioritised by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICDFE) and State Forest Departments.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Group of India Hydrocarbon Vision—2025 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1610/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Sir I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the TRAI (Appointment of Casual Labourers) Regulations, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 25-1/98-TRAI (A&R) in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 1999 under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1611/2000]

12.011/2 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following five Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to

by the President since a report was last made to the House on 24th February, 2000:-

1. The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2000;
2. The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2000;
3. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2000;
4. The Appropriation Bill, 2000; and
5. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Sixth to Eleventh Reports

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications:—

- (1) Sixth Report on Action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Ninth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Communications on 'Selection of Multi Access Relay Radio' (MARR) Technology relating to Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications).
- (2) Seventh Report on Action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Fourteenth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Communications on 'Postal Network' relating to Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts).
- (3) Eighth Report on Action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Twelfth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Communications on 'Working of Telecom Factories' relating to Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications).
- (4) Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Communications (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) relating to Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts).

- (5) Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Communications (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) relating to Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications & Department of Telecom Services).
- (6) Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Communications (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) relating to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

First Report

[Translation]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I beg to present the first report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways regarding Demands for Grants (2000-2001).

MR. SPEAKER: It seems that Mulayam Singhji has given directions to everyone.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, before the Minister begins his statement, we must take up the matter of adjournment motion. We are waiting patiently. We must be given an opportunity to state our position on the adjournment motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Statement by Minister will be made at 2 p.m.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Would you allow discussion on adjournment motion now?

MR. SPEAKER: There are other things to take up now.

Item No. 8 SHri Murasoli Maran.

12.03 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(I) Rubber Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): Sir, on

behalf of Shri Murasoli Maran, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (e) of Section 4 of the Rubber Act, 1947 read with rule 4 (1) of the Rubber Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Rubber Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, Rubber Board is non-existent in the country. I was a member of this Board.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): We should review this Board.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the stage to intervene.

The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (e) of Section 4 of the Rubber Act, 1947 read with rule 4 (1) of the Rubber Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Rubber Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: This Rubber Board has no existence in the country. How can we nominate members for such an institution? There is no office set-up or anything. A farce is going on.

(II) Coffee Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Murasoli Maran, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2)(b) of Section 4 of the Coffee Act, 1942 read with rule 4 (1) of the Coffee Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coffee Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) (b) of Section 4 of the Coffee Act, 1942 read with rule 4 (1) of the Coffee Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coffee Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

(III) Marine Products Export Development Authority

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Murasoli Maran, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 4 (3) (c) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972, read with Rule 4 (1) of Marine Products Export Development Authority Rules, 1972 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 4 (3) (c) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972, read with Rule 4 (1) of Marine Products Export Development Authority Rules, 1972 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The Motion was adopted.

12.05 hrs.

RE: NOTICE OF MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

[English]

Sharp Increase in Prices of commodities like LPG Kerosene, Diesel, Urea and the items for those below the poverty line distributed through PDS.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House will take up Zero Hour.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Our nation is passing through an extremely serious crisis caused by the anti-poor policies of the NDA Government. In a most insensitive manner, the Government has sharply increased the prices of rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene and LPG gas, diesel and urea. This will badly affect our agriculture which has been showing a decline in the past for quite some time now. It is at such a time that a responsible and concerned Government ought to extend its hand of help to lighten the burden of the farmers. Instead of doing so, this Government has increased the price of urea by 15 per cent. The fall in the farmer's income coupled by the rise in the cost of production is causing tremendous hardship thereby pushing our small and medium farmers into desperation. There have been reports of cases of farmers committing suicides. These cases have been reported even from richer farming belts like Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. As if this was not enough, the Government has recently hiked the prices of wheat, rice and sugar distributed through PDS to those below the poverty line. This increase in the case of wheat and rice, I believe, is 60 per cent...*(Interruptions)*

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

...*(Interruptions)*

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

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: The increase in wheat and rice is a staggering 60 per cent and we can well imagine the effect that it will have on the poor people of our country. The increases in the prices of cooking gas and kerosene are also putting tremendous pressure on the middle and lower middle classes.

I believe that the sharp increase in prices has greatly affected those living below the poverty line, the farming

community, the middle and the lower middle classes. This, I believe, is an issue of great importance and of great urgency. We believe that it is only through an adjournment motion that we can focus the attention of Government, of the country and of the people on the disastrous effect that these measures will have on the economically weaker sections.

It is for these reasons that I request you, Sir, to admit our Motion for Adjournment so that the matter is discussed threadbare. I do hope that through this Adjournment Motion we can awaken the consciousness of the Government on the folly of its way.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, it is a very serious matter. The entire country is agitated over the tremendous increase in prices of essential commodities, like wheat, rice, kerosene and LPG...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: In spite of directions, Hon. members continue to bring cellular phones in the chamber. This is a very serious matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Please confiscate them.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): That should be confiscated...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That means, they do not have any seriousness in the House. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, the Government of India, through an executive order has increased the prices of essential commodities, like rice and kerosene, which are given through the Public Distribution System in our country. Today, the people are agitated over this and are struggling against the executive order issued by the Government of India. This step is against the people who are living below the poverty line. I do not know whether the Government is aware of this fact or not. The people who are living below the poverty line are struggling to fulfil the day-to-day necessities. So, the entire country demand that the Government should withdraw the increase in prices of essential commodities, like kerosene, LPG, fertilizers and especially the foodgrains.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, thank you for allowing me to raise an important matter

concerning the millions of people of this country. Since Independence we have not faced such a crisis in our day-to-day life. This crisis has affected people who are below the poverty line and it has as well affected the people who are above the poverty line. As you know, Kerala is my home State and it is facing problems in the matter of food grains. During the formation of State of Kerala, that State had an agreement with the Centre, according to which the Central Government would give top priority to supply food grains to Kerala, especially rice. Due to geographical and historical reasons, Kerala is one of the States, which produces cash crops, such as rubber, coconut and cardamom. The land is suited for growing plantation crops. We are producing only forty per cent of our needs...*(Interruptions)* I am not speaking only for the State of Kerala. I am speaking for all the Southern States and other States where the Public Distribution System is in existence. The Public Distribution System has been affected by the recent order of the Central Government. We cannot blame the Public Distribution System. It was efficient and it was appreciated by almost all concerned that it was functioning in a fair manner. The Public Distribution System in Kerala is known as a model for others throughout the country. This was functioning for the last five decades. There have been no complaints with regard to Public Distribution System. Now, the entire system is jeopardised. The entire State of Kerala is facing very very difficult situation.

I would like to raise another issue before this august House. That issue relates to increase in the prices of petroleum products. Is it fair on the part of the Government to do this? The Budget Session is in progress and we were looking into the Demands for Grants of various Ministries.

When the House is seized of this matter, the Minister at the back of the House, even though he promised that he would not raise the price without the concurrence of this House and though he has made a public declaration, has raised the price. The price of petroleum products has been raised to an enormous extent. Our Southern States have been put to a great difficulty. The transport of food materials has become very difficult. The position has become very serious. Never in the history of our country such a situation has arisen. This is due to the wrong policy being followed by this Government in the name of liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation. All these have led to a catastrophe and the poor people are put to starvation. It is impossible for us to proceed.

I understand, the Kerala Ministers are here. The Kerala Chief Minister is here. Tomorrow he is sitting on a *dharma* before the Parliament House. It is for the first time in the history that the Ministers and the Chief Minister

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

of a State have come to the Centre asking for revision of the price of diesel. The Government has created such a bad history. Our State is a federal State. Our Chief Minister, with all our political force, is forced to sit on a *dhama* before this House. The Government has created such a situation and they speak of federalism ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, all of them are supporting us. This is a matter which cuts across even NDA. Therefore, it has to be looked into seriously. They are all supporting it. It is not only the case of the Opposition but also of the ruling party. Therefore, this is a matter which should be seriously looked into. The country is tremendously affected by this.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): I would like to raise a matter of public importance. I would request you to adjourn the House and discuss the matter which concerns the whole nation, particularly the poor section of our country. We, the Members of Parliament, have been elected by the poor sections of our society. So, we should reflect their views, their aspirations and their expectations.

No electoral promise is enforceable in law and that is why though the NDA during its election campaign said that it would not raise the price, even before counting had begun they hiked the price of diesel. Before coming to power, as the care-taker Government, they raised the prices of petrol and diesel. Now, during this inter-Session they have hiked the prices of LPG. They have not even taken the House into confidence. The Parliament should not be the hand-maid of the Executive.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): They have also by-passed the NDA allies.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: This act of the Government is the negation of livelihood for the poor section of the society. LPG cylinder is being used by the middle class and the poor section of the society daily. I would urge the Government to withdraw the price hike on it.

As far as fertilisers' price hike is concerned, the Government has not been able to classify the gas-based plants and the Naphtha-based plants. They have not been able to distinguish the two scientifically. I would like to ask the Government whether the capacity utilisation for the initial year in both the gas-based plants and the Naphtha-based plants is 80 per cent.

If the Government is able to classify these fertilizer plants based on the raw material—whether it is gas, naphtha, fuel oil or coal based—and if the reimbursement

of the retention price is made by the Government, there cannot be any hike in the price of fertilizer. The Government is not able to follow this procedure scientifically. So I appeal to the Government to withdraw the hike in the price of fertilizer. I demand and call upon the Government to withdraw the hike in the price of LPG cylinder.

On behalf of the AIADMK Party, we are staging a demonstration before the Collectorate on the 20th of this month on this issue. The whole party is staging a demonstration in Tamil Nadu on this issue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The hike in the prices of fertilizer, foodgrains and petroleum products is unprecedented. The subsidy on fertilizer was also reduced by the Finance Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker Sir, I should also be given a chance to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice on the Adjournment Motion.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): The NDA partners also want to speak on this issue, Sir. Let them also be given a chance. We want to hear them.

MR. SPEAKER: What about the hon. Members who have given notices?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The price of urea and DAP has already been increased and it has gone beyond the purchasing power of the farmers. As a result of this what will happen is that there will be less consumption of fertilizer and this will affect the agricultural production. Already, last year there was less production by 55 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. This will cause a food crisis. In future we will have to depend on import of foodgrains. Increase in the prices of wheat and rice meant for supply to the people below poverty line has hit them hard.

The scheme to supply ten kilograms of foodgrains to the people below poverty line was started by the UF Government in 1997 at 50 per cent price. This Government has doubled the prices of wheat and rice to be supplied to the people below poverty line through Public Distribution System. If the prices of wheat and rice are doubled—they have already been increased—the people below poverty line will not be able to purchase the foodgrains meant for them. The Government's main purpose is to dismantle the Public Distribution System.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that we are not discussing the issue. You may briefly speak on the admissibility of the notice.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Public Distribution System was started in our country to supply foodgrains and other essential commodities to the poor people and the middle-class people at a lower rate or at subsidised price. But the Government is out to dismantle the Public Distribution System. As a result of this, the prices of all the essential commodities have been increased.

They have increased the price just after the first phase of this Budget Session was over. Bypassing the Parliament, the Government has increased the price of kerosene. Thirty to thirty-five per cent of villages have no electricity. The poor people are using kerosene. Now the price of kerosene has been increased by 151 per cent. This has never been done since Independence.

The price of LPG per cylinder has been increased by Rs. 51. Thus, the people below the poverty line and the middle class people have been attacked by the Government by their wrong policy and I demand that our Adjournment Motion should be accepted and we should today discuss the unprecedented rise in the prices of all essential commodities affecting our poor and middle class people.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is unanimous on the issue raised by the leader of opposition...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the policies of the Government reveal that the government have launched an attack on the poor. The Government take decision at midnight to increase prices of essential commodities. The recent increase in prices have resulted in increase in the prices of essential commodities distributed through Public Distribution System. Today people in villages are agitated. The poor are ruined. Students are also feeling the brunt. People, on large scale are falling victim of inflation. The Government has left profiteers and hoarders free for looting and playing with the lives of common man. I demand that prices should be rolled back in order to give relief to the poor.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, while supporting the views expressed by the Leader of Opposition and other leaders to admit the Adjournment Motion for a threadbare discussion, may I submit before this House that this Government has betrayed the hopes and aspirations of the people of this country, mainly the people

below the poverty line? There is no increase in the income of the common man. There is no wage increase so far as the labourers are concerned. There is no source of increasing the income of the common man or the poor people in this country whereas the Government has increased their expenditure. The hike in prices of essential commodities, particularly urea and rice, has crippled the entire system in this country.

As regards the public distribution system of a State like Kerala where it has been functioning efficiently, the decision of the Government has jeopardised the entire system. I would like to ask the Government as to why they have taken this stand at the back of this Parliament. This Government takes every decision at the back of the Parliament, whether it is the constitution of the Review Commission to review the Constitution or the price hike of the essential commodities. Everything is taking place at the back of this Parliament. Is it democracy? Is it the functioning of the National Democratic Alliance? The only thing which the Government could do now is to withdraw this price hike forthwith. If not, we request you that we may be given an opportunity to discuss the matter threadbare by our Adjournment Motion.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, the conscious and cruel decision of this Government to hike the prices of essential commodities, particularly the items of the PDS like rice and sugar, has its inevitable consequences and is a burden being faced by millions of the poorer sections of the people. Throughout the country, demonstrations are being held today. Some of the NDA partners are publicly saying that they are opposed to this hike but they have been a party to this cruel decision. I would request them to come out openly and oppose this decision of this Government and force this Government to withdraw the hike which they have deliberately, consciously and cruelly caused to the people. The whole country is agitated and demonstrations are taking place.

Sir, it is not the question of Public Distribution System only. Even the technically called APL people are also poorer sections of people. So also, there are the middle class people, the lower middle class people. They are all suffering due to increase in the prices of foodgrains, kerosene, LPG, Fertilizer and everything. So, the Government should withdraw the increase in prices. Here is a test before the NDA partners who have been saying publicly that they are opposing it. Let them come out openly and force the Government to withdraw it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Those who have given the notices have been allowed. Please understand it. This is a notice of an Adjournment Motion. Please understand the procedure.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, they have a right to speak during 'Zero Hour'. This is not correct. This is 'Zero hour'. You cannot stop them. You can take the consensus...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: They have not given any notice. How can I take the consensus of the House?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: This is 'Zero Hour'. You cannot stop them.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a notice of an Adjournment Motion. Please understand the procedure. You are a senior Member. You know the procedure also. I have called the names of the hon. Members who have given notice of an Adjournment Motion.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I agree with you. They want to share our views. You must allow them. It is a Parliamentary Democracy. Please allow them to speak. They want to speak...(Interruptions) The Telugu Desam Party wants to speak. He wants to speak. Let him speak...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have to make my observation. Please understand it.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASADH SINGH (Vaishali): Sir, I have also given a notice....(Interruptions) The leader of opposition has raised the matter regarding Adjournment Motion ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: They have not given any notice. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you have given notice on another subject and not on this. Please understand it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Sarvashri N.N. Krishnadas, Varkala Radhakrishnan, P.H. Pandiyan, Basu Deb Acharia, Kamal Nath, Madhavrao Scindia, Subodh Roy, Rupchand Pal and E. Ahamed, Members of Parliament, have tabled notices of an Adjournment Motion on the following subject:

"The Government decision taken recently, causing immense hardship to the people, in particular the economically weaker sections, those below the poverty line and the farmers, which is a direct

consequence of the sharp increase in prices of commodities like LPG, Kerosene, Diesel, Urea and the items for those below the poverty line, distributed through the PDS."

I have heard the hon. Leader of the Opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, and the other hon. Leaders. The matter, of course, is an important one.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This subject can be raised during the discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address which is listed in the List of Business for today. The matter, of course, is important but it can be raised today itself during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please hear me.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): You have taken a decision to hear us. Please hear everybody...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This matter can also be raised during the discussion on the Finance Bill Also. Therefore, you need not disturb the listed business today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am, therefore, withholding my consent to the raising of the matter by way of an Adjournment Motion.

Similarly, there are other notices of Adjournment Motion from Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh regarding the killing of innocent Sikhs in Jammu and Kashmir, and the notice given by Shri G.M. Banatwalla regarding the police action on the students in the campus of Jamia Millia Islamia University. They can also be raised during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Therefore, I am disallowing these notices also.

12.34 hours

(At this stage, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: This measure of the NDA Government is anti-people. Since the Government has not come forward to the House to withdraw the price hike in respect of LPG, Kerosene and Fertilizer, on behalf of the AIADMK, we are walking out of the House.

12.35 hours

(At this stage, Shri P.H. Pandiyan and some other hon. Members left the House).

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Bambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have not allowed me to speak...*(Interruptions)* This step of government will give rise to inflation and encourage foreign companies.

Therefore, we are not satisfied with your ruling. The Government has not rolled back the increased prices and therefore, we stage a walk out from the House.

12.36 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House.)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue here. I was member of the Cricket team which played in 1983 World Cup. I was, very happy at that time. Now being a cricketer I am ashamed of the incident of match fixing. First of all, I thank Delhi police for highlighting this incident. I would like to raise this issue in this House and hope that the government will take stern action on it. Delhi Police has named several persons who allegedly indulged in betting but it has also come to light that Delhi police has names of several players who are alleged to have been involved in this incident of betting. I cannot say so with full authority but I request the government that names of players allegedly involved in betting should be made public so that inquiry may be conducted to settle this case. Several persons have stated through Press or other media that they were offered money for match fixing. Some such names are known to everybody and one such name is Manoj Prabhakar. He has been a good player. He appeared before Chandrachud committee but due to some unknown reasons he did not divulge the name of that player. I do not understand that. I request the Government to provide him protection if he is facing threat to his life or property. He should tell the names of persons who offered him Rs. 25 lakh while playing for Singer Cup 1994. I feel that he will serve the nation by doing so. Manager of Indian team Sunil Dev went to South Africa. He discussed this issue with me many a times. During a debate on television he confirmed that he is aware of the fact that betting takes place and players are involved in such incidents. It is necessary to know the names of the persons involved in such cases about whom he knows. I have a book titled 'Not quite cricket' written by

a good journalist, Pradeep Magazine. In this book he has given a detailed account as to how he discussed this matter with Managers and captains of Indian team so far no former legend of cricket have publicly stated that betting takes place in cricket...*(Interruptions)* Cricket is a popular game. You will find people playing cricket everywhere whether you go to some village or any locality.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: Cricket should be banned. Money is being wasted on it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, It is an alien game. It should be banned...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirti Azad, this is Zero Hour. There are other hon. Members also to speak on this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: The facts should be made public in this case. I demand that if needed the guilty persons.

[English]

They should be hanged because this is a big criminal conspiracy. Such incidents are causing intense harm to the country.

MR. SPEAKER: I think that other hon. Members like Shri Kirit Somaiya, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Shri Laxman Seth have also given notices on the same subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): I have also given a Calling Attention notice on this.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the views of Shri Azad and request the hon'ble Minister and the Government to hold discussion in the House on the report of Chandrachud committee. Is the Government going to legalise match fixing? I demand that inquiry should be conducted not only in case of match fixing during South Africa Tour but in all such other cases.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Speaker...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter of match fixing in cricket is a matter of disgrace because it not only involves the name of India, but, I think, this scandal is also occurring across our borders. It has assumed an international posture and that this has originated from India is a matter of national disgrace.

Sir, we have the Justice Chandrachud Committee Report and there are very confusing statements by the Government whether it will be tabled in the House or not. Apart from that, the most important point in this whole episode is that it is coming out in magazines and newspapers that the very bodies which are supposed to be controlling the game of cricket, starting from the International Cricket Council to the Board of Control for Cricket in India, knew about it, but nothing was being done and a parallel economy in *satta* was being run.

So, I would request you to allow the Calling Attention Motion for which I have submitted a notice and the Government must inform this House as to what inquiry they are instituting into this matter. There is the Enforcement Directorate doing one inquiry, there is the Delhi Police doing another inquiry and we are at a loss to understand as to how the truth will be unearthed. Therefore, we want a statement from the Government and, I think, the only form of doing that would be informing this House through the Calling Attention Motion, which you should allow urgently. This cannot go on like this when the House is in Session and when the people across the world are looking at us as to what our country is doing at a time when such a racket has been unearthed.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Speaker, you had promised to allow me to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you afterwards.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to make a submission on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, you can associate yourself with the other hon. Members. They have already mentioned the contents of the subject.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, I would like to associate myself with what has been raised by the hon. Member, Shri Kirti Azad, who is also a former cricketer. The incident which has taken place is disgraceful.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should also be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: It is your turn next. Since you have not given any notice your name is not included in the list.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I have given notices on two subjects.

MR. SPEAKER: But there is no mention of your notices in this list.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, what has happened is disgraceful and it is a blow to cricket. In this matter, even a few names of Indian cricketers are also being mentioned. As Shri Kirti Azad was mentioning, Shri Manoj Prabhakar and others are also alleging something regarding match fixing. Then, a news item which has appeared in the newspaper is also very much confusing and it relates to the issue of whether betting is going to be legalised or not. Even the Prime Minister has had to come out with a statement that it is not true. So, it is high time that the Government thanked the Delhi Police. They have done a very good job and they have enhanced the prestige of the police force in the city of Delhi. Therefore, I would request that an immediate discussion should be allowed on this matter and the Government should come out with a statement immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak. I have raised a very serious matter.

Due to the amendment made in Civil Procedure Code, the poor people, employees and salaried class will not have capacity to go to courts. Security between Rs. 5000 to 50,000 will have to be deposited. If one wishes to make an appeal or get a stay order, right from the time of filing affidavit one has to deposit the expenditure likely to be incurred on it.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am happy to note that you are an advocate but at the same time it is a matter of

* Not recorded.

regret also. Hon'ble Minister Shri Jaitley and the law minister are also eminent lawyers of our country. An amendment has been brought in the Civil Procedure code pertaining to advocates and according to that amendment the advocates will have to take a written test every five years, they will have to renew their licences. I want to know whether this will be applicable only to the advocates and whether it will be applicable to the officers of the Indian Administrative Service, who have mooted this proposal and whether this will also be applicable to the judges and other class one officers including IAS and IPS. Will they also have to go through this process every five years. This government is bent upon destroying the entire system of the country gradually. Therefore, I appeal to you as you are yourself an advocate as well. One advocate has now become a minister and he does not care for the advocates. Same is the case with Law minister. Shri Jaitley is our well wisher.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not a lawyer?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Despite being an eminent lawyer of the country you are doing all this against the lawyers. When the advocates raised their voice, the police resorted to canning the advocates and he will not take action against the police rather he will talk about the compromise to hush up the matter. Shri Jaitley should not fall in this trap. Therefore, I demand that first of all the Union Government should withdraw this amendment.

My second submission is that about two to three hundred advocates have been injured in this incident and the women advocates have been compelled to protest against it and as a protest they have sat on fast unto death from today. You know the sentiments of the women. Therefore, you should not adopt tough stand against women. Once the women become adamant they can go to any extent. You should keep in mind that they have sat on fast unto death despite being advocates. This has posed a danger as it can cause loss of life of the women advocates. Therefore, you should take it seriously. All other business of the House should be suspended. The functioning of courts right from district courts to High Courts is paralysed for the last fifty days. Second thing is that the amendment in this law is not related to the advocates only. The common man expects that he will get less expensive justice where as this process is going to be more costly. Our policy has been that justice should be less expensive. But it is going to be costlier and on the other hand conspiracy is being hatched to suppress the intellectuals like advocates.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything from the government?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Earlier state government employees were suppressed and now a conspiracy is being hatched to suppress the advocates. Therefore, this matter should be discussed first by suspending all other business. This is my demand. Hon'ble Jaitleyji your ministership is not going to last for ever, at last you will have to go to bar. Therefore, I request you to kindly withdraw this amendment and business of the House should be suspended to allow discussion on this issue...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, please be fair...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you on the same subject?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Yes, Sir. I have given a notice...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal. He is also on the same subject. He has given a notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have also given notices several time about the condition of the lawyers...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I fully associate with his views that it has become a national issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate with Shri Mulayam Singh. Please take your seat, Shri Radhakrishnan.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I have also given notice on this subject .

MR. SPEAKER: You have given notice on some other subject.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I have given notice regarding the incident of lathi charge on advocates.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, almost two months back—on 24th of February—lawyers had collected here from all parts of the country to protest peacefully against certain decisions of the Government.

They were brutally lathi charged. Ever since then, in over four hundred courts in the country lawyers have been on strike. Unfortunately, the Government does not seem to be, at all, sensitive and concerned about this matter. It is most unfortunate, I would say, that the Government has turned a deaf ear to the pleas of the lawyers' fraternity all over the country.

Sir, a Government which professes to run on democratic lines should have at least called the representatives of various Bar Associations to discuss the matter threadbare with them. On the contrary, I do not know in what manner, just to befool the people, the buck is passed on to three junior police officials of the rank of only Constables, against whom some action is being taken. This further aggravates the situation.

We would expect the Government to take a realistic view in the matter, discuss the matter in detail with the lawyers and wherever it is considered necessary make those amendments further to allay the fears of the lawyers. The amendments talked of in the Advocates Act can not even thought of. Those are very serious and grave in character. When you lay conditions for local lawyers or even very senior lawyers to appear every five years for an examination, you give a complete freedom to the advocates from other countries to appear in the courts, here.

Sir, this is a matter which, and I would only repeat for the sake of laying emphasis on it, warrants immediate action. The Government should not sit on false prestige. The minimum that they can do is, there are hon. Members on the other side who will feel likewise, that action is taken at the earliest to rectify the situation and ensure that the lawyers return to the courts with dignity and self-respect.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice of calling attention motion on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, recently the Government have unnecessarily moved an amendment in the criminal procedure code which did not help the poor in getting justice and there is a rumour all over the country that Advocates Law is being amended which will have way for the entry of the foreign lawyers into our country. Due to this the advocates all over the country are agitated and they have launched an agitation. Besides they have staged fast unto death. Our law Minister has been expelled from the bar by the Bar Council and Shri Arun Jaitleyji will also be expelled from it. The Government is bringing a law against the advocates and the poor due to which thirty advocates have resorted to agitation. Their peaceful demonstration was marred by the barbaric police attack in which thirty advocates were injured and several advocates lost their eyesight. The Government which resort to brutality against the advocates cannot remain in power, that government has to go. The advocates have played leading role in agitations since independence. The advocate like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dadabhai Nauroji played leading role in the freedom struggle. Atrocity against lawyers cannot be tolerated particularly at the time when there are a number of lawyers in the cabinet and that very cabinet have moved this sort of law due to which justice will become costlier and their will be no provision of appeal and any case will be decided by imposing Rs. 50,000 as fine against the concerned party, this is wrong as this is a draconian law. The legal experts all over the country are agitated over this law and the government is paying no attention towards it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister of going to reply. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Therefore, the government should be directed that it should immediately take action to rectify the wrong amendment brought in the advocate law. Atrocities were committed against the lawyers. They were beaten up mercilessly and dragged and they were seriously injured. Such sort of atrocities were committed against the lawyers. No action has been taken against the police so far. Sir, through you I would like to warn the government that action should be taken against the police officials responsible for this brutality and this draconian law should be scrapped immediately.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I have given a notice early in the morning ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is not on this subject.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, my notice is on cricket...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice on this subject....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he has given a Calling Attention Notice. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: His notice is on a separate subject.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, his notice is on the same subject but he has given a Calling Attention Notice. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully associate with what Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has said on the lawyers' strike....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, you have allowed all the members, therefore, I may also be allowed to speak...(Interruptions) please give me two minutes to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: In that case, you have to withdraw your Calling Attention Notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, I withdraw it. The entire country wants that our judicial system should be improved. Every citizen of the country is in favour of it. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, I have given a notice on cricket...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Match is over please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, match is not over. It is continuing.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: This is more important subject than the match. The entire country want that our judicial system should be improved. The amendments brought by the Government can be illustrated. Through poverty alleviation programmes which the entire country wants. But should we kill the 80 per cent poor in order to alleviate poverty from the country? What sort of method is this to alleviate poverty from the country? The same is true of the amendments made in the judicial system. In that a resolution has been made not to give justice to 80 per cent poor of the country. If you go through each and every section of the Act passed by the government you will find that there is no provision of appeal in the cases worth upto Rs. 25,000 whereas maximum cases in the country pertain to poor people of weaker sections, labourers and farmers. If provision has been made that appeal will not be allowed in the cases where in value of the disputed property is not upto Rs. 25,000 you can imagine what sort of justice is going to be delivered in the country in the time to come. Similarly they have made some more arbitrary amendments. I request you to kindly direct the government to reconsider the ongoing strike of the advocates in the country. It is not that the law passed by the government cannot be altered. If the advocates all over the country and people of the country are not in favour of such law, you should direct the government to amend this law and they should hold talks with the representatives of the advocates...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing the Minister to give his reply. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The Members of Parliament should sit together and effect such amendments which are acceptable to all.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice on this very issue...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, you have given a notice on two subjects. Please understand that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: My notice is about the incident of police atrocity on students of Jamia Millia University and the advocates...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Hon'ble Shri Mulayam Singhji and several other hon'ble members have expressed their feelings on this subject...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: My notice pertains to the atrocities committed against the students of the Jamia Millia University and the advocates. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: We respect the feelings of the hon'ble Members but there are certain incidents...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon'ble Minister, other members have also expressed their feelings...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: But I would like to make clear the facts. When the strike began...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, how can you give a notice on two subjects? You have given a notice on two subjects, atrocities of Delhi Police on the students of Jamia Millia and on advocates in Delhi.

13.00 hrs.

How can you give that? You must follow the procedure first.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: When the police is committing atrocities on advocates and students, the issue will be certainly geared up...(Interruptions) Please let me speak...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to speak on the same subject?

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I have given the notice regarding the atrocities committed by the police.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand this first. You are not hearing anything from the Chair. What is this? Are you going to raise the issue on the advocate only?

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Atrocities committed by the police on the advocates and students of Jamia Millia...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand this. Are you going to raise only one issue?

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Please, let me speak about the students of Jamia Millia.

MR. SPEAKER: Not now, you can speak later on.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Initially, when the strike began, Bar Association, had raised three issues regarding which members have expressed their views. Whether the foreign advocates are being allowed to practice in our country? Officers of Bar Council of India and Bar Association had met hon'ble Prime Minister on 25th February and this was made clear that there is no such proposal with the government. The second issue of the strike was whether it is compulsory for the advocates to pass on examination after every 5 years. This issue was never before the government. The third demand was to reconsider the amendments made in civil procedure code. These amendments were passed in both the Houses of Parliament with unanimity. Hon'ble Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh had also supported it...(Interruptions)

13.02 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please speak about the atrocities committed by the police.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I am coming to that also. When the issue was raised, hon'ble Prime Minister had clarified that, the law in this regard has not still been notified.

Suggestions of the Bar Association, if any, would be discussed thoroughly before notifying the law and if required the matter can again be raised in the House. Hence, that issue was also resolved on that day.

The fourth issue was regarding the 'lathicharge' by the police. If police has committed atrocities, we will immediately appoint a Commission of Inquiry under the Chairmanship of a judge or a retired judge. Government will further take action in consultation with the commission and on the basis of the findings of the Commission.

When all these four demands were accepted, Bar Council of India passed the resolution to withdraw the strike. Some Bar Associations have another demand that the officers found guilty in this regard should be suspended. Those Associations continued their strike. Thereafter, Delhi Administration suspended three police officers who were identified by the video tape for committing atrocities...(Interruptions) three officers were suspended.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Three constables have been suspended. Two other officers have been given better positions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Two ACP's have been suspended. The Commission of Inquiry which has been appointed, I am sorry to say two ACPs have been transferred from there...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: They have been transferred and given a better posting instead...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The Commission of Inquiry has been given the right that it will submit the final report in this regard...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Those officers have been transferred to important places...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: They have been transferred from their present duty. Despite this, Commission of Inquiry has also been given interim power to delegate interim finding if it feel so after making investigations regarding their suspension...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Minister complete. Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: This Government has taken all possible steps to see that the strike comes to an end. The Government, therefore, would request Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to join us in requesting the lawyers now to bring the strike to an end. There is additionally a public interest petition which has been filed. There is a judgment of that also awaited in this regard. Whatever the judgement of the court comes, that is also acceptable to us.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to immediately call a delegation of advocates to give them assurance in this regard. You should discuss with them the amendments which are objectionable and then make the necessary amendments. It is your duty to assure the delegation of advocates.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Hon'ble Prime Minister has given assurance to the delegation...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL: If you are ready to give them assurance, they will withdraw the strike.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already assured. Now, Shri Vaiko.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already assured. Now, Shri Vaiko.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The Bar Council of India has brought out a resolution thanking the hon. Prime Minister of India for accepting their demands...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon'ble Minister has not clearly assured them. He should call their representatives and assure them in clear terms. Today all the advocates are on strike.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is 'Zero Hour'. He has already assured. This is not the Question Hour. Now, Shri Vaiko.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have any objection in contacting the advocates?

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Today all the courts are closed, no work is going on there. It is a very important matter. You should ask the Government to assure the advocates that they will be called to discuss the matter and the objections will be removed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: We have been told that they are again going on agitation from today...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): They gave the assurance to the hon. Prime Minister....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Hon'ble Prime Minister has already done that. He can also do the same if he wants to do so.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: He is saying that hon'ble Prime Minister has given the assurance. You ask the Government to give the assurance in clear terms. It has not been notified so far. When you will form your opinion...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Why do you not hear me? Shri Buta Singh, this is a serious matter. They met the Prime Minister. He has already assured. Mr. Minister is also prepared to meet them.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: You have promised to call my name.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow you.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: No clear assurance has been given.

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): No bails are being granted.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Has such assurance been given to them after inviting them for negotiation, the strike would have ended.

[English]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The doors are always open for discussion and it is an invitation to them for negotiation...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): You are a good man in bad company. You call them, discuss and finish it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The Government should not feel ashamed of giving assurances time and again.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: This is not the question. It should be taken seriously. Courts are not functioning for last two months. Innocent persons who are in jails can be granted bail if this strike ends. You have rewarded those police officers. You should bring this strike to an end. The women advocates should be pursued to call off the strike and their demands should be accepted. You should ask women advocates to call off the strike so that courts could function. This problem should be solved so that work in the courts is not hampered.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are speaking on this issue but they are giving assurances for it.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The strike would have ended earlier had the Minister adopted such approach in the beginning of the strike...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VAIKO: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please permit me to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, he has repeatedly assured. What more do you want? I will not allow you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, Strike is not the issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the issue then?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Seven women lawyers are fasting and others will follow suit. That is the situation. He has not answered that point.

SHRI VAIKO: The Government has already taken the measures...(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I draw the attention of the Government, through you, to a very serious matter. Nineteen fishermen of this country are languishing in the jails in Pakistan for nearly 11 months. They are in tears and penury. I had raised the issue on March 13 on the floor of this House. Most of the leaders belonging to many political parties had supported this issue and the hon. Home Minister was kind enough to respond, sharing our grief and concern, and assured us that the hon. Minister of External Affairs would make a statement on the floor of this House.

On 16th February, 1999, nineteen Indian fishermen, all from Tamil Nadu and mostly from the district of Kanyakumari, were on a contract with a Saudi Arabian fishing company, but by mistake, while they were engaged by the Saudi Arabian Company, they entered into the Iranian waters. They were arrested by the Iranian authorities on 16th February for allegedly trespassing into the Iranian territory waters. After 42 days, on 28th March, the matter was brought to the notice of our Indian Mission in Teheran that at least nineteen Indian nationals had been arrested by the security agencies. While the Mission was in contact with the Iranian authorities to secure their release, they were pushed by Iran into Pakistan after 67 days. This is most important, Sir. 67 days after the matter was brought to the notice of our Mission, they were pushed into the territory of Pakistan. Whatever the Mission had been doing in Teheran, whatever the Ministry had been doing, after 35 days, the first note verable was sent to Pakistan authorities on 9th July. After that, many reminders were sent.

Then the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan informed our mission in Islamabad on 14th September,

1999 that these fishermen were in Pakistan's custody. On 5th June, they were lodged in Quetta jail and then on 5th December, they were transferred to Karachi jail. When the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan indicated that they would be willing to give our High Commission officials consular access to these fishermen so that the procedure for their release and repatriation to India could be taken up, our High Commission suggested that consular access be provided urgently.

After repeated requests, the Pakistan authorities allowed the representatives of our High Commission in Islamabad to meet these fishermen in the jail on 3rd January, 2000. The members of the families have received letters from Pakistan and I am terribly afraid that their lives are in danger. They are being tortured, they are being harassed and the Pakistan regime, the Gen. Pervez Musharraf's regime is playing with the lives of our Indian citizens. It is a very serious matter and as I stated earlier, the whole district of Kanyakumari observed *hartal*, *bandh*, agitation, supported by all political parties, including the members of the National Democratic Alliance.

The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalingar has taken up the issue honestly and just before the *bands* was observed in the district of Kanyakumari, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu contacted our hon. Prime Minister. He himself talked to him. The Prime Minister also assured the Chief Minister that steps will be taken and these people who are suffering in Pakistani jails, will be released. When the hon. Prime minister came there during the election campaigning and addressed a mammoth meeting in Nagarcoil, the headquarters of the Kanyakumari district, he gave an assurance to the people that it was a serious matter and that the Government will take all measures to bring back the Indian fishermen hailing from Tamil Nadu who are suffering in the jails of Pakistan.

Sir, eleven months have passed by now. The matter is very serious. The Government should given top priority to this matter. Then only the matter could be sorted out. The Government should take up the issue very seriously with the Pakistan Government. Nineteen nationals of this country are suffering in Pakistan jails. It is not a small matter.

Therefore, it is high time that the Government should take up the issue very seriously. Unless and until the Pakistan regime concedes to our demand to release these fishermen, the matter should be taken up with the Human Rights Commission and also with the United Nations. It is not a small matter.

Therefore, I request that the Government of India and particularly the hon. Minister of External Affairs should

[Shri Vaiko]

come out with a statement. Our hon. Minister of Home Affairs has assured last time that he shared our grief and concern and he assured that the hon. Minister of External Affairs will come up with a statement. Sir, the matter is very serious and we are all agitated over the issue. The whole country is agitated over the issue. It is high time that the Government should take it up on a priority basis. Thank you.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, please give me one minute to speak on the same subject. In regard to the same matter our hon. Chief Minister wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Prime Minister has agreed to intervene in the matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not a matter of discussion.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, I request the Government and the hon. Prime minister to intervene and take immediate steps to release the fishermen from the Pakistan jail. Thank you.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today I came to attend the House with a heavy heart. In the morning when we assembled here I wanted that the House should condemn the terrorists attack unleashed by Pakistani terrorists in the country and especially denounce the heinous act of terrorism. The day, when US President visited India, the terrorists gunned down Sikh men, children women and old persons who were paying at gurdwara of Chhattisinghpura in Kashmir valley. The leading newspapers of the country were carrying the photographs of massacred sikh brethrens, sisters, children, women and aged persons. The US President expressed his condolences on this massacre while addressing the Members of both the House in the Central Hall. He said that it was most unfortunate incident and he had full sympathy for those men, women and children who were killed by the terrorists. In the newspaper of yesterday I read that he had not yet forgotten that tragedy and confirmed it that Pak terrorists had killed innocent sikhs in Kashmir.

The whole world is condemning it. Afghanistan and Europe are also bearing the brunt of such acts of Pakistan but India is the most affected. It would have been better if such a proposal was brought from the side of Government. My colleague Shri J.S. Brar and other Members of my party from Punjab have been waiting since morning to speak on this issue. I hoped that the House would observe a silence to pay homage to the

deceased sikhs. The House should convey its condolences to the bereaved families and the sikh community as a whole to prove the brutality of Pakistan before the world as to how hundreds of persons are being killed everyday by Pakistani terrorists who are infiltrating in India.

I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak. I request that as soon as the formal proceeding of the House begin first of all the Members of the House should pass a condolence Motion and pay homage to those martyrs keeping aside all the important business of the House like motion of thanks on Presidential Address.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by Sardar Buta Singhji. I will not take much time of the House and raise two three points only. The first is the matter of cross border terrorism in which 35 innocent sikh have been massacred. Earlier Kashmiri Pundits were forced to leave the valley. Now Pakistan is trying to force sikhs to leave the valley who are living in 140 villages of Kashmir. After killing of these 35 sikhs, more than 25 thousand people gathered there to take part in last prayers, though they had threat to their lives. No party is responsible for this incident. It is really sorry that no responsible leader, Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs or Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir was present there at the last prayer. This has caused great resentment among the people that no responsible leader could come to them to express condolence on such a tragic incident.

In the morning we discussed this issue with hon'ble Speaker, we wanted to raise this issue on the day when US President Shri Clinton visited India. But for the dignity of the country and being main opposition party we did not raise it at that time only 12 hours after the incident. But today I have given notice to speak on this issue.

[English]

That is the protection of the minorities all over the country and especially in Jammu and Kashmir.

[Translation]

I request the hon'ble Deputy Speaker to ask the Government to bring a motion in the House to observe a two minutes silence on this issue before starting discussion on motion of thanks at 2 or 2.30 p.m. when the House assembles in the afternoon. It will show that the Government and Parliament of this country is sensitive to this issue. I feel that it will also convey our condolences to the bereaved families of 35 innocent sikhs who were martyred.

I would like to raise another point that while returning from the Commonwealth meetings at Durban the hon'ble

Prime Minister had stated that we would do our bit for restoring democracy in Pakistan. But while addressing the terrorists in camps in Pakistan, General Musharaff stated that though Islam is a peace loving religion but even then we grant sanction to 'jihad'. He has recognised cross border terrorism. Thus our foreign policy failed in this matter. The hon'ble Prime Minister and the Government should consider this matter seriously. I hope that the Government will agree with me and bring a proposal to observe silence for two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Hannan Mollah.

SHRI BALBIR SINGH (Jalandhar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while associating myself with what Shri Buta Singh ji and Brarji have said. I would like to submit that the Government should formally move a motion for observing silence for two minutes.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): We do not have any objection to it, if the entire House is agreed to pay homage.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It concerns all sections of the House.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has agreed. In the tomorrow's List of Business, the first item should be obituary reference.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice on the same subject. I have given notice regarding the Chatisinghpura massacre by the terrorists.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you do not allow him to speak, I will have to adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already conveyed. Now, resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to add one more thing to the issue whether it is of price rise or the assault on the striking lawyers.

You are aware that Jamia Millia Islamia is one of the famous universities of Delhi and of course of the country. On the night of ninth, 100 to 200 personnel of Delhi police entered the hostel of the university and brutally beaten up the students. I have myself visited the place and during my stay of two hours there, I have fully checked the condition of each room. I found that the doors of atleast 25 rooms were completely broken and all the rooms were ransacked. More than two hundred students were beaten up and they were put behind the bar. When I went to the mosque I found tear gas shells and burnt mat there. The Imam Saheb of the mosque, who hails from my district Murshidabad in Bengal was brutally beaten up and was locked up in Tihar jail. The disgraceful behaviour in which the police acted on communal lines, is also very shameful. I have myself witnessed that a Yemenis student has suffered many injuries. Similarly three students from Bangladesh have also suffered injuries. I on behalf of India, have tendered apologies to them. It is a matter of disgrace that students from foreign countries who have come here for study, were subjected to such atrocities. Sir, the rooms of more than two hundred students were damaged and their money was looted. Had the police handled it properly, it would not have turned into such a big incident. The matters relating to students are always sensitive in nature. The police could have handled it properly, it would not have turned into such a big incident. The matters relating to students are always sensitive in nature. The police could have handled the issue tactfully. But I was surprised over the brutal and discriminatory manner in which Delhi Police handled the matter. Never before I have seen this kind of incident involving an attack on the university students. The Vice-Chancellor or the university too neither visited the site nor expressed his sympathy with the students.

Hence, it is my demand that a judicial inquiry should be ordered in this matter. The DCP under whose command, the entire episode of brutality took place, should be dismissed from the service. All the false accusations and cases against the students who were beaten the falsely implicated, should be withdrawn and they should be compensated for the losses they have suffered and guilty should be punished. It is my demand from the Government. Sir, till more now neither the Home Minister nor any other Minister have given any statement, nor any one of them has visited the site and nor has given any assurance. Hence, my demand is that the

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

Government should take a proper step regarding the matter.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the aeroplanes of the Airlines...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, on this issue, my name is also there in the list.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponanni): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also have to speak on this matter.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur): Sir it is a very important matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Deputy Speaker, Sir, the atrocities committed by Delhi Police on the students of Jamia Milia Islamia university are unparalleled. I had even given an adjournment motion over it and had also given a Notice to speak over this issue. On the ninth of this month, Delhi Police, without any permission and bringing the matter to the notice of administration assaulted the students in an unprecedented manner. It seems of if the Delhi Police has lost its mental balance. It stormed into the campus of Jamia Milia in arrogance of power and indulged in such barbaric acts which put humanity to shame. Students were put to physical assault and their belongings and money were looted. The students were preparing for their examination. One of them was thrown out from the balcony of the third floor and he got serious injuries.

The behaviour meted to the students who came from the foreign countries was a shameful act. Sir, the police used to say it repeatedly that our educational institutes, universities, our madaras and our muslim centers of learning have become centres of ISI agents. The students were accused of being ISI agents and were beaten up mercilessly. Some of them were arrested, taken to the police station where they were beaten up badly. Their beards were pulled and it was said that these beards are not the symbol of Allaha's grace, rather they are the mark of being ISI agents. Such was the scenario there. Police entered the mosque with their shoes on and the Imam Sahib was beaten up and his legs were fractured. I am forced to say that despite all this, the administration has not taken any note of it. No action has been taken against the officers who were responsible for action on the lines of communal bias and prejudice. Their suspension should be the first priority. Judicial inquiry should be conducted into it as to how false charges were levelled against the students. The students who were busy in preparing for their examination, were arrested. Now, the false cases are being framed against

them. I would not take much time but this House has to ponder over the irresponsible behaviour of police. The Government bears the responsibility for all that has happened. This Government has continuously propagated that Muslim centers of learning are center of terrorist and ISI agents and today despite all this propaganda, not even a single ISI agent has been caught from any Madarsa or Dar-ul-ulum. But it is only owing to this propaganda that has contributed to the spread of communism and anti-minority feeling. When the Government and Sangh Parivar indulge in such propaganda, then it naturally gives encouragement to the police and other Government agencies to act in such a manner. Without taking such time I would like to demand that a judicial inquiry should be conducted into it and the guilty officers should be suspended and stern action should be taken against them. It is also very important that the Home Minister, himself should call a meeting of the students and talk to them. Today, the students are on hunger strike. The Home Ministry should talk to them and the atrocities committed on them should be enquired into immediately. The responsibility of this brutal act falls entirely on the Government.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, it is a great shame...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is 'Zero Hour'. One has to be shortened.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I have given the notice regarding adjournment motion....*(Interruptions)* such government has no right to continue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is true. But we are now in the 'Zero Hour' and not in the Adjournment Motion.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Banatwalla has made the statement regarding the atrocities committed on the students but the Government did not give any response. Whether the Government should not give any statement in this regard? It is a very sensitive matter. Atrocities have been committed upon the students of Jamia Millia in their hostel...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Home Minister should give a statement in the House and a dialogue should be held with Talibana...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what has happened in Jamia Millia Islamia is very shocking...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is already 1.35 p.m. now. There are still two-three other hon. Members to speak on the same subject. What I am requesting them is that they should also associate them with the other Members who have already spoken.

Yes, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, please.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the incident that had taken place in the Jamia Millia Islamia is not merely an incident. It is a design. That design has been exposed now.

Sir, I am also a product of students movement. I came in the public life through the students movement. It is the students who lay the foundation of major issues concerning the people, concerning the country and concerning the world. It is the students who gear up the issues and people respond, encourage and honour them.

Jamia Millia Islamia is not merely a university confined within the territory of Delhi, it has its own international reputation. When I heard his incident, I first felt of late President Dr. Zakir Hussain who symbolised his dream with this university. This university is having students not only from India but also from the rest of the world, especially the Muslim nations.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there was an established code, I remember, in the Sixties when the nationalised movement was at its height in Bengal. That code in the Vice-Chancellors' Conference said unless the Administration, the Vice-Chancellor or the Principal, as the case may be, himself invites intervention by the police to respond to a particular situation, the police should not enter into the academic arena without the prior permission. That was the established truth. It was hailed by all the Vice-Chancellors during the Sixties. At that time, I was also a student leader.

But, Sir, last week, a very shocking incident has taken place in the Jamia Millia University. The students have met me and narrated me the whole thing. The Imam who hails from Murshidabad, as Shri Hannan Mollah has rightly said, is a universal man. He who used to conduct prayer in the mosque is not party to any political activity. But the way he was tortured and the kind of abuses that were hurled on him by the police, I feel sad being a citizen of this nation that this can happen by the police authority! The students who were busy for the preparation of their examination, reading books were tortured. Their hands were tied and they were beaten. One student told his story to me. I do not want to mention his case as he concealed his name. But the way he was undressed, the way he was hit by the Police Lathi and gun point, it is intolerable. It is a shame.

[Translation]

The police said: You Muslim people create disturbances in the country and now you are doing the same here also.

[English]

He cried on his feet. But he was not spared. The students who were preparing for their examination were not spared by the police. The tear gas shells were thrown not only inside the mosque but also on the table of the books where the boys were studying. In spite of all this, several students were arrested and cases were registered against them under Section 302. Even the Imam was taken to the custody. Several students have been arrested under false and fake cases. Even the students of Bangladesh are being tortured.

So, Sir, I feel that a secular Government has a responsibility to respond to such issues not just considering the Jamia Millia university as a campus but as a reputation that we like to have in abroad. They should try to think about it

So, I demand not only a judicial inquiry forthwith but the withdrawal of all charges and cases against those innocent students. All the arrested students should be released immediately and the honour of the Imam be restored with the profound apology on the part of the Administration. Not only this, I also feel that the hon. Home Minister, in this very House, should come out with a statement tomorrow responding to the issues that we have raised today.

On behalf of my party, Indian National Congress, I demand this and express our full concern and sympathy to the students of Jamia Millia. Thank you.

[Translation]

PROF. I.G. SANADI (Dharwad South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also support him.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jamia Millia is not merely a university, it is a movement in the country and a stalwart freedom fighter had founded it before independence so that the students of this university could become freedom fighters. On 9th police entered the university to arrest the two criminals. The criminals, who were running on the road, they entered in the hostel. While chasing them police also entered the university. I do not know whether the criminals were caught or not, but the cruelty and the barbarian act done by the Delhi police is unprecedented. I went to the hostel and I was pained to see that the doors and windows of the classrooms were broken by the police. Police had tortured the students who were studying. They were hit by lathies and gun barrels. I have that lathi in my car which I have brought from Jamia Millia. I respect this House, that's why I have not brought that lathi here. If you will permit, I can show you the lathi which was broken into pieces while hitting the student. Not only this, police also hit a handicapped student mercilessly. What was his fault? How can he be an ISI agent? He was thrown down from the third floor. His trousers got struck in the iron rod. The body was trapped. He was forcibly thrown down by the gun. His trousers remained struck there. The boy fell down from the third floor. This is what police has done there. Around 150 boys were beaten up there and boy who was seriously injured, was booked into the jail. Others were left free. Around 66 boys were booked into the jail. Police had entered the university without prior permission of the Vice-Chancellor. Vice-Chancellor himself has said so. It was not that 50-60 policemen had entered the university but the number which was told to me was 500-600. I went to Tihar Jail also and met those boys. I have no words to explain their agony. They were crying and they had a question what was our fault?

Bhartiya Janata Party talks about the terrorism in the country, but it itself is promoting terrorism. I met Hindu students also who are studying in Jamia University. I would request the House that the matter should be resolved by taking statements of those students. Those boys were lamenting that we the Hindu and Muslim students live together in Jamia as brothers. But the way police had behaved with them and levelled charges against them that they are ISI agents and have taken agencies from other countries and they are residing in this hostel. Those innocent Hindu students were telling me. Even the Imam was taken to the custody and was beaten up. I met him. While crying he narrated me his story that he was sitting inside the mosque when police

entered, disrespect was shown to Kuran-a-pak. Is this country a secular one? In such circumstances can it be expected from the boys who are being tortured today that they would become patriot and nationalist tomorrow. BJP Government is responsible for growing terrorism in the country. I am pained to say that today is 17th. 9 days have been passed since then, but no action has been taken against any of the police official. This is the cruelty that section 307 is being imposed on the boys with the charges against them that they had the intention to murder, but no action is being taken against the police. I would like to say that the Home Minister should go to Jamia Millia and apologise. Action should be taken against police officers found guilty. A judicial inquiry should be conducted. Besides, a committee should be formed with the MPs of different parties to assess the situation by visiting that place, then you will know the actual situation. What is being done with the muslims and their children in this country? Even after all this BJP Government claims that they are secular. However, the law which has been made for mosque and Madrasas in Uttar Pradesh is suspicious. The same thing is happening in Jamia Millia. I strongly register my protest on behalf of my party and demand that action should be taken against police immediately. This is the attitude of the police. When I went to Tihar jail, a Minister from BJP Government who is present in the House, also went there.

He can also tell about the incident. I am telling you the attitude of the police. I went inside the jail and when I came back in the afternoon, my driver was missing. When I made a search for him, I came to know that he is in the police lock up as per the orders of ACP on the charge that my car came in between when the ACP's car was passing from there. This is the attitude of the police. Advocates, students of Jamia Millia and MPs are likely to suffer in the hands of police. Action should be taken against it. My driver was put into the lock up only because ACP's car was passing from there and at the same time no other car can come in between his car. They are above human beings, they are not human beings. I will move privilege motion against the attitude of Delhi police. There is no need to topple the BJP Government as Delhi police will become the cause for downfall of the Government.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also went to Jamia Milla, Minister's time should also be given to me ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri. Devendra Prasad Yadav, your notice on a question of privilege has been

received by the hon. Speaker. It is under his consideration.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): This cannot be brushed aside like that. We want the response of the Government. Such a brutality has not been heard of in independent India against a university, against a community or against the people of this country...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, you know that the Chair cannot compel the Government to react.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: I am requesting the hon. Minister. Let the Home Minister make a statement ... (Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Muslims are also citizens of India. We want that justice should be done...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Hon'ble Minister should also speak something about it.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI: I also went to Jamia Milia Islamia. Please give me one minute time to speak. Injustice has been done to the students there. Atrocities have been committed on them. Students have been beaten up there, students...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What will be the fate of the country if Government becomes insensitive to such issues? The incident narrated by the hon'ble members is witnessed by them...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had also went there and met the students. It was really painful to see the miserable condition of the students there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you like to speak regarding Jamia? Being a lady, let her speak.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI: I also went to Jamia Milia Islamia University. When I reached there, students started crying like small kids. Police, PAC brutally beaten up the students, broke their room and looted the belongings of the students. Secondly, they were implicated for murder under section 307. The students have gone there to build their career, but these people spoiled their future. They are implicated under section 307 and 302 and were imprisoned. The parents have sent their children

to study with their hard-earned money, but Delhi Police have spoiled their career. I demand that harsh attitude should be adopted against such police administration. A probe should be conducted and whoever is responsible in the Administration should be punished. Similar incident took place in Balia and Banaras also. The same thing happened with students in Jamia Milia Islamia. I demand from the Government to conduct the probe and the guilty officers of the police administration or those persons who are involved in this act should be punished or suspended. All false cases filed against the students should be withdrawn. The Government should seek pardon from the students. The police administration who have used force under the influence of Government officials should be punished. What type of law and order do you have? Is Police authorized to do such act? It can brutally beat anybody, and can level charges against anybody. You should sympathise with students and the cases against them should be withdrawn. The Minister of Home Affairs should seek pardon from the students.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLĀH: So many atrocities have been committed against the students. You should say something about it.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: We want a response from the Government...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, I cannot compel the Government...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: For three times, you have denied to give me an opportunity to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What can I do, hon. Minister is speaking, he is giving his reaction.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I would like to say something on the basis of information which I have got from my colleague, Shri Shahnawaz Hussain during this discussion. I apologise, if there is any mistake. The delegation of students had met hon. Minister of Home Affairs to apprise him about this incident. The hon. Minister Shahnawaz Hussain himself had led the delegation and met the Minister of Home Affairs. He placed before the Home Minister all complaints, which were also mentioned in the House. The hon. Minister have directed LG to conduct an enquiry in this regard. Probably, some enquiry is being conducted at the level of Magistrate.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: What will happen by this Magistrate level enquiry....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Ministry reply. You please hear him. If you want any further clarifications, you can ask him later.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Let me complete first. If there is any problem, I will place it before the Minister of Home Affairs. But at least let me explain what actually happened. If you are not satisfied with the level of inquiry, I will apprise the Minister of Home Affairs of your demand for a high level inquiry. I am just stating the facts. The Minister of Home Affairs has already met the students. LG has been told to conduct the inquiry. The inquiry is being conducted by LG. The Minister of Home Affairs has told our Cabinet colleague Shri Shah Nawaz Hussain to personally visit the Jail and meet the students. He met them and had presented their complaints before the Minister of Home Affairs. On that basis, the Government did not oppose their bail applications. Members have raised various issues in the House and after consolidating all demands of the Members, I will present them before the Minister of Home Affairs.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, UP): First of all the false case which has been filed against the students should be withdrawn. This is not a matter of sympathy, that first you file the case and then did not oppose the bail application. This is a very serious matter.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has stated that he would convey the views expressed by the hon. Members to the Home Minister for further action.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It appears from the statement of Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that this is a prima facie case and the Government also agrees with it....*(Interruptions)* Therefore, the bail application was not opposed by the Government.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not ask the Minister of reply to this.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This is a very serious matter. The Government should first withdraw the case. This is not a proper way that police may enter any institution and beat the students and send them to jail by implicating them in false case....*(Interruptions)* It is not acceptable that after releasing students on bail the criminal case is filed against them....*(Interruptions)* They are not opposing their bail, it clearly indicates that the Government is accepting that the injustice has been done to the students. We request that a Parliamentary Committee should be set up to enquire into matter.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: This issue cannot be treated in a high-handed way. This issue cannot be treated in a cavalier fashion.*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On your insistence, the hon. Minister intervened and he has given whatever information he had with him.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Let there be a statement by the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already said that the feelings of the entire House will be conveyed to the Home Minister.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, even the reactions to my intervention will be communicated to the Home Minister.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: The Home Minister must make a statement here....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: We will be satisfied if the hon. Home Minister come to the House and make a statement. Let him convey the feelings of the House....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, this is what he has been repeatedly saying.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when the entire House is condemning it, you should call the Minister of Home Affairs in the House to give reply in this regard. He should understand and respect the feeling of all the Members that the entire House is expressing its deep concern in this regard. About 67-68 innocent students were arrested under section 302-307, whereas VC has stated that he has not granted any

permission to the Police Officials and without his permission no police official can enter the university campus. The Government should give reply in this regard. The Minister of Home Affairs should come in the House to reply. The entire House is unanimous on this issue, all parties agree that students have been ill-treated. Sir, the Minister of Home Affairs should be called to the House and be asked to respond to the queries of the Members.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It amounted to a discussion. The Minister has reacted and said that the entire feelings of the House would be conveyed to the Home Minister.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, this is a very serious matter. The Minister of Home Affairs should come here. The Government should be directed to give reply in this regard. This is a very serious matter.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is 'Zero Hour'. You are a junior Member.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: But I am a senior Member.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not term you as a junior Member but only Shri Akhilesh Singh.

Your feelings have already been taken note of by the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He is a young fellow, that is why he is speaking.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If I am speaking and you will also start speaking at the same time, how the House will run.

[*English*]

I have heard every one of you and before we adjourn the House for lunch I would like to hear Shri Prabhunath Singh.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is a question of the future of 67 students and police have mercilessly lathicharged the students in an educational institution. Do not leave these issues as such. Sir, if these issues are ignored, it will send wrong signals to police. Today, everybody is against it. The Delhi Police have crossed all limits of brutality.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: This is the third consecutive incident. Prior to Jamia Millia similar incidents have taken place in A.M.U. and Banaras Hindu University. This is the third incident. You should direct the Government that the Home Minister should make a statement in the House in this regard.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel the Government to call the Home Minister here.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Atrocities are being committed; so directions should be issued by the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Direction cannot be issued from here.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: In such cases direction should be issued from here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As per the existing rules, I can draw the attention of the Government.

[*English*]

The Presiding officer cannot give any direction to the Government.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There is no practice to issue directions to the sensitive Government but the Government which is insensitive and committing atrocities, the hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, you should issue directions to such Government.

14.00 hrs.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please cooperate with me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I heard you. It is his turn now. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the flight No. 7411 of the Alliance Air goes to Calcutta via Lucknow and Patna. It takes off at 5.40 from Dehli. It is a serious issue. My mother passed away on December 20 and I have to go there to perform the last rituals of my mother but that aircraft was stopped at Lucknow due to some technical snag in it and as a result I could not reach there in time we were travelling in that aircraft on January 27, 2000. I remember that Shri Rajo Singhji, Shri Raghunath Jhaji and fifteen to twenty other Members of Parliament were on board on that aircraft on that day also it was stated that a technical snag has developed in the aircraft. The aircraft then took off for Calcutta. It landed at Lucknow at night. We had to sit at Lucknow. On 14th when I was travelling by that flight it landed at Patna at 11.30. Thousands of people travel by that aircraft every day. The people face a lot of problems while travelling by that aircraft and it seems that the Government have become insensitive towards the problems of the people. The Government should take this matter seriously. If at all there is any technical snag in that aircraft that should be rectified. If that particular aircraft is not flyworthy that one should be replaced and the flight should operate as per schedule. On the 14th, even a cup of tea was not served in the aircraft. The people remain seated in the aircraft for hours together. The hon'ble Minister is here and he is a sensitive and serious person. Shri Raghuvansh Babu may say whatever he wants to say. I request the hon'ble Minister to take this matter seriously. I doubt that the employees in that particular aircraft are deliberately doing all this. Therefore, you should get this matter investigated. If this is done deliberately, stern action should be taken against the guilty officials. This is what I want to submit.

14.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen of the Clock.

15.07 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at seven minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN in the Chair)

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

[English]

Increase in Prices of Certain Petroleum Products

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Mr. Chairman Sir, hon. Members

would be aware of the steep increase in the prices of crude oil that were being witnessed for the last one year. International prices of crude oil which were around Rs. 3,210 per tonne in February, 1999 rose to around Rs. 7,906 per tonne in March, 2000, an increase of over 146 per cent. Consequently, the oil import bill has also increased and is estimated to go up from Rs. 27,000 crore in 1998-99 to around Rs. 57,000 crore in 1999-2000.

Based on the decision taken during the Government led by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, an Expert Technical Group (ETG) was appointed on 25th June, 1996 to make recommendations on reforms in the hydrocarbon sector. The ETG submitted its two reports while the Government led by Shri H.D. Deve Gowda was in power. The second report of ETG accepted by the Government led by Shri I.K. Gujral on 20th November, 1997, when it was decided to dismantle the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in a phased manner and to switch over to full deregulation by the end of March, 2002. The following decisions were taken:

1. That subsidy on kerosene oil for Public Distribution System (PDS) would be brought down to 33.33 per cent of the import parity price by the year 2001-02.
2. That subsidy on LPG (Packed-Domestic) would be brought down to 15 per cent during the year 2000-01.
3. That selling prices of Motor Spirit (MS) and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) would be moved towards import parity, and
4. That price of diesel would continue to be moved in line with international prices as per the earlier Cabinet decision dated 1st September, 1997.

Hon. Members would be aware that the Oil Pool Account is balanced by cross subsidisation of PDS kerosene and LPG (Packed-Domestic) prices from revenues earned through Motor Spirit and Aviation Turbine Fuel. Prices of diesel are required to be at import parity and are Oil Pool Account neutral. The steep increase in international crude oil prices has increased the differential between the import parity prices and the prices of the subsidised products thus placing a great burden on the deficit in the Oil Pool Account.

The annual subsidy in the preceding year i.e. in 1999-2000 for PDS kerosene at the pre-revised prices was expected to be approximately Rs. 8,100 crore and for LPG (Packed-Domestic) approximately Rs. 4,700 crore. At March, 2000 prices, this deficit would have been

* Not recorded.

increasingly larger and would have reached the order of Rs. 11,000 crore for PDS kerosene and Rs. 7,000 crore for LPG (Packed-Domestic) for 2000-01. This level of deficit in the Oil Pool Account cannot be sustained since there would be no money with the oil companies either to import and process crude oil or market products.

The basic price of PDS kerosene has remained unchanged since 25th July, 1991. The differential between prices of diesel and PDS kerosene has been widening continuously over the last two decades. The difference between the price of diesel and PDS kerosene was only one paise in 1975; 66 paise in 1980; Rs. 1.19 in 1985; Rs. 2.09 in 1990 and Rs. 3.72 in the year 1995. Earlier Governments spoke of reduction of subsidy and market mechanisms but made hardly any attempt to increase the prices of PDS kerosene. As on 22nd March, 2000, the difference between the diesel and PDS kerosene retail price in Delhi was Rs. 11.37. When we look at our neighbouring countries, the differential is Rs. 3.61 per litre in Sri Lanka and Rs. 1.30 per litre in Pakistan. In Bangladesh, diesel and Kerosene are priced at the same level.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Please tell us the rate of Petrol of America. The rate of petrol in America is one Dollar per gallon and what is the rate of petrol in our country.

SHRI RAM NAIK: You should settle down in America. Please listen to me first.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He is trying to teach us. The price of kerosene has been doubled. It is being sold at the rate of rupees seven per litre. The poorman is suffering. The Government are saying that it will not withdraw its steps.

SHRI RAM NAIK: This decision was taken by your Government.

[English]

This differential in prices is also contributing significantly to adulteration and black-marketing. In a study carried out by Tata Economic Consultancy Services during the year 1994, it revealed that around 30 per cent of PDS kerosene was being diverted towards other uses including black-marketing and adulteration of diesel...(Interruptions) Since the price differential has widened manifold, it can only be interred that such diversion would be of a much higher order at present.

In my interaction with the public, media and also discussion on various fora, I have been speaking of the need for raising the prices of PDS, kerosene and other products in tune with the realities of the market. There has also been broad consensus on this issue in the meetings of Petroleum Ministry Consultative Committee and Minister of Food and Civil Supplies of various States.

Taking into account the international prices, the prevailing subsidy level, the different between diesel and PDS kerosene prices and the prices of kerosene in the neighbouring countries and in conformity with implementation of the decision taken by the Gujral Government on 20th November, 1997 for the dismantling of the administered price mechanism, the Government decided to increase the ex-storage point price of PDS kerosene from Rs. 2.00 per litre to Rs. 4.50 per litre with effect from midnight of 22nd-23rd March, 2000.

LPG (Packed-Domestic) is a common fuel not only for the middle class and the urban housewives but indeed for all sections of the people. We have decided that the waiting list for LPG (Packed-Domestic) aspirants be cleared by 31st December, 2000.

It means a sanction of around one crore additional LPG (Packed-Domestic) connections. At March, 2000 level of prices of LPG, each cylinder sold by the oil companies had a subsidy of Rs. 162 per cylinder. The subsidy is partly paid from the Oil Pool Account and to some extent absorbed by the oil companies. If we have to ensure that LPG (Packed-Domestic) reaches every household, we have to make the selling prices realistic to ensure that the oil companies do not suffer huge losses in providing LPG (Packed-Domestic) connections. I realise that it is not possible for the ordinary housewife to bear the burden of the total removal of subsidy at one go. In order to provide a balance between reduction of subsidy and burden on the housewives, the Government decided to increase the ex-storage point price of LPG (Packed-Domestic) cylinder by Rs. 30 per cylinder with effect from midnight of 22nd-23rd March, 2000.

As I mentioned earlier, ATF price cross subsidises LPG (Packed-Domestic) and PDS kerosene. However, with the increase in the international prices of products, ATF, as on 22nd March, 2000, was being priced at Rs. 1.06 less than its import parity price. It was, therefore, decided to increase the price of ATF also at the ex-storage point level by Rs. 2.00 per litre with effect from midnight of 22nd-23rd March, 2000. The increases in the prices that I have just now mentioned would bring to the oil pool Rs. 3,440 crore per annum from PDS kerosene, Rs. 1,660 crore per annum from LPG (Packed-Domestic) and Rs. 320 crore per annum from ATF.

[Shri Ram Naik]

As per the Cabinet decision of September 1, 1997, selling price of diesel is required to be fixed on the principle of import parity. The retail prices of diesel in the country are already high. Considering the current level of prices of diesel and also because of abnormally high differential between the selling prices of diesel and PDS kerosene, it has been decided not to increase the diesel prices for the present. This has been done to protect the interest of diesel consumers which, *inter alia*, include farmers and passengers, goods transport, etc.

MS is currently priced higher than its import parity price to cross subsidise PDS kerosene and LPG (Packed-Domestic). As per the Cabinet decision of November, 1997, selling price of petrol is to be moved towards import parity. For the present, selling price of MS is not being touched.

The recent OPEC decision to increase their oil production by 1.45 million barrels per day (excluding increase by Iran) has resulted in some decline in oil prices in the international market, which has to be viewed against the backdrop of the OPEC Statement to review its decision by June, 2000. However, the large deficits which have already accumulated in the Oil Pool Account will have to be tackled only through price adjustments...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister has made a statement. What do you want?

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj. U.P.) The Government have increased the prices of kerosene, Petrol, Diesel and cooking gas...(Interruptions) It seems that there is no other work with the Government but to increase the prices...(Interruptions) They have forced the poor to live in dark by increasing the prices of kerosene...(Interruptions) This Government is not concerned about the poor people...(Interruptions) It is bent upon to ruin the poor people...(Interruptions) The poor people use kerosene to have light in their houses but the Government have tried to deprive them of this facility...(Interruptions) Today the poor people are compelled to live in dark in their houses.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: According to rules, after the statement of the Minister, Members are not entitled to seek any clarification.

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not talking about the rule. I am only seeking your special permission because this is a special occasion and this increase is putting a heavy burden on the farmers...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rule does not permit it. Since the matter is concerning the nation, I will allow one hon. Member to ask clarification, not everybody. You choose among yourselves. But this will not be a precedent.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): Mr. Chairman, Sir, how can you allow only one Member? You should allow two or three Members...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will allow three members. That is all.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is an extraordinary situation. So, I am allowing three Members to seek clarifications from the Minister. Shri Rajesh Pilot.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Sir, how can you protect the interests of only one Member from a party?...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You all belong to one party. Let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Today poorman is suffering a lot. They should go to villages to know the actual position prevailing in the villages...(Interruptions) Today poor people are unable to buy kerosene at the increased price.

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Sir, you know the seriousness of the matter...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know the seriousness of the issue. That is why I have allowed three Members to seek clarifications, even though it is against Rule 372. But it will not be a precedent in future. Shri Rajesh Pilot will ask clarification now.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This is a serious issue...(Interruptions) You please relax the rules...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Sir, I should also be allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call you.

I am once again making it clear to the House that this is only a special permission I am giving and it will not be a precedent in future.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, are they going to ask only clarifications or are they going to make speeches?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They will not make speeches. Shri Rajesh Pilot.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: In National Democratic Alliance itself, there is a difference of opinion over this issue...(Interruptions) The Telugu Desam and Janata Dal (U) of National Democratic Alliance are opposing it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I agree that in Lok Sabha no clarifications are asked after the Minister's statement...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am conducting the House. Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. The House was adjourned on the 17th of last month. It was not prorogued. Technically, the Budget Session was on and this Government has chosen to increase the rates, during the Budget Session which was still on, outside the House, five days after the Parliament was adjourned. I want to ask whether this is in keeping with the conventions of the Budget Session that whatever increase has to be made should be made on the floor of the House and not outside, that too when the Budget Session is, technically, still going on. So, I want a ruling from you whether this is permissible as per the rules of this House.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on this issue, I would like to say that I have got the statistics of all the price increases of petrol, kerosene and other products right from 1989 to 1999...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: No: this is not the answer...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the information given to me is that at no time such a statement was made in the House. All the increases have been made from the midnight when the Budget Session was going on. I have got all the statistics about that. So, from 1989 to this time, no such statement has been made in the House and I am the first person to make a *suo motu* statement in the House. So far, no Minister has made any *suo motu* statement also...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I am agree with this that no clarification is made after Minister's statement in Lok Sabha but earlier too clarifications were made in special cases. However, keeping in view of the importance of the subject the members can express their views.

First thing which Smt. Margaret Alva has said, which I was also thinking to raise is that conventions are violated. Perhaps earlier too they were violated...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Earlier also there have been deviation from convention.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: But the reply of the government is not correct that they are deviating from convention because earlier too there was deviation from convention.

SHRI RAM NAIK: There is deviation from convention only when the convention is established. These people have never established any convention.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: We have set conventions, our Government have never increased the prices during budget.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): You have set up convention only to violate it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I do not remember that our Government have ever increased the prices during budget Session. We never increased the prices during budget session before the presentation of the budget.

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

Secondly, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that we understand the problem of Government. The prices have increased during the rule of our Government also. We do not say that prices have not increased but we have always tried to balance the price hike of diesel and kerosene by giving subsidy on them because these two items are related to common man, poor farmer and poor families. Today why the Government is shirking its responsibility?

Though our Government had also decided to increase the prices but inspite of that we had not allowed to increase the prices of kerosene and diesel to the extent this Government has increased. I would request hon'ble Minister to consider this price hike because common people are suffering a lot. Hon'ble, Minister Sir, I have just come after witnessing an agitation by farmers and the emotions of the farmers clearly reflect that they are very unhappy over the 15% increase on diesel prices and increase in the prices of fertilizers. Just now our colleague Shri Jaswantji was saying that the support price of wheat is Rs. 580 per quintal while it is available at Rs. 900 per quintal in PDS. This Government has distorted the policy relating to the farmers. I would request Hon'ble Minister to consider this hike and lower the prices of diesel and kerosene.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Government takes decisions after a lot of contemplations and we implement those decisions. This decision was taken in 1997 by the United Front Government whom you had also supported. Therefore, I am of the view that this price increase which has taken place...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raigani): We did not allow them to implement that. Decision was taken but the Congress did not allow it to be implemented. You have implemented it forcibly...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: You had agreed that increase in petroleum prices should be brought beyond party politics and we are working on that line hence there is no possibility of losing even a single vote...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Except kerosene and diesel?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): For six months, the United Front Government was not allowed to increase the Prices of petrol, diesel and Kerosene.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not permitted you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to follow the rules.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You have permitted me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; I have not permitted you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Now, you are permitting me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Our point is that he has referred to some of the announcements in the past.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must obtain prior permission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us follow rules.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am following the rules.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under Rule 372, no Member can debate that statement of the Minister. As a special case, because the matter concerns the nation, I have permitted Shri Rajesh Pilot.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You permit me also. I will take half-a-minute.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: It will be with your kind permission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not granted him permission. Did you obtain the permission?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did I give you the permission?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not going to be a precedent in future.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: You allowed him to ask one or two clarifications...(Interruptions) They are taking undue advantage...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not granted the permission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I granted permission to Shri Bangarappa.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You started it, what can I do?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, after Shri Bangarappa, please give me a chance...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, you assured me also...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I have not assured anyone.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us follow the rules. Under Rule 372, there cannot be a debate, but because it is an extraordinary problem, I have permitted three Members to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, already, four Members have spoken...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, you have permitted three Members. Two have already spoken. Then Shrimati Margaret Alva and Shri Rajesh Pilot also spoke and again you have permitted one more Member to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bangarappa, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Allow me also to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, how can you allow so many Members to speak under Rule 372?...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under the residuary powers I have allowed.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Sir, after the hon. Minister's statement, either you allow or you do not allow...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Sir, I understand that no debate is allowed under Rule 372...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, once you did not allow me to speak in the same situation and now you are allowing them to speak. This is not fair...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have allowed them because it is concerning the nation, it is concerning the common man.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I also wanted to raise a very important matter concerning the nation and the common man, but you did not allow me at the time...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Sir, I do agree that no debate is allowed...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, if the rules do not permit, then you do not allow anyone to speak. This is not fair...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have allowed him especially because LPG and Kerosene prices are concerning the nation and the common man.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bangarappa, please conclude now.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to raise some points. I am not making any speech because I know that under the rules neither any discussion nor any debate is allowed...(Interruptions) There is no second opinion about it. But the point is, as you have rightly said, the matter is so serious and important that it is concerning the poor people and common man in the society in whole of India. It is not a small matter.

We do concede that even in the past also hike in the prices of consumer commodities, including petroleum products, has been done. But the question with which we are concerned is what exactly is the percentage of such a hike and at a time when the international prices have come down. A few days back it was reported in the Press that the rates in the international market have fallen down. We are very much concerned about the rates of petroleum products to maintain it with the international level. So it leaves some impact on the price rise even in our country whenever such petroleum

[Shri S. Bangarappa]

products are imported from petroleum producing countries. We agree to this, as far as this part is concerned.

But this price hike is too much. For example, take the case of kerosene oil which is used by the common man. Earlier its price was Rs. 2 per litre.

Now, it has gone up by six or seven rupees. In our area, it has gone up by six and odd rupees per litre. In the rural area, it has gone up by Rs. 6.67 per litre. I have come back from my constituency two days back. Kindly think about the poor man. Our point is that this kind of increase in price, by six rupees a litre is unheard of in the annals of the past history. Kindly go through the facts and figures of all these price increase. This is one thing.

We would like to know...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want me to allow a debate again? This issue has already been raised in the morning during the Zero Hour...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Please take up this matter again to your level. It can be through a Cabinet discussion. We are not saying about those details but you please come back with a statement again. you will have to take a decision to bring down the prices of not only Kerosene but also cooking gas and of course, urea....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: You take the support of TDP also....(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: I have seen in the Press that TDP and other allies have raised this issue....(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): My party's views on this issue have already been recorded. Everybody knows about it. The whole country knows about it....(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Therefore, I appeal to the Government to call a meeting of the leaders of all the political parties and then come to a decision. You can not only allow a discussion on this in the House but you can also discuss it by calling a meeting on this informally. This is my suggestion.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we may discuss the issue of price rise on the occasion of the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and also during the Budget discussion. My query is that the Government has broken a well-tested

convention and a well-practised convention. Even while the Budget Session is on, on the back of Parliament they have taken this decision. What was the urgency? They should explain it....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the oil pool deficit has become a regular feature of our economy irrespective of different Governments. Despite this the popular and pro-poor Government, used to give subsidy on the commodities which are used by poor people and bear the losses of oil pool deficit. Crores of people use kerosene oil as fuel to prepare their food just because they do not have electricity. Earlier there was an arrangement by Government to ensure that poor people would get things at cheaper rates but this Government has increased the prices and said that the hon'ble Ram Naikji will reconsider this hike but this reconsideration has only effected a further hike instead of lowering the prices and alongwith this, this Government has misled the people of this country. The prices of petroleum products have come down at the international level but here we are getting the oil at double price. The poor people are purchasing kerosene at Rs. 14-15 per litre instead of Rs. 8-10. We are watching the attitude of this Government towards poor people.

Similarly, had there been a small increase in LPG price then perhaps the poor people would have afforded it but its prices has also been increased a lot. In the international market prices have decreased and in America the prices of one gallon petrol is one dollar i.e. Rs. 6-7 per litre whereas here the Government has effected hike in its prices. The prices are decreasing abroad but in our country the prices are being doubled. We say that since kerosene and diesel are used by 35 crore poor people that is why Government used to give subsidy but you are increasing subsidy on computers and cellular phones which are used by rich people. This Government is reducing the prices of those things which are used by rich people and increasing the prices of those things which are used by poor people. This Government is an enemy of the poor people and is working against their interests. The Government should give reply in this regard?

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Mr. Chariman, Sir, I would like to know one thing...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There should be an end for everything.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I would like to know whether it is the policy of this Government to increase the prices of petroleum products whenever their prices vary in the international market.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not granted you permission.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Is it their policy?

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can you say it when I have not permitted you?

SHRI SURESH KURUP: If they are going to throw the common people of this country to the mercy of the vagaries of international market, then there is no need of the code....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, you should allow me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a procedure. In the morning, everybody was allowed.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: This is such an important thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why, I allowed three Members.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: You should allow me also. What I would like to know is, whether it is their policy to increase the prices.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister please.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: It is very important. You have allowed the other Members. I am seeking your permission. You should allow me also.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the three-four questions were asked by the Hon'ble Members here, one of those questions is that the subsidy which we have reduced should not have been reduced to this extent. I would like to tell Hon'ble Members that at present subsidy on kerosene is Rs. 7.86 per litre. Of that we have reduced 1/3rd of subsidy i.e. Rs. 2.50. This subsidy should be totally withdrawn by 2002. This decision was taken by United Front Government in September '97. Secondly, as far as the question of L.P.G. cylinder is concerned....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Are you following the decision of the United Front?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are directly involving in a dialogue.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: What is the policy of this Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: When the Minister is replying you allow him to reply.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: What is their policy? He is not here to say the policy of the United Front. What is their policy?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Why do you not listen? Kindly sit and listen.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: You are always talking about the policies of the previous Governments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: You should allow me also to seek a clarification.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: So far as the question of LPG cylinder is concerned, a subsidy of Rs. 162 is being provided per cylinder....(Interruptions). We have reduced it by Rs. 30 only. As per the decision taken earlier, the subsidy should be completely withdrawn by the year 2001. I am telling this because it is being asked repeatedly that we will implement all the decision taken by the United Front Government. When the question of liberalisation and globalization arised. The decisions were taken at that time in international sector. When 70 per cent of our oil is being imported from foreign countries, we certainly have to consider the international prices. Though this burden is borne by the common man but circumstances forced us to do so. So far as the question of OPEC's concerned, I would like to clarify once again that prices of OPEC have been reduced. The situation will be reviewed after two months in June. At present the deficit of oil pool account is huge.

[English]

We will review the prices when the month of June comes.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: This is not correct. When you are following the international price, then you reduce the price now. Why should you review it in June?

SHRI RAM NAIK: The third issue is about the back of the Parliament. I have explained it once. Nothing has been done at the back of the Parliament. I am the first Minister to come with a *suo motu* statement before Parliament. That is what I have to tell you.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: So, you are showing such a consideration....(Interruptions) It is very good. We are thankful to you....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): In the interim period, you must come with a *suo motu* statement. At least that is the least that you can do.

SHRI RAM NAIK: That is what you have never done.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: You have backed out from Parliament. You have by passed the Parliament. You are frightened of Parliament. You are worried about facing the Parliament. That is why, you waited for the recess period.

SHRI RAM NAIK: That is what you have been doing....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We have always brought it. We never avoided facing the floor of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: In the end, I would like to say we are very much concerned about the Poor, however, I will conclude mentioning a little point regarding the price rise in international market. Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are our three neighbouring countries.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Why are you comparing it to Bangladesh and Pakistan?....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Let me have my say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Allow the Minister to reply.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: They are comparing this country to Pakistan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given you enough time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: He is talking again the policy....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Let me have my say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Let the Minister first answer.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Our neighbouring countries are poorer than us. They are less developed countries. I would like to tell the situation of Kerosene after the price rise.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the way to disturb the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are disturbing the proceedings. I have allowed four persons. I have been so lenient. Let the hon. Minister reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Let us hear the hon. Minister....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are not satisfied with the reply what can we do? You cannot do anything. It is up to him. It is the highest forum.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO: You may not agree. But let us listen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have to answer properly. If the answer is not to your satisfaction, you cannot do anything. I cannot compel the Minister to satisfy you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was saying that our three neighbouring countries are poorer and are less developed than us. I want to mention the position of kerosene. In Delhi, kerosene is available at the rate of Rs. 5.46 per litre....(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: In villages, it is available at Rs. 8.10 per litre.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I am telling about PDS. In Sri Lanka it is Rs. 9.12 per litre, in Pakistan Rs. 9.46 and in Bangladesh it is Rs. 11.05 per litre.

[*English*]

These four countries and we are paying more price because it is internationally necessary....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. How to remedy this situation? You have to accept his answer. He is the Minister and you are the Member. You have to accept the statement of the Minister. This is the highest constitutional forum. You cannot compel him to satisfy you.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The Minister has not right to mislead the House.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Sir, you allow a discussion on this issue.

SHRI RAM NAIK: That can be allowed....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. You cannot compel him to answer to your satisfaction. He is the Minister. When a statement is made before the House, that is final. This is the highest constitutional forum. This is the sovereign forum. Please sit down. I have understood your sentiments. I would have advised the Minister had it been brought before this Parliament, nothing would have happened. That is why, they raised a question on constitutional convention. The Government, during the recess, have hiked the price. Had it been brought before the Parliament before this hike, it would have solved the problem. But it is up to the Government. You cannot compel him.

SHRI VAIKO: You should be unbiased.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I am standing from the Chair to advise the Government that the constitutional convention should be followed.

SHRI VAIKO: It is not correct....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not correct.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: He is the custodian of Parliament. They cannot run Parliament like this....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: During the recess, Parliament is not prorogued. The House should have been taken into confidence. They have not taken the House into confidence. That is why, there is a hue and cry. You have to accept the sentiment, but the statement of the Minister is final. We cannot challenge the Minister's statement.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (*Chhapra*): It is very unfortunate. We regret your presentation. We regret your stand. If you have to speak like this, then you should come to your seat and speak....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I say constitutional position do you mean to say that it is not proper? It is the constitutional convention. Please sit down. If the Chair's ruling is favourable to you, you will appreciate the Chair and if the Chair's ruling is not favourable to you, then you say that it is not correct. This is not the way.

From the Chair, I rule that during recess, during intermission, the House should have been taken into confidence. That is the constitutional position. If it is otherwise, tell me.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir you are welcome to speak from here. The traditions of this House are being broken....(*Interruptions*) I regret to state that without the motion being moved, you have passed the judgement....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the ruling is not in consonance with the Constitutional convention, tell me. I will revise it immediately. If the ruling is not proper, you tell me.

....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: From the Chair, we can advise the Government.

....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I take up Matters under Rule 377. Dr. Ashok Patel.

....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You want the Chair to withdraw. It is not proper.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: How can you say so, Sir?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the constitutional position. I have apprised the House of the constitutional position. Am I going to gain anything from this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, you have protected the dignity of the House and we would like to congratulate you....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What am I going to gain from this? Am I going to gain anything?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: The traditions of the House are being destroyed. I regret to say that....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? Mr. Minister, please tell me if my ruling is constitutionally wrong. If it is constitutionally wrong, I will immediately revise it. Tell me. There is a constitutional convention.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I apprised the House about the constitutional convention. I have myself been a Speaker. We have taken action against those Ministers in Tamil Nadu who met the Press outside the House. That is the constitutional convention.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, let me respond. You have given your ruling....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to gain anything from this ruling. I have told the constitutional position. Is it a sin? Is it a crime? Tell me. I am not going to gain anything from this ruling. I am not on this side or that side.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: How can you give a ruling like that?....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot say like that. This is the red day for Speaker's Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, you wanted my response. We are not disputing your ruling. The only thing is that it is an unusual ruling, so the Members are agitated. You can also look and revise it if you find it necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Definitely.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, we deeply regret your ruling...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): We congratulate, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Matters under rule 377. Dr. Ashok Patel.

15.53 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need for early construction of an overbridge on railway crossing at Bindki district, Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

DR. ASHOK PATEL (Fatehpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kanpur, Banda Road and Mugal Road which goes from Etawah to Fatehpur, often remain crowded because the railway level crossing at this road remains often closed as so many trains pass from here. People are facing a lot of problems due to it. They have to keep on waiting for hours together. Accidents take place there as people try to cross over from one side to other. Therefore, there is need for early construction of an over-bridge on Bindki Road railway level crossing. It will help in easing out the traffic congestion on the one hand and on the other it will also reduce the chances of accidents.

Therefore, I request you to construct an overbridge on Bindki Road railway crossing at the earliest so that people may get rid of the problems being faced by them.

(ii) Need to introduce more trains between Panipat and Gohana-Delhi.

[English]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the pathetic conditions of daily commuters of Panipat-Sonapat-Delhi and Gohana-Rohtak-Bahadurgarh-Delhi sections of the Northern Railway.

There is hardly any household in these areas whose member does not come to Delhi for earning his livelihood and so are the offices of Central Government and that of National Capital Territory of Delhi where the people of these areas are not working. The present fleet of local trains is miserably inadequate to cater to the needs of growing rush. The people, even ladies, have to travel in miserable conditions. There is an urgent and strong need for introducing additional trains in the morning and evening on these routes, so that the daily commuters may enjoy dignified travel and get some relief.

(iii) Need to connect Sawai Madhopur with Gangapur via Karouli, Dholpur by rail in Rajasthan

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA (Sawai Madhopur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Railway has strengthened the industrial development by linking the places of raw material sources to the industrial development centres. It has facilitated the transportation of the agricultural products and raw material to distant markets. It has given thrust to the accelerated growth of the country. Even more important is that it has played an important role in connecting the distant places with the already connected places there by bringing the people of far flung areas into the mainstream. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister towards Sawai Madhopur, Sarmathura, Karouli and Dholpur the largest producer of red stone which is used in the construction of historical monuments, where the people have not seen the rail till today

This area should be connected to Gangapur via Karouli, Dholpur and Sarmathura by rail. The red stone is exported from this place in very large quantity. The construction of the rail route in this area will facilitate more export of red stone and country will get foreign exchange. Simultaneously, the living standard of people there will be raised due to financial gains.

Therefore, through you, I request the hon. Railway Minister to pass an order to connect Sawai Madhopur with Gangapur via Karouli, Dholpur by rail.

(iv) Need to run an Express train between Patna and Howrah via Gaya, Shekhapura and Keul (Bihar).

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of my area have to go to Howrah everyday for business and to earn their livelihood. In the absence of any express train for Howrah on this route it takes lot of time to reach the destination and people have to face many difficulties. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways towards need to run an Express Train between Patna and Howrah via Gaya, Shekhapura and Keul immediately.

16.00 hrs.

(v) Need for early completion of Roza Power Project in Shahjahanpur, UP.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA (Shahjahanpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a project named Roza Thermal Power Project for the generation of 567 M.W. power was

formulated at the estimated cost of Rs. 2587 crore in Shahjahanpur district. This project was to be completed in two phases (2x2835). This project will play an important role in providing electricity to entire Uttar Pradesh, which is facing acute power shortage. In this regard, all the necessary formalities like approval of Central Electricity Authority and cabinet, technical and economic sanction, assessment of cost, necessary contract with collaborators, land acquisition, compensation of land etc. have been completed. It has come to the notice that Indo-Gulf company which is supposed to set up this project is showing laxity.

Initially, in November, 1994, the Central Electricity Authority had given its approval in principal and accordingly it was to be completed in September, 1999. The demand of power is constantly increasing and the graveness of power crisis in the State could be well imagined, as there has been no improvement in the power generation in the State. In addition to this, there has been constant escalation in cost of construction of this project due to price rise. Keeping in view the agriculture, industrial and economic backwardness of the area and since all the necessary formalities regarding construction work have been completed, I request from the government that immediate action should be taken to complete this project on priority basis.

(vi) Need to restore subsidy given on the food items supplied through Public Distribution System and to increase the ration quota of rice for the State of Kerala.

[*English*]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the Central Government's move to reduce the subsidy on food items distributed through PDS.

It has come to my notice that the Union Government is considering the restructuring of the prices of items under the Public Distribution System. The Government have decided to stop subsidy on the food items meant for middle class people and to further reduce subsidy from 70 per cent to 50 per cent for those consumers who are living below the poverty line. In Kerala, as a result of reduction in the subsidy on rice meant for them considered as 42 per cent, the price of rice will become Rs. 6.50 against the existing price of Rs. 4 per kilogram. As per the Health Reports, the minimum requirement of rice for an average five-member family is 30 kilogram per month. The burden on the poor people will increase and also the burden on the State Government will be increased by Rs. 111 crore. This will, no doubt, affect the people of our country adversely and their life will become miserable.

[Shri T. Govindan]

As you are aware, Kerala is the only State where PDS is functioning very effectively and successfully. This move will spoil the well-managed ration distribution system prevailing in the State of Kerala for the last 40 years. In the circumstances, I urge the Government to restore the subsidy given to the food items to be distributed through PDS and also increase the ration quota of rice for Kerala so that the State Government can fulfil the requirement of the common people.

(vii) Need for construction of embankment on Diviseema Island

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Diviseema in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh is an island on the coast of Bay of Bengal and at the mouth where Krishna river joins the sea. This island is often subjected to the fury of cyclones, tidal waves, hurricanes, floods and all such other natural calamities resulting in huge loss of property, human and cattle lives. In 1977, as many as 10,000 people had died in tidal waves.

To save Diviseema and minimise the losses due to floods etc., the State Government of Andhra Pradesh have spent about Rs. 20 crore to strengthen the banks of Krishna river on two sides of the island. But on the other side, that is, towards the coast of Bay of Bengal, it is still open and vulnerable to the onslaught of tidal waves which is a potential and perennial threat to the island. Thus, there is an imminent need to strengthen the tidal bank called 'Kona Tidal Bank'.

This bank is spread between Polati-Tippa and Malakayalanka villages over a distance of 18.550 kilometre. On this tidal bank line itself, there are about 10 more villages besides several others inside, nearer to the coast. During the 1930-91 cyclone, the nominal tidal bank available was washed away. Though some temporary repairs were taken up in 1991, it deserves a permanent solution by constructing a concrete cement wall. The sea waters are often flowing into the villages. During every rainy season, the inhabitants are under constant grip of panic.

To safeguard the interests of the human and cattle lives and other properties, I urge upon the Government to strengthen the 'Kona Tidal Bank' with a bund reinforced by concrete cement wall all along the coast as a permanent measure.

(viii) Need to provide ex-gratia payment to families affected in massacre at Rampur Charam in Jahanabad District, Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Sir, Palamau, Gaya, Jahanabad, Bhojpur, Patna and Aurangabad

districts in Bihar State are in the grip of fierce violence. On the one hand, terrorist organisation having leftist ideology like CPIML and CPML peoples war are spreading their tentacle and on the other hand private armies are busy in showing their muscle power to each other and strengthening their hold. The incidence of violence continues from both the sides. Last year Government had formulated a scheme to ensure that affected families will be given financial help and Government jobs will be provided to their family Member. This step of the Government was an assistance to the affected families on the one hand and on the other hand it had demoralizing effects on the terrorists activities. The people to whom the terrorists intended to destroy were saved from destruction because of the Government's help. There was an incident of massacre in Rampur Charam of Jahanabad district this year only. But neither financial help has been extended to them nor the Government jobs have been offered to them as compensation. The Government is therefore requested to grant ex-gratia immediately to the affected families so that terrorists may be demoralized, and the number of such type of incidents may be reduced and common man should have a sigh of relief.

(ix) Need to declare Amnour-Sonohu-Parsa and Tariya-Amnour-Marhowrah/Nagar-Masrakh State roads in Bihar as National Highways and provide funds for their maintenance

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): The District of Saran in Bihar has extremely poor network of rural and urban roads and those which exist have the poorest maintenance, though this particular district has great economic importance due to rich sugar belt and industry. I also draw the attention of the Ministry of Surface Transport to declare the Amnour-Sonohu-Parsa road, the Tariya-Amnour-Marhowrah Road/Nagra-Masrakh State roads as National Highways or take up under EIP Scheme or any other scheme of the Ministry so that funds are earmarked for the respective roads which are presently under State P.W.D. Moreover, the Chapra-Hajipur National Highway under construction has lot of speed breakers, encroachment and the roads have poor levelling. I urge upon the Union Government to do the needful in this regard.

16.08 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS-Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Dr. Nitish Sengupta to continue his speech.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to continue my address in support of the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Madal Lal Khurana, when we adjourned last time.

Mr. Chairman, I mentioned that the President's Address is an excellent blueprint, a very timely one, for action in the current century. It tells us not just the ills that we have committed, the things that have gone wrong, but also what needs to be done to set things right. He has rightly stressed that it is our responsibility to transform our democracy into an effective instrument for the economic, social and cultural development of every Indian.

He has rightly supported the concept of Constitutional Review. When we talk about the Constitution, really there were great people like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Babasaheb Ambedkar. But basically that was a very small body which was elected by only one per cent of the people of this country. Fifty years have passed since then, and there has been some experience gained in working this Constitution, which is an excellent document. But the point is, attempts of changes have been made and about 90 amendments have taken place since then. So, I do not see any harm in the Government, in accordance with whatever is promised in the NDA manifesto, setting up an expert body to make some recommendations, which will come before the Parliament in any case for the final view.

So, there is no intention to bypass Parliament or to bypass the representatives of the people. A small body of experts has been set up to look at the whole Constitution. There is no question of changing the basic features. Therefore, to my mind there is nothing wrong in this. The President has rightly emphasised the need....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): Are all the members in the Committee experts in the field?

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: According to my impression, they are all experts. I think we should address the Chair. I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Member speak, kindly cooperate.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not think, at this stage others should be allowed to speak. Let me continue my speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is a learned Member. I would like to

say that direction of politics of the country is decided by the politicians and Lok Sabha. It is not done by experts. He is a scholar, a lawyer and has knowledge of law, but this is not law of Lok Sabha. While giving respect to the hon. Member. I would like to say that the direction of politics of the country is decided by politicians and Lok Sabha. If the Government wants to review then they can take the opinion of expert, but expert will not decide the direction of the polity of the country.

[*English*]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the essential background is that we have entered the 21st century with the largest number of illiterates and the largest number of poor people in the country. Why has this sort of thing happened? I am happy that the President has raised some of the vital issues. He has pointed out to a whole lot of distortions which have crept in. I make bold to say that this country is not poor. It is a country rich in natural and human resources. There is nothing called under-development in the country, it is only under-management. India is not an under-developed country, it is only an under-managed country. Things have not been managed properly. I am happy that the whole issue was discussed a little earlier and a lot of very learned views were expressed. To give an account of some of the distortions, there is a public sector company called Bharat Gold. According to the latest figures, the cost of production is Rs. 20,000 per 10 grams of gold; and the selling price is, perhaps, Rs. 5000 or Rs. 6,000 only. Whom is the Government of India subsidising? It is only the richer section of the people, who can afford gold. In any case gold is freely imported. By closing down this non-economical, unviable gold company, perhaps the country will not suffer very much. There will be, on the whole, a lot of progress.

Food and fertiliser came up for discussion. Food prices in India are much higher than the world food prices. How has that happened? It has happened on account of our mismanagement. We have been giving subsidy and a lot of things. Perhaps, it will come as news to you that every year as much amount of foodgrains is wasted in the country as the entire production of Australia. Australia is a food exporting country. In India, on account of poor warehousing and storage facilities and insistence on storing everything, we waste that much of money by allowing them to be eaten by rodents. This is an example of gross mismanagement. Today the whole world is one. Why cannot we have some arrangement with some countries which need food to take some kind of food loan from us? You send away a fixed quantity of foodgrains to other countries. Later on you can get the food back from those countries. That will provide us some

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

kind of indirect warehousing facility; and it will earn some foreign exchange for the country also. Yet, we insist on keeping all the foodgrains stored in the country in a way that is totally unscientific. Ultimately we allow a lot of these foodgrains to be wasted. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can see a situation where India can become the food-producer for the whole world if only we make our agriculture more scientific and make things more flexible.

Now I come to the food subsidy essentially on account of the expenditure on the Food Corporation of India. You know what they spend. A lot of money is unnecessarily spent. Perhaps, the time has come to point out to all these distortions, to make sure that we do things scientifically on the basis of scientific management.

The fertiliser subsidy was started around 1978-79 with the original idea to enable the fertiliser factories to cover their cost of production. It was started not to assist to the farmers but to compensate the cost of production of the fertiliser factories. It was barely Rs. 300 crore at that time in a year.

16.16 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

So, from Rs. 300 crore, it has now gone to around Rs. 16,000 crore a year. So, all the money that we gain through, let us say, customs revenue or central excise, is spent on the fertiliser. I do not say for once that the fertiliser subsidy is not necessary. But there should have been some rethinking and some constant review so that we did not allow Rs. 300 crore of outgo per year to rise to the abnormal proportion of about Rs. 16,000 crore. Somehow, it has to stop.

Mr. Chairman, when I was the Revenue Secretary, I was shocked to see that 'on the one hand we are giving fertiliser industry subsidy and on the other hand we are collecting excise revenue from them.' So, I said there, 'why the country not take excise revenue from them and then not give them subsidy? We forget that the cost of disbursing the money to them was enormous and the cost of collecting the money from them was not less. And, we submit ourselves to this unnecessary sort of rigmarole, only to maintain the fertiliser price.'

Sir, I am not against subsidy. But the point is that it must be targeted properly to the sections who really need that subsidy. Secondly, it must come from some sector of the economy which is producing a surplus. In 50 years of working of our economy, we have reduced it to such a wonderful position that no single sector generate a surplus. You have to run unviable loss-making public sector units every year meeting their cash losses.

The hon. Prime Minister did a signal service a few days ago. When he was addressing the SCOPE, the chief executives of the public sectors, he mentioned that 234 public sector units of the Central Government have been responsible for a net loss of Rs. 1,00,000 crore in the last few years. You can see the extent of subsidy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from Calcutta which is a graveyard of sick unviable industrial sector units today. And the general policy has been that 'okay, Braithwaite and Burn have suffered a cash loss of, let us say, Rs. 80,00,000. So, the Government in its bounty will give them Rs. 80,00,000 a year so that they meet their cash losses, and then again carry on operation a drag on the Government. My point is that this cannot go on like this. About the public sector system, sometime ago, I did make an estimate. I found that if you take into account the State Governments and the Central Government public sector units, let us say, electricity boards and all that, the total amount invested any day, would be around Rs. 6,00,000 crore. Sir, I submit it before this House that it is not criminal to allow this core area such a critical mass of Rs. 6,00,000 of investment without any return at all? If the investment of Rs. 6,00,000 crore was made to give a return of, let us say, five per cent, ten per cent per annum the Government's financial position would not be such. But we have to run that by huge subsidy every year. Otherwise, this money could be much better spent in providing drinking water to the villages we do not have funds to provide drinking water to villages, and also to those who do not have funds to arrange for school in every village of this country. But yet, we have money to meet the cash losses of public sector units which can never be turned into and which can be never turned around.

So, Mr. Chairman, Sir, something is very grossly wrong with this country. Believe me or not, I think, it would have been able to manage our country. Believe me or not, I think, it would have been able to manage our things properly, if we are able to ensure that the public sector system provides a return, if we are able to ensure that the fertiliser subsidy is really kept at a kind of reasonable level, targeting the proper sections who really need subsidy and not allowing the money to be slipped, ours will be a rich country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, going back again to fertiliser subsidy, I am shocked to see that basically the whole system is designed to cover up the losses of public sector fertiliser-making units and the private sector fertiliser-making units make more money. They make more money because of the inefficiency of the public sector units that have to be kept alive by giving subsidies. This situation must end now.

We are today discussing matter with a background of half-a-century of economic development-not only in our country but in many other countries. When we started our development process, let us say, in the year 1948 or 1949 or 1950, it was a great fantastic process. Development economics was a dull, theoretical study, which many people did not like. There were not many examples except the example of Soviet planning and maybe the example of the British Labour Party's Fabian socialism. We have seen what has happened to the Soviet economy.

Today, development economics is a rich, empirical study where we have the concrete example of how certain countries, by following certain policies, went into ruin and how some other countries, following a different set of policies, made progress. We have seen the magnificent rise of the Soviet economy and its magnificent collapse for its inability to change itself. It could not change; it stuck to some of the theories. My appeal to my Communist friends is, 'Try to change; do not think the world has stood still.'...*(Interruptions)*

I am coming to the subject of the 'Asian Tigers'. Do you believe that Singapore was much behind India even in the 1960? How did Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea and everybody else sprint ahead, leaving behind a giant State like India far behind? There were some disturbances in the last two years, but they have got over it because their economies are basically sound.

Let us go back to history. Korea, educationally, was much behind India in the 1960s but today Korea has cent per cent literacy. Singapore also has cent per cent literacy. In India, we have been committing contempt of our Constitution-the same Constitution that we are talking about-which says that giving free primary education up to 14 years of age is a Directive Principle of State Policy. We have not done that because we have to maintain Air India and Indian Airlines at a loss.

We had to take over many undertakings from the private sector where the private sector management had driven them to losses to the public sector through our benign policy. We had to nationalise the coal industry. It was not necessary at that time. Shrimati Indira Gandhi was very wrongly advised at that time. What was the price of coal that we were paying at that time and what is the price that we are paying now? The Government must explain the policies to the people.

It is good to see that the President's Address mentions about denationalising the coal industry. But we have to explain this to the people, to say that this would ultimately be helpful to the people and that this would bring a lot of benefits to them.

I think, things went very much wrong earlier. Why did we have to nationalise the Indian Iron and Steel Company? Even in the year it was nationalised, it was declaring a dividend. It had always declared a dividend. Look at the position after that and see how under Government management we have allowed such a fantastic industry, which, at one time was ranked higher than the Tata Iron and Steel Company to go from bad to worse and from worse to worst until there are no takers for it today. It has happened on account of Government management and on account of uncertainty. So, the point is, we have to learn from the experience of these countries.

Mr. Lee Kuan Yoo, one of the greatest men of the modern century said, 'What I consider as one of the biggest achievements is that I taught the average Singaporean not to run to the field to answer the call of nature but to go to a modern toilet facility, which I have provided to everybody'. Let us look at Singapore, a classic example, of growth with no resources?

We are discussing the question of oil, which again involves subsidy. Basically, there is nothing wrong in passing on the benefit of reduction in prices by way of subsidy. But what do we do if the international price increases suddenly? We have to get that money from somewhere. Where is the Government to get that money from? There is a general feeling that the Government can somehow or the other manage. The Government cannot manage. Managing the national economy is not substantially different from managing our family budget where we have to adjust our expenditure with the income. This is a simple truth that we must understand. The Government must also explain this to all the other political parties and bring them together and not just say that it has happened. Otherwise, they will ask, 'What did the Government do to pass it on the other sections? How will the vulnerable section be protected?'

But the point is that the Finance Minister has to take all the parties into confidence and tell them that this is the position, these are the areas where he is not getting anything from the public sector, the revenues are stagnant, what do you advise, what to be done and which are the areas where he should target the most for subsidies, where from the subsidy should come, etc. I do not think that it is necessary for the Government to keep anything that is not giving any return. Why did the Government have to go into the hotel industry? Why did the Government have to go into the cycle industry? Why did the Government have to go into the bread-making or biscuit-making industry? When we try to attract foreign investment, we turn in the opposite direction and make a total 'U' turn. I am sorry to say this. Of course, this

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

Government was not in power at that time. But they have decided at the time the Pepsi and Coca-Cola should be allowed to come in, with the result that today all over the country, all the indigenous sources have simply disappeared. They have allowed this into this country and it was not done by this Government. I am sorry to say this that it was done by the Government that was there in the early 1990s.

I am a great believer in foreign investment coming into our country. I had been supporting foreign investment when nobody or only a very few people in the Government supported foreign investment. Foreign investment is much, cheaper, much more economical and much more productive than the Finance Ministers and others going with a begging bowl to Washington or to Tokyo, asking for IMF or World Bank loan.

When we take IMF or World Bank loans, the problem is about repayment. How is it repaid? The repayment starts the very next year, at a very fantastic rate, irrespective of whether that money has gone to the proper purpose at all or not. But when we take the Foreign Direct Investment, how does repayment take place? It takes the form of a certain percentage of the profit that the enterprise has earned, after the enterprise has gone into the stage of production, which takes a few years. First, the skill has to be transferred, the technology has to come, financial capital has to come, people have to be employed, goods have to be produced, the Government has to earn excise revenue and the, whatever dividend is declared out of the profit, a certain percentage would go to the foreign shareholders to the extent they have shareholding. There is nothing wrong in it. It is much more dignified. I once again appeal to my friends in the Left that there is nothing wrong in Foreign Direct Investment. India's Foreign Direct Investment is too low; it is barely one per cent or two per cent. *The Economic Survey* is giving all the figures. We can absorb a lot more of Foreign Direct Investment. Until the time the repayment starts, which as I said is only in the form of dividend, it is a part of the foreign exchange reserves of the country. Shri Yashwant Sinha can take credit that it is a part of the 38 billion dollar foreign exchange reserve, which India has. So, this is the point that we must understand that it is much more dignified to have Foreign Direct Investment rather than taking our country to the World Bank, the IMF and to the other foreign Governments, where you have to repay the money quickly.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uttar Pradesh): Will you clarify one thing? You told that the Foreign Direct Investment is only one per cent or two per cent...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Hannan Mollah, I am not allowing you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: For the last 20 years, we have been seeking Foreign Direct Investment, why did it not come so far?

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Here, I have to tell you a secret. In 1980, when I was attending the UN meeting in New York, as the Chairman of the Indian delegation for the UN Commission on Multinational Corporations, a Chinese delegate wanted to meet me separately. We had a separate one-to-one meeting over dinner. He said that they wanted to encourage Foreign Direct Investment and asked whether they could send a delegation to India, to learn from us as to how we are doing, how we are evaluating Foreign Direct Investment, how do we propose, etc. So I said that they could do that. In those days, it was very difficult to permit the Chinese to come here and go to our public sector or private sector units. But they were very happy with it, that they wanted to send a second delegation and a third delegation of officials to learn from us. They perfected our knowledge to such an extent that they have gone much more ahead of us.

We have to look at the Chinese foreign exchanges reserves. It is of the order of 150 billion dollars, whereas we have gone up to 38 billion dollars. Well, we have done a lot of progress, but they have gone far ahead and they have left us far behind. The point is that—learning from us—they have gone ahead much more. We have been stuck with our procedures.

Here, I come to the other aspect of the President's Address. It speaks about downsizing the Government. It is very easy to talk about it, but it is very difficult to do. I have to give you some figures here. In the 1990s, when we started our economic reforms programme, actually, with the advent of new information technology, the need for so many people working in the Government has come down; it has become less and less.

The number of Central Government employees was 4.08 million in 1991. It came down to 3.77 in 1996 and in 1999 it further came down to 3.75, but it grew again to 3.86 million largely because of the increase in the number of policemen and security staff. How long can country like ours afford the volume of security like this? It has become a status symbol. Who is interested in killing ex-prime Ministers? Nobody is interested in that. If at all security has to be provided, then you can keep one or two plainclothesmen and not an army or battalion of people accompanying them wherever they go, even to

the private functions like marriages. The whole lot of public are disturbed. I would recommend to the Government to follow the Chinese example. They make all their leaders live in the walled city where their offices are situated. They live in a particular apartment across the lane where their offices are situated. Let us take a half of Ashoka Hotel and make all those who are apprehensive of their security to live there and have their offices there so that everyday they need not go to office from home and to home from office.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have made a mockery of the security. Why do we need so much of security? We cannot progress unless we really reduce the Government expenditure. I am happy and I congratulate Shri Muraoli Maran for having reduced the number of Secretaries by two. What was the number of secretaries in 1980? Why has it increased now? Well, I belonged to that tribe which has a vested interest in this.

Expenditure Commission has been appointed. My impression is that whenever the Government is not serious about anything, it appoints a Commission. An Expenditure Commission was appointed by the then Janata Government in 1977-78. You know the result.

A beautiful Report was prepared by the then National Development Council in 1992. It appointed a Committee which was headed by none other than Shri Biju Patnaik. Dr. C. Rangarajan was its Member-Secretary. It produced a brilliant Report as to how expenditure can be brought down in the Government. One of the recommendations was to give up the unfortunate practice of raising the DA whenever the cost of living index increases. We must get out of this. Shri Biju Patnaik recommended this. Do the people not realise that every time inflation rate increases, the Government has to spend Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 crore? An hon. Member while raising Matters under Rule 377 said that there is need to build an embankment on one side of the Diviseema Island. But the Government has no money for all these things. Just because some wise gentleman dishes out figures saying that cost of living index has increased, the Government has to spend Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 crore. We all benefited by that. But we must get out of it. This is what Biju Patnaik and Dr. Rangarajan said. They showed a tremendous political will when they recommended that Government should give up that practice. They recommended that the Government should tell these people that whenever the price increases, we would distribute major articles through Public Distribution System. But this monetary compensation on account of inflation should be avoided because that only accentuates further inflationary pressure. I recommend the Government gives serious thought to it. In fact, in 1992 it was accepted by the Government. It was accepted by the Cabinet Committee. But unfortunately, elections were

due in Delhi in another one week's time. Everybody said that so many Government officials are there in Delhi and they would be unhappy. Therefore, the Government stopped the whole thing. It was kept pending and it has been pending though many Governments have come and gone.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, downsizing of the Government is very important and we have to do it. Otherwise, a feeling is gaining grounds that Government exists only for the Government employees.

If you study some of the books like the *History of Economic Growth* or similar kinds of books by Lewes, you will see that there is a very optimal history. Governments have fallen because they became over-sized. How did the Syrian Empire, Babylonian Empire, the Mughal empire fall? At one time, the Mughal Empire was full of luxury, with so many extra men with them that it could not move with the result that the Maratha horsemen under Shivaji could easily outmanoeuvre them. How did the mighty Soviet economy fall? It is because again it became too over-sized. So, it is better that the Government becomes smaller and it gives off a lot of functions which it has been so far doing. There are certain functions which Government alone can perform, namely, the law and order, defence of the country and so on. No one else can perform those functions. The Government should perform only such functions. But in today's context, the Government is doing everything; it is running bread factories, cycle factories, shoe factories, hotels airlines, etc. All these functions could easily be handed over to the private sector.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are two important lessons of the development in economy in the last half a century. One is, countries which have by and large followed external policy, which is externally looked, have progressed. Countries which have depended more on exports and foreign direct investment, have progressed. If you see the South-East Asian and East-Asian countries, by and large they have progressed because they have followed outward-looking policies. Countries which have followed inward-looking policies have by and large gone back, regressed and they have not been able to progress further. We need to learn that lesson. Other lesson is relying on private initiative as the engine of growth.

Because of our historical background, when we started our planning process, we had certain ideas. We felt that India was a big country so we should not seek any foreign investment. We had the bad memories of the East India Company. But today that situation has changed. Today, a company is not owned by capitalists but there are millions of shareholders like you and me. Once again I would like to quote Singapore. Singapore must be having 5000 MNCs there but can any one say that any one of

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

them control the Singapore Government? No, Sir. And, they have taken advantage of the money which is available elsewhere. Today, all over the world there is no shortage of fund, the cheaper fund. So, why should we depend on our system where we invest at a lot of cost to ourselves and then we invest that money at the very high interest rate. We can get money from anywhere in the world from the pension fund, from the financial fund where the interest is not more than 4, 5 or 6 per cent. We can bring that money. So long as we can return that money, there is no problem. We can bring any amount that we want.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the world has become one. I am glad that the President mentioned about globalisation, privatisation and de-regulation. Because of the new information technology, the globalisation has become unstoppable. When the Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha goes away and negotiates with the World Bank for a loan of 3 Billion Dollars it takes two years. But today money managers like George Soros sitting in New York or Tokyo can send 3 Billion Dollars anywhere in the world in a matter of minutes or seconds. This is what is happening. How can we really avoid globalisation? When we enter into the Central Hall, there is an inscription.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly wind up.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I have a lot more things to say. I will wind up in a matter of 10 minutes or so. I would like to quote Gandhiji. We cannot have a better individual than him anywhere in the world. He said, "I want my house to be opened in all directions. Let wind from all directions come into my house. Let me receive it but let me not be swept off my feet." That is the heart of globalisation. One should take advantage of all the opportunities that are offered but also try to contain the constraints. Globalisation as a whole is inevitable, unstoppable. No amount of Government control can really stop globalisation any more. So, we have to accept it as an inevitable thing.

Today, Internet has come. I remember, three years ago when I was Chairing a Committee on Prasar Barati and the Government's policy on Stellite Channel, I recommended a liberal licence policy. I felt that instead of allowing them to float as a sovereign agency, just moving around not doing anything, it is much better to given them licence which gives us a control to impose conditions on them.

So, the then Minister said he cannot permit foreign investment and that it could only be over his dead body. But I said that it is right. But can you control the internet? It has come in a big way. You cannot simply control it. No country can control it. It is better to accept it. So,

globalisation is inevitable and there is nothing wrong in it. Our ancestors mentioned 'Vasudhev Kutumbakam' some 5000 years or 6000 years ago. These words are inscribed on the entrance of the Central Hall. They perhaps anticipated the world as a family. It was again said by Gandhiji. Even though my Marxist friends always say that globalisation is not good, yet I would remind them about the opening sentence of Karl Marx Communist manifesto. It said, "workers of the world unite". That was the essence of globalisation he wanted.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Can your Government accepted your indecoration of globalisation? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): The Chairman is very upset and unhappy.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: So, globalisation and deregulation are inevitable, simply because the big Government that we have can no longer carry out all the duties which were imposed on them. So, why do we not reduce bureaucracy?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: While earning pension, he can say that. Had he been in service, he would not have said that....*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Sir, Shri Chatterjee, is a very good friend of mine. The other day he made a statement which was not correct. He said that I had asked for his Party's nomination.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I did not say, my party. I said, Left Party.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Whatever it is. I never did that. You are all my good friends. But I have complete dislike for your policies and intellectual bankruptcy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up. You have already taken 40 minutes.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Sir, I will conclude in another five minutes. So, deregulation is inevitable because the Government has to become leaner and leaner, smaller and smaller and concentrate only on those activities which the Government alone can perform. The Government's duty is not to run hotels and all that.

I would appeal to the Government that do not take decisions without involving trade unions. It is a major decision and you have to take trade unions with you and say that closing down an undertaking does not necessarily mean retrenchment. Pay them their salaries and allowances for sitting at home until they retire. Nobody

should be retrenched. There should be a clear declaration in this regard. We had the example of Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, a very great leader. In the 1950s when food rationing was abolished, many lakhs of people all over the country lost their jobs. But he arranged to re-deploy them in many other areas. Similarly, at least those who will be retrenched will become redundant. Let them be engaged in population control and family planning programmes. You can say that every employee must take five persons literate every month. That will be good for the nation. Therefore, retrenchment should be left out. Deregulation and liberalisation minus retrenchment should be there.

Sir, we have still procedures which we have inherited from the British rule of 18th and 19th centuries which were designed to enable a handful of white people to run this vast country because they did not trust us. The same rules and regulations are still continuing when the information technology has completely changed the entire picture. Therefore, to try to solve problems of the 21st century with 19 century tools and techniques would naturally create a lot of imbalance. This is what is happening and this is one of the problems.

So, we thank the President for producing a beautiful Address which is a blue print for action in future. There are 17 points mentioned on pages 8 and 9 which really are the signpost for the future. By following this, we can have a vision of India which will be of one of the greatest countries in the world. I would have liked to go into foreign policy aspects and all that but there is no time. With these words, I once again extend my wholehearted support to Shri Madan Lal Khurana's motion for thanking our gracious President for giving this wonderful Address to us which is a clear signpost for the future and by following this we shall definitely reach our great vision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved: "That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:-

"That the members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 23, 2000."

Hon. Members whose amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been circulated, may, if they desire to move their amendments, send slips, if not already done on 16th March, 2000 when Members were asked to do so, to the Table within fifteen minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendments they would like to move. Those amendments only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of amendments treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table immediately.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (*Mayiladuturai*): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to thank the President for his gracious Address, but regret that there is little for which to thank this Government. The President reminded us in Paragraph 3 of his speech of the exhortation of the Father of the Nation that we must ensure that the first claim on the fruits of development belongs to the poor and the weak. What has this Government done to heed this exhortation?

Agricultural growth is the key determinant of changes in rural poverty. However, in 1999-2000 agriculture stagnated. Growth at under one per cent was lower than the rate of inflation. Indeed, we now know that the Finance Minister's Budget claims on inflation were an empty boast because he was basing his figures on the 1999-91 price base when all other figures of the Central Statistical Organisation were based on 1993-94. Now the CSO has adjusted price rise to the 1993-94 base and it turns out that inflation was close to four per cent over the year 1999-2000. So, with agricultural output rising at one per cent and prices rising at over four per cent, it is clear that rural real incomes fell sharply in 1999-2000. This was the time when anti poverty programmes were most needed for it is in times of acute need that these anti poverty programmes come into their own as the social security net of the poor.

The figures I am going to cite to show how terribly poorly this Government has done with respect to anti poverty programmes are not, I emphasize not, my discovery. They have been jointly discovered by me and the distinguished mover of this Motion in the Performance Budgets of the Ministries of Rural Development and Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation. These were presented to the Standing Committee of which Shri Madan Lal Khurana and I are both members.

Through the Ministers present here, I wish to draw the Prime Minister's attention to a single page of the Performance Budget of the Department of Rural Development. This is Page 7- just one page. I do not want to take up too much of the Prime Minister's time. I would request the hon. Minister who is now representing the Government here to just bring Page 7 of the Performance Budget of the Department of Rural Development to the attention of the Prime Minister. For, it is in this one document that we get the full story or most of the story about the dreadful way in which this Government has been conducting anti poverty programmes in a year in which they have been more needed than for several years in the past.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

First, let us take the Wage Employment Programme. There is the Employment Assurance Scheme, which goes by the acronym EAS, and then there is the JRY, now redesignated as JGSY (Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana). Table one at Page 7 shows that between last year, that is 1999-2000, and the previous year, that is 1998-99, man-days of wage employment generated under EAS collapsed to about a third of the previous level.

It has come down from over 415 million mandays in 1989-99 to a mere 147 million mandays till December last year. At best, the final figures would reveal only half the achievement in a bad year of agriculture, 1999-2000 compared to the previous performance in a good year of agriculture, 1998-99. Is this the way of addressing poverty alleviation in a period of agricultural distress? The same page-7 shows that the disaster on EAS was compounded by a dismal showing on JGSY. From over 376 million mandays in 1998-99, the wage employment generation under the JGSY collapsed to a third till November, 1999, this is, 147 million mandays. The final figure cannot possibly touch much more than a half of the previous year achievement.

Paragraph No. 5 of the President's address says that we must lose no more time to eradicate mass poverty. But who is losing time? Are we losing time? The Governments of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao brought down the poverty ratio from over 70 per cent to under 35 per cent. Since then, the poverty ratio had stagnated. Since the mid-1990s, the poverty ratio had stagnated or at least, there is some indication that it has deteriorated. So, the President was quite right in warning us that there is not time to lose and yet, this Government is losing time. It has wasted the whole of the last year of the last millennium. It has failed miserably in all programmes on eradication of poverty. I have already cited the figures of the two wage employment programme. Now, I would take up the figures of the two self-employment programmes. One is the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SJGSY) and the other is the Swarnajayanti Shehri Swarozgar Yojana (SSSY).

[Translation]

What a Sanskritised names are given but nothing has been done. Now I come to page no. 7 again.

[English]

The Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana was the biggest casualty of the games played by this Government last year. Page 7 says that the physical achievements crumbled from nearly 17 lakhs swarozgaris

in 1998-99 to under three lakhs by December last year. Even if they double that figure in the last quarter of the last financial year, the annual achievement will be no more than one-third of what had been achieved in the previous year. Is this the NDA's idea of progress? Last year, the Government also started a new fancy programme for urban areas in lieu of the well tried Nehru Rozgar Yojana, that is, the Swarna Jayanti Shehri Swarozgar Yojana. Now, how did that fair? It was exactly as bad as in rural India. As against the Budget Estimated for SSSY of Rs. 180 crore, the Revised Estimate has been brought down in this poor country to Rs. 126 crore. And the actual expenditure till December-end was a mere Rs. 40 crore. They have a Budget Estimate of Rs. 180 crore and they brought it down in the Revised Estimate to Rs. 126 crore and all that they could spend is only Rs. 40 crore in a country which is groaning under poverty.

Dr. Nitish Sengupta wants to go around the world getting money from everywhere. All kinds of rich people will come to him. I do not know what kind of a fantasy world they live in. I am not asking you to spend your rupees three lakh crore of the Budget on this, that and everything. There is an allocation of a mere Rs. 180 crore on creating swarozgaris in urban areas of India! You cannot even spend Rs. 40 crore! You have the goal to get up here and defend such a Government! Is this the way to treat the urban poor? Is this the way to accelerate the eradication of mass poverty? Is this the way to put words without meaning into the Address of the President?

The root cause of the collapse of our Anti-Poverty Programmes has been one only. It is the BJP's jealousy of what went before. It is just that. In a desperate desire to obliterate the names of the great Prime Ministers that have gone before, the BJP have gone on a spree of re-naming and re-casting the well-established and well-running programmes for the poor. This disruption has been pushed through with no thought given to bringing substitute programmes into smooth operation. The poorest of the poor have been the prime victims of this thoughtless disruption of this orgy of envy. This is illustrated best, I think, by what has happened to the Indira Awas Yojana.

The Finance Minister suddenly announced last year a new *Samagra Awas Yojana* totally distracted by this new and little understood responsibility. Both the new *Samagra Awas Yojana* and the old *Indira Mahila Yojana* have badly flopped. They never flopped as badly before as last year. So, the physical achievement under the new *Samagra* Scheme, according to their own reports, has been nil or virtually nil. Or, at least it is so small that they have not reported it. They refused to report what they have achieved under the *Samagra Awas Yojana*. Meanwhile, the old *Indira Awas Yojana* has

collapsed. What is the number of houses built under the *Indira Awas Yojana* last year? I return to the notorious page 7 of the Performance Budget of the Department of Rural Development. I just have to get this from one page. That is all. I again refer to the same page. The number of houses built under the *Indira Awas Yojana* last year is just half of what it was in the previous year. They built four-and-a-half lakh houses in 1999-2000 compared to 8.36 lakh houses built in 1998-99. I know that the figures here are only till December 1999. But our enquiry shows that however much of an effort they may make in the last quarter of the year, they cannot build more than one lakh houses which means that we will end 1999-2000 with three lakh houses less than what was built in the previous year. Is this the concern for the poor? So, the President's Address says at paragraph 13 that "our nation's future lies with our children and youth." It stresses at paragraph 15 about the key role of women in development. I am now quoting it.

"No nation can progress unless its women enjoy good health, are literate and are equal partners with men in the socio-economic and political processes"

We agree with every word of that. But what has the Government's performance been with regard to women and child development? Let us now turn to the Performance Budget of the Department of Women and Child Development. I now turn to page 51 which deals with the Integrated Child Development Scheme, the ICDS. Under the ICDS, which is at page 51, first it says that the ICDS accounts for 70 per cent of the expenditure of this Department.

17.00 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

The increase in the number of ICDS projects from the Seventh Plan to the Eighth Plan was of the order of 50 per cent, the number of ICDS projects having increased from 2600 to 3946. In the first two years of the Ninth Plan, no new ICDS projects were added at all. Last year's addition was a mere 130 projects. So, under the last Congress Government, the one that ruled between the Seventh Plan and the Eighth Plan, the number of ICDS projects increased by 50 per cent whereas under the NDA, the increase has been of the order of three per cent, yet they talk about the high position that they are giving to the children of India. They get the President to say that our nation's future lies with our children. It is three per cent increase now compared to 50 per cent in the past. How do you expect anybody to believe this?

Let us come to women. Sir, once again it is page 7. I think that page 7 really damns this Government. Pages 7 and 8 of the Performance Budget of the Department of Women and Child Development—it makes utterly fascinating to read it—says that out of an allocation of Rs. 40 crore for the *Balika Samridhi Yojana*, the expenditure till January, 2000 was zero paise. They have not spent one single paise for the *Balika Samridhi Yojana* for the girl child, in the Year of the Girl Child and they talk that our nation's future lies with our children. Is this the way in which you deprive our children? It also mentions about the Women's *Swasakthi* Programme. By watching the Women's *Swasakthi* Programme, this Parliament sanctioned Rs. 10 crore. How much did they spend? Out of Rs. 10 crore, they could spend only Rs. 10 lakh for the *Mahila Samridhi Yojana*. What lovely lovely words they have! They are all poets; they are not administrators.

For the *Mahila Samridhi Yojana*, the budget provision is Rs. 2 crore and the expenditure is just Rs. 12 lakh. It is the worst of all. Against the budget provision of Rs. 10 crore for the *Indira Mahila Yojana*, the expenditure has been a paltry Rs. 2 lakh.

[*Translation*]

It is not understood as to why they hate the name of Indira Jee.

[*English*]

What confidence can we have, Sir, when they spend only Rs. 2 lakh out of Rs. 10 crore?

I quote paragraph 15 of the President's Address wherein an assurance was given:

"The *Indira Mahila Yojana* will be made more effective and expanded."

They spent Rs. 2 lakh out of Rs. 10 crore and then they expect us to believe that they are capable of making the *Indira Mahila Yojana* more effective and expanded.

Sir, I would request the Committee on the Empowerment of Women, especially the Chairperson, Shrimati Margaret Alva—she is in my party, so I will convey this to her myself—to take particular note of the collapse of the *Indira Mahila Yojana* because it was started by Shri Rajiv Gandhi with Shrimati Margaret Alva as his Minister.

It was brought to fruition by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao—Nitish Babu is here—with Mamtadi as his Minister. I

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

worked with Mamtadi for hours on end in Shastri Bhawan getting this *Indira Mahila Yojana* done and Nitish Babu himself was sitting in the Planning Commission getting this project through. He was present at the creation. Instead of dreaming about billions of dollars coming from his American friends, I say to him that we, this Parliament, have sanctioned them Rs. 10 crore to spend on the *Indira Mahila Yojana*, but they have spent only Rs. 2 lakh. Is this the way respect should be shown to my friend Mamtadi, to his own leader Mamtadi? Now, the same programme has been brought to wreck and ruin by the hon. Minister, Shri Murl Manohar Joshi with the able assistance of his Minister of State, Sadhavi Sushri Uma Bharti. They wrecked it in 1999-2000.

Sir, I plead with the Ministers sitting here to give me one minute's attention. I think this is very unfair; we have got two junior Ministers here. Please listen to me. Instead of conducting a separate conversation, through these Ministers, I plead with Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan to be kinder to her sisters than Sushri Uma Bharti and Shri Murl Manohar Joshi.

Si, the worst affected of the poor are those living in rained and dry land areas which grow crops like oilseeds, coarse cereals and pluses. I have in my hands, *The Business Standard* of the 14th of March, 2000 reporting the findings of the Centre for Oil Industry and Trade and the V.M.S. Oilseeds Research and Development Institute. I also have *The Hindustan Times* report of the 26th of March, 2000 on the proceedings of the National Convention on Rape-seed Mustard. The main findings, reported in these two newspapers, of these two organisations and convention is that the *Khariff* crop for oilseeds was 2.6 million tonnes lower in 1999-2000 than in 1998-1999 and the production of *Rabi* crop dropped by 1.6 lakh tonnes. In consequence, the edible oil production has slipped by a massive 13 per cent. That is the headline there.

Sir, I would like to quote from that report. It says:

"Meanwhile, burgeoning imports of edible oil have brought ruin to the mustard growing farmers and oil crushers."

These two reports state that there is only one State in India where the area under oilseeds increased during 1999-2000 and that is the State of Madhya Pradesh. Unsurprisingly, it is ruled by the Congress Party. Similarly, other dry land crops have suffered.

Sir, last time, during the debate on the Budget, when again I had the honour of having you in the Chair, I pointed out to the Finance Minister that in his own

Economic Survey it has been stated that in 1999-2000 the output of coarse cereals, like Jowar, Bajra, Maize etc., has dropped by two million tonnes compared to the previous year and the output of pulses was one million tonnes lower last year than in the year previous to that.

Sir, at a time when the agriculture is declining, when the poorest farmers are suffering the most, when the anti-poverty programmes are collapsing, I have one question to ask to the Ministers here, to the Government and to my friend Nitish Babu, who used to be the Secretary of the Planning Commission, Finance Secretary and Chairman of so many Committees that I do not think even he can remember. Is this the time to reduce the fertiliser subsidy? I can understand everything else of how the fertiliser subsidy needs to be rationalised. But they should do it at a time when farmers are doing well and can bear an additional burden.

But he is concerned with whether the fertiliser subsidy was Rs. 300 crore some 40 years ago and whether it has gone up beyond what he can bear. If you cannot bear a Rs. 15,000 crore fertiliser subsidy, what do you think the farmers of Gujarat and Rajasthan can bear today? They are reeling under the worst drought that we have had in the last 15 years. And at this time, you go and tell them, "Because the subsidies are not targeted at you, I am going to reduce the subsidy. Do not worry. It would not affect." If it not going to affect them, why are they standing on their legs outside Parliament House demanding a reduction of the subsidy?

Dr. Nitish Sengupta is no farmer. He is everything else. But he is not a farmer. So, he does not know where it pinches when the fertiliser subsidy is reduced. But you, Sir, are a farmer. So, you know where it pinches when the fertiliser subsidy is reduced.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I do not think you are also a farmer.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am not a farmer but I am more concerned with them.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I have been elected by a farming constituency.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am no farmer, But I take an interest in the poor. And it is my misfortune that I was not born poor. But that does not preclude me or disqualify me from having an interest in the poor. I am convinced that the farmers of India—the '*kisans*' of India - the poor in India do not think that this year when your performance has been so disastrous, we should be reducing the fertiliser subsidy....(Interruptions)

It is also ironic that this Government of all Governments should get the President to underline in paragraph 9. It is really funny. In this paragraph, they have got the President to say: "We must have substantial capital formation in agriculture." It is a good thought. But why did you not have it two years ago. What has been happening in capital formation?

I once again turn to the *Economic Survey*. Dr. Nkish Sengupta, at one stage, used to be the person who wrote this *Economic Survey*. He knows how to read it. And if he read it, he would discover that there has been a deterioration in both the savings ratio and the investment ratio over the last several years and the worst affected sector is the agriculture sector.

This is all being graphically recounted in the *Economic Survey*. I do not need to repeat it here. But what I do need to bring to the attention of this Government is the performance Budget once again of the Ministry of Water Resources. Here again, I come to the same page 51. Somehow their bad luck seems to be on page 7 and page 51. They talked about how performance has taken place with regard to field channels and 'warabandi' work without which water from big dams just cannot reach the fields. Now, in respect of these, this table says that whereas in the Eighth Plan, that is, 1992-97-we were in power till 1996-the achievement with regard to field channels in the Eighth Plan was 132 per cent. It means that our performance was one-third more than what was planned, whereas under these people, it is down to 33.89 per cent. It is one-third of what they themselves have set as their own target. When it comes to 'warabandi', it is virtually the same thing. Our achievement in the Eighth Plan was 97.15 per cent. Just listen to it. Their achievement was 11.13 per cent in the last year. There seems to have been some improvement recently. But at the most, if I give them all the credit they want, they have done 20 per cent against 97 per cent. They have done 34 per cent against 132 per cent. They expect us to believe that everything is well, everything is fine and all we need to look at is not the poor of India but the rich of America. It is this kind of distortion that is giving reforms a very very bad name. I cite these figures. I did so when I was last speaking in this House in the general debate on the Budget and my friends immediately retorted-fortunately, the great disrupter is not here just now.

[Translation]

It is a jugglery of figures. These are all your figures. These figures are based on facts. These are factual figures. These are not false figures. These figures are based on facts.

[English]

Please remember, I have not gone anyway beyond what he himself has stated in official documents placed on the Table of this House. Sir, against the backdrop of this dismal, distressing, disastrous performance how can we possibly give any credence to the claim made in paragraph 11 of the President's Address that the Poverty Alleviation Programmes will be given a greater thrust, vigorously implemented, and closely monitored. It is not only their Sanskritised Hindi but also their English which reaches height of heights of words. They just talk. They cannot do anything. What is the point of these words, words, words, and words, when their own figures show, what the poor of India know that they cared nothing for them, that the poor of India are not their concern? All their concern is the rich of the rest of the world. That is why, I find it utterly disgraceful.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Take note of Shri Khurana.

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Khurana, please come we were talking about you, please sit down.

[English]

Sir, the Prime Minister said at Anand the other day that anti-poverty programmes have failed. We cannot accept this assessment. It is not anti-poverty programmes that have failed, it is this Government that has failed the anti-poverty programmes.

I also have in my hand *The Hindustan Times* report of February 16, 2000 of an interview given by the hon. Shri Sunderlal Patwa, Union Minister for Rural Development. I deeply regret his absence here, but I regret even more his playing politics with poverty. He has a petty rivalry with the Congress Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, a gentleman who has just been honoured once again by a whole series of international organisations for what he is doing with regard to Panchayati Raj and Poverty Alleviation. But because Chief Minister Digvijay Singh, the main political rival of the Union Minister for Rural Development is doing well and getting credit around the world, it colours our Union Minister of Rural Development's approach to Panchayati Raj and Poverty Alleviation.

He talks in that interview, and that is the head line, of rural areas being totally neglected, of all big achievements under the Nehruvian Pattern, as he calls it, being only on paper. He says, *Garibi Hatao* is just a

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

slogan. He wants us to believe that rural development under Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee has been accorded top priority. Just because he has been made the Minister, he thinks it is top priority. He does not seem to know what a mess the Ministry of Rural Development is in. "A bad workmen quarrels with his tools."

This is no way of running anti-poverty programmes, this is no way of looking at the poor of India, this is no way of denigrating an achievement where we began at Independence with more than two-thirds of our people living below the poverty line and today got more than two-thirds of living above the poverty line. We have done something. We have not done enough, but to sit today on the Treasury Benches and talk like they talked for forty-five years on the Opposition Benches.

[Translation]

Nothing has happened. It is jugglery of figures.

[English]

What kind of responsibility does this show?

I want the Prime Minister to recognise and I request the hon. Minister to pass this message on to him that for the poor 1999-2000 has been the second worst year of the decade. The worst was 1990-1991 when Shri Yashwant Sinha was the Finance Minister....(Interruptions)

Sir, I have given a series of facts, which if people are willing to take their responsibility seriously on the Treasury Benches, they would be listening to me instead of making cheap jokes about it.

Sir, 1999-2000 was the second worst of the decade for the poor of India. The worst was the first year of the decade, 1990-91 when Shri Yashwant Sinha in his socialist incarnation first became the Finance Minister of India. But socialist or saffron, once Shri Yashwant Sinha becomes the Finance Minister, the poor are immediately the worst hit. With real rural income sliding, poverty programmes collapsing, poor women, infants and school children being particularly hurt, how has this Government responded? This Government has responded by kicking the poor in their belly.

Sir, I used the same expression in the general debate on the Budget. Someone from the Treasury Benches objected and asked for a ruling from the Chair—Sir, in fact it was from you because you were in the Chair at that time—whether the expression which I had used was unparliamentary. The records of the debate show that the expression has been allowed, the expression has not expunged. And, therefore, with all seriousness I repeat

that this Government has kicked the poor in their belly at a time when rural real income has declined, when agriculture is stagnating, when poverty alleviation programmes are collapsing, and when the social security net for the poor is being ripped apart. Along comes this Government and says, 'We are raising PDS issue price for BPL families by 60 per cent.' They say, 'We are raising the price of wheat, we are raising the price of rice, we are raising the price of sugar, we are raising the price of kerosene, and we are raising the price of cooking gas.' Is this a Government with a heart or a Government with a hole in its head? It does not listen even to its NDA partners. I sat here through the whole of the Budget debate in the last Session. I heard the brilliant intervention of the former Minister of Civil Supplies, Shri D.P. Yadav. I heard the pleas of several other Members of the Treasury Benches and I heard the pathetic reply of the Minister concerned, Shri Shanta Kumar. I heard, all of us heard, but the Government has closed its ears. Arrogantly they insist that all these prices shall remain sky-high. Why are they so adamant?

Sir, the total food subsidy amounts to about Rs. 8,000 crore. The non-plan expenditure of this Government is Rs. 1,25,000 crore. Thus, food subsidy is a mere six per cent of the total non-plan expenditure of the Government. It is just six per cent. Can the Government not make savings elsewhere? What is the point of Nitish Babu lecturing to us in the Opposition about how FCI operations can be made more efficient and less corrupt? He has joined hands with this Government. That lecture should be directed at the Treasury Benches. He is telling us about the vast scope for downsizing of the Government. I know that his leader went into a meeting of the NDA alliance partners in the Prime Minister's house, as reported outside, and the proposal that their Government had brought for downsizing of the Government was rejected by Mamtaji more than anybody else. They come here to give us lectures. He should be giving a lecture in Economics to Mamtaji....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I oppose this. Nothing has happened like this....(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: All right, if nothing like that has happened....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, he is using monumental English language. He is totally wrong. Nothing has happened like that....(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Sir, we are the members of the NDA. I am also a member of the NDA. Nothing has happened like that. He is totally wrong....(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I said that it was reported in the newspapers. I was not present....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: He is totally wrong. They are afraid of the statement made by Shri Ghani Khan Chaudhary yesterday. Their brains has been totally diverted....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: These lectures on downsizing are not for us. Let these lectures....(*Interruptions*)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in fact the beauty of the last Railway Budget was that for the first time, deficit has been sought to be met not by raising the fare but by downsizing the expenditure....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BABU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): It was by raising the freight.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Not at all. We have never said that. Even Shri Somnath Chatterjee appreciated the Budget papers. Why are you telling this?

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: It is by economy of expenditure.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Nitish Sengupta knows better than anybody else how to bring about the downsizing of the Government. I would request him to begin with the Ministry of Railways. Let us see how he reduces the staff working in Railways and how he gets elected next time again. Let us see that these lectures are translated into policies. Let us see them. Forget about Class IV workers. Let them begin by removing a few Secretaries. They say they are very proud of them....(*Interruptions*) No, I am not yielding....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: You need not give any knowledge to Kumari Mamata Banerjee how it will be done and how we will do it.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): They are already in the death plateau. Do not worry.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: They said they were proud of the Disinvestment Ministry, the new one that is being created which will require one more Secretary. What they have not mentioned is that in the happy old Ministry of Rural Development where all that we had was one Secretary which as a Civil Servant I used to work with them, now that Ministry has a Secretary for the Department of Rural Development. They have a Secretary

for the Department of Land Resources. They have a Secretary for the Department of Drinking Water. They have got a Ministry of Housing. They now have a Ministry of Urban Development and another Ministry for Alleviation of Urban Poverty.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: One Secretary is to look after the partners.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: So, there is plenty of scope in the Non-Plan expenditure for reducing, for finding six per cent savings to save the food subsidy. But instead of taking steps which will remove in essential expenditure of a Non-Plan variety but maintain Non-Plan expenditure of an essential variety—I cannot think of anything more essential than the food security of the poor—they just want to slash things; they just want to upset the poor. Why is it that there is only one solution?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO (Savakasi): They are pressurising your Government there in Bihar to get more portfolios.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They are matching U.P. which has 93 Ministers.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): It has 110....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: When we talk of the PDS issue prices, the Finance Minister tells us, as he told us in the general debate last month, that the Congress is shedding crocodile tears. He made the same point that Dr. Nitish Sengupta made which is that Shri Madhavrao Scindia is a *Maharaja* and that I had a foreign education. What is this argument? The person who removed Shri Madhavrao Scindia from him *Maharaja* shape was Shrimati Indira Gandhi! of the Congress Party and he is today the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party. I may have made the sin of having a degree from abroad but I try to study your papers on poverty alleviation and what is happening to the poor.

Sir, at the time when he said that the Congress is shedding crocodile tears, the argument he put is that the PDS issue prices now are only 18 per cent more than they were when the Congress Government was in office. He made that point. It is a good point he made. But I did not have the opportunity then. That is why I am taking advantage of this now to say that it is precisely because we considered those prices to be an unbearable burden on the poor that we started the Revamped Public Distribution System, under which, foodgrains were made available to the poorest blocks of this country at around half of the PDS issue prices. The successor Government shifted from our area approach to APL, BPL approach

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which in our view is administratively cumbersome and leads to considerable leakages. Nevertheless, we accept that it is conceptually valid to distinguish between BPL and APL families. Tragically, however, instead of building on its inheritance, this Government has slashed at the poor and the *kisans* to cover the fiscal excesses of its terrible record of governance.

On behalf of the poor of this country, we protest. We protest against the Government. They have time only for the rich—a Government which rushes to the aid of the rich, but shuts its ears to the wailing of the poor.

Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance finds a solution within 24 hours for the poor rich foreign institutional investors who contemptuously reject the income tax notices served by the hon. Minister of Finance himself. These FIIs then hold the small investors to ransom by jacking up the stock market and jacking it down like a little boy playing with a kite on *Baisakhi*. The minute Essar runs into trouble with its foreign loans, the Government and its financial institutions do somersault after somersault to rush to their aid as graphically described two weeks ago by Ms. Sucheta Dalal in *The Times of India*. This is as true of the Hindujas over the Vizag power plant, as it is over anything that Shri Rahul Bajaj of the CII asks. When the richest multinationals in the world and their Indian partners, the richest corporate firms in India ran into difficulties with their telecom licence fee, this Government rushed to their rescue, never mind that we were in the middle of a war; never mind that the Government needed every paisa of revenue it could raise. When it comes to the rich, this Government is in all attention, but when it comes to the poor, the hon. Minister of Finance shuts his ears and buys himself a first class plane ticket to Germany.

Sir, this is not a Government, it is a parody. No one can its pretensions seriously, we certainly cannot. We shall fight for the poor. We are certain that rest of the Opposition will be with us in this struggle. We know the NDA partners are with us in their hearts.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the public demand for the need to scrap the idea of the revision of the Constitution of India." (119)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about prohibiting Government employees from being members of or form otherwise being associated with the RSS." (120)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about withholding of the President's assent to the Uttar Pradesh Regulation of Public Religious Building and Places Bill, 2000." (121)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the right of the people to freely profess, practise and propagate religion will be upheld." (122)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the crash plan for alleviation of poverty." (123)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for a national Pension and Welfare Policy for the infirm, destitute and handicapped." (124)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the imbalance in the development of various regions the country and the need for an action plan for the balanced development of the country." (125)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the pressing need for a comprehensive plan for the educational and economic development of the minorities." (126)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Gujral Committee on Protection of Urdu." (127)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the concern over and the need to check the damage being caused to communal harmony and amity in the country through propaganda against the centres of Islamic learning, madrassas, mosques, minority institutions and minority personalities." (128)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for statutory schemes for compensation to, and rehabilitation of, the victims of violence, particularly the victims of communal riots." (129)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for reservation in Parliament, legislatures, local bodies, services and educational institutions, for the minorities, particularly the Muslims." (130)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time-bound programme for solving the unemployment problem and to give 'unemployment allowance' to the unemployed registered with Employment Exchanges in the country." (131)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about including the 'Right to Work' in the Constitution as a Fundamental Right." (132)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about including the 'Right to Shelter' in the Constitution as a Fundamental Right." (133)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for free and compulsory education upto tenth standard and for making it a Fundamental Right in the Constitution." (134)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the provision of free ration and other essential commodities to persons below the poverty line." (135)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effective industrial policy to check migration from rural areas to urban areas." (136)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about immediate reforms in judicial procedure to secure speedy justice." (137)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the introduction in our electoral system of the method of proportionate representation without any threshold." (138)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about ensuring voting right at elections to the Indian citizens working abroad." (139)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the decline in the value of rupee against dollar." (140)

[Shri G.M. Banatwala]

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the people and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation." (141)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about action for protection of the places of worship of the minorities." (142)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about need to get the court cases concerning Babri Masjid be expedited and decided early." (143)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to increase central investment in, and for the overall development of Kerala." (144)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to set up a separate Secondary Switching Area (telecommunication) for the district Malappuram with its headquarters in TIRUR in Kerala." (145)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the mounting unemployment in Kerala and the need for an action-plan to increase adequately the employment opportunities in the State." (146)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for expeditious development of the Fishing Harbour at Ponnani in Malappuram district of Kerala." (147)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for a bridge across the river Bharathapuzha connecting Ponnani and TIRUR in Malappuram district of Kerala." (148)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the pressing need to increase substantially the post and telegraph facilities in the Malappuram district of Kerala in view of the growing need for the same." (149)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to stop atrocities committed on members of the S.C., S.T. and weaker sections of the society." (150)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to get the court cases against those accused of demolition of the Babri Masjid expedited." (151)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to strengthen and to improve the functioning of the Minorities Financial Development Corporation." (152)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for appropriate legislation to ban exit polls during elections." (153)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for a special package for the welfare of the fishermen community, which is the most neglected section of our society, and for the integrated development of the coastal infrastructure." (154)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government reaction to the situation in Chechniya." (155)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government thinking with respect to signing of CTBT." (156)

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI (Barpeta): I beg to move:

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the rescue measures taken for the entrepreneurs under loan—trap to the banks due to the wrong loan recovery policy of the Government and sickness of the industries in the North-East particularly in Assam." (201)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures taken to tackle the problem of flood in Assam." (202)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the strategy adopted by the Government to check the communal forces." (203)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): I beg to move:

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the causes and cure of persistent backwardness of certain areas like Orissa even after 52 years of Independence despite the presence of abundant natural and human resources." (245)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any effective scheme for the reduction of

heavy debt burden of backward States such as Orissa, Bihar and U.P." (246)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the upward revision of royalty on coal which has been overdue since long." (247)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the programme for the development of Paradeep Port in order to bring it at par with other ports like Mumbai, Chennai and Kandla." (248)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the establishment of an Oil Refinery at Paradeep." (249)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the conversion of Biju Pattanaik Airport at Bhubaneswar into an International Airport within a time frame of five years." (250)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the development of the tourist spots in Orissa with a view to attracting domestic and foreign tourists round the year." (251)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a time bound programme for the development of National Highway No. 203, from Bhubaneswar to Puri." (252)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the time bound programme for the restoration and reconstruction programmes in the devastated areas by the Super Cyclone of October, 1999." (253)

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the declaration of Orissa as a 'Special Category State' in order to ward off the severe constraint of financial resource more particularly after the Super Cyclone and accelerate the pace of development of this long neglected backward State with rich endowment of natural resources." (254)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move:

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address that lifting of quantitative restrictions on imports." (272)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any specific plan for providing employment to educated unemployed youth in the country." (273)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about protection of the Constitutional rights of Minorities." (274)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the strict implementation of Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 so as to abolish dowry system from the country." (275)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the rise in price of essential commodities which has hit the common people in the country." (276)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the enactment of the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 1998" (277)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address, about banning the entry of private sector, indigenous or foreign, in the Insurance Sector." (278)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the eradication of illiteracy from the country." (279)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to control widespread land erosion which is taking place in Murshidabad, Nadia, Hooghly and Bardhaman Districts of West Bengal." (280)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about equality of rights, wages etc. for the women." (281)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about women health and child care." (282)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about land reforms." (283)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government's desire to formulate a policy on youth." (284)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the growing corruption in the administrative machinery at various levels and the effective measures to eradicate it." (285)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the formulation of a policy to remove regional imbalances and have uniform development of all the regions in the country." (286)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the revival of sick industrial units in the public sector and rehabilitation of the displaced workers." (287)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about providing remunerative prices to the farmers for the agricultural produce in consonance with the rising cost of inputs." (288)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the unprecedented rise in the prices of essential commodities thus making them beyond the reach of the common man." (289)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about the failure of Public Distribution System to provide essential commodities to the poorer sections in remote areas." (290)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about formulating a time-bound programme to provide employment opportunities in the rural areas to prevent exodus of educated youth to the urban areas seeking job opportunities." (291)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the steps to be taken to check unabated brain-drain of doctors, scientists, technicians and experts." (292)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the growing unemployment in the country and the need to provide unemployment allowance to the unemployed educated youths to mitigate their hardship." (293)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the closing down of 90 collieries of ECL, thus throwing 1 lakh workers out of job." (294)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about reducing custom duties and increasing excise duties to benefit steel and other industries." (295)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the Bill for providing minimum wages to agricultural workers." (296)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the need to monitor the effective implementation of land reforms in the country." (297)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about any scheme for all round development of under-developed districts in States." (298)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the repair of existing national highways and construction of new national highways in Eastern Zone." (299)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about taking all necessary steps for implementing the programmes to safeguard the interests of the minorities in the country." (300)

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about constructing more dwelling units for the economically weaker sections of society in the country." (301)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about introducing an Integrated Crop Insurance Scheme to save the poor farmer community from natural calamities." (302)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about bringing forward a comprehensive Legislation to arrange pension for the most neglected rural labourers who are not in a position to eke out their livelihood nor their children are in a position to support their parents." (303)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about taking effective measures to make primary education compulsory." (304)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about measures for providing facilities of cold storage, marketing of farm produce particularly vegetables, fruits etc. in order to enable the farmer to get suitable remunerative price." (305)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the distribution of barren land to the local farmers to grow trees." (306)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about providing vocational courses to the rural unemployed youth and women to make them self-reliant." (307)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the measures to encourage constructions of Highways and Ports." (308)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about checking the cost of electricity for the use of consumers." (309)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the role of NGOs in building the infrastructure in the rural areas and providing employment opportunity." (310)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the failure to curb atrocities on Dalits." (311)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about bringing a legislation for protection, welfare and all round development of minorities." (312)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about a comprehensive plan to provide basic needs of food, clothing and shelter to the poor people in the country". (313)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the measures to check the growing menace of the poverty unemployment, disparity and price rise in the country." (314)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the deteriorating economic situation in the country leading to closure of public sector undertakings." (315)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about improvement in cattle breeding and also checking spread of diseases in them." (316)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the spurt of the diseases like Hepatitis-B, T.B.H.I.V. and kidney and heart ailments and various poverty related diseases in the country and providing timely medical facilities for them." (317)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the schemes for the development of primary education, secondary education and higher education." (318)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about making arrangements for augmenting the production of foodgrains, pulses, oil in proportion to the increasing population of the country." (319)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about meeting the shortage of cold storage for storing vegetables, potatoes, onions and other perishable food items in the country." (320)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the measures of pulling the country out of the crisis of deficit financing, unearthing black money and preventing tax-evasion." (321)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about effective measures to check hoarding, black marketing, profiteering and adulteration etc." (322)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the scheme to save various States from the fury of floods and the loss incurred by the people and the State Governments." (323)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about linking all the villages throughout the country by roads." (324)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the construction of pucca houses for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and weaker sections in the country." (325)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the installation of handpumps for providing potable water for the poor people in States." (326)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about national loss due to recurrent floods and droughts in the country and effective steps to be taken to control the menace." (327)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the measures to check rampant corruption in the country." (328)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the measures to check child labour and prostitution." (329)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the development schemes for farmers, labourers, youth and women." (330)

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the increasing number of sick people and general deterioration of the health of the people in the country." (331)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the miserable performance of India in international sports and game in spite of larger population than many other countries." (332)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the meagre investments in the field of science and technology by public and private sectors." (333)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about unemployment allowance to the youth who are registered with Employment Exchange." (334)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about for expeditious disposal of criminal and civil cases pending before the courts." (335)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about streamlining the Public Distribution System in the country." (336)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about sufficient incentives to the small scale industries in the face of stiff competition from the multinational companies." (337)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about spread of the disastrous disease AIDS in the country." (338)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about lack of transport facilities in more than 50% rural areas of the country." (339)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the serious crisis of drinking water in rural areas in the country and to evolve a national policy on drinking water." (340)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the 'Right of Shelter' to be included in the Constitution as a Fundamental Right." (341)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about a time bound action plan to eradicate the growing poverty in the country." (342)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about reviewing of the Private Power Sector Policy as it has failed to take off in a significant manner." (343)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the provision of latest equipment in the Central and State Government hospitals for the treatment of ever growing number of cancer, heart and kidney patients in the country." (344)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about suitable reforms in the educational system so as to make it employment oriented as the present system is not relevant to the needs of the present day society." (345)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about comprehensive changes in the industrial policy to check the large scale migration from villages to cities which is the result of uneven industrial growth in the country." (346)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about non-implementation of various schemes for conversion of barren land into cultivable land through a time bound programme." (347)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about adequate steps to eradicate communalism, casteism, linguistic chauvinism and regionalism from the country." (348)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about the rapidly declining underground water level and availability of water in the country." (349)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about comprehensive action plan at national level for water conservation." (350)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about setting up of small scale industries in every village in order to stop large scale migration from villages to cities." (351)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about introducing free and compulsory primary education for every child through the medium of his/her own mother tongue in order to eliminate illiteracy." (352)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about a new labour policy with a view to provide round the year employment to the labourers working in organised and unorganised sectors." (353)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about speedy implementation of the report of the Commission for Linguistic Minorities." (354)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about a comprehensive scheme to generate more employment opportunities in the rural areas." (355)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about appointing a Committee of Experts to suggest permanent measures to control the loss of lives, crops and property due to natural calamities." (356)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about taking of effective measures to combat the growing atrocities on women and children in the country." (357)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about formulating a time bound programme to abolish bonded labour existing in certain parts of the country." (358)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about taking effective measures to check the problem of increasing pollution in the country." (359)

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about increasing malnutrition problem in the country." (360)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about an action plan at national level for soil conservation in the country." (361)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that the address fails to mention about formulating a time bound comprehensive action plan to eliminate child labour in the country." (362)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): I beg to move:

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the lifting of quantitative restrictions on imports has put India's interests in to jeopardy" (363)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the difficulties of the peasants due to the New Economic Policies pursued by the Central Government." (364)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address, about the unprecedented rise in the prices of essential commodities thus making them beyond the reach of the common man." (365)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing remunerative price to the farmers for the agricultural produce in consonance with the rising cost of the inputs." (366)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about formulating a time bound programme to provide employment opportunities in the rural and urban areas." (367)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about bringing a comprehensive legislation to protect the interests of agricultural workers in the country by providing them Minimum Wages, and social security measures like Pension, Provident Fund, Workmen compensation for injuries suffered, medical relief, maternity benefits etc." (368)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the construction of pucca houses for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and other weaker sections of the country." (369)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about national loss due to recurrent of floods and droughts in the country and the effective steps to be taken to control the menace and to give relief to those who are affected by such natural calamities." (370)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to check rampant corruption in the country." (371)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address for evolving a time bound action plan to eradicate the growing poverty in the country." (372)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to take effective measures to combat the growing atrocities on women and children in the country." (373)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to take effective measures to check the problem of increasing pollution in the country." (374)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to formulate an action plan at national level for soil conservation in the country." (375)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the disastrous effect of whole sale privatisation of public sector units." (376)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the govt's attempt to abrogate the legal rights of the working class." (377)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the govt's attempt to sign the CTBT without any national consensus." (378)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the free entry of agricultural products into the country." (379)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the communalisation of education and culture of the country and disrupt the history of India." (380)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about allowing Govt. officials to join RSS etc. (381)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the attempts of the Govt. to change the secular and democratic foundation of the country." (382)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): I beg to move:

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that the broad-based Constitution-Review Commission set up by the Government would subvert the parliamentary democratic and secular character of the Constitution." (506)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the fact that it is the implementation of the provisions in the Constitution that has failed in fulfilling its objectives and not the Constitution itself." (507)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the drawbacks in our planning system which has resulted in the regional imbalances in the country in respect of per-capita national product, income illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, health and sanitary conditions etc." (508)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government's failure to generate productive wage employment in rural areas which has led to large scale migration to urban areas resulting in urban population explosion, coming up of slums, deteriorating health and sanitary condition etc." (509)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for making compulsory primary education a Fundamental Right in the Constitution." (510)

[Shri Rupchand Pail]

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for making Right to Employment a Fundamental Right in the Constitution." (511)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the enactment of a Bill providing for reservation of not less than one third of the seats for women in the Lok Sabha and in the Legislative Assemblies of States/UTs." (512)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the plight of widows in certain parts of the country who are maltreated, discarded and considered as a social taboo by the society." (513)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the dangerous effects of the privatisation of coal mines on the economy of the country." (514)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the serious threat to the security of the country due to the leasing out of major airports to private sector operators." (515)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the serious threat to the security of the country due to the Government's move to allow private participation in ports management." (516)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the adverse effect of the implementation of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act allowing private participation in the insurance sector

which will affect the public investment in the social infrastructure and other developmental projects." (517)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the dangerous effects of the Government's new Foreign Direct Investment policy on the indigenous industry, especially the small scale sector." (518)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for adequate representation to the major central trade unions in the Second Labour Commission." (519)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for abrogating the Second Labour Commission which has been constituted with a view to suggest changes in various Labour Laws which will go against the interests of workers and curtail their statutory rights." (520)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the fact that the Government's move to do away with all the subsidies will result in the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities such as cooking gas, kerosene, foodgrains supplied through public distribution system, milk etc. and fertilisers, diesel etc. which will have its cascading effect on the agriculturists and agricultural products." (521)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the dangerous effects of allowing Government employees to participate in RSS activities by Governments of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh." (522)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the concern over the reported statement of

UP Chief Minister that he will allow peaceful construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya in UP." (523)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take effective steps to prevent the mounting of Non-Performing Assets of the banks and financial institutions and also the need to take urgent steps to recover the outstanding dues from the big defaulters." (524)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the fact that at present a large number of workers are outside the purview of the Bonus Act and the need to amend the Act for removing the eligibility ceiling of salary." (525)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to regulate the entry of multinational companies into the Indian economy and their strategic takeovers and acquisitions of Indian companies." (526)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to stop privatisation, disinvestment and corporatisation of Central and State public sector units." (527)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take steps to protect the small and traditional Indian industries from the onslaught of big business houses and also to provide financial and structural support to them." (528)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take effective steps to strengthen the public distribution system for supplying adequate

quantity of quality essential commodities at subsidised prices to economically weaker sections." (529)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to bring forward a comprehensive legislation for the welfare of Agriculture Workers without further delay." (530)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to contain the spurt in the militant attacks in Kashmir valley." (531)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to step the communalisation of education and culture of the country and also distortion of the history of India." (532)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take urgent necessary steps for payment of regular wages and other statutory dues to workers in a number of public sector undertakings." (533)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for speedy implementation of revival package for a number of sick industrial units." (534)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the fact that the lifting of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on imports completely by April 2001 will jeopardise the Indian industry and agriculture." (535)

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to provide safe and pure drinking water to all citizens of the country." (536)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to stop Foreign Direct Investment in retail trade." (537)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): I beg to move:

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making any commitment to safeguard the secular features of the Constitution in the name of review thereof." (553)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the review of the causes of failure regarding enforcement of the Constitution in word and spirit." (554)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the assurance regarding not increasing the prices of petroleum products." (555)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to give top priority to the security of the country and not to surrender the terrorism." (556)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures of check price rise and uproot corruption." (557)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to give top priority to the agriculture and to solve the problems of farmers and agricultural labourers." (558)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the specific programmes to impart training to the farmers in the field of modern and scientific farmings." (559)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any specific programmes for the upliftment of the down trodden, tribals, backward classes and the oppressed class of people of the country." (560)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any specific programme for removing the unemployment in the country." (561)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the increased supply of foodgrains to farmers who are living below poverty line and have not been issued Red Cards." (562)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the time bound programme for providing telephone facility in all the villages of the country." (563)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the proper working of the telephones in the rural areas." (564)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the inclusion of Nonia and Mallah castes of Bihar and U.P. in the Scheduled Caste list on line of the other States." (565)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the programme of uplifting of crores of people living under poverty line by accelerating poverty alleviation programme." (566)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the time bound programme to provide 'pucca house' to the poors through Indira Awas Yojana." (567)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to provide reservation to the women of backward, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and minority within the reservation fixed for women as a whole." (568)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any special programme to unearth the black money and to check the tax-evasion in the country." (569)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the safeguarding the interests of poor farmers and labourers of the country from multinational companies." (570)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the programme of building better relation with our neighbouring countries by making foreign policy more effective." (571)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to check the growing menace of poverty, unemployment, disparity in incomes and price rise in the country." (662)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for renewed efforts by the Government for fulfilling of the hopes and aspirations of the poor people." (663)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the deteriorating economic situation in the country leading to the closure of public sector undertakings." (664)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for improvement in cattle breeding and also to check spread of diseases in them." (665)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking the diseases like Hepatitis-B, T.B., H.I.V. and kidney and heart ailments in the country and also for providing timely medical facilities for the persons suffering from these diseases." (666)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the schemes for the development of primary education, secondary education and higher education." (667)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures taken for augmenting the production of foodgrains, pulses, edible oils in proportion to the increasing population of the country." (668)

[Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken to meeting the shortage of cold storage facility for storing potatoes and onions in the country." (669)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures taken for checking price rise of potatoes, onions, edible oils, pulses and other essential commodities in the country." (670)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures taken for pulling out the country from the crisis of deficit-financing, unearthing of black money and preventing tax-evasion." (671)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for effective measures to check hoarding, black marketing, profiteering and adulteration etc." (672)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for revival of loan facilities from R.E.C. for electrification of all the villages in Bihar." (673)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about completing the works of electrification of all the villages of districts Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Vaishali in Bihar by granting REC loans to Bihar Electricity Board." (674)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about linking Hathidah and Fatuhan situated in the northern and southern Bihar by a transmission line." (675)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementing the hydroelectric projects of Koyalkaron, Kadram, Kanhar and Shankh." (676)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about augmenting the capacity of Muzaffarpur, Kahalgau, Barh, North Karpura, Tenughat, Navinagar Thermal Power Stations." (677)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the scheme for draining out the water from water-logged fields (chauras) of Bihar." (678)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the scheme to save Bihar State from the fury of floods of rivers like Gandak, Kosi, Vagmati and Ganges consequent upon the signing of Indo-Nepal Treaty." (679)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about need to sanction funds for saving the people from the devastation caused by the floods and for providing relief to the flooded victim in Bihar." (680)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about linking all the villages of Bihar by roads." (681)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for construction of Pucca houses for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and weaker sections in Bihar." (682)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for installation of handpumps for providing potable water in the "Mohallas" of poor people in Bihar." (683)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for early completion of the houses which are under construction under Indira Avas Yojana in Bihar." (684)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about declaring the Panta-Hazipur-Muzaffapur-Sitamarhi-Mithamore road as national highway." (685)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing transportation facility for export of fruits and vegetables such as potato, onion, tomato, banana, mango, lady finger, 'Parwal', etc. to industrial cities and abroad by air cargo and A.C. rail coaches from Bihar for the benefit of the farmers." (686)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about developing Vaishali in Bihar as a international tourist spot." (687)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing basic facilities in schools of Bihar which do not have proper building/teachers and where school buildings are in dilapidated condition." (688)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing telephone facility in all villages of

the country particularly in all villages of Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Vaishali districts of Bihar." (689)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures taken to check rampant corruption in the country." (690)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures taken to check child labour and prostitution." (691)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for formulation of development schemes for farmers, labourers, youth and women." (692)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the current status in regard to construction of proposed cold storage by the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies in Dal Singh Sarai and Samastipur in the Samastipur District of Bihar." (693)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the urgent need to make Patna Airport as International Airport by providing cargo handling facility so that the fruit and vegetable growers of North Bihar could get the benefit of their produce." (694)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken for providing export facility for Mango, Litchi and Green Vegetable growers of North Bihar." (695)

That at the *end* of the Motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for an international agreement with

[Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Nepal for construction of dams on rivers of North Bihar so as to prevent floods by these rivers." (696)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about constructing a multi-purpose high dam on river Kosi in Varah area to augment the water flow in Ganga so that adequate water could be supplied to Bangladesh from Farakka barrage as per the international agreement." (697)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for formulation of a scheme for constructing embankment (spurs) to protect dozens of villages in Samastipur and Vaishali districts of North Bihar from floods." (698)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): I beg to move:

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the reservation for Backward classes and minorities in the Constitution Amendment Bill regarding the reservation for women in Legislature and Parliament." (633)

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the desilting of rivers especially Tamirabarani river in Thirunelveli, Tamil Nadu in order to provide protected drinking water for the adjoining villages." (634)

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am so thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this important debate.

I rise to support the Motion moved by Shri Madan Lal Khurana and seconded by my learned friend, Dr. Nitish Sengupta, expressing our thanks to the hon. President of India for his Address.

I was listening with rapt attention to my friend, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. In his speech, he highlighted the penury and misery of the teeming millions of this country who have been subjected to face the misery and penury.

But we cannot forget the fact that we have inherited all the malice that we have to face from the legacy of 45 years of rule by the party to which Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar belongs.

As a functioning democracy, we the citizens of this great country are jubilant and proud. Fifty years have passed after we have been proclaimed as a Republic. In this golden jubilee year of the Republic, we are standing at the threshold of the new millennium, at the dawn of the 21st Century.

We are proud and jubilant that we belong to the tallest democracy of the world. Parties may come and go at the Union level and at the States level, but the system has survived, the system has sustained all the five decades. The experiment of democracy has failed in our neighbours, Aung Sang Sukyi has to be incarcerated for more than five years even after she got the mandate of three-fourths in Burma, Myanmar.

When the military machine is moving in the streets of Islamabad, in our neighbourhood, the system of democracy in India has survived and succeeded, though the parties may come and go. Therefore, our citizens, raising their heads high, can walk proudly in the streets of the capitals of the world claiming that we belong to the tallest democracy of the world. The hon. President, in paragraph 4 on page 1 of his Address, has categorically stated:

"It has been a reliable guarantor of parliamentary democracy, secularism and fundamental rights."

He has further stated:

"While keeping the basic structure and salient features of the constitution inviolate, it has, however, become necessary to examine the experience of the past fifty years to better achieve the ideals enshrined in the Constitution. The Government has, therefore, set up a broad-based Constitution Review Commission. The recommendations of this Commission will be presented before Parliament which is the supreme decision-making body in Indian democracy."

Hue and cry has been raised, particularly by my friends from the Congress benches, both inside and outside the Parliament, and in recent days they have been making a scathing attack on the Prime Minister and the Government, as if this Government is trying to trample upon the basic structure of the Constitution, the basic features of the Constitution. We are a constituent member of the National Democratic Alliance, which has given an agenda for a proud and prosperous India, and

that is the agenda for which the government is working. There cannot be any other agenda. In that agenda, we have spelt out in clear-cut terms, in unequivocal terms. When we speak about the review of the Constitution, the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in no uncertain terms, has clarified this aspect that we are not here even to touch the basic structure or the basic features of the Constitution. At this juncture, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of this House, through you, Sir, that Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, in his wisdom, had clarified this point in the Constituent Assembly debate. I quote from his speech given on the 25th November, 1949 in the Constituent Assembly:

"The Assembly has not only refrained from putting a seal of finality and infallibility upon this Constitution by denying to the people the right to amend the Constitution, as in Canada, or by making the amendment of the Constitution subject to the fulfilment of extraordinary terms and conditions as in America or Australia, but has provided the most facile procedure for amending the Constitution"

Not only this, he visualised the forthcoming scenario and challenges. We have entered the computer age and the changes are taking place at a hurricane speed throughout the world. The globe has become a village, therefore, they call it a global village. When the changes are there, then we have to rise to the occasion to meet the challenges. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar quoted Jefferson, and I quote:

"Jefferson, the great American statesman who played so great a part in the making of the American Constitution, has expressed some very weighty views which the makers of the Constitution can never afford to ignore."

At one place, Dr. Ambedkar says:

"We may consider each generation as a distinct nation, with a right, by the will of the majority, to bind themselves, but none to bind the succeeding generation, more than the inhabitants of another country."

This is very very important. He says each generation is a distinct nation and we cannot bind a succeeding generation. That is the basic concept of Dr. Ambedkar.

Sir, in para 5 in his Address to the Joint Session of both the Houses, His Excellency the President of India has said:

"There is no other experiment in human history where a billion people, belonging to so many different traditions, are living and striving together for a better life without being denied their rights and freedoms."

This is the occasion where I can put forth not only the points of view of my Party but I am sure most of my friends from the Left Parties would agree with me that for the betterment of the functioning of the democracy in this great country, the concept of federalism should be accepted and the concept of federalism should be enshrined again. Therefore, there is a need to review the Constitution.

In March, 1955, the late lamented Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister, while speaking on the Constitution (Fourth) Amendment Bill, on the floor of this House stated:

"It should be remembered that however good a Constitution might be at any time, after working it for some time flaws, appear. Nothing is perfect and then it becomes necessary to make changes to remove those flaws."

In the Constituent Assembly debate, in the year 1947, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru made a submission. He stated:

"It looks we want to permanence in the Constitution. If you make anything rigid, you stop a nation's growth."

Despite the fact that in this great country, there are different cultures, different traditions, different civilisations, different languages and different nationalities, and despite that there are varieties and differences, the unity and integrity of this great country has been protected all these years. You see the experiment in other parts of the world. What happened in Yugoslavia and what happened in the Soviet Union? We should bear in mind that unless the originality and the individuality of these races, cultures, civilisations and languages are protected, the unity and integrity will be in jeopardy. Therefore, the review of the Constitution is needed.

We speak about the basic structure of the Constitution. Nobody could afford to forget the Keshavananda Bharti judgement in the year 1973. The famous judgement by the Supreme Court had very clearly stated:

"The basic structure is not a vague concept and the apprehensions expressed on behalf of the respondents that neither the citizens nor the Parliament would be able to understand it are unfounded. If the historical background, the Preamble, the entire scheme of the Constitution, the relevant provisions thereof, including the Article 368 are kept in mind, there can be no difficulty in discerning that the following can be regarded as the basic elements of the Constitution structure:

[Shri Vaiko]

1. The supremacy of the Constitution.
2. The republican and democratic form of Government and sovereignty of the country.
3. The secular and democratic character of the Constitution.
4. The demarcation of power between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. (That is the separation of power.)
5. The dignity of the individual secured by various freedoms and basic rights in Part III and the mandate to build a welfare State contained in Part IV.
6. Unity and integrity of the nation."

Sir, our friends from the Congress have had the privilege of holding the reins of power for nearly five decades. They speak about the basic structure of the Constitution and the basic features of the Constitution. In Kesavanand Bharati's case, it has been clearly stated that the dignity of the individual secured by various freedoms and the basic rights mentioned in Part III of the Constitution and the mandate to build a welfare State contained in Part IV of the Constitution cannot be denied. But what happened in seventies? What happened in the year 1975? The dark dungeon cells of the prisons of this country will speak volumes and volumes about how democracy was throttled, how the Press was throttled, how hundreds of thousands of people were detained in jails without trial and how many people had to die in the prisons. Those dark days, in the history of this country, could not be forgotten. Emergency was proclaimed and the leaders were detained. I do remember that Shri Niren Dey, the Attorney-General of India at that time, had the audacity to go to the Supreme Court and say that the life of citizen of this country could be snatched away and that could not be questioned in the court of law. Have you ever heard of such a thing in any democracy in the world?

Now, my friends are speaking from the housetops and rooftops that they are all concerned about democracy, about the Constitution and about the basic structure and the basic features of the Constitution. Sir, the country could not forget when most of the leaders and Members of Parliament were detained in the prison. The Forty-second Amendment was piloted in the Parliament and they even annulled the judicial review of the Constitution Amendments and some Fundamental Rights and the basic right of the people to choose their representative every five years by extending the term of the House. The

regime, which proclaimed emergency, went even to the extent of undoing a judicial verdict. But thanks to the Judiciary, most of the amendments were declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution. And, that Government was thrown away by the people in 1977 elections. Of course, the Government, which was then formed, crumbled. I do agree that the experiment of Janata Government had crumbled. When I started my speech, I said that we are proud of the system of democracy. Therefore, the same people who gave the mandate, a massive mandate to the Government in 1971, dislodged that Government in 1977. The same people rejected the Government which was in power. Sir, after all these things, they now speak of the basic structure of the Constitution. Sir, what do we need today? The Constitution has to be reviewed. There is nothing wrong in it. Have we solved all the problems of the country? No. Many amendments had been brought in the Parliament by the Congress Government. They brought them many times. I feel pity for the Congress Party. But it is a very great and a mighty organisation. Why have they come to this end?

It is because they want to bulldoze the States; they do it even in their Party structure. They want to bulldoze the State Governments. How many States Governments were toppled and dismissed? When the Communists came to power in the year 1957, the first Government was that of Shri Namboodiripad, which was toppled in 1959. They developed a myth that no party other than Congress will be able to rule any State. That was their view. They did not permit any other political party to rule a State for five years. Therefore, in the 60s, the great leader, late lamented Anna, gave a clarion call. He stated, "You see the experiment. What happened in the State of Kerala?". The Congress Party is trying to create an impression that no other political party would be able to run a Government for five years. Therefore, on his call, in 1967, the Marxists and the Swatantra Party came under one umbrella, and the Congress Party was thrown out in Tamil Nadu. Many years have passed since then, and they are still trying to get near the St. George Fort. It will remain a dream, and they can only build castles in the air. Nobody can provide oxygen to the Congress Party now.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar made a brilliant speech. I agree with him. In the year 1947, when you made your 'Tryst with Destiny', you have promised that milk and honey would flow on the streets under the Plans. How many Five-Year Plans have you made, how many Plans were implemented, how many crores and crores of rupees were spent and then what happened? What happened to the slogan "Socialistic pattern of Society", and what happened to the slogan "Democratic Socialism"?

It is the Congress Party, which opened the gates for globalisation and to the multinationals. It is they who opened the windows and doors for the multinationals.

The concept of federalism has to be accepted and implemented. Therefore, the Commission may review the Constitution. It is a fact that everything has to be brought before Parliament. We have to really think about implementing the concept of federalism. Here, it will be very pertinent to quote *Arignar Anna*. He says,

"We have a federal structure. That is why, the farmers of the Constitution wanted a federal structure and not a unitary structure because many political philosophers have pointed out that India is so vast, in fact, it has been described as a sub-continent. The mental health is so varied, the traditions so different, the history so varied that there cannot be a steel-framed unitary structure here...and give us proper answers to the puzzles that are created not by us, but by the working of the Constitution to the detriment of the States. What I want to say is that the working of the federal structure is such that the States are feeling more and more frustrated, and their demand is that there should be a review of the Constitution, a reappraisal of the Constitution."

In the year 1963, he said:

"You should take the DMK as the spearhead of the opposition to the unitary nature of the federal structure of this Constitution. Lift it up to the highest political arena and allow it free play, make the federation become a real federation."

Therefore, we have been demanding that all the regional languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule should be made as official languages of this country. We have accepted this in our Agenda. The NDA has accepted this for the first time. The Congress Government, when they were in power, even in principle, they did not accept. When Hindi has been made the official language of this country, then Tamil, the most ancient classical language of the world, the mother language of all the Dravidian languages, should be made at the first instance as one of the official languages of this country.

Some of our friends may not understand the extent of hardship the people coming from non-Hindi speaking areas are subjected to. They say, 'English is a foreign language.' However, English is the mother tongue of Anglo-Indians who are the citizens of the country. English is the official language in the North-Eastern States. Because of their hatred for English, some of our friends are trying to thrust Hindi upon us. My view is that disadvantages should be neutralised. Disadvantages of all the people should be uniform. Till such a situation comes, we want that English should continue. All the

languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution should be made official languages of this country. Tamil should be accepted by the Union Government as a classical language.

The Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is trying to erase the misfortunes caused by the previous Governments, particularly the Congress Government. At the beginning of the last century, the then President of the United States of America Mr. Theodore Roosevelt boasted that century belonged to America. It felt very sad when balkanisation of the Soviet Union took place. I felt very sad when the statue of Lenin was attacked. Because of such unforeseen developments that took place in the decade, a bipolar world became a unipolar world.

Today we could claim, as the Prime Minister has claimed, that this century belongs to India. This century belongs to the continent of Asia, not to Europe or America. This century is going to be the century of the continent of Asia. In many aspects, the competitors are going to be China and India. Since the time at my disposal is very short, I am not able to dwell on all these issues. My friends will deal with them. The competition is going to be between these two countries. As a functioning democracy, with the intellect and talent of our youth we could definitely march ahead of China, and we could become the guiding star of the whole humanity in this century.

We became a nuclear-weapon State. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee took the decision to make this country a nuclear-weapon State with a minimum nuclear deterrent. Because of the threat from the neighbours, he took this decision. Mr. William Jefferson Clinton had to admit that India is a super force. In one of his meetings he stated that 29 per cent of poverty is in India. At the same time, he had to admit the fact that 30 per cent of computer professionals are Indians.

I had the opportunity of going through a report published in a German magazine recently. The magazine reported about the employment potential, the talent and intellect of Indian engineers, scientists and doctors. The report says that 38 per cent of doctors in USA are Indians.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (*Narasaraopet*): Will you accept that it is attributed to Shri Nehru? By Bill Clinton as he started IITs in the country.

SHRI VAIKO: Yes, I have got a great respect for Shri Nehru. Yes, Shri Nehru had the vision. When he

[Shri Vaiko]

opened the Bhakra Nangal Dam, he said 'It is a temple of India.'

We are not partisan. But at the same time, do not forget the fact that the Congress has destroyed the country. That also, I have to remind you....*(Interruptions)*
... Sir, 38 per cent doctors in the USA are the Indians, 30 per cent of NASA employees are the Indians and 28 per cent of IBM and Microsoft are the Indians. The German Government also has opened the doors for Indian intellectual youth and not to other countries. Therefore, the scope is very wide for our Indians everywhere. At the same time this Government has done commendably well. Only 13 months we were in power. Then with all earnestness, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was steering the Government to lead this country, to make this country as the Super-Power of the world.

My friend was telling about down-sizing of the Government. To reduce the Ministry Secretariat, to reduce the expenditure really is a very good suggestion, and it ought to be welcomed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you concluding now?

[Translation]

Its already six o'clock, there is a long list of Members who want to speak on this subject. If House agrees, the proceedings of the House may be extended up to 8 o'clock.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is the harm in holding discussion on this subject for two-three days.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Please adjourn the House today. We will listen to his speech tomorrow.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, many Members have left, by assuming that the House will adjourn at 6 o'clock. Therefore, please adjourn the House till tomorrow. We will listen to his speech tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do not want to sit up to 8 o'clock, we may extend the House up to 7 o'clock.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Please adjourn the House today.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, I will take two-three minutes to conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Your partners are interrupting you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, in the initial part of my speech, I stated that the Congress party did not allow any other political party to run the Government in the States for five years. In the year 1917, the Janata experiment failed. Again, in 1989, the other experiment failed. Again in 1996, the Deve Gowda Government and then the Gujral Government were pulled down. Then again the Vajpayee Government was pulled down after 13 months.

But, Mr. Chairman, Sir this Government is going to last full five years and this Government is going to prove that other than the Congress party, the NDA led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee rules the country for full five years. Here, one more thing I want to say. Hereafter, in this country, one-party rule of the whole country is finished...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: And you will remain as a king maker....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: The NDA will be ruling for five years. Again, we will come back to power with a massive mandate under the leadership of hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

With these few words, I commend the Motion moved by Shri Madan Lal Khurana. Thank you.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow i.e. April 18, 2000 at 11.00 a.m.

18.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, April 18, 2000/Chaitra 29, 1922 (Saka)
