

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Monday, March 6, 2000/Phalguna 16, 1921 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the sudden demise of one of our esteemed colleagues Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee popularly known as "Geeta Didi".

Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee was a sitting member of Lok Sabha representing Panskura Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal from Seventh to Thirteenth Lok Sabha continuously from 1980 till her death.

Shrimati Mukherjee had been a member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1977.

A devoted social and political worker, Shrimati Mukherjee started her political career as General Secretary, West Bengal Students Federation. During her membership of Lok Sabha she served as member of Panel of Chairmen in Lok Sabha and also as member of various parliamentary committees namely Committee on Public Undertakings, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Joint Committee on Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 1990, House Committee, General Purposes Committee, Consultative Committee on Ministry of Information and Broadcasting etc. She also served as Chairperson of Joint Committee on Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, 1996 providing for reservation of seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies and Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

As an active member of Lok Sabha, she always stood for the cause of welfare of the poor, the downtrodden and the weaker sections of the society. She was always in the forefront for the empowerment of women. Her crusading endeavours have culminated in a broad consensus for giving reservation to womenfolk in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

An experienced parliamentarian, she always actively participated in the proceedings related to national and international issues.

She took keen interest in literature and authored a few books namely 'Bharat Upakatha', 'Chotader Rabindranath', 'He Atit Katha Kao' in Bengali. She contributed regularly to various newspapers and weeklies. She also served as member of 'Press Council' and 'Court of Vishwa Bharati', National Commission on Rural Labour, National Commission on Women and National Children's Board.

A widely travelled person, she was a Secretariat member of Women's International Democratic Federation, Berlin, 1958.

Shrimati Mukherjee passed away on 4 March, 2000 at New Delhi at the age of 76.

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

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems hard to believe that now we will not be able to meet Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. Death is a hard and naked truth of life but we never expected that the cruel death would suddenly come, deceive us and snatch Geetaji away from us.

Her whole life passed in struggle. Her's was a fighting personality but alongwith fighting spirit she embedded in herself, a feelings of innocent live, and affection and also a firm resolve to stick to her beliefs. We continuously witnessed her presence in the House since 1980. Her sustained struggle for the cause of a common man outside the House always gave her a dignified place in the House. She always raised the fundamental issues which are very essential in our national life. What should be the form of post independence India, this idea always remained central to her and her party also and throughout the crests and turfs of her career she always remained committed and devoted to this aim and kept working tirelessly to achieve this objective. The sphere of her activities included certain ideal works such as the end of exploitation, discrimination and wish for the welfare of all etc. She played a significant role especially in empowering the women. She played a leading role over women reservation issue ever since it came to the fore, she was the chairperson of the parliamentary committee and *raison d'être* behind the presentation of unanimous report.

When, I after reverently bowing before her and paying floral tributes to her, I was coming out of her small room which was also a symbol of her personality. Living in small room and doing big deeds were the characteristics of her personality. The small room of Vithalbhai Patel House had become a centre of attraction for the people. At that time a women asked me to give consent to the Women Reservation Bill. That bill is the property of the House. Her memory

is with us. Her vacant place in the House would be filled up but the hearts of the people which have become empty in her absence, would be hard to fill. I, on behalf of myself and my alliance and the entire House offer my humble tributes to her.

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (AMETHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I join the hon. Prime Minister in paying homage to our esteemed colleague Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

With the passing away of Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, the country has lost a most respected figure in national politics and Parliament one of its most active, loved and admired Members.

Her dedication, her commitment, her personal integrity, her simplicity have been an inspiration to this House for the past 20 years. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, a petite figure, housed an indomitable spirit, a spirit of remarkable courage and determination evident even at an early age, when she participated in the struggle for the freedom, and she was even arrested and imprisoned several times. Her passionate belief in secularism, her crusade for social justice, for the alleviation of poverty, for women causes were the hallmark of her work, both in West Bengal where she served in the Legislative Assembly for ten years, and in Parliament later. The fact that she never lost an election is an eloquent tribute to the exemplary manner in which she served her party and her constituency.

But Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee's achievement as a Parliamentarian went much beyond her party and constituency for she made a lasting contribution to politics and society through the causes that she so ardently espoused. In the Eighties she was a nodal figure in getting the anti-dowry and anti-rape legislations passed by Parliament and more recently it was because of her drive and commitment that under her Chairpersonship, the Women Reservation Bill was prepared, I believe, in record time. Indeed, over the past two decades, Geetaji played a very crucial role in sensitising Parliament to issues concerning women. We bemoan Geeta Mukherjee passing. We shall miss her greatly. For 20 years, her presence here, in this Chamber was a constant reminder of the noble ideals and selfless service that politics should be driven by. This august House will never be the same without her.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like, on my behalf and on behalf of the Congress Party, to convey my condolences to her family and to the large number of her friends and admirers throughout the country, and the world.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (MIDNAPORE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is difficult for me to speak. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee was my sister, and all these many, many years that we have worked together I find it difficult to think of her only as a politician or a political leader or a political worker. She was

my sister. Her contributions and her achievements in public life, I leave to other Members to narrate, if they want to. I can only remember her as a person. She was a heart patient. She had a major heart operation a few years ago and only the other day we found out that the doctors were pressing her to go back into hospital for a proper check up and all that because she was not keeping well.

But, of course, she never listened to them. She never listened to them and we could not persuade her. So, this fatal disease overtook her when the time came.

Sir, I am grateful to you and to the House for the tributes that they are paying today to Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. Everybody knows that she was an outstanding person. My party, of course, has suffered a grievous blow. The House also has suffered a grievous blow. But death is inevitable; none of us can escape it and, I think, we should all try our best to live up to the standards, which she set in this House. Most of the Members do not know about her activities outside. But, we, who are fellow workers in our party, know how the common people, and especially in the villages, in the rural areas, deeply loved her and how close she was to them. Whenever they were in need, whenever they were suffering, whenever they required, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee was always there to help them.

Sir, we should try our best to follow the standards which she had set and, I am sure, the Members in this House will always respect and love her memories.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is almost impossible to believe that Geetadi is no longer with us and that she would not be sitting here.

Sir, I believe she was Geetadi to everyone of us; cutting across party lines, she had endeared herself because of the affection with which she held everybody. Everybody knew her to be a crusader for the common people, for the active interest she took inside the outside the House for the emancipation of the common people of this country, the vulnerable section of our Society.

Sir, as we all know, she was an active participant in the proceedings of this House. Even on the last Friday, we were here together till 3.40 p.m. and she wanted to make submissions on what was happening in one of the States of our country. We have had the great privilege of working closely with her both within and outside the Parliament. She always had a special place in the hearts of the common people. The greatness of hers was that it was not only the people of her constituency or the people connected with the Left Movement that had access to her but everybody from all walks of life – people from different States and districts – used to go to her because she never refused anybody. Whenever she felt that some cause should be taken up, she fearlessly did so. That is why she won the hearts of the people.

We have lost a colleague who was passionately devoted to the cause of the working class. She exemplified the

best the Communist Movement in the country. Her active political life, spread over nearly 60 years, bears eloquent testimony – the great dedication – to the cause which she held dear. It is very difficult to participate in an obituary of a great leader like that and so close to us. All of us here enjoyed the special affection from her. We looked up to her for guidance. She gave her affection and guidance to us in an abundant measure.

What she had done for the cause of empowerment of women should be written in letters of gold. She had made the country aware of the needs of the women in this country. Her attempts to get the Women's Reservation Bill passed in this House or in the Parliament of India was not merely a political decision. She genuinely believed, as many of us do, that that Bill, if passed, would give a real opportunity to the women of our country to come forward and take greater and active interest in our political life which would result in a better India and a better future for us.

We feel, and I appeal all to join the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and others in paying a tribute to her memory if all of us dedicate ourselves to the cause which she held dear and give a commitment to the nation that we shall pass the Bill as soon as possible so that we can pay a true tribute to her memory.

It is difficult to fill up the void that has been created now. I do not know when we shall have another 'Geetadi' - if at all it is possible. I had seen yesterday when I was in Calcutta how people were queuing up in front of her party office. The great shock that everybody has felt is shared by all of us here also. On behalf of my party and on my behalf and, if I may say so, on behalf of the entire working class and the common people of this country, we pay our humble tribute to her memory and our red salute to a great comrade, a great Communist, who dedicated her life to the common people. Sir, please convey our sincere condolences to her party colleagues and to her family.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Hon. Speaker Sir, I was in Visakhapatnam when I heard the news that Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee passed away. The Telugu Desam Party and Communist parties have had close relationship since 1983 to 1998. She had visited Andhra Pradesh many times. My party always have the highest regards for her.

The then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N.T. Rama Rao had introduced reservation for women in the local bodies before a constitutional amendment was brought in in this country. At that time, she had written to the then Chief Minister that in this great country, after Independence, for the first time we had introduced reservation for women in the local bodies even when there was no constitutional amendment for this.

Yesterday, I had been to Kolkata to pay my respectful homage to the departed soul. Sir, on behalf of my party and

on my own behalf, please convey our condolences to her family.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT (BARABANKI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself and my Samajwadi Party with the deep sentiments expressed by the leader of the House, leader of the opposition, Leader of the Communist party and by many other hon. leaders over the death of Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. Throughout her life Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee kept on presenting the cause of poor labourers in and outside the House. She always remind concerned for the upliftment of the women and struggled and worked for the cause of poor people of the different sections of society. Her passing away has weakened the cause of especially workers, poors and women and has dealt a great blow to them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, on behalf of the Samajwadi Party pay tributes on the death of Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee and submit before you to convey the feelings of Samajwadi Party to her family and the people associated with her.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (AKBARPUR) : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, on my behalf and on behalf of my party express my sorrow and grief at the sad demise of Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee and associate myself with the light thrown over her life and her works by the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. leaders of other parties.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, about Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee I feel that her absence is being felt after her sudden death. I felt very shocked when I came to know of her death. Today, when the leaders of her party have told in the House as to how she had died, I came to know that she was suffering from ill health for a long time but the day when she died, even at that day she was active and was about to go on a tour to the district Aligarh of Uttar Pradesh. When she was getting prepared to go there, she suffered a sudden heart attack which resulted in her death.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever I have come to know about her life it is evident that she has been a fighting personality since her student life and ever since she has entered politics, she never indulged in the politics of defection and it was most significant characteristics of her political career and she always remained in one party. I feel that she had a great attachment with her party and she never lost an election ever since her arrival in politics. It also reflects her popularity that she always kept on winning from a single constituency. This is indicative of the deep faith and regard of the people of her constituency possessed in her.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever an issue related to weaker sections was raised in the House, she always strongly advocated the cause of weaker section. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee always took care of the interests of the women. I have also seen that she always tried to convince the leader of various political parties that whatever they wanted to say over the Women Reservation Bill, should do so once the Bill is introduced in the House but first of all they should allow the Bill

to be presented in the House for discussion. She appealed to all the Members whether they belong to Opposition Parties or to ruling parties.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as all of us are aware about her temperament that she always worked in harmony with others and her temperament was very fine. I feel that the entire House is feeling her absence caused by her death. I, on my own behalf and on behalf of my party express my grief over her death and pray to God to give rest to her soul and submit to you to convey our sentiments to her family.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, in the demise of Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee the entire country has lost a devoted personality. She has been active in social and public life for more than sixty years. As a member of the Parliament for twenty years and as a Member of Legislative Assembly for ten years, she has been a shining example of an outstanding Parliamentarian. I still remember perhaps she was elected to this House for the first time in 1967 from West Bengal and I was elected from Maharashtra. At that time a camp was organised at Mysore under the aegis of Commonwealth Parliament Association to impart training to the new Members in which I also got an opportunity to participate. Geetaji also attended that camp. At that time we were quite young and were not serious Parliamentarians. But we saw that Geetaji was very punctual and she used to take notes of discussion regularly and participate in discussions. She used to concentrate on how she would become an ideal Parliamentarian. Since then she never deviated from that path. For the last several years the entire country and this House has seen in Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee an honest and cultured personality in the Public life.

Her commitment towards the reservation for women is well known in the House as well as outside. I got an opportunity to work with her in the Joint Select Committee. In the select committee she did her best to evolve unanimity amongst the Members of all the political parties. She was of the opinion that until fifty per cent of the population is not involved in the process of decision making the country cannot march forward on the path of progress, the face of the country cannot be changed and hence there is a need to give reservation to fifty per cent of the population of the country. She has all along put forward this view in the House as well as out side. She always tried to carry along the people who had diverse views.

I agree with the hon'ble Prime Minister that if we want to pay sincere homage to her then we will have to unanimously pass the constitution amendment Bill moved in the House to provide reservation for women for which she struggle in this very House. We can pay befitting homage to late Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee by empowering fifty per cent of our population. I on my own behalf and on behalf of my party pay my tributes to her.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (RAMANATHAPURAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir and the Members of the august House, at the

outset, on behalf of AIADMK and on my own behalf, I hasten to join with the hon. Speaker, the Prime Minister, followed by all the leaders of the political parties who spoke today, in expressing our heartfelt respect and homage to the departed soul who had reached the permanent abode of heaven.

In fact, it was a rude shock to hear the sad demise of Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee when we were in Chennai.

As new entrant of the House I have been watching her and observing her from a distance. After the allotment of Division numbers, she was just in front of me. As such it is a personal loss to me in particular to lose here in this House and as a friend in front of me.

As observed by all the leaders, she had an excellent vision followed by a mission to achieve that vision. She had a commitment to the cause. As rightly said, I am given to understand that she stood for the oppressed, the depressed, the suppressed and the deprived. As the hon. Speaker has rightly observed, as a social worker, as a reformer, as a legislator, as a parliamentarian, as a member of several committees and as the Chairman of few committees, her contribution was definitely solid, substantial and remarkable. When I think of the age-old, time-honoured, experienced Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. I am reminded of a Shakespearean couplet: "Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety." She was a woman of infinite variety, she was a lady of many parts. It is definitely a great loss not only to the House but also to the West Bengal State and to her near and dear. I again reiterate our homage and respects to her and to her near and dear on behalf of the AIADMK.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, today Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee is not amidst us and we are paying homage to her. I knew Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee for the last ten years because I have special attachment with region to which she belonged. I know personally how popular she was amongst the masses. I have seen her from close quarters during the twelfth Lok Sabha and the new Members like me learnt a lot from her. She was soft spoken and her simplicity was exemplary. She was particularly concerned about the upliftment of exploited and oppressed class and women and she struggled for their cause. Her political life is an example for others. I on my own behalf and on behalf of Samata Party pay sincere homage to her and pray to the almighty that her soul may rest in peace. I appeal to you to kindly convey the feelings to Samata Party to the bereaved family and wellwishers of Late Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (ARARIA) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, when I got the news of the demise of Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, I found it hard to believe that she was no more with us. I have had an opportunity to be associated with her since Ninth Lok Sabha. Her simplicity was really a source of inspiration. I associate myself with the tributes paid by the hon'ble Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition hon'ble

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and all other leaders and pay my sincere homage to the departed soul on my own behalf and on behalf of my party.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is so difficult to believe that Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee is no more. The news of her sudden demise left us all almost stunned. She was always held in high esteem and she would continue to be so held.

Sir, the causes that were championed by her and her heavy record of sincere work all tell us that such are the personalities who, in the words of a poet, departing, leave their footprints on the sands of time.

The House will be poorer without Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. Sir, we request you to convey our heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased.

[Translation]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (ALIPURDUARS) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, it is hard to believe that sister Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee is no more with us.

Sister Geeta Mukherjee started her political carrier from student life. She has struggled throughout her life till she breathed her last. She made a distinct mark in the hearts of not only the hon'ble Members of this House but also the hearts of the entire working class, farmers, people of Panskura and the country as a whole.

How we can forget the leading role she had played in nurturing the leftist and communist movement. Today she is no more with us but her life will remain an example for us. Her life style was unique. She discharged her duties efficiently in the House and led the movement to liberate women and particularly we cannot forget the leading role she had played in women's reservation Bill.

I on my own behalf and on behalf of my party R.S.P. express deep sorrow on her demise and pay my homage to her. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I request you to kindly convey our condolences to her family, well wishers, her party workers and the people of Panskura.

[English]

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

11.48 hrs.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while).

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Inadequate Telecommunication and Postal Network

*141. SHRI BASANGOUDA R. (YATNAL) PATIL :
SHRI R.S. PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of villages in the country are still out of the telecommunication and postal network;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the number of such villages as on date, State-wise; and

(d) the measures taken during last two years and proposed to be taken during 1999-2000 and the next financial year to ensure provision of telecommunication and postal network to all the villages ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) **Telecom Network** : Out of 6.07 lakh revenue villages in the country, telecom facilities have been provided in more than 3.58 lakh villages. 248,953 villages are still out of telecom facilities. During last two years, Department of Telecom Services has provided these facilities to 79,913 villages. Provision of village telephones is continuous process and all the villages are targetted to be progressively covered by 2002 i.e., end of 9th plan. New technologies have been identified to provide telecom facilities in the villages in future. Trials are in progress for Wireless in Local Loop, C-DOT TDMA/PMP and for remote and far-flung areas Satellite systems. Process to procure the equipment for introduction of these technologies has been initiated. Also new rural exchanges are being set up during the current financial year to provide rural telephones and village public telephones on landlines in the villages upto a distance of about 5 kms. from the exchanges. More exchanges will also be opened during the next two years of the 9th plan. Remaining 248,953 villages are proposed to be covered with joint efforts of Department of Telecom Services and Private Fixed Service Providers by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan. Year-wise programme is as under :

Year	Target of Department of Telecom Services
1999-2000	45,000
2000-2001	70,000
2001-2002	95,100

Private Fixed Service Providers' (FSPs) share is 56,615 villages.

The state-wise information about the villages out of telecom facility as on 1.3.2000 is in the enclosed statement I.

Postal Network : Opening of Post Offices to cover villages which fulfil the prescribed distance, income and population norms is a continuing activity and Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources as a part of the Plan Programme of the Department of Posts. During the 9th Five Year Plan a target of opening of 2500 Branch Post Offices in the country has been fixed. However, where it is not possible to open a Branch Post Office due to non-fulfilment of prescribed norms Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras which also provide basic postal services are being opened in a progressive manner as a part of plan activity.

As on 31.3.1999, 474,746 villages are without a Post Office which means that they do not have fixed hour postal counter facility. There is, however, no 'NO DAK' village in the country, i.e., the facilities of daily delivery and clearance of mail and of sale of stamps and stationery (through the Extra Departmental Delivery Agents) is extended to all the villages in the country. 114,338 Gram Panchayat Villages in the country have a Post Office, whereas 111,517 Gram Panchayat villages are without a Post Office. However, out of these only 4330 Gram Panchayat villages justify opening of a Post Office on the two norms of population and distance. The information on the number of villages without Post Office State-wise is at statement-II. The information on the State-wise figures of the Gram Panchayat villages justifying a Post Office on the two norms of distance and population is at the enclosed statement-III.

The Department of Posts has opened 1000 Branch Post Offices in the country during the last 2 years. During the current financial year, the Department has sanctioned 264 Branch Post Offices against the target of 500. The balance number of Branch Post Offices will be opened subject to sanction of ED Posts by the Ministry of Finance. In addition, the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana has also been in operation as a part of plan activity. The Department has so far set up 201 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras during the current financial year against the target of 500 for the current plan year. The Circle-wise targets in respect of setting up of the Post Offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras in the current financial year in statement-IV and V respectively.

Statement-I

Statwise Status of Villages with no Telecom facility as on 1.3.2000

State	No. of villages out of Telecom facilities
1	2
Andaman & Nicobar	28
Andhra Pradesh	6096
Assam	8371
Bihar	56674
Gujarat	4202

1	2
Haryana	43
Himachal Pradesh	7399
Jammu & Kashmir	3146
Karnataka	1963
Kerala	-
Madhya Pradesh	27470
Maharashtra	11055
Goa	36
Arunachal Pradesh	3011
Manipur	1710
Meghalaya	4443
Mizoram	152
Nagaland	632
Tripura	232
Orissa	25447
Punjab	603
Rajasthan	15153
Tamil Nadu	151
Uttar Pradesh (East)	32011
Uttar Pradesh (West)	17549
West Bengal	21212
Sikkim	164
Delhi	-
	248953

Statement-II

Details of Villages without a Post Office in the country as on 31.3.99

S.No.	State	No. of Villages without a Post Office
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12278
2.	Assam	22641
3.	Bihar	66528
4.	Delhi	79
5.	Gujarat	10386
	Dadra N. Haveli	38
	Daman & Diu	16
6.	Haryana	4453
7.	Himachal Pradesh	14353
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	4972
9.	Karnataka	19725

1	2	3
10. Kerala		-
Lakshadweep		-
11. Madhya Pradesh		61325
12. Maharashtra		30009
Goa		160
13. North East		-
Arunachal Pradesh		3379
Manipur		1398
Meghalaya		5038
Mizoram		312
Nagaland		896
Tripura		4057
14. Orissa		39470
15. Punjab		9039
Chandigarh		17
16. Rajasthan		28332
17. Tamil Nadu		6999
Pondicherry		233
18. Uttar Pradesh		94668
19. West Bengal		33596
Sikkim		113
A & N Islands		236
Total		474746

Statement-III*As on 31.3.99*

Circles	No. GP of villages with P.O. which justify opening of a PO on the two norms of distance and population	
	1	2
Andhra Pradesh		19
Assam		Nil

1	2
Bihar	1329
Delhi	Nil
Gujarat	139
D.N. Haveli	Nil
Daman & Diu	1
Haryana	13
Himachal Pradesh	35
J & K	85
Karnataka	381
Kerala	Nil
Lakshadweep	Nil
Madhya Pradesh	395
Maharashtra	455
Goa	Nil
North East	
Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
Manipur	17
Meghalaya	129
Mizoram	Nil
Nagaland	146
Tripura	64
Orissa	43
Punjab	10
Chandigarh	-
Rajasthan	93
Tamil Nadu	28
Pondicherry	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	922
West Bengal	Nil
A. N. Islands	1
Sikkim	25
Total	4330

Statement-IV

Circle-wise allocation of targets for opening Post Offices and providing infrastructural equipment to EDBOs during annual Plan

S.No.	Name of Circle	Extra Departmental Branch Post Office (EDBOs)			Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs)			Provision of Infrastructural equipment to EDBOs
		Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total	Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	5	15	2	nil	2	40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Assam	40	10	50	3	2	5	30
3.	Bihar	42	8	50	2	1	3	40
4.	Delhi	4	nil	4	2	nil	2	5
5.	Gujarat	26	4	30	3	nil	3	20
6.	Haryana	15	nil	15	2	nil	2	15
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7	3	10	nil	1	1	15
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	7	15	1	nil	1	10
9.	Karantaka	16	5	21	3	nil	3	30
10.	Kerala	4	nil	4	2	nil	2	20
11.	Madhya Pradesh	28	12	40	3	1	4	35
12.	Maharashtra	43	7	50	2	1	3	40
13.	North East	28	12	40	1	2	3	20
14.	Orissa	12	2	14	1	1	2	20
15.	Punjab	10	nil	10	1	nil	1	20
16.	Rajasthan	23	4	27	1	1	2	35
17.	Tamil Nadu	12	3	15	2	nil	2	35
18.	Uttar Pradesh	40	10	50	3	nil	3	45
19.	West Bengal	32	8	40	6	nil	6	25
Total		400	100	500	40	10	50	500

Statement-V

Allocation of targets for sitting up of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) during Annual Plan- 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of the Circle	Target
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30
2.	Assam	5
3.	Bihar	40
4.	Gujarat	35
5.	Haryana	10
6.	Himachal Pradesh	10
7.	Karnataka	30
8.	Madhya Pradesh	80
9.	Maharashtra	60
10.	North East	5
11.	Orissa	30
12.	Punjab	20
13.	Rajasthan	40
14.	Tamil Nadu	30
15.	Uttar Pradesh	65
16.	West Bengal	10
Total		500

Rural Electrification Programme

*142. SHRI KAMAL NATH :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has curtailed the power of his Ministry in regard to the rural electrification programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the scheme worked out by the Planning Commission for handling of funds in regard to the Rural Electrification Corporation and State Electricity Boards ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir. A provision of Rs. 480 crores existed in Demand No. 69 for Rural Electrification Corporation under State Plan. This has been retained for the year 2000-2001 but moved to Demand No. 30 - Transfers to States and Union Territory Governments as it is a part of the State Plan.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The loans for rural electrification will be released directly to the states by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the Ministry of Power.

Review of Policies pertaining to cellular operators

*143. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the problems and policies pertaining to the private cellular operators in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the reaction of the cellular operators thereto including the revision sought/directed in the rental tariff and related issues ; and

(d) the present status regarding the implementation of new rental tariff and other policy directives by the cellular operators?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In the context of implementation of New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99), a policy regarding migration of the existing licensees to NTP-99 regime of revenue sharing arrangement was approved on 6.7.1999. As a result, a Migration Package was offered to the existing Basic and Cellular Service licensees on 22.7.1999. On unconditional acceptance of the Migration Package, 20 Cellular Service companies holding 34 licenses and 6 basic service companies holding 6 licenses have come into revenue sharing regime and are at present in the process of migration.

Recently the prescribed due date of 31.1.2000 for payment of balance of the full outstanding license fee dues in terms of the Migration Package was extended to 15.3.2000 as a Final opportunity to the operators who could not adhere to the earlier deadline, but with additional penalties.

These steps have generally been welcomed by the Cellular Operators.

There are certain other subsisting problems like lock-in period for equity, restoration of terminated licenses etc. of cellular operators. These are being looked into by the 'Group on Telecom and IT (Information Technology) Convergence' which was appointed on 13.12.1999 under the chairmanship of Finance Minister. The Government will take further action on receipt of recommendations of the said Group.

The present status regarding cellular tariff is as below :

The Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India prescribed new cellular tariff including rentals which came into effect from 1st May, 1999. Cellular tariff including rentals was subsequently reduced vide 'Telecom Tariff (5th Amendment) Order, 1999' and simultaneously 'Calling Party Pays' (CPP) regime was notified vide 'Telecommunication Interconnection (Charges and Revenue Sharing - 1st Amendment) Regulation, 1999'. Both the Amendment Order and the Amendment Regulation

were challenged in the Delhi High Court and the Regulation was quashed by the Delhi High Court on 17th January, 2000. At present, cellular operators are offering standard tariff package with monthly rental of Rs. 475/- and Air Time Charge of Rs. 4/- per minute in Metros, and Rs. 500/- and Rs. 4.50 respectively in Telecom Circles.

Oil Selection Boards

*144. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairmen of all the Regional Oil Selection Boards have been appointed ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to appoint persons belonging to SC/ST as Chairman or Member on the Oil Selection Boards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) The Dealer Selection Boards have been dissolved recently. The reconstitution of Dealer Selection Boards is under process.

Perspective Plan for Development of National Highways

*145. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the perspective plan for the development of National Highways during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the targets fixed for the development of National Highways during the said Plan alongwith the likely shortfalls, if any;

(c) whether these projects are being discriminated against, vis-a-vis other infrastructure projects, on account of 10 per cent charge being levied on the gross receipts collected by BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) operations;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the names of private parties allowed to undertake the construction work on the National Highways as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) The perspective Ninth Five Year Plan approved by the Planning Commission lays stress on increased mobility on the road transport system. For this purpose it has laid stress on 4 laning/6 laning of Golden Quadri-

lateral connecting the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta, North-South corridor (Kashmir to Kanyakumari), East-West corridor (Silchar to Porbandar) and NH-47 connecting Salem to Cochin. On the remaining National Highways network, stress has been laid on removing capacity and structural constraints. This is achieved by a programme consisting of :

- (1) Widening selected single lane reaches to two lanes
- (2) Widening selected double lane reaches to four lanes
- (3) Strengthening of weak pavements in selected reaches and removal of geometric deficiencies
- (4) Construction of new bye-passes
- (5) Construction of major bridges

(6) Construction of minor bridges and Rail over Bridges

(7) Construction of Expressways on limited basis

(b) Targets and achievements in this direction in physical terms are tabulated in the enclosed statement-I. Target for completion of the Golden Quadrilateral and North-South and East-West corridors by NHAI are tabulated in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) No, Sir. No charge is being levied by us.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Any person/party having requisite experience and expertise can undertake contract work on National Highways. However, a list of private companies who have been awarded projects under BOT scheme is at Statement-III.

Statement-I

Physical Targets/Achievements for the Ninth Five Year Plan of Most (Department of Road Transport & Highways)

S. No.	Scheme	Unit	Ninth Plan Target (1997-2000) Km/Nos.	Performance for First Three Years (1997-2000) till December, 1999 of the Ninth Plan			Shortfall in achieving the targets (%agewise)	Balance Targets for remaining two years of the Ninth Plan
				Target (Km/Nos.)	Achievement (Km/Nos.)	Achievement in Percentage		
Normal NH works								
1.	Widening to two lanes	Km	1194	644	810	126	0	384
2.	Widening to four lanes	Km	202	130	224	172	0	0
3.	Strengthening weak 2 lanes	Km	2908	1651	1269	77	23	1639
4.	Bypasses	No.	20	15	5	33	67	15
5.	Major Bridges	No.	40	35	31	89	11	9
6.	Minor Bridges including	No.	226	183	119	65	35	107
7.	Expressways	On very selective basis where traffic density is exceptionally high						

Major shortfall have been in construction of bypasses and bridges. This is primarily due to time consuming process of land acquisition and shifting of services. Targets in widening to 2 lane/4 lane achieved because the funds meant for bypasses and bridges in the meantime utilised for widening activities.

Statement-II Works by NHAI

	Unit	Total length covered under the Project (Km)	Length already Four laned (Km)	On going works/under implem-entation (Feb./March 1999-2000)	Length to be awarded (Feb./March 1999-2000)	Length to be awarded (2000-2001)	Length to be awarded (2000-2002)	Total length for award (Km)	Target date of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. National Highway Development Project									
(a) Golden Quadrilateral									
Widening to four/six lanes	Km	5952	504	732	264	2733	1735	4732	Year 2003

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(b) North-South & East-West Corridors Widening to four/six lanes	Km	7300	628	264	16	370	0	386	Year 2009
Total	Km	13252	1132	996	280	3103	1735	5118	
2. Other works by NHAI	Km	1000	0	214	6	161	617	784	Year 2009

Statement-III

S.No.	Project Name	NH No.	State	Concessionaire
1.	Thane-Bhiwandi Bypass	3 & 4	Maharashtra	Ideal Road Builders, Mumbai
2.	Chalthan Road Over Bridge	8	Gujarat	M/s Ashvika Construction Co. Pvt. Ltd., Vadodara
3.	Udaipur Bypass	8	Rajasthan	M/s Atlanta Construction Company (I) Ltd. Mumbai
4.	Construction of Six Bridges	5	Andhra Pradesh	PVR Industries, Hyderabad
5.	Coimbatore Bypass	47	Tamil Nadu	L & T Ltd. Chennai
6.	Durg Bypass	6	Madhya Pradesh	M/s Sancheti Ltd. Nagpur
7.	Narmada Bridge	8	Gujarat	L & T Ltd. Chennai
8.	Nardhana ROB	3	Maharashtra	M/s Ayushajay Construction Pvt. Ltd. Indore
9.	Patelganga Bridge & ROB	17	Maharashtra	Ideal Road Builders Mumbai
10.	Hubli-Dharwar Bypass	4	Karnataka	Nandi Highways Developers Ltd. Pune
11.	Nellor Bypass	5	Andhra Pradesh	United Infrastructure Resources Pvt. Ltd. Chennai
12.	Korathalaiyar Bridge	5	Tamil Nadu	M/s Zoom Developers Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai
13.	Kambat ki Ghat Tunnel & Road	4	Maharashtra	Ideal Road Builders, Mumbai
14.	Nasirabad ROB	6	Maharashtra	Ashoka Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. Nasik
15.	Wainganga Bridge	6	Maharashtra	Ashoka Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. Nasik
16.	Mahi Bridge	8	Gujarat	M/s Vijay M. Mistry & Rajkamal Builders Ahmadabad
17.	ROB At Kishangarh Bypass	8	Rajasthan	Msk Projects (India) Ltd. Vadodara
18.	Bridge Across River Watrak	8	Gujarat	L & T Ltd. Chennai
19.	Moradabad Bypass	24	Uttar Pradesh	NHAI SPV
20.	ROB At Dera Bassi	22	Punjab	M/s R.S. Builders, Ludhiana

Opening of Post Offices

*146. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open Extra Departmental Post Offices in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the number of applications pending in this regard, particularly for Bihar;

(c) the time by which these are likely to be opened up particularly in West Bengal, Maharashtra and Bihar; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the functioning of the existing ED Post Offices ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The Department proposes to open Extra Departmental post offices in the rural areas of the country as a part of plan activity subject to availability of resources and fulfilment of the norms.

(b) The Department has received a total of 842 applications for opening of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in the country. The Circle wise break up is given in enclosed statement. Out of total of 598 applications in Bihar examination has been completed in 167 cases. The remaining 431 applications are under different stages of consideration. Out of 167 proposals, already examined only 75 were found justified as per prescribed norms. The target for opening of Branch Offices for Bihar, however, is fixed at 50 for 1999-2000. So far 45 EDBOs are already sanctioned and 5 will be sanctioned shortly.

(c) The targets and their achievement so far the year 1999-2000 for opening of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in West Bengal, Maharashtra and Bihar is given below :

Name of State	Target	Already sanctioned
West Bengal	43	41
Maharashtra	50	49
Bihar	50	45

The remaining portion of the target is likely to be achieved by 31st March, this year.

(d) During the current year, 500 EDBOs have been provided with infrastructural equipment to improve their functioning.

Statement

Number of applications received for opening of Branch Post Offices in the rural areas :

1. Andhra Pradesh	5
2. Assam	6
3. Bihar	598
4. Delhi	1
5. Gujarat	1
6. Haryana	6
7. Himachal Pradesh	6
8. J & K	3
9. Karnataka	12
10. Kerala	5
11. M.P.	1
12. Maharashtra	6
13. N.E.	3
14. Orissa	8
15. Punjab	5
16. Rajasthan	8
17. Tamil Nadu	5
18. U.P.	109
19. West Bengal	54
Total	842

Empowerment of Lok Adalats

*147. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to accord more powers to Lok Adalats so that they could deal with a wide spectrum of issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases settled by the Lok Adalats during 1999;

(d) whether the Government propose to accord legal status to the Lok Adalat;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;

(f) the number of Lok Adalats held from 1.10.1990 till date in Gujarat, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai and Maharashtra alongwith the details thereof; and

(g) the number of cases brought before these Adalats and disposed of during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) No. Sir, There is no proposal at present to accord more powers to Lok Adalats. The Lok Adalats have already been conferred statutory status by the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

(c) As per information provided by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) 10,30,828 cases have been settled throughout the country.

(d) and (e) Lok Adalats, which heretofore were voluntary efforts for Resolution of Disputes through persuasive and conciliatory methods, have been placed on a statutory footing with the enforcement of Legal Services Authorities Act in the County with effect from 9th November, 1995.

(e) and (g) The requisite information is being obtained from the concerned State Legal Services Authorities and will be laid on the table.

Defaulting Public Limited Companies

*148. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has prepared a list of the Public Limited Companies which have faced heavy erosion of Equity Capital/Assets during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details in this regard particularly in respect of Steel, Synthetic Fibre, Papers and Textile Industry;

(c) the details of the funds to be paid to the banks/ financial institutions by such companies; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Companies are required to file the Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet as a statutory obligation in the office of Registrar of Companies as per provisions of Companies Act, 1956. Specific studies/analysis of financial health of companies is taken on the request of the nodal Ministry (ies) or if complaints have been received from Statutory bodies like Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) etc.

(b) to (d) Paper is a delicenced industrial commodity.

The Ministry of Textiles has informed that 29 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Mills were closed down during 1999-2000. 7 units are registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and 331 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Mills have been reported as closed as on 31.12.1999. Technological obsolescence is one of the main reasons for erosion of equity capital etc. An Expert Committee on Textile Policy constituted in 1998 by the Ministry of Textiles has submitted its report and the recommendations of the Committee are under consideration.

With regard to Steel, rise in input costs, lack of adequate demand, dumping from neighbouring countries have mainly contributed to the erosion of equity capital. A Steel Exporters Forum has been set up by the Department of Steel to help steel exporters to overcome bottlenecks in exports, rationalization of Duty Entitlement Pass Book, rates for steel exports has been carried out. An empowered Committee has been set up to examine and assist specific Research & Development projects and enhance quality of Indian steel by the Department of Steel.

There is no built in system to collect such information by the Department of Banking.

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana

*149. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana (PSSY) was launched in 1995;

(b) if so, the number of PSSY kendras functioning in the country alongwith assessment of their performance during the last three years and till date, State-wise;

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats that have expressed their willingness to introduce the said scheme in their respective areas in the country during 1999-2000, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the PSSY kendras proposed to be set up in the Gram Panchayats of the country during 1999-2000, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana Scheme was launched in 1995.

(b) The number of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana Kendras (PSSKs) all of which are functioning satisfactorily in the country during the last three years and till date is given below State-wise :

S.No.	Name of the Circle	No. of PSSY kendras functioning in the country during the last three years
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38
2.	Assam	6
3.	Bihar	69
4.	Delhi	—
5.	Gujarat	163
6.	Haryana	28
7.	Himachal Pradesh	253
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—
9.	Karnataka	34
10.	Kerala	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	150
12.	Maharashtra	97
13.	North East	5
14.	Orissa	130
15.	Punjab	6
16.	Rajasthan	18
17.	Tamil Nadu	28
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1036
19.	West Bengal	8
Total		2068

(c) List Gram Panchayats who have expressed their willingness to introduce the said scheme the year 1999-2000 is given below State-wise :

S.No.	Name of the Circle	No. of Gram Panchayats willing to introduce PSSKs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2.	Assam	At present there is no elected Gram Panchayats in the State and the affairs of the Gram Panchayat are being looking to by Sr. BDOs and BDOs. PSSKs are being opened with the cooperation of BDOs.
3.	Bihar	No Panchayat elections were held in Bihar. Hence question of expressing willingness

1	2	3
		does not arise. However, PSSKs are being opened with the cooperation of BDOs.
4. Delhi	Nil	
5. Gujarat	40	
6. Haryana	7	
7. Himachal Pradesh	8	
8. Jammu & Kashmir	Gram Panchayats non-functional due to militancy	
9. Karnataka	Nil	
10. Kerala	Nil	
11. Madhya Pradesh	2 for the year 1999-2000. However 4416 Gram Panchayats have expressed their willingness in the year 1998-1999.	
12. Maharashtra	666	
13. North East		
Manipur	6	
Tripura	3	
14. Orissa	23	
15. Punjab	State Government have identified 74 Gram Panchayats and requested us to open the PSSKs.	
16. Rajasthan	Nil	
17. Tamil Nadu	320	
18. Uttar Pradesh	48	
19. West Bengal	5	
Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil	

(d) The number of PSSKs proposed to be set up State-wise in the country during current financial year is given below :

Andhra Pradesh	30
Assam	5
Bihar	40
Gujarat	35
Haryana	10
Himachal Pradesh	10
Karnataka	30
Madhya Pradesh	80
Maharashtra	60
North East	5

Orissa	30
Punjab	20
Rajasthan	40
Tamil Nadu	30
Uttar Pradesh	65
West Bengal	10
Total	500

LPG Agencies

*150. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) the locations identified for opening of LPG agencies in the country during the next three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any targets have been fixed to open LPG agencies in the country during the current plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(d) the extent to which the targets fixed to set up LPG agencies could be achieved during the Eighth Plan period;

(e) the locations where the LPG agencies allotted during the last three years are still not functional.

(f) whether the Government propose to cancel such allotments so that the fresh agencies could be allotted at these locations; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) Oil Industry periodically conducts feasibility surveys for identifying viable locations of setting up LPG distributorships in different parts of the country. Locations found economically viable are included in the marketing plan. Selection of distributors is made through the process of advertisement of the locations and interviews by the Dealer Selection Boards. This is a continuous process and no targets for setting up distributorship is fixed.

Upto the Marketing Plan 1996-98, 3430 locations were pending for selection of LPG distributors of which Oil Companies have already advertised 2822 locations, and out of these interviews for 582 locations have been conducted. Selection of distributors for the remaining 2848 locations has yet to be made.

(e) 184 LPG distributorships reportedly allotted during the last three years have not been commissioned.

(f) and (g) As per the existing policy, Letters of Intent (LOIs) are issued by the Oil Companies to the candidates

placed at No.1 in the merit panels. The LOI holder is required to commission the distributorship within 6 months of the date of LOI, failing which Oil Company has the right to withdraw the LOI and issue the same to the next person in the merit panel. However, on its satisfaction extension of time may be permitted by the Oil Company. In case he is also not able to commission the distributorship within the stipulated time, Oil Companies can cancel the LOI and readvertise the location or change the location.

Poaching of Wildlife

*151. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

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

(a) whether smuggling of tiger, leopard and other protected animals' skins and parts of their body, worth crores of rupees, takes place annually;

(b) if so, the estimated value of tiger, leopard and other animals' skins and parts of their body smuggled out of the country annually;

(c) the estimated value of the skins and parts of body of such animals seized in various parts of the country during the last one year;

(d) the areas identified by the Government where poaching of wildlife continues unabated despite various measures taken by the Government;

(e) the reasons therefor;

(f) the measures being contemplated by the Government to deal with the wildlife related crimes;

(g) whether Government have considered the question of setting up a specialised investigating agency to deal with the wildlife related crimes; and

(h) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Details of skins and parts of wild animals seized in various states in the last one year is at enclosed statement. Of these, 11 seizures were made by the Customs Authorities. The value of articles covered by these seizures, which were intended for illegal export, comes to approximately Rs. 20 lakhs.

(d) Cases of poaching have been detected both inside and outside the protected areas. However, the incidences of poaching are higher outside the protected areas due to inadequate enforcement infrastructure.

(e) The lucrative prices offered for wildlife products

outside India is the main incentive for poaching and illegal trade in wildlife products.

(f) The measures contemplated by the Government to deal with wildlife related crimes include :

- Setting up of a Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment & Forests), Government of India. Similar Committees have been established at State level and district level in various States.
- Providing assistance to state Governments for strengthening the infrastructure through involvement of Armed Squads and Strike Forces drawn out of paramilitary forces and State armed constabulary.
- Strengthening the infrastructure under the Central Government and to ensure its presence in all sensitive areas.
- Authorise Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to apprehend offenders and launch prosecution in wildlife offences.
- Periodic meetings with State Governments for effective monitoring of protection measures undertaken.

(g) and (h) A proposal is under consideration in the Ministry for setting up of a special mechanism for wildlife trade prevention and control to deal with the poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

Statement			
S. No.	Animal parts & Products seized	State	Quantity
1	2	3	4
1.	Cobra skin	Maharashtra	45 nos.
2.	Lizard skin	Maharashtra	11000 nos.
3.	Grey Jungle Fowl feathers	West Bengal	0.89 kg.
4.	Peacock feathers	West Bengal	4.75 kg.
5.	Mongoose hair	West Bengal	4.5 kg.
6.	Deer horns	West Bengal & Tamil Nadu	7.6 MTs (Approx.)
7.	Porcupine quills	West Bengal	100 nos.
8.	Birds of prey-legs	West Bengal	3 nos.
9.	Crocodile skin	West Bengal	1 no.
10.	Deer skin	West Bengal	6 nos.
11.	Monitor Lizard skin	West Bengal	1 no.
12.	Pangolin skin	Assam	3 nos.

1	2	3	4
13. Python skin	Assam	2 nos.	
14. Butterflies	West Bengal	1.97 kgs.	
15. Live birds	West Bengal	13 nos.	
16. Live birds	Delhi	159 nos.	
17. Sambar & Cheetal	Delhi	650 nos.	
buttons			
18. Shahtoosh shawls	Delhi	132 nos.	
19. Black buck skin	Uttar Pradesh	121 nos.	
20. Tiger skin	Andhra Pradesh	2 nos.	
21. Tiger skin	Delhi	1 no.	
22. Tiger skin	Madhya Pradesh	10 nos.	
23. Tiger skin	Maharashtra	4 nos.	
24. Tiger skin	Tamil Nadu	1 no.	
25. Tiger skin	Uttar Pradesh	18 nos.	
26. Tiger skin	West Bengal	7 nos.	
27. Tiger bone	Assam	15 kgs.	
28. Tiger bone	Madhya Pradesh	83 kgs.	
29. Tiger bone	Maharashtra	2.5 kgs.	
30. Tiger bone	Uttar Pradesh	1.52 kgs.	
31. Tiger nails	Tamil Nadu	5 nos.	
32. Tiger nails	Uttar Pradesh	132 nos.	
33. Panther skin	Madhya Pradesh	15 nos.	
34. Panther skin	Maharashtra	2 nos.	
35. Panther skin	Rajasthan	4 nos.	
36. Panther skin	Tamil Nadu	1 no.	
37. Panther skin	Uttar Pradesh	126 nos.	
38. Panther nails	Uttar Pradesh	18000 nos.	

Speed Post Services

*152. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the speed post services rendered by the Department of Posts are indulging in unfair trade practices and not delivering the articles within the stipulated period;

(b) if so, whether an internal enquiry conducted by Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has revealed that the services rendered by the Speed Posts are not satisfactory; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to tone up the functioning of Speed Posts throughout the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Speed Post Articles are delivered by the Department of Posts adhering to the norms of delivery between one National Speed Post Centre and the other Speed Post Centres evolved depending upon their respective geographical locations and mode of transport available between them. There can be occasion when articles may not be delivered within the stipulated period on account of dislocation of transport services. In such cases, Speed Post charges are refunded in full by the Department of Posts to the sender of the Speed Post article.

In an internal enquiry into late delivery of Speed Post articles Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission held that the Department of Posts did not fulfil its obligation of delivering the two Speed Post articles in stipulated time and, therefore, the services were not satisfactory.

The facts of the case are that two Speed Post articles No. 3882 and 3883 booked on 8.10.1994 from Hauz Khas Post Office and destined for Siliguri and Gangtok were not delivered within delivery norms. The Speed Post charges of Rs. 31/- and Rs. 58/- for these two articles were refunded to the sender due to late delivery. The sender also informed the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission that she did not wish to pursue the matter having received the refund of Speed Post charges. The Commission, however, investigated the matter and directed that Department of Posts should not indulge in unfair trade practice by not making the customer aware of terms and conditions of acceptance of letters/articles and by not delivering them within stipulated time. The Department of Posts has already taken the following steps to tone up the functioning of the Speed Post Services :

(a) Delivery through dedicated staff (b) Mechanisation of delivery (c) Free pick-up service from the customer's premises. (d) Computerisation of booking and delivery (e) Introduction of Track & Trace System (f) Monitoring of quality.

Protection of Wetland Sites

*153. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
SHRI VAIKO :

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

(a) whether in 1998, the Government had committed at an international convention to identify and protect 30 wetland sites in the country, covering an area of 2.8 million hectares of wetland;

(b) whether financial assistance has been offered by any international agency for the purpose;

(c) the funds required by Government to extend meaningful and significant protection to the new wetland sites; and

(d) the details of plans to enforce protection of the proposed wetland sites ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) In the Seventh Meeting of Contracting Parties of Ramsar Convention held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 10-18th May, 1999, Government of India declared twenty new wetlands in the country as Ramsar sites. No commitment either on the names or the covered area of wetlands was made.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Ten new wetlands have already been identified and additional wetlands will be identified shortly. The requirement of funds and protection Plans for the new Wetland sites depend on the identification of all the sites.

Keeping wild Animals in personal Captivity

*154. **SHRI V. VETRISILVAN :**
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) the details of guidelines at present applicable for keeping the wild animals in personal captivity;

(b) the number of cases reported during the last three years, where these directives have been violated so far;

(c) the number of cases registered against the guilty during the said period, State-wise;

(d) the action taken against the persons held responsible in keeping the wild animals, during this period, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to review these guidelines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Wildlife (Protection) Act does not permit the keeping of the wild animals in captivity by individuals. However, the wildlife officials are empowered to give the animals, confiscated by them from the persons violated the provisions of the Act, to any individual for safe custody on the execution of a bond by him for production of such animals, if and when so required, before the magistrate having jurisdiction to try the offence on account of which the seizure has been made. The authorised officers are also empowered to allow the public museums/recognised zoos to keep wild animals for exhibition for educational purposes.

(b) to (d) Since implementation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act is the responsibility of the State Government and action in the matter is taken at the level of Divisional Forest Officer/Wildlife Warden in various States, the information is not compiled and collated at national level.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Environment Projects

*155. **DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects undertaken for the improvement of environment during the last three years in the country, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the extent of success achieved in this regard so far, State-wise; and

(c) the details of such projects to be undertaken in the near future, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The details of projects undertaken for the improvement of environment during the last three years and the extent of success achieved are given in the Statement enclosed. These schemes are likely to be continued in the near future.

Statement

Projects undertaken for the improvement of environment during the last three years State-wise

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	States	Financial Achievement		
			1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Non-Timber forest Produce including Medicinal Plants	Andhra Pradesh	59.00	48.39	36.86
		Arunachal Pradesh	25.84	0.00	5.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Assam	15.00	13.50	14.00
		Bihar	0.00	14.00	14.00
		Goa	8.45	8.22	10.87
		Gujarat	111.13	57.68	58.66
		Haryana	39.95	36.30	38.25
		Himachal Pradesh	43.08	28.63	4.00
		Jammu & Kashmir	149.88	97.05	151.35
		Karnataka	30.00	43.00	53.87
		Kerala	20.16	10.35	4.00
		Madhya Pradesh	54.25	71.00	69.80
		Maharashtra	20.00	38.51	48.66
		Manipur	71.36	18.00	47.24
		Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	12.00
		Mizoram	8.50	17.90	25.00
		Nagaland	10.00	0.00	5.00
		Orissa	78.60	48.00	102.88
		Punjab	80.00	29.50	4.00
		Rajasthan	47.30	58.61	130.40
		Sikkim	113.00	32.50	61.31
		Tamil Nadu	15.00	0.00	33.00
		Tripura	8.00	6.35	10.15
		Uttar Pradesh	0.00	53.00	0.00
		West Bengal	61.65	21.47	59.70
2.	I.A. and Eco	Andhra Pradesh	263.49	0.00	174.17
	Development Project	Arunachal Pradesh	117.13	65.21	59.57
		Assam	20.00	65.35	121.65
		Bihar	73.45	69.35	65.89
		Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Gujarat	0.00	36.63	65.05
		Haryana	154.00	82.21	89.72
		Himachal Pradesh	129.18	0.00	65.35
		Jammu & Kashmir	238.34	179.64	344.58
		Karnataka	232.73	143.72	187.01
		Kerala	35.89	135.15	345.77
		Madhya Pradesh	151.76	319.66	441.53
		Maharashtra	16.55	174.29	257.83
		Manipur	286.50	98.30	354.89
		Meghalaya	27.41	0.00	0.00
		Mizoram	81.50	77.11	132.43
		Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Orissa	16.00	0.00	224.92

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Punjab	97.50	77.54	89.17
		Rajasthan	267.78	242.25	343.81
		Sikkim	181.35	112.73	192.96
		Tamil Nadu	1.29	0.00	22.53
		Tripura	76.00	79.57	70.32
		Uttar Pradesh	729.59	223.73	405.64
		West Bengal	151.35	21.70	168.22
3.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project	Andhra Pradesh	122.74	144.88	89.79
		Arunachal Pradesh	12.23	6.00	0.00
		Assam	120.66	70.00	83.95
		Bihar	75.00	17.40	37.18
		Goa	6.61	5.00	3.00
		Gujarat	122.73	135.98	157.10
		Haryana	255.73	194.38	261.00
		Himachal Pradesh	190.00	142.08	58.20
		Jammu & Kashmir	72.01	120.33	42.31
		Karnataka	245.39	195.31	74.45
		Kerala	103.30	87.17	106.96
		Madhya Pradesh	482.82	210.18	500.50
		Maharashtra	78.67	75.00	27.91
		Manipur	146.82	100.00	128.75
		Meghalaya	74.46	0.00	0.00
		Mizoram	275.00	244.12	211.91
		Nagaland	10.00	0.00	4.23
		Orissa	138.20	91.14	69.21
		Punjab	50.00	169.14	20.98
		Rajasthan	256.62	304.61	263.35
		Sikkim	74.00	69.99	67.18
		Tamil Nadu	132.95	133.45	84.24
		Tripura	55.19	94.30	33.19
		Uttar Pradesh	360.47	212.44	205.62
		West Bengal	151.64	134.68	168.99
4.	Grants-in Aid Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	22.71	37.43	24.69
		Bihar	11.00	3.75	8.70
		Gujarat		1.43	6.77
		Himachal Pradesh	2.67	0.51	
		Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	2.93	1.75
		Karnataka	10.32	35.76	14.78
		Madhya Pradesh	1.93		3.93
		Meghalaya	4.44		1.09
		Manipur			3.84

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Nagaland			15.40
		Orissa	6.98	6.85	0.85
		Sikkim			1.00
		Tamil Nadu	9.56	19.73	13.43
		Tripura			
		Uttar Pradesh	46.17	18.99	21.46
		West Bengal	34.21	13.41	12.77
5.	Project Tiger	Andhra Pradesh	10.70	18.01	18.50
		Arunachal Pradesh	20.00	47.68	30.60
		Assam	45.08	35.00	87.29
		Bihar	36.75	153.99	109.90
		Karnataka	25.00	69.34	128.17
		Kerala	34.95	39.19	42.67
		Madhya Pradesh	133.78	225.13	278.79
		Maharashtra	60.53	110.74	114.44
		Mizoram	12.45	9.65	21.43
		Orissa	49.30	67.65	72.45
		Rajasthan	149.89	472.27	211.10
		Tamil Nadu	45.60	32.50	58.78
		Uttar Pradesh	125.01	199.75	212.95
		West Bengal	58.95	179.99	137.14
6.	Eco Development Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	8.09	12.07	14.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	10.76	11.82
		Assam	10.25	24.50	20.00
		Bihar	—	15.00	25.00
		Karnataka	24.19	—	29.80
		Madhya Pradesh	8.00	62.69	38.80
		Maharashtra	7.44	33.60	34.86
		Mizoram	10.50	—	10.00
		Orissa	25.63	—	—
		Rajasthan	25.00	51.94	15.28
		Uttar Pradesh	27.26	48.69	9.78
		West Bengal	47.40	21.90	27.85
7.	Eco Development in and Around Protected Areas	Andhra Pradesh	17.31	28.00	30.53
		Arunachal Pradesh	—	4.47	2.00
		Assam	—	17.84	—
		Bihar	—	—	13.39
		Gujarat	—	—	9.64
		Himachal Pradesh	58.40	—	86.84
		Jammu & Kashmir	22.49	—	13.70
		Karnataka	10.46	20.35	32.45

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Kerala	—	70.55	36.45
		Madhya Pradesh	43.33	3.20	15.40
		Maharashtra	—	8.28	51.82
		Manipur	4.75	10.40	10.11
		Mizoram	—	2.00	35.50
		Nagaland	—	10.00	8.00
		Orissa	20.15	22.60	12.00
		Punjab	9.14	10.20	—
		Rajasthan	11.93	1.50	1.46
		Sikkim	—	5.85	26.00
		Tamil Nadu	4.12	18.10	31.96
		Tripura	—	44.40	—
		Uttar Pradesh	14.19	53.17	41.73
		West Bengal	19.13	22.49	21.04
8.	Beneficiary Oriented Tribal Development Scheme	Karnataka	22.08	25.00	—
		Madhya Pradesh	77.92	45.00	350.00
		Orissa	—	40.00	—
9.	National River Conservation Plan	Andhra Pradesh	210.00	200.00	—
		Bihar	142.23	—	—
		Gujarat	300.00	650.00	220.00
		Karnataka	115.00	—	90.00
		Maharashtra	12.79	100.00	—
		Madhya Pradesh	71.56	124.00	500.00
		Orissa	12.43	—	—
		Punjab	450.00	—	500.00
		Rajasthan	0.17	—	—
		Tamil Nadu	85.62	—	90.00
10.	Ganga Action Plan Phase-II	Bihar	158.03	—	—
		Delhi	462.50	82.59	200.00
		Haryana	6337.60	2585.00	2650.00
		Uttar Pradesh	2035.27	5413.50	5350.00
		West Bengal	429.62	—	400.00
11.	Ganga Action Plan Phase-I	Bihar	4.46	—	—
		Uttar Pradesh	565.50	274.00	250.00
		West Bengal	363.45	55.60	—
12.	Conservation and Management of Mangroves	Andhra Pradesh	13.00	—	28.02
		Karnataka	7.00	—	—
		Kerala	8.50	—	—
		Tamil Nadu	5.00	10.62	19.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
		West Bengal	8.99	66.82	63.60
13. Conservation and		Andhra Pradesh	-	-	8.89
Management of Wetlands		Himachal Pradesh	12.00	34.80	12.76
		Jammu & Kashmir	41.00	-	45.87
		Manipur	110.00	97.65	67.48
		Punjab	5.40	-	-
		Tripura	-	-	5.00

Cellular Mobile Telephone Service by DOT

*156. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) is entering into the cellular mobile telephone service;

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

(c) whether the DOT has geared itself to meet the competition from the private operators; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Department of Telecom Services (DTS) has proposed to introduce cellular telephone service initially as a pilot project covering 4 States of the country. The cities proposed for pilot project are given in the enclosed statement. After successful implementation of pilot project, case for wider introduction of cellular service shall be considered.

DTS is entering in the service of cellular mobile telephony as a third operator as per the provisions in the New Telecom Policy 1999. Naturally the DTS shall face the competition from the private operators, for which appropriate action shall be taken to meet the challenge.

Statement**Andhra Pradesh**

1. Hyderabad	4000 lines
2. Vijayawada	1000 lines
3. Tirupati	1000 lines
4. Guntur	1000 lines
5. Vishakapatnam	1000 lines
6. Amalapuram	1000 lines
7. Kakinada	1000 lines

Tamil Nadu

8. Chennai	4000 lines
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9. Madurai 1000 lines

10. Coimbatore 1000 lines

Bihar

11. Patna 4000 lines

12. Bihar Shariff 1000 lines

13. Hajipur 1000 lines

14. Badh 1000 lines

15. Ara 1000 lines

16. Rajgir 1000 lines

West Bengal

17. Calcutta 5000 lines

18. Haldia 1000 lines

Total 31000 lines

World Bank Study on Power Sector Policies

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

(a) whether the World Bank is interested in conducting a study on India's Power sector policies;

(b) if so, whether the Government have rejected the proposal of the World Bank in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) the details to guidelines issued by the World Bank during the last three years in regard to India's power sector policies; and

(e) the extent to which the Government have implemented them so far ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No proposal has been received from the World Bank for conducting a study on India's power sector policies.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The World Bank does not issue any guidelines in regard to India's power sector policies. They generally lay down covenants at the time of signing the loan agreements with the borrowing/project implementing agencies for grant of loan for a particular power project/scheme. The Bank has its own internal operational procedures, policies and guidelines.

Shahtoosh Shawls

*158. MAJ. GEN (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "The Shahtoosh Wars" appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated December 21, 1999;

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

(c) whether Article 36A of schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Act 1972 is applicable to Jammu and Kashmir State;

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to resolve the anomaly of "non-protection" of CHIRU (Tibetan Antelope) in one part of the country;

(e) whether the Government had taken a view regarding the action to be taken against the owners of Shahtoosh Shawls; and

(f) if so, the number of cases in which the punishment has been awarded to the offenders during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Government is aware of an article entitled "The Shahtoosh Wars", published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 28-12-1999.

(b) Tibetan Antelope is included in Schedule I of Wild life (Protection) Act and the Government is fully committed to implement the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act is respect of Tibetan Antelope like any other species included in Schedule I of the act.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The State Government of Jammu & Kashmir has been requested to provide protection to Tibetan Antelope as is applicable to other parts of the country.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Details of the cases of illegal possession of Shahtoosh Shawls/ wool detected by various agencies in the last three years is enclosed as statement. Cases have been filed against the offenders in the competent courts of law.

Statement

Seizures during 1997, 1998 and 1999

S.No.	Date	Place	Quantity	Detected by
1.	9.1.97	Calcutta	3 shawls	Wildlife
2.	11.2.98	Bangalore	9 shawls	Police/Wildlife
3.	27.4.98	Delhi	7 Shawls	Wildlife/Customs
4.	26.2.99	Delhi	9 Shawls	Customs/Wildlife
5.	3.3.99	Delhi	10 Shawls	Wildlife
6.	13.3.99	Delhi	96 Shawls	Wildlife
7.	14.4.99	Delhi	13 Shawls	Customs/Wildlife
8.	15.3.99	Delhi	13 Shawls	Customs/Wildlife

Outstanding Dues of SEBs

*159. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are outstanding dues of State Electricity Boards to the Union Government;

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

(c) whether certain amounts of the State Governments including Bihar are outstanding against the Department of Power of the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to adjust the amount outstanding against them with those of the States, particularly with Bihar;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the response of Bihar Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The outstanding due of Power Sector PSUs as on 31.1.2000 is given in enclosed statement-I. Outstanding dues of Ministry of Railways as on 31.3.1999 against various SEBs is given in enclosed statement-II.

(c) and (d) Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation has reported an amount of Rs. 3.26 lakhs outstanding against Power Grid Corporation of India. Bihar State Electricity Board has not reported any amount as outstanding against Ministry of Power of Union Government.

(e) to (g) In view of the position as explained at (c) & (d) above, the question do not arise.

Statement-I**SEB-wise outstanding dues of Power Sector PSUs
as on 31st January, 2000 (including surcharge)****(Rs. in crores)**

S.No.	SEBs/States	NEEPCO	NTPC	PFC	DVC	NHPC	REC	PGCIL
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	266.78	52.00 ***	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.17
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.62	0.17	3.63
3.	Assam	547.37	34.07	0.00	1.70	-0.89	110.94	93.10
4.	Bihar	0.00	2174.17	0.00	1490.42	29.14	375.51	173.71
5.	Gujarat	0.00	401.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57	35.88
6.	Goa	0.00	13.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.81
7.	HVPN (HSEB)	0.00	428.73	0.00	0.00	814.96	0.00	21.95
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	25.55	0.00	0.00	64.15	0.00	2.24
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	477.66	0.00	0.00	609.18	0.49	117.95
10.	Karnataka	0.00	187.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.51	32.65
11.	Kerala	0.00	116.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.74
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	648.19	36.00 **	0.00	0.00	877.20	20.56
13.	Maharashtra	0.00	437.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	14.88
14.	Manipur	98.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.60	13.98	24.80
15.	Meghalaya	6.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.06	25.04	3.37
16.	Mizoram	26.85	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.05	13.03	5.34
17.	Nagaland	50.20	0.00	2.00	0.00	6.14	0.04	12.27
18.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	0.00	612.20	33.00	0.00	12.46	69.07	8.52
19.	Punjab	0.00	11.07	0.00	0.00	265.76	0.41	4.39
20.	Rajasthan	0.00	247.51	0.00	0.00	177.60	23.04	85.85
21.	Sikkim	0.00	24.52	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	9.37
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	27.41
23.	Tripura	34.23	270.91	0.00	0.00	5.18	0.32	6.79
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	1759.11	8.00	0.00	1059.50	90.68	476.29
25.	WBSEB	0.00	1175.76	4.00 *	589.38	11.64	403.98	58.59
26.	DVB (DESU)	0.00	2386.63	0.00	0.00	422.71	0.00	148.68
27.	DVC	0.00	459.44	0.00	0.00	21.31	0.00	11.69
28.	DNH	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.44
29.	UTC	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.00	7.66	0.00	-0.09
30.	Daman & Diu	0.00	2.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.91
31.	Pondicherry	0.00	28.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
32.	Cooperatives	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.96	0.00
33.	State Govts.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00
Total		775.10	12190.11	137.00	2081.50	3525.00	2020.32	1429.57

Cumulative as on 31st January, 2000 : Rs. 22,156.60 crores

* including Rs. 4 crores of DPL

** including Rs. 2 crores of Maheshwar

*** including Rs. 38 crores of APGENCO & Rs. 14 crores of APTRANSCO.

Statement-II*The amount due to Railways from the State Electricity Boards*

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Statement showing the amount due from the State	Total Outstanding as on 3/99
1.	A.P. State Electricity Board	9.89
2.	Assam State Electricity Board	0.00
3.	Bihar State Electricity Board	2.36
4.	Delhi Vidyut Board	25.41
5.	Gujarat State Electricity Board	12.30
6.	Haryana State Electricity Board	90.86
7.	Karnataka State Electricity Board	0.22
8.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	10.01
9.	M.P. State Electricity Board	2.25
10.	Punjab State Electricity Board	0.00
11.	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	3.85
12.	Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board	4.65
13.	U.P. State Electricity Board	-0.12
14.	W.B. State Electricity Board	2.85
	Total	164.33

Complaints against Inflated Bills

*160. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of complaints in respect of inflated telephone bill are being received from the subscribers in the offices of different public Relations Officers of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi in different Exchanges/Zones;

(b) if so, whether the complaints from telephone subscribers are not even acknowledged and reply about action taken/investigations made/results of investigations made is not communicated to complaints in respect of their complaints;

(c) if so, the number of complaints received in each of the office of Public Relations Officer during the months of the November and December, 1999, month-wise and the number of those neither acknowledged nor replied to as on January 31, 2000; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The incidence of excess billing complaints is not very high. For example as against 73.19 lakhs

bills issued by MTNL Delhi from 1.4.99 to 31.12.99, the excess billing complaints received from the subscribers of various exchanges added upto 12437, viz., 0.17% of the total number of bills issued.

(b) The complaints received are investigated and the results of the examination are intimated to the subscribers.

(c) Against 893267 bills issued in Nov. '99 and 908905 bills issued in Dec. '99. 2036 and 2199 complaints, respectively, were received by MTNL Delhi. The details of the complaints received are given below :

(i) Area-wise complaints received during November '99 and December '99

	November 99	December 99
Central	107	126
North	409	360
South-I	51	192
South-II	283	282
West-I	185	314
West-II	256	275
East	339	277
Trans-Yamuna	406	373
Total	2036	2199

(ii) Percentage of complaints to total bills issued 0.16 0.17

There are only four cases pending as on January 31, 2000 which have inadvertently not been acknowledged/replied to.

(d) Not applicable in view of (b) and (c) above.

Taping of Hydro-Electric Potential in North East

1525. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any plans to exploit the vast hydro-electric potential in the North-East region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is giving adequate thrust for exploitation of vast hydro potential of North-Eastern Region and Sikkim. Through an interaction with all State Governments, in the North-Eastern Region and Sikkim, action plan for capacity addition in Central Sector Projects for 9th, 10th and 11th Plan period and beyond have been identified for implementation. The details are given below :

CENTRAL SECTOR

Present Installed Capacity	=	730 MW
1. Kopili HEP, Assam		250 MW
2. Assam Gas Based CCPP		291 MW
3. Agartala Gas Based PP		84 MW
4. Loktak HEP		105 MW

CAPACITY ADDITION PLAN CENTRAL SECTOR PROJECTS**IX Five Year Plan**

Doyang HEP (Nagaland)	=	75 MW
Ranganadi Stage-I HEP, (Arunachal Pradesh)	=	405 MW
Rangit HEP (Sikkim)	=	60 MW
Total	=	540 MW

X Five Year Plan

Tuirial HEP (Mizoram)	=	60 MW
Kameng HEP (Arunachal Pradesh)	=	600 MW
Tuivai HEP (Mizoram)	=	210 MW
Loktak D/S Project Manipur)	=	90 MW
Kopili Stage-II HEP (Assam)	=	25 MW
Teesta V (Sikkim)	=	510 MW
Total	=	1495 MW

The following projects have been identified for capacity adding during XI Plan period and beyond :

Ranganadi Stage-II HEP (Arunachal Pradesh)	=	100 MW
Dikrong HEP (Arunachal Pradesh)	=	100 MW
Lower Kopili HEP (Assam)	=	150 MW
Tipaimukh HEP (Manipur)	=	1500 MW
Subansiri & Dihang Basin in Arunachal Pradesh	=	20700 MW
Total		22550 MW

Fire In Mumbai High Gas Well

1526. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major fire had broken out at the gas well in the Western Offshore in the month of March, 1999;

(b) if so, the estimated loss in production suffered due to the incident;

(c) whether any inquiry had been constituted to go into the causes of the fire; 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) A fire incident had taken place at gas well of B-121 structure in Western Offshore on 12th March, 1999. Average gas production from 4 flowing wells from this platform prior to the incident was about 1.6 million metric standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD). The notional direct loss due to fire/uncontrolled flow of gas for 86 days, based on the gas production at the plan prevalent gas prices of Rs. 1600 per thousand standard cubic meters per day, works out to about Rs. 22 crores. Besides above, there is indirect loss due to interest on deferred revenue as the production from alternative location of this structure is yet to be resumed.

(c) and (d) An Inquiry Committee headed by Shri N.N. Gogoi, former Chairman & Managing Director, Oil India Limited, was constituted by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on 16.3.99 to go into the causes of the fire and it has since submitted its report.

Energization of Irrigation Pumpsets in Maharashtra

1527. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had implemented a programme of energization of irrigation pumpsets in rural areas during the Eighth Plan period of Maharashtra in general and Vidarbha Region in particular;

(b) if so, the targets set and the achievements made in this regard alongwith the financial assistance provided for the purpose; year-wise;

(c) whether inspite of encouraging results under the scheme, the provision of funds and targets 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 Maharashtra for the pump energization during 2000-2001 and Ninth Plan period ?

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

(b) Details of funds sanctioned by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) under various rural electrification schemes to Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) including energisation of pumpsets during the Eighth Plan is as under :

	Funds released (Rs. in crores)	Pumpsets Target	energised Achievement
1992-93	33.01	35,000	46284
1993-94	56.47	44,000	54261
1994-95	92.99	43,000	87954
1995-96	97.30	47,000	92395
1996-97	85.99	53,500	62655
		2,22,500	3,43,549

Priority areas for pumpset energisation are determined by the concerned State Electricity Boards/State Governments. Details of targets set and achievement made during the Eighth Plan period by MSEB in Vidarbha Region is as under :-

Year	Target	Achievement
1992-93	6614	10868
1993-94	6960	11659
1994-95	7540	15348
1995-96	25195	20139
1996-97	9855	14567
Total	56164	72581

(c) and (d) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) sanctions schemes posed by the State Electricity Boards/State Governments provided they are technically and financially acceptable. REC have not received the pumpset energisation programme of MSEB/State Government for the year 2000-2001 or for the Ninth Plan so far. However, MSEB have programmed to energise 50,000 pumpsets during the year 2000-2001 with a plan outlay of Rs. 200.00 crores and 1,50,000 pumpsets during the Ninth Plan period with plan outlay of Rs. 574.74 crores.

Value Added Services

1528. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of Value Added Services being operated by DOT and MTNL; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Department of Telecom Services (DTS), the erstwhile DoT and MTNL offer the following Value Added Services

- Internet
- Intelligent Network Service

(b) Details : Internet - This service is available throughout the country except in Poonch & Kargil in Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Internet facilities are available through 85 Internet Nodes operated

by DTS/MTNL. There are about 1.2 lakh subscribers connected to these Nodes.

Intelligent Network : Six services viz. Freephone (FPH), Premium Rate Service (PRM), Virtual Card Calling (VCC) now called India Telephone Card, Virtual Private Network (VPN), Universal Number (UN) and Televoting are approved for implementation in the Telecom Network of the Department. Presently FPH, PRM and India Telephone Card (formerly VCC) are offered to the subscribers of IN services by DTS/MTNL which are operational at 39 cities and another 47 stations are also proposed to have IN services progressively. MTNL provides VPN and Televoting besides the three services offered by DTS at Delhi and Mumbai.

Nagarjuna Power Project

1529. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Will Tatas go with Nagarjuna Project" appearing in the "Times of India", dated February 9, 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) So far, no communication has been received from Government of Karnataka or from any other agency about any such proposal for equity participation by Tatas in the 1015 MW power project at Nandikar near Mangalore of M/s Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Kanha Tiger Project

1530. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Tiger sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of farmers whose land has been acquired and villagers evicted from the land for implementation of the Kanha Tiger Project;

(c) whether adequate compensation has been paid to the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) :

(a) The details of Tiger Sanctuaries in the State of Madhya Pradesh are given in the attached statement.

(b) Voluntary relocation of 27 forest villages has been carried out from Kanha National Park on an equivalent forest land outside the park. No formal acquisition of land was involved in the process.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement

Details of sanctuaries and National Parks in Madhya Pradesh where tiger is found

S. No.	Name of National Park/Sanctuary	Number of Tigers (1997 estimates)	Area /Sq.Km.
1.	Bandhavgarh	46	105.40
2.	Indravati	15	1258.00
3.	Kanger Valley	8	200.00
4.	Kanha	114	940.00
5.	Madhav	15 (Captive)	337.00
6.	Panna	22	543.00
7.	Pench	29	293.00
8.	Sanjay	18	1938.00
9.	Bori-Satpura-Panchmarhi	31	1503.85
10.	Van Vihar	17 (Captive)	4.45
11.	Achanakmar	21	551.55
12.	Bagdara	3	478.90
13.	Barnawapara	12	244.66
14.	Bhairamgarh	2	139.00
15.	Neoradehi	11	1034.52
16.	Pamed	4	262.00
17.	Panpatha	6	245.84
19.	Palpur-Kuno	6	345.00
20.	Pench	12	449.39
21.	Phena	2	110.74
22.	Ratapani	17	686.79
23.	Sanjay	61	364.59
24.	Semarsol	1	430.36
25.	Singhori	2	287.91
26.	Sitanadi	3	553.36
27.	Tamor Pingla	11	608.52
28.	Udanti Wild Buffalo	16	247.59

Financial Condition of Ports

1531. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some big ports have been facing financial crunch.

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve their financial conditions port-wise; and

(c) the details of financial assistance sought by the Paradeep port to start its developmental projects during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In Paradip Port Trust there is one externally aided project viz. "Creation of Mechanical Coal Handling Facilities" which is assisted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Government has released financial assistance as a loan towards ADB component of the project. The details of loans given to Paradip Port Trust during the last three years are as under :

(Rs. in crores)	
1996-97	16.39
1997-98	44.68
1998-99	82.00

Power Generation Capacity of Power Station in Bihar

1532. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of increase in the power generation capacity of each power station in Bihar during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the power generation capacity of these stations in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Amongst the existing power plants, an increase in generating capacity of 5 MW has taken place in respect of Eastern Gandak Hydro-Electric Project in 1997-98. There has not been any increase in 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) There is no plan to increase the capacity of the existing power stations. However, Renovation & Modernisation schemes are proposed to improve the performance and availability of the following power stations of BSEB in Bihar :

S.No.	Name of TPS	Units covered under R & M Phase-II Scheme	Anticipated additional Generation/Year (MU)
1.	Patratu	770 MW (de-rated)	1045
2.	Barauni	310 MW (de-rated)	550
3.	Muzaffarpur	220 MW	385
Hydro Power Station			
1.	Subernrekha	130 MW	11.3

[English]

LPG Connections in A.P.

1533. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed a plan to provide LPG connections by April 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas to be covered thereunder in the State during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) 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 Govt. has a plan to release one 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.

Government has also allotted 15 lakhs additional LPG connection to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in lieu of surrender of kerosene quota.

[Translation]

Widening, Extension and Repair of NHs in Jammu

1534. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the name of National Highways on which works for widening, extension and repairing have commenced in Jammu and Kashmir since February 1997 and till date;

(b) the time by which these works are likely to commence on rest of National Highways passing through the State; and

(c) the details of the estimated expenditure and the actual expenditure incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and is undertaken in phased manner within the available funds. Development/maintenance works are in progress on National Highway numbers 1A, 1B and 1C.

(c) Details of expenditure incurred on development and maintenance of these National Highways during the last three years are as given below :

Year	Allotment (Rs. in lakhs)	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	2487.40	2283.00
1998-99	3658.65	3439.66
1999-2000 (upto 12/99)	4485.00	4068.17

[English]

Natural Gas Resources

1535. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the natural gas resources located in the country so far;

(b) the details of their potential and the extent to which the potential has been exploited;

(c) the manner in which natural gas is being used in the country;

(d) whether it is proposed to set up an agency to work out schemes for the gas resources; and

(e) 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 balance recoverable reserves of natural gas in the country as on 1.4.1999 is approximately 1020.61 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM).

Cumulative production of natural gas in the country as on 1.4.1999 is approximately 306.974 BCM.

(b) The natural gas is being supplied to Power, Fertilizer and Petro-chemical plants and also to industrial units located in various States in the country.

(d) and (e) The exploration/exploitation of natural gas resources of the country is being done by National Oil companies like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) and some Private and Joint Venture Companies.

*[Translation]***Development Work in P & T Sector in Bihar**

1536. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the development work proposed to be undertaken in Post and Telegraph sector in Bihar during 1999-2000;

(b) whether some works undertaken during the current financial year in the State are lying incomplete;

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

(d) the time by which the said works are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) *Postal Sector* : The details of the development work proposed to be undertaken in the postal sector in Bihar during 1999-2000 are given in the attached statement-I.

Telegraph Sector : Three Electronic Key Board Concentrators were proposed, out of which one commissioned during 1999-2000 in Bihar.

(b) and (c) *Postal Sector* : The details of the development work proposed to be undertaken in the postal sector in Bihar during 1999-2000 are given in statement-II.

Telegraph Sector : Two more Electronic Key board concentrators are being installed.

(d) *Postal Sector* : It is likely that the said works will be completed during the current plan period subject to availability of funds.

Telegraph Sector : The equipment is likely to be commissioned during year 2000-2001.

Statement-I

Details of Development work proposed to be undertaken during 1999-2000.

- A. Construction of Post Office building at Patliputra and Staff quarters at Gaya, Muzaffarpur and Daltonganj.
- B. Opening of fifty extra departmental branch offices and provision of infrastructural equipment in forty extra-departmental branch offices.

Statement-II

Details of works under construction which are still incomplete and reasons therefor

Name of Work	Reasons
1. Post Office building at Patliputra	New Construction
2. Staff Quarters at Gaya	New Construction
3. Staff Quarters at Muzaffarpur	New Construction
4. Staff Quarters at Daltonganj	New Construction

*[English]***Merger of Bongaigaon Refinery with Indian Oil Corporation**

1537. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether workers of the public sector oil companies operating in Assam and in other North Eastern States have submitted a representation to press for their demand of merger of Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL) with the Indian Oil Corporation.

(b) if so, the facts in this regard indicating the profits or losses incurred by BRPL during the past three years alongwith the accumulated profits/losses as on date;

(c) the details of the demands made; and

(d) the reaction of the Government 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the Net Profit After Tax for the last 3 years is given below :

	(Rs. in crores)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Net Profit After Tax	29.07	20.69	34.26

The accumulated reserves of the company as on 31st March, 1999 is 397.25 crores.

(c) and (d) A view on the demand pertaining to the merger of BRPL with Indian Oil Corporation will be taken in the overall interest of the Oil Industry.

*[Translation]***LPG Agencies in Madhya Pradesh**

1538. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of LPG agencies functioning in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether these outlets are sufficient in proportion to the increasing population of Satna district;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to set up more LPG outlets in other big towns like Birahapur, Mathgavan, Nagaud and Chitrakoot and Satna district; 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) There are 7 LPG distributorships in operation in Satna District of Madhya Pradesh. To meet the increased demand of LPG, 11 more LPG distributorships are to be set up in Satna District.

(c) and (d) LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plan for towns like Birsinghpur, Nagaud and Chitrakoot of Satna District. Location Mathgavan is reportedly not viable.

Setting up of LPG Agencies/Petrol pumps at every 15 km Distance

1539. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had announced for the setting up of LPG agencies and petrol pumps after every 15 kms. of distance during the year 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken for implementation of the said decision;

(d) whether representations have been received by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon ?

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) Requests are received from time to time for setting up LPG distributorships and RO dealerships all over the country. Such requests are referred to the Oil Industry for conducting feasibility surveys for identifying viable locations. As per the existing policy, the

following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country.

(i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.

(ii) Urban locations having population of 5,000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.

(iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.

(iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

Retail Outlet dealerships are set up at different locations which meet Oil Industry's Volume Distance Norms.

Accordingly, 2078 LPG distributorships and 927 retail outlet dealerships have been included in the Marketing Plan 1996-98 for the country.

*[English]***Pending Power Projects in Orissa**

1540. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to set up some power projects in Orissa is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the stage at which the proposal is lying pending; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) As on 29.2.2000, only one project in Orissa, namely Balimela HEP Extension (2 x 75 MW) with an estimated cost of Rs. 277.57 crore is under consideration in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of Techno-economic clearance (TEC). This project was received in June, 1996 and was considered by CEA for TEC on 25.10.1999 and it was decided to accord TEC only after fulfilment of MOEF clearance for Surlikonda Barrage and Inter-State clearance by Central Water Commission (CWC).

*[Translation]***Pending cases in Women Courts in Delhi**

1541. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether women courts had been set up in Delhi two years back for the disposal of cases relating to the crimes against women;

(b) if so, the number of such courts set up along with locations thereof;

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

(d) if so, the number thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) According to available information, four Women Courts, one court of Additional Sessions Judge at Tis Hazari and three courts of Metropolitan Magistrates, one each at Tis Hazari, New Delhi and Karkardooma (Shahdara), are functioning with effect from 1.9.1994.

(c) and (d) The Registry of the Delhi High Court has informed that 2687 cases were pending in these courts as on the 31st of December, 1999.

Poor Internet Service by VSNL

1542. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the complaints regarding the poor internet services being provided by the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited have been received;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring improvement in the internet service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) No Sir. At present no complaints are being received regarding poor access of Internet Services being provided by VSNL.

(c) However, the following steps are being taken to improve the Internet Service :

Internet access has been completely eased in all the cities through the introduction of State-of-the-art technology Remote Access Services.

2 Mbps streams from various telephone exchanges of DTS/MTNL are extended to the Internet node thereby avoiding congestion on DTS/MTNL Network due to Internet traffic.

VSNL has also taken steps to acquire sufficient bandwidth to ensure high quality services.

Telecom Circles in Haryana

1543. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telecom circles in Haryana as on December, 31, 1999;

(b) whether there is shortage of employees in these circles ;

(c) if so, the details thereof and there 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 SIKDAR) : (a) There is only one Telecom Circle in Haryana as on December 31, 1999.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is general shortage of staff in technical cadres due to ban on 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) Haryana 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 recommendations 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 Group B cadre.

[English]

Power Projects

1544. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals to accord approval to the Power Projects to be set up in various States in the country and locations during the last three months;

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

(c) the stages at which these proposals have been pending ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Six

power projects in private as well as public sector have been received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) during the last three months i.e. from December, 1999 to February, 2000. The name

of the project, executing agency, installed capacity, location, date of receipt in CEA and present status of these projects are given below :

S.No.	Name of Scheme/State/ Executing Agency	Inst. Cap. (MW)	Date of Receipt in CEA	Present Status
1.	Karbi Langpi (Lower Borpani HEP in Assam by Assam State Electricity Board (Karbi Anglong Distt.))	2 x 50	7.12.99	Project is under preliminary scrutiny and all necessary clearances such as MOEF clearance, CWC clearance etc. are yet to be recd.
2.	Sankh HEP St.II in Bihar by Bihar Hydro Power Corp. Ltd. (Distt. Gumla)	186	28.12.99	Returned on 13.1.2000 as fresh DPR sent by BHPCL was the same as was sent earlier in 12/97 without taking into account CEA/CWC comments sent to them earlier BHPCL requested to submit fresh DPR based on latest price level & various CEA/CWC comments.
3.	Kattupalli CCPP (LNG) in Tamil Nadu by M/s Chennai Power Generation Ltd. (45 kms. from Chennai on the East Coast)	1000	30.12.99	Project is under preliminary scrutiny in CEA. All essential inputs/clearances required for TEC are yet to be obtained by the IPP.
4.	Mandya CCPP in Karnataka by M/s Mandya Power Partners Ltd. (Distt. Mandya)	164.4	3.2.2000	Revised DPR received in 2/2000 is under scrutiny. Essential inputs such as Compliance of Sec. 29(2), NOC of State Pollution Control Board, water availability (Centre), Fuel linkage and its transport, MOEF clearance and tentative financial package etc. are yet to be tied up.
5.	Krishnapatna 'A' TPS in Andhra Pradesh by M/s GVK Power (Krishnapatnam) Pvt. Ltd. (Distt. Nellore)	2 x 260	3.2.2000	Project is under preliminary scrutiny in CEA. All essential inputs required for TEC of the project are yet to be tied up.
6.	Hazira CCGT in Gujarat by M/s Gujarat State Energy Generation Ltd. (Distt. Surat)	156	14.2.2000	Project is under preliminary scrutiny in CEA. All essential inputs required for TEC of the projects are yet to be tied up.

Expansion Programme of Panipat Refinery

1545. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any expansion programme for the Panipat Refinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time schedule for its completion ?

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) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., (IOCL) propose to expand the capacity of Panipat Refinery from 6 to 12 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum. The approved cost of the project is Rs. 3365 crore. The project is to be mechanically completed in 30 months, from the date of receipt of statutory clearances.

Cochin-Madurai National Highway

1546. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land acquisition for Cochin-Madurai National Highway has been completed ;

- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government have any time bound programme for the completion of this Highway;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the total amount spent in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No land acquisition proposal for (Cochin-Madurai) National Highway-49 has been received from the State Government of Kerala.

(c) and (d) Development work of the National Highways is done in a phased manner depending upon the availability of fund and inter-se priority of works. It cannot be indicated at this stage when the development of this highway to National Highway Standard would be completed.

(e) The expenditure on this National Highway is met out from the total allocation provided to the State for the development work of the National Highways in the State of Kerala.

Production of LPG in Fields of Assam

1547. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total quantity of LPG produced from various fields of Assam during the last three years;
- (b) the average cost of production of LPG per Cylinder;
- (c) the price at which LPG Cylinders are being supplied to consumers at present;
- (d) whether any amount of subsidy is involved therein; and
- (e) 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) LPG is produced through refineries/fractionators. The total quantity of LPG produced in State of Assam during the last three years is as under :

Figs. in Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT) LPG Production	
Year	TMT
1996-97	83
1997-98	89
1998-99	92

(b) The cost of production of LPG per cylinder varies from Company to Company and refinery to refinery depending upon the cost of the crude oil and production, expenses on repairs & maintenance, manpower deployed, depreciation on assets etc.

(c) The retail selling prices of LPG (Packed Domestic) sold by PSU oil marketing companies in the four metropolitan cities, as on 1.2.2000, was as under :

	Rs. /Cylinder
Delhi	151.80
Calcutta	170.20
Mumbai	153.20
Chennai	155.35

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The estimated subsidy on LPG (domestic) for 1999-2000 works out to be about Rs. 4730 crores based on tariff adjusted import parity refinery gate prices for April 1999 to February, 2000 (and February, 2000 prices till March, 2000).

Freezing of LS Seats

1548. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to maintain *status quo* on Lok Sabha seats till 2026;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Chief Election Commissioner has hailed this decision;
- (d) if so, whether State Governments are also supposed to contribute in this direction by controlling the population;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government propose to undertake delimitation of the constituencies of the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies;
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the basis thereof; and
- (h) the time by which it is likely to be done ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) and (d) to (h) The Constitution 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 laid on em-

bargo on undertaking fresh delimitation of constituencies until the figures of the first census taken after the year 2000 become available, vide proviso to article 82 and 170(3) of the Constitution. The measure was undertaken to boost family planning norms. Government has been receiving representations to extend the embargo on the plea that some of the States, especially the States in the South, have achieved considerable success in the area of family planning while others have quite miserably failed in their efforts in this direction; and, therefore, if a fresh delimitation is undertaken on the basis of new census figures, those States who have achieved success in family planning would be loser in respect of number of seats in the Legislatures. Government has, therefore, decided to take steps to extend the current freeze on undertaking fresh delimitation till the year 2026 AD as part of its new population policy strategy.

Government, however, desires to have a meeting with leaders of political parties to discuss the issue as also some associated topics like delimitation of constituencies without affecting the number of seats allotted to a State so as to remove the imbalance caused due to uneven growth of population in different constituencies, rotation of reserved seats, etc. and will go by the consensus in the matter. If necessary, suggestions of State Governments may also be invited. No timeframe can be suggested, however, in this regard for taking any final decision in the matter.

(c) The Election Commission of India has informed that the Chief Election Commissioner, in this personal capacity, agrees with the proposal to freeze the number of seats in Lok Sabha.

Legal Framework for Safety in Offshore Petroleum Operations

1549. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether no legal framework exist for regulating safety in offshore petroleum operations in the country though petroleum operations in the country's offshore areas are going on for the last three decades;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any action to establish such framework for so long; and

(c) the time by which the Government would take steps to establish safety regulatory framework for offshore petroleum operations?

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) Safety of petroleum operations is regulated under Oil Mines Regulations, 1984, framed under the Mines Act 1952. These regulations apply to onshore areas and upto Territorial Waters of the country. Further, the safety of operations in all offshore fields by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and private/joint

venture companies is regulated by them in accordance with international safety practices and norms. The arrangements are also overseen by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under Ministry of Labour, Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) and Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), working under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Upgradation of regulatory systems & processes, based on international developments and other inputs, is a continuous endeavour and no specific time period can be indicated for this ongoing process.

[Translation]

Jodhpur By-Pass

1550. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the work commence on the already sanctioned Jodhpur by-pass; and

(b) the details regarding National Highways in Rajasthan on which construction work is likely to commence in the next two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Land acquisition for the Jodhpur Bypass is presently in progress. After land has been acquired the construction of Jodhpur Bypass will be considered for sanction depending upon availability of funds and inter-se-priority. It is too early to indicate the time for its commencement.

(b) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and works are being undertaken depending upon need, inter-se-priority and funds availability.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Tamil Nadu and Punjab

1551. SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Tamil Nadu and Punjab as on January 31, 2000 separately, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal for opening of new telephone exchange in the said States during 2000-2001;

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

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The details of district-wise telephone exchanges functioning in Tamil Nadu & Punjab are at the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details in respect of Tamil Nadu State are at statement-II. In respect of Punjab State, there is a proposal for opening of 75 new telephone exchanges. The proposed exchanges will be provided at the focal point in each district. Where the demand is more than 10 and there are no nearby exchange to serve the area.

(d) Demand for Grants for the year 2000-2001 in respect of Department of Telecom Services has not been approved by the Parliament yet. The allocation of funds State-wise will be done only after the approval of the Demand for Grants of the DOTs by the Parliament. However, the total proposed capital outlay for the year 2000-2001 in respect of local telephone system is Rs. 12180 crores.

Statement-I

No. of Telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu and Punjab (District wise) as on 31.1.2000

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Exchanges
1	2	3
A. Tamil Nadu		
1.	Coimbatore	114
2.	Cuddalore	53
3.	Dharmapuri	82
4.	Dindigul	51
5.	Erode	94
6.	Kancheepuram	44
7.	Kanyakumari	31
8.	Karur	39
9.	Madurai	51
10.	Nagapattinam	45
11.	Namakkal	68
12.	The Nilgiris	34
13.	Perambalur	31
14.	Pudukottai	41
15.	Ramanathapuram	45
16.	Salem	102
17.	Sivaganga	40
18.	Thanjavur	58
19.	Theni	22
20.	Thiruvallur	32
21.	Tirunelveli	76
22.	Thiruvannamalai	47

1	2	3
23.	Thiruvallore	45
24.	Trichy	62
25.	Tuticorin	60
26.	Vellore	76
27.	Villupuram	50
28.	Virudhunagar	43
29.	Chennai	113

B. Punjab

1.	Amritsar	105
2.	Bathinda	81
3.	Mansa	32
4.	Ferozepur	109
5.	Faridkot	33
6.	Moga	37
7.	Muktsar	56
8.	Hoshiarpur	88
9.	Jalandhar	77
10.	Kapurthala	25
11.	Nawansher	17
12.	Ludhiana	111
13.	Patiala	79
14.	Fatehgarh Sahib	21
15.	Gurdaspur	88
16.	Ropar	36
17.	Sangarur	125

Statement-II

District-wise details of new exchange proposals in Tamil Nadu State during the year 2000-2001.

No.	Name of the District	No. of exchanges proposed
1	2	3
1.	Cuddalore	2
2.	Villupuram	4
3.	Dharmapuri	2
4.	Madurai	2
5.	Dindigul	1
6.	Erode	2
7.	Nagapattinam	3
8.	Thanjavur	2
9.	Tiruvallur	1
10.	Pudukkottai	3

1	2	3
11.	Ramanathapuram	2
12.	Sivaganga	3
13.	Tuticorin	2
14.	Tiruvannamalai	2
15.	Vellore	1
16.	Virudhunagar	3
17.	Chennai	39

Royalty on Crude Oil

1552. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are providing royalty on the Crude oil extracted from Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the total amount provided as royalty during the last three years and total tonnage/barrel extracted during these years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for not providing royalty to Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the details of royalty paid to other States, State-wise during the said 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) to (c) Royalty on net quantity of crude oil produced from various onshore fields in the State of Tamil Nadu is paid to the State of Tamil Nadu by oil producers. The amount of royalty paid on crude oil to the State of Tamil Nadu during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 was Rs. 18.81 crores, Rs. 18.54 crores and Rs. 20.99 crores respectively. Production of crude oil in Tamil Nadu during the corresponding period was 0.330 MMT, 0.324 MMT and 0.365 MMT respectively.

(d) The details of royalty to other States during the same period is attached as statement.

	Statement		
	(Rs. in Crores)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1. By ONGC/OIL			
Gujarat	347.85	340.83	331.16
Assam	263.30	280.22	280.65
Andhra Pradesh	2.91	3.69	4.92
Arunachal Pradesh	1.41	1.26	1.16
2. By JVs/Private Companies			
Gujarat	1.76	3.31	5.92
Arunachal Pradesh	.62	.70	2.33

Funds for Ozone Depleting Substances

1553. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is leading the Executive Committee of Multi Lateral Fund for cessation of production of Ozone depleting substances;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the major gains of the Montreal Protocol;

(c) the amount of funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years and the funds available to India in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have chalked out programme to utilize the fund for the production of Ozone Depleting Substances and CFC (Chloro Fluoro Carbons) ; and

(e) if so, the details of the projects initiated and the possible outcome or expected results by implementing these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) :

(a) and (b) The Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund is the apex body of the Montreal Protocol which approves funds for phase out projects in production and consumption sector for developing countries, in order to enable them to comply with the control measures as specified in the Protocol. The Executive Committee consists of seven Parties from developing countries and seven Parties from developed countries. The Meeting of Parties at its XI meeting held in Beijing in December, 1999 selected India as member and the Chairman of the Executive Committee for the calendar year 2000.

(c) The Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol allocated US \$ 540 million to the Multilateral Fund during the year 1997-99. The Executive Committee has approved US \$ 47 million for implementation of conversion projects in India during the last three years.

(d) and (e) A gradual phaseout project for production of CFCs has been prepared and submitted to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee at its 29th meeting in November, 1999 approved US \$ 82 million for the phased reduction and cessation of the CFC production in India.

Eco Systems in Mangrove Forests

1554. SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SANATRAY :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

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

(a) whether eco-systems in the Mangrove forests especially in the Eastern Coast are increasingly threatened; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to preserve them from being denuded ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BAB ULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) According to the information available in the Ministry threats to Mangrove forests especially in the Eastern Coast have been reported due to increasing anthropogenic activities as well as pressures due to grazing by the cattle and cutting of Mangroves for fuel wood consumption. Releasing the ecological and economical importance of Mangroves, Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests has initiated a scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs in 1986. On the recommendations of the National Committee 15 Mangrove areas in the country have been identified for intensive conservation. Grants are released to the concerned State Governments/Union Territories for implementing of Management Action Plans covering eco-regeneration, plantation and protection of Mangroves as well as education and awareness amongst the community for their conservation. Consultations have been held with the respective States to identify additional Mangrove areas in the country.

Cogentrix Power Project

1555. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :
SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether following the Supreme Court Order setting aside the Public Interest Litigation against the Cogentrix Power Project, Government have cleared the issuance of counter-guarantee in respect of the project;

(b) if so, the response and reaction of the promoters, namely, Mangalore Power Project (MPP) promoted by the Cogentrix Energy Inc. and China Light and Power Company, to go ahead with setting up the 1000 MW Mangalore Power Project;

(c) whether Mangalore Power Company have decided to withdraw from the project;

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

(e) whether this step is companies have sent a wrong signal in the international community for investment in India;

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to create a good atmosphere for foreign investors to invest in India in power sector;

(g) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has been interested the task to set up that project; and

(h) if so, the progress made in this regard ?

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

(b) M/s Cogentrix Energy Inc., who were one of the main promoters of the Mangalore Power Company (MPC), have informed that with effect from February 11, 2000 the company have transferred their interests in the 1000 MW Mangalore power project and the MPC to China Light (Mauritius) Ltd., who are equity partners in the MPC. M/s Cogentrix have stated that they have no further interest in the project or the Company. Separately, M/s CLP Power International have addressed a letter dated 2.2.2000 to the Government of Karnataka stating that they are committed to implement the project by choosing an Indian partner, who would hold at least 30% of equity in MPC and in any case, the CLP International Ltd. will retain at least 50% share holding.

(c) No, Sir, it is M/s Cogentrix Energy Inc. and not the Mangalore Power Company, who have decided to withdraw from the project.

(d) No reasons have been conveyed by M/s Cogentrix Energy Inc. for withdrawing from the project.

(e) Government has not perceived any reluctance by foreign investors for investing in India on account of withdrawal by M/s Cogentrix Energy Inc.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Shisham Tree

1556. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of State for ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shisham trees are parching in Bihar at present;

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

(c) whether the State Government of Bihar has sought any assistance to save the Shisham trees from the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps taken/propose to be taken by the Union Government to prevent dwindling of Shisham trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reports have been received about large scale mortality/parching of shisham trees (*Dalbergia sissoo*) in the older plantations in North Bihar mostly on farm lands.

(c) to (e) On receipt of the information about the mortality of shisham trees and the request from the Bihar Government, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) was requested to study the problem in depth in the field. Accordingly, a team of ICFRE scientists was deputed to visit the affected areas in North Bihar. During investigation, it was observed that the roots of dead and drying shisham trees, irrespective of age, invariably showed rotting of tap and lateral feeding roots on account of attack of fusarium fungus. This was due to poor drainage and prolonged water logging conditions during rains. In stiff and clayey soils under moist conditions, the roots are prone to be attacked by fusarium pathogens which may ultimately kill the tree.

The follow-up remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to save the shisham tree from parching are as under :

- (i) The dead and drying trees should be felled without delay to avoid further harbouring of pathogens and insects.
- (ii) Debarking of trees on road sides and canals side plantation should be stopped.
- (iii) Shisham monoculture plantation should not be encouraged. The trees which are suitable for planting in mixed crop with sissoo in North Bihar are identified as arjun, gutel, jamun, poplar and eucalyptus.
- (iv) Shisham trees should be planted on suitable sites only, especially well drained sites.
- (v) ICFRE to take up a coordinated research project on tree mortality for investigating the causes of mortality and to recommend the remedial measures.

Construction of Bridge over Baghmati River

1557. SHRI MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Baghmati river is inundated by floods every year effecting the entire areas of Patna, Seohar and Sitamarhi districts of the Bihar State;

(b) whether the Patna-Seohar-Sitamarhi road is severely effected thereby;

(c) whether the present National Highway No. 77 becomes ineffective for use due to the heavy traffic and the people are compelled to travel by boat ;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to build a bridge between Kotchha-Rumi Saidpur villages between Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Only the reach Patna-Muzaffarpur-Jhapaha forms part of National Highway network whereas reach Jhapaha-Seohar-Sitamarhi lying in Baghmati belt area is a State Road. Part of Seohar and Sitamarhi districts are reported to be affected by Baghmati flood waters.

(c) to (e) The works for the construction of two high level major bridges at Katunja near Runi Saidpur and Maksudpur in replacement of existing submersible causeways between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi on National Highway No. 77 are already in progress.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Amount Collected from Cess

1558. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER :
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposed to spent the amount collected from the cess levied on Petrol and Diesel during the last three years on the construction and maintenance of roads in the country; State-wise;

(b) if so, whether the amount collected therefrom is not being utilised for the said purposes;

(c) if so, the total amount collected by way of cess during the year 1998-99 and during the first nine months of the year 1999-2000; and

(d) the provision made to spend this amount so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir, as per the budget proposals of the year 1999-2000.

(b) to (d) The proposal is at formulation stage. Hence no details can be given at this stage.

[English]

Dehang and Subansiri Hydel Power Project in Arunachal Pradesh

1559. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to undertake Dehang and Subansiri Hydrel Power Projects in Arunachal Pradesh in view of development of the North Eastern region;
- (b) if so, the details of the investment involved therein; and
- (c) the time schedule fixed for their completion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Power, Government of India has decided that development of Dehang and Subansiri hydel projects in Arunachal Pradesh be transferred from Brahmaputra Board to National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) in Central Sector.

(b) and (c) Dehang (13,400 Mega Watt) and Subansiri (7300 Mega Watt) Hydro-Electric (HE) projects are proposed to be implemented in three stages. Detailed Project Report (DPR) of lower dam site of Subansiri HE project is being prepared by Brahmaputra Board and is likely to be completed by June, 2000 and NHPC is to associate itself with the preparation of DPR. DPR of lower site of Dehang Project is scheduled to be completed by March, 2002 by Brahmaputra Board and further activities will be taken up by NHPC by obtaining various clearances. Survey & Investigation works of upper and middle sites of both Dehang and Subansiri projects have been entrusted to NHPC and survey & Investigation and detailed Project Reports for the same are likely to be completed by NHPC by 2003. These projects are likely to be completed in a phased manner by end of 11th Plan and during 12th Plan. The cost for survey and investigation works and preparation of DPR would be approximately Rs. 300 crores.

Proposals for Conservation and Development of Forests

1560. CH. TEJVEER SINGH
SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP :

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have received proposals/schemes from various State Governments for conservation of forest and improvement of environment in their respective States during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the details of financial assistance provided for the purpose, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) On the basis of the proposals received from the

State Governments Ministry of Environment and Forests has formulated the National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP) - a 20 year perspective plan to bring one-third of the country's land mass under tree cover through sustainable development and protection of forests. The physical targets and funds required for implementation of the purpose are given, State-wise, in enclosed statement-I. The NFAP was presented on 27th September, 1999 to various multilateral/bilateral donor agencies for funding.

(d) Details of financial assistance provided to States under the major afforestation schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests during the last three years are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

The Financial and Physical Targets of the States (for 20 years) under the National Forestry Action Plan

States	Financial Targets (Rupees in million)	Physical Targets (Million hectares)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	51334.12	4.93
Arunachal Pradesh	14113.59	0.15
Assam	20720.35	1.10
Bihar	62067.66	4.21
Goa	1383.97	0.03
Gujarat	23246.66	2.62
Haryana	15767.29	0.87
Himachal Pradesh	108514.70	0.90
Jammu & Kashmir	57177.19	6.27
Karnataka	113377.00	3.21
Kerala	26082.89	0.26
Madhya Pradesh	230289.44	7.39
Maharashtra	84914.21	3.36
Manipur	19436.16	1.08
Meghalaya	1762.65	
Mizoram	19220.90	0.62
Nagaland	4623.50	
Orissa	27152.33	0.44
Punjab	22612.68	0.66
Rajasthan	191144.88	5.14
Sikkim	8493.07	0.28
Tamil Nadu	27188.00	0.71
Tripura	4623.50	0.08

1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	32208.18	3.24
West Bengal	57278.85	0.61
A & N Islands	7587.83	0.07
Total	1232321.60	48.23

Statement-II

The Financial Assistance Provided to the States during 1996-97 to 1998-99 under major afforestation schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests*

State	Funds Released During Last Three Years (1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99)Rs. in lakhs			
	IAEPS	AOFFPS	NTPF	ASTRP
Andhra Pradesh	381.61	357.41	142.25	16.56
Arunachal Pradesh	158.12	18.23	30.84	
Assam	164.94	274.61	42.50	
Bihar	179.41	129.58	28.00	96.38
Goa	0.36	14.61	27.54	
Gujarat	67.66	415.81	227.47	21.85
Haryana	328.09	711.11	114.50	
Himachal Pradesh	149.70	390.28	75.71	
Jammu & Kashmir	759.35	234.65	398.26	12.16
Karnataka	438.19	515.15	126.87	35.83
Kerala	367.45	297.43	34.51	
Madhya Pradesh	793.02	1193.5	195.05	170.92
Maharashtra	202.77	181.58	107.17	50.32
Manipur	645.70	375.57	136.60	9.36
Meghalaya	21.79	74.46	12.00	
Mizoram	255.57	731.03	51.40	6.35
Nagaland	1.22	14.23	15.00	6.00
Orissa	229.99	298.55	229.48	
Punjab	205.30	240.12	113.50	
Rajasthan	796.62	824.58	236.31	17.31
Sikkim	485.79	211.17	206.81	
Tamil Nadu	34.34	350.64	48.00	
Tripura	154.78	182.68	24.50	4.55
Uttar Pradesh	1777.41	778.53	53.00	
West Bengal	297.35	455.31	142.82	
Total	8896.53	9270.82	2820.09	447.59

* Schemes

IAEPS : Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme

AOFFPS : Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme

NTPF : Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce Including Medicinal Plants Scheme

ASTRP : Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct sharing Basis

Strike by Public Sector Oil Units

1561. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
SHRI KUMAR BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO
GAWALI :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

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

(a) whether the employees of the Public Sector Oil Companies in the country recently went on strike causing heavy loss to the undertakings;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor stating the estimating loss suffered by the Public Sector Oil Companies as a result thereof;

(c) the manner and extent to which the issues involved have been resolved; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to avoid such a situation in future ?

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) Some of the executives and non-unionised employees of the oil Public Sector Undertakings resorted to strike to press various demands relating to pay revision. As strike was called off within hours on the same day, notional and also nominal loss (mostly recouped) occurred.

(c) and (d) Several rounds of discussions were held at various levels with the office bearers of the OSOA (Oil Sector Officers' Association). Boards of the respective oil PSUs have since been empowered to resolve the issues that lie in their competence.

[Translation]

Incoming Cellular Telephone Calls

1562. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether incoming calls on cellular telephones were to be made free from November 1, 1999 but the same could not be possible due to opposition from the MTNL and the DOT;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The incoming calls on cellular telephones were to be made free from November 1, 1999 as per the Regulation dated 17th September, 1999 issued by TRAI for implementation of Calling Party Pay (CPP) Regime. According to this, the PSIN subscriber calling a mobile subscriber had to make much higher payment for such calls. A consumer organisation called "Telecom Watch Dog" filed a Public Interest Litigation on 13.10.1999 before the High Court of Delhi inter-alia seeking the quashing of the CPP regime issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), as the consumer of basic services would be adversely affected. DTS and MTNL were not opposed to the implementation of CPP regime. However, the proposed arrangement for revenue sharing between basic service providers and cellular operators was highly detrimental to the revenues of DTS/MTNL and other basic service providers. Aggrieved by the impugned regulation for revenue sharing, MTNL filed Writ Petition No. 6543 of 1999 in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in which Department of Telecom Services also impleaded.

(c) The Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court in their judgement dated 17th January, 2000 have struck down the impugned regulation and implementation of CPP in the present form. TRAI have to re-work the arrangement for the introduction of CPP regime as clarified by the Hon'ble Judges in the Judgement referred above.

[English]

Opening of Post Offices/STD/PCO Booths

1563. SHRI C. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
YOGI ADITYA NATH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in the hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Chamoli, Pauri and Tehri Garhwal who applied for opening of post offices/STD/PCO and Fax booths during the last three years;

(b) the number of said booths and post offices approved out of them;

(c) the number of the booths and post offices started functioning at the end of the year 1999;

(d) the number of post offices functioning in Hassan region ?

(e) the number of post offices proposed to be set up during 1999-2000 in the region, location-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) In Uttar Pradesh,

105 Gram Panchayats applied for opening of Post Offices. There are 6 such Gram Panchayats in Chamoli, 9 in Pauri and 15 in Tehri Garhwal district.

(b) Out of above applications, in Uttar Pradesh, 19 Gram Panchayats provided with post offices. There is 1 such Gram Panchayat in Chamoli district, 1 in Pauri district and 9 in Tehri Garhwal district.

(c) In Hill districts Uttar Pradesh, 2568 post offices are functioning at the end of the year 1999. Out of these, 233 are functioning in Chamoli district, 433 in Pauri district and 275 in Tehri Garhwal district.

(d) 418 post offices are functioning in Hassan region.

(e) As on date, 1 Branch Post Office has been approved to be opened at Nallur village in Hassan district.

Department of Telecom Services Reply

The information relating to parts (a), (b) and (c) of the above question may be taken as Nil.

National Judicial Pay Commission

1564. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

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

(a) the date of which the National Judicial Pay Commission submitted its report to the Government;

(b) the details of various recommendations made by it;

(c) whether the Union Government have sought the views of the State Governments and Union Territories on the recommendations of the Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the States/Union Territories which have sent their views to the Government so far;

(f) the additional likely financial burden on the Union Government, States and Union Territories as a result of implementation of the report; and

(g) the time by which recommendations are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The first National Judicial Pay Commission (FNJPC) had submitted its report on the eleventh of November, 1999.

(b) The major recommendations of the FNJPC, inter alia, relate to amalgamation of multiple cadres in judicial service into three uniform cadres, independent cadre-wise pay scales, sharing of expenditure on administration of justice in the States by the Centre, increase in the retirement age, other fringe benefits etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The State Governments/UT Administrations are required to send their views to the Central Government within six weeks from 3.2.2000 as per the latest direction of the Supreme Court of India.

(e) So far, 20 States Governments/UT Administrations have sent their views.

(f) As per the FNJPC's report, additional financial burden upon the revised pay scales being given effect to would be of the order of Rs. 95.71 crores for a year for all States/UTs. However, the FNJPC has not given an estimate of additional expenditure which various allowances will entail.

(g) Expeditious action is being taken to process the recommendations of the FNJPC. This process will be completed shortly.

[Translation]

Share of Private Sector Oil Companies in Market

1565. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

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

(a) the percentage of the share of each of the private sector oil companies in comparison to the public sector oil companies in the market during the last three years;

(b) whether the share of the private sector oil companies in the market is more in comparison to all the four public sector companies;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the impact on the profit due to decrease in the share of public sector companies in the market; and

(e) the extent of loss to the Government treasury as a result of this fall ?

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) Private Sector is marketing permitted decontrolled products and those products which are allowed under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS). However only imports of SKO/LPG under PMS are formally

reported. The percentage share vis-a-vis the public sector oil marketing companies during last three years is given below :

	% share	
	PSU	PVT/PMS
1996-97	97.5	2.5
1997-98	94.7	5.3
1998-99	93.6	6.4

(b) to (e) No, Sir. The market share of the public sector oil companies is much higher than private sector oil companies.

Debarring Candidates Having More than Two children from Contesting Elections

1566. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to disqualify those persons who have more than two children from contesting elections to the Lok Sabha;

(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 LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) A Bill namely the Constitution (Seventy-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 1992 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 22.12.92 by the then Government which sought to disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of a House of Parliament or Legislature of a State for having more than two children so as to promote population control and small family norm. The Bill is still pending in that House for consideration and passing by that House.

Increase in Capacity of Old Power Plants

1567. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the capacity of old power projects instead of setting up new power projects in order to remove the power shortage in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Government of India having recognised the importance of Renovation and Modernisation of old power plants in terms of additional power generation potential at a nearly 25% of cost required for fresh capacity addition, after undertaking implementation of R & M schemes for 78 thermal stations and 55 hydel schemes, have now proposed a new scheme for undertaking investments on R & M of old and inefficient plants and for strengthening the distribution system. Under this scheme, additional Central Plan assistance of Rs. 1000 crores will be provided during 2000-2001 to State Governments and Union Territories.

However, implementation of R & M projects will go on the parallel to setting up of new power projects.

[English]

Exploration of Oil/Gas in Bihar

1568. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :

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

- (a) whether there is any plan for the exploration of oil and gas in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) 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) For better understanding of the subsurface geology, speculative seismic surveys have been planned by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons in Bihar. As a part of its Research and Development (R & D) programme, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited have so far drilled four R & D wells for Coal Bed Methane exploration and also propose to drill some more locations in Bihar.

Development of Inland Waterways by Dutch

1569. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India has invited Dutch participation in the development of Inland Waterways;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the efforts made to accord high priority to the inland waterways with a view to provide cheap transport so as to reduce pressure on the rail and road transport ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Under the Indo-Dutch Cooperation programme the following important projects have been implemented on National Waterway No. 1, the river Ganga :

- (i) Pilot Project on IWT development in Patna-Allahabad stretch which was implemented between 1987 and 1989.
- (ii) Priority economic study.
- (iii) Technical assistance Pilot Project between Patna and Haldia.

(c) The Government has accorded high priority for development of inland waterways of the country. The outlay approved in 9th Plan for inland water transport sector is Rs. 408 Crores, which is a substantial increase over the earlier plans. Efforts are in hand to implement the various schemes for development of IWT. Action has also been initiated to evolve a comprehensive proposal containing fiscal incentives and policy guidelines to attract private sector investment for the development of this sector.

Allocation of Funds for National Highways to Kerala

1570. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) the estimated cost of removing deficiencies on the National Highways in the State of Kerala;
- (b) the Ninth Plan allocations for the maintenance, original work and special repairing works of the National Highways in the State, year-wise ;
- (c) the specific works identified to be taken up with the plan allocations during the Ninth Plan period;
- (d) the actual expenditure and the release of funds in each of the three years of the said plan; and
- (e) the details of the other specific steps to be taken ultimately to remove the deficiencies in respect of National Highways in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) About Rs. 5500 crore.

(b) The funds allocated for first three years of 9th Five Year Plan are as under :

Year	National Highway Maintenance & Repair (original work) (Rs. in lakh)	Special Repair (Rs. in lakh)
1997-98	3882.48	2268.11
1998-99	6744.46	2090.63
1999-2000	10737.00	2384.00

(c) During 9th Five Year Plan, works aggregating to Rs. 613 crore are likely to be taken up on National Highways in the State of Kerala for detailed engineering, land acquisition, construction of by-passes, road over-bridge/under-bridge, missing links, strengthening as well as widening, re-construction and rehabilitation of bridges and culverts etc.

(d) The figures of allocation and expenditure are :

Year	Allocation (Rs. in lakh)	Expenditure (Rs. in lakh)
1997-98	3882.48	3900.00
1998-99	6744.46	6744.46
1999-2000 (up to January 2000)	10737.00	4790.00

(e) It is also proposed to take up some projects for construction of by-passes, road-over bridges and widening of National Highways through Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis, if found viable.

Rural Electrification

1571. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI M.K. SUBBA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Where 21st Century means a light bulb" appearing in the Indian Express dated December 24, 1999;

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

(c) the number of villages electrified in the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country and the targets contemplated under the plan, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Maharashtra State has achieved 100% village electrification as on 31.3.1999. Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) has reported that the village "Daand" mentioned in the article in Indian Express was electrified in 1987, but due to cyclones HT and LT lines were snapped. The problem was attended to by MSEB and supply was resorted to the village.

(c) The State-wise details of villages electrified in the first three years of Ninth Five Year Plan against the targets fixed is in the attached statement.

Statement

Number of Villages Electrified in the first three Years of the Ninth Five Year Plan

S.No.	States/UTs	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Target	Achi.	Target	Achi.	Target	Achi. (upto Dec.99)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh		②		②		②
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Not	38		48		Nil ②
3.	Assam	Finalised	20	Not	Nil	Not	NA
4.	Bihar		5	Finalised	8	Finalised	6(d)
5.	Goa	By	\$		\$		\$
6.	Gujarat	The	9	By	4	By	②
7.	Haryana	Planning	②	The	②	The	②
8.	Himachal Pradesh		139	Planning	45	Planning	4
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Commission	14		NA		NA
10.	Karnataka		Nil	Commission	13	Commission	2(b)
11.	Kerala		②		②		②
12.	Madhya Pradesh		463		300		37
13.	Maharashtra		\$		\$		\$
14.	Manipur		52		50		2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15. Meghalaya			43		Nil		Nil (a)
16. Mizoram			12		3		1
17. Nagaland			Nil		10		Nil (c)
18. Orissa			800		817		636
19. Punjab			@		@		@
20. Rajasthan			698		685		132 (a)
21. Sikkim			\$		\$		\$
22. Tamil Nadu			@		@		@
23. Tripura			15		3		2
24. Uttar Pradesh			851		711		357 (a)
25. West Bengal			48		83		142 (a)
Total (States)			3207		2780		1321
Total (UTs)			@		@		@
Total (All India)			3207		2780		1321

Source: CEA

@ Cent percent villages electrified.

\$ Cent percent villages electrified as per 1981 census.

NA - Not Available.

(a) Achievement from 1.4.99 to 30.11.99

(b) Achievement from 1.4.99 to 31.10.99

(c) Achievement from 1.4.99 to 30.9.99

(d) Achievement from 1.4.99 to 31.8.99

[Translation]

Use of Hindi in Courts

1572. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to use Hindi for hearing in the High Courts and Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) Article 348(1) of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court shall be in the English language until Parliament, by law, otherwise provides. Notwithstanding this, Article 348(2) empowers the Governor of a State to authorise, with the previous consent of the President, the use of the Hindi language, or any other language used for any official purpose of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State. However, this does not apply to any judgement, decree or order passed by such High Court.

No law has been passed by Parliament regarding the use of the Hindi language in the proceedings in the Supreme

Court. According to section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963, the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorise the use of Hindi or the official language of the State, in addition to the English language, for the purposes of any judgement, decree or order passed or made by the High Court for that State. The Governors of four States, namely, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have authorised the use of Hindi, in addition to the English language, in the High Courts for those States.

[English]

Expansion of Refineries

1573. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) whether the public sector refineries have failed to give best results;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to take some effective measures for the technological upgradation and expansion of capacities of refineries to meet the challenges;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the role of private sector in this technological upgradation of refineries ?

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) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government and public sector refineries have been giving significant thrust for technological upgradation and expansion of refineries. Number of measures have been taken in this regard and are being continuously pursued. These include installation of secondary processing units, energy and environment conservation measures, fuel quality upgradation, etc. Most of the public sector refineries have been expanded or have plans for expansion.

(e) The private sector is assisting the public sector refineries in the technological upgradation and refinery expansion projects by way of providing design & consultancy services, material, equipment supplies, providing construction and erection services etc.

Increase in Number of Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies

1574. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of Petrol Pumps and LPG agencies in the country;

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

(c) the number of Petrol Pumps and LPG agencies in the country at present alongwith the total quantum of monthly LPG supply being made to them;

(d) the number of LPG agencies included in the recent LPG marketing schemes;

(e) the details of proposals pending for the appointment of LPG dealers under LPG marketing scheme; and

(f) the reasons for not calling interviews in respect of those candidates who applied for LPG agencies more than 2 years ago ?

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 (f) To meet

the increased demand of LPG and MS/HSD 2848 more LPG distributorships and 2101 more retail outlet dealerships, pending from various Marketing Plans, are to be set up.

As on 1.10.1999, 5838 LPG distributorships and 17299 retail outlet dealerships are in operation in the country. During the year 1999-2000, the projected consumption of LPG in the country is 5856 TMT.

Interviews for the locations already advertised by the Oil Companies could not be held largely on account of non-functioning of the Dealer Selection Boards during this period. Dealer Selection Boards have recently been dissolved.

Dredging Work at Haldia Dock Complex

1575. SHRI ANIL BASU :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the dredging work of Calcutta and Haldia ports is not progressing satisfactorily;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the fund has been allotted for the additional dredging of navigational channel of Haldia Dock Complex;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the manner in which the fund has been spent;

(f) whether targets set in this regard have already been achieved; and

(g) if so, the reasons for undertaking the additional dredging ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apart from the reduction in depths on the bars due to natural causes, the inadequacy of required number of dredgers had resulted in slow progress of dredging work.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Calcutta Port Trust which had been facing acute financial difficulties for quite sometime, is being granted subsidy on river dredging and maintenance since 1968-69.

The question of continuing the reliefs granted by the Government of India to the Calcutta Port Trust was last examined in January, 1994 and it was inter-alia decided:

(i) to reimburse 100% of the cost of items directly related to river dredging and river maintenance as well as the cost incurred on items directly related to maintenance dredging of shipping channel leading to Haldia from the year 1992-93 onwards provided that the depreciation on capital expenditure on Haldia Channel dredging will not qualify for subsidy; and

(ii) to help the Calcutta Port Trust to meet the expenditure on 'on account payment' upto 90% of the amount payable towards subsidy during previous year may be made to the port in the beginning of the following year.

The details of the amount of dredging subsidy released to the Calcutta Port Trust since the year 1992-93 are as under :

Year	Rupees in Crore
1992-93	33.65
1993-94	63.71
1994-95	112.72
1995-96	110.71
1996-97	51.60
1997-98	117.58
1998-99	238.97

(iii) For the current financial year, a provision of Rs. 247.54 crores exists in B.E. 1999-2000. Against this, a sum of Rs. 233.42 crores has already been released to the Port Trust towards the expenditure incurred by them on dredging activities.

(e) The Government has made available the requisite funds to Calcutta Port Trust and the Port Trust have spent the same for dredging and river maintenance.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Outstanding dues of North-Eastern States to PGC

1576. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI TARUN GOGOI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation have threatened to suspend power supply to the North-Eastern States in case of non-payment of the outstanding dues;

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

(c) whether the Union Government propose to provide any financial assistance to the cash strapped States to help them to overcome the burden of dues;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The outstanding dues against transmission tariff from the constituent States of North East Region are constantly increasing. POWERGRID has been requesting the North Eastern States from time to time for clearance of their outstanding dues and have also issued notices to beneficiary constituents of the region informing that in the event of their failure to release immediate payment, POWERGRID will not have any alternative but to regulate power supply. However, POWERGRID have not actually resorted to any regulation of power supply considering the essential requirement of power supply in the region.

(c) to (e) Due to weak financial position of the constituent States of the North Eastern region, the transmission tariff for these States has been pegged at 35 paise per kwh which is much less than the transmission tariff to be charged by the POWERGRID as per the norms applicable in the other regions.

Advisory Committees on Environment and Forests

1577. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Advisory Committees on the environment and forests are being constituted at Central and State level regularly;

(b) if so, whether the members in these Committees are nominated on the recommendations of the Members of Parliament;

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

(d) the details of Advisory Committees functioning in various States as on date; and

(e) the time by which new Advisory Committees are likely to be constituted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Advisory Committees are constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests only at the Central level;

(b) There are no provisions for nomination of Members on the Committees constituted at the Central level, on the recommendations of the Members of Parliament.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Advisory Committees constituted at the Central level are reconstituted as and when the existing term of the Committee ends or when required.

[English]

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Bihar

578. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
SHRI MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE :

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

(a) the number of LPG and petrol pumps functioning in Bihar at present;

(b) whether there is acute shortage of LPG and petrol in the State specially in North Bihar and the people are having great difficulty due to this; and

(c) if so, the steps Government taken or to be taken to provide at least one LPG agency and petrol outlet in each block level 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) to (c) As on 1.4.1999 there were 214 LPG distributorships and 1131 retail outlet dealerships in operation in Bihar. In order to meet the increase demand, 105 LPG distributorships and 102 RO dealerships have been included in the current Marketing Plan 1996-98 for Bihar.

Performance of ONGC and Oil

1579. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the performance of ONGC and Oil India Limited during the past three years in so far as the exploration of crude oil and natural gas are concerned;

(b) the details of the potential crude oil wells and natural gas in the country including their economic feasibility, production and production cost incurred thereon so far; and

(c) the performance of Oil and Natural Gas Commission in various States during the last three 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) As a result of exploration efforts, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited have accreted around 175 MMT of in-place hydrocarbons during 1996-99.

(b) Given the inherent uncertainty of exploration and production activities of hydrocarbons, for any site with potential for oil and gas, projections for factors such as economic feasibility, production and production cost cannot be made unless the well is actually drilled and tested.

Gas Cracker Project in Assam

1580. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :
SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR :

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

(a) the year in which the foundation stone was laid for construction of the gas cracker project in Assam;

(b) the date on which the last meeting was held to sort out the pending issues;

(c) the progress of the construction work on the project;

(d) whether any gas supply agreement was signed;

(e) if so, the progress of the agreement; and

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

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 foundation stone for construction of the Assam Gas Cracker Project by M/s Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. was laid on 24.11.1995.

(b) January 4, 2000.

(c) M/s Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. have taken initial steps such as Environmental Impact Assessment study, discussions with process licensors and technology suppliers etc. Government of Assam and M/s Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. are in the process of finalising the site for location of the project.

(d) and (e) Feedback Supply Agreement between Oil India Ltd. and Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. has been concluded in all respects except for issues relating to Liquidated Damages. The progress in implementation of the project is reviewed by the Government from time to time.

(f) On finalisation of the Feedback Supply Agreement and acquisition of land, the project is expected to be commissioned in 44 months.

Withdrawal of Cess Imposed on Diesel

1581. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw cess imposed on diesel during 1999-2000;

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

(c) the extent to which it is likely to contain further increase in its domestic price ?

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) A case of Re.1/- was imposed on diesel in the Union Budget 1999-2000. In the Union Budget 2000-01 presented on 29.2.2000, there is no proposal to withdraw the same.

Merger of Cochin Refineries and Madras Refineries with Oil Companies

1582. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to merge Cochin Refineries Limited and Madras Refineries Ltd., with public sector oil companies is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the extent to which the merger of Cochin Refineries with oil companies is going to benefit the oil companies ?

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 Government have yet to take a view on the subject.

Development of Eco-Friendly Navigable Transport

1583. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Eco-Friendly navigable mode of transport is proposed to be developed;

(b) if so, the waterways to be selected for this purpose; and

(c) the targets set up for starting such mode of transport on a bigger scale ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Transport Policy Committee has identified the following ten waterways as having potential for declaration as national waterways.

1. The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system

2. The Sunderbans

3. The Brahmaputra

4. The Narmada

5. The Mahanadi

6. The Tapi

7. The Godavari

8. The Krishna

9. The Mondovi and Zuari rivers and Cumberjua Canal in Goa

10. The West Coast Canal system in Kerala

(c) Presently the cargo movement by inland water transport is of the order of 1-15 billion tonne kilometre. The 9th Plan target is to increase this to 20 billion tonne kilometre, subject to availability of funds and manpower for development of Inland Water Transport infrastructure and private sector involvement in creation and operation of IWT fleet.

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps

1584. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

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

(a) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps allotted in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total number of the applications pending with the Government for the allotment of the LPG agencies and petrol pumps;

(c) whether the existing LPG agencies and petrol pump outlets are sufficient to meet the demand of the people of the respective States;

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

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this direction ?

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 i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 174 retail outlet dealerships and 236 LPG distributorships were allotted all over the country.

(b) to (e) In order to meet the increased demand, 2101 retail outlet dealerships and 2848 LPG distributorships will be set up all over the country.

New Telephone Exchange in Sikkim

1585. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government had decided to set up some new telephone exchanges in Sikkim during 1999-2000;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;
- (c) the funds earmarked for the purpose; and
- (d) the present status thereof ?

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

(b) 256P CDOT telephone exchanges are planned at Sumik, Lachung, Lachen, Yang Yang, Heegan, Yoksum and Tashiding during the year 1999-2000.

(c) The fund earmarked for the purpose is Rs. 2 crores.

(d) Telephone exchanges at Sumik and Yang Yang have already been commissioned. The equipments for remaining telephone exchanges are under installation.

Legislation on International Terrorism

1586. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to enact a new Legislation aimed at combating the international terrorism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also likely to include hijacking offences; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 1995 was introduced in Rajya Sabha in 1995 which aims at combating Terrorist and Disruptive Activities and matters connected therewith. Due to lack of political consensus, the Bill could not be passed and is pending till date.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs has also stated that all types of terrorist crimes will come under the purview of the definition of terrorist/disruptive acts in the proposed Bill. There will be no need for specific provision relating to hijacking offences as various international conventions relating to anti-hijacking and the enabling Indian Act entitled "Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982" already provide punishment with imprisonment for life and fine for such offences.

Proposal for New Stock Yard

1587. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Cochin Shipyard had submitted a proposal for a new stock yard; and
- (b) if so, the action taken in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Financial Autonomy to Judiciary

1588. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide financial autonomy to the judiciary for the better administration of justice as demanded by the Chief Justice of India;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) One of the resolutions passed by the Chief Justices Conference presided over by the Chief Justice of India in September, 1992 and November, 1997 was that the Chief Justice of High Court may be accorded power to expend, appropriate and re-appropriate money within the budget allocation in respect of the High Court and the courts under its control after keeping Government informed. Further, in the Chief Justice Conference of December, 1999, it was resolved that the High Courts should be given full autonomy for independence of the judiciary.

The Government of India has requested all the State Governments/UT Administrations to take appropriate action on the recommendations made by the Chief Justices Conference and by the three Judge Committee constituted by the Chief Justice of India to consider the issue.

[Translation]**Constitution of Expert Committee for fixing fare & Freight**

1589. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to constitute an expert committee to make recommendations regarding increase in the number of accidents and fixing the fare and freight charges;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the all round development of truck industry is being hampered due to the said difficulties; and
- (e) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) Under section 67 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, powers to fix the fares and freights for goods carriages vests in State Governments. As regards road safety, under section 215 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 there already exists a provision for setting up of Road Safety Councils at National, State and District level.

- (d) No Sir.

- (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Licences to Mini Steel Mills

1590. SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of licences given by Pondicherry Government to instal Mini-Steel Mills in T.R. Patinam of Karaikal;
- (b) the basis on which these licences have been issued in a very small village;
- (c) the pollution norms being adopted by these mills;
- (d) whether the Government proposed to stop the pollution created by these mills; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Pondicherry Government has given licence to one Mini-Steel Mill in T.R. Patinam village of Karaikal.

(b) The licence has been issued in the identified industrial area as per the Industrial Policy of the Government of Pondicherry and with the approval of the Pondicherry Pollution Control Committee.

(c) The mill would be abiding by the pollution norms prescribed by the Government for such units under various Pollution Control Acts.

(d) and (e) The unit has taken necessary pollution control measures to comply with the prescribed standards and its performance would be monitored regularly. In case of non-compliance, necessary action would be taken against the unit and consent would not be [ABI] renewed.

[Translation]

Ownership Rights to Tribals

1591. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the action taken to give ownership rights of the land to the tribals who are in possession of the land for the last 25 to 30 years;
- (b) whether Government have formulated any action-plan to give ownership rights to the tribals living in such forest areas for the last twenty years or so;
- (c) if so, whether the plan has been implemented; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 which came into effect on 25.10.1980, no State Government or other authority can make, except with the prior approval of the Central Government, any order directing de-reservation of forest land and/or its use for non-forestry purposes.

The cases in which specific orders for de-reservation or diversion of forest areas in connection with any project including cultivation were issued by the State Government prior to 25.10.1980, the approval of the Central Government will not be necessary. However, any forest land that has been or is being utilised for any non-forestry purpose including cultivation without the approval of the State Government before 25.10.1980 or the approval of the Central Government after 25.10.1980, is an encroachment and violates the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

However, as per various Guidelines & Rules framed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, a provision exists for regularisation of pre-1980 encroachments where the State Government had taken a decision before enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, to regularise encroachments of eligible category as per the certain criteria evolved by the State Government in accordance with local needs and conditions but could not implement their decision before the commencement of the Act.

*[English]***Waiting List of LPG Connections in Jalpaiguri,
West Bengal**

1592. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of people in Jalpaiguri district are on the waiting list of LPG connections for the last many years;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the year from which they are on the waiting list;

(c) the reasons or impediments in the way of clearing the waiting list for the said district; and

(d) the steps taken to clear the waiting list and the time by which the entire backlog of LPG connections in the district is 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, the total number of waiting list registered with distributors of PSU Oil Companies is 30535 in the Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal.

(c) and (d) New 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 Govt. has a plan to release one 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.

Construction of Post Offices Buildings in Orissa

1593. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices functioning in the rented buildings in Orissa at present; district-wise;

(b) whether the Government prepare to construct the buildings of the Post Offices in the State Particularly Head Post Offices;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There are 970 Post Offices functioning in rented buildings in Orissa at present. The district-wise break up is at the enclosed statement-I

(b) Yes Sir. The government proposes to construct Post Office buildings in the State subject to availability of suitable land and financial resources. All Head Post Offices in Orissa are functioning in departmental buildings.

(c) During the current financial year, a sum of Rs. one crore approximately is sanctioned for the construction of departmental Post Office buildings in Orissa. The location-wise details of on-going works is given at the enclosed statement-II.

(d) All the works given at statement-II, are likely to be completed in the current plan period subject to availability of funds.

Statement-I**Number of Post Offices functioning in rented buildings in
Orissa district-wise**

S.No.	Name of Districts	No. of Rented Buildings
1	2	3
1.	Anugul	24
2.	Balasore	60
3.	Bargarh	22
4.	Boud	12
5.	Bhadrak	46
6.	Bolangir	37
7.	Cuttack	73
8.	Deogarh	4
9.	Dhenkanal	19
10.	Gajapati	21
11.	Ganjam	96
12.	Jagatsingpur	22
13.	Jaipur	27
14.	Jharsuguda	22
15.	Kalahandi	25
16.	Kendrapada	27
17.	Keonjhar	39
18.	Khurda	57
19.	Koraput	25
20.	Malkangiri	6
21.	Mayurbhanj	76
22.	Nawarangpur	14
23.	Nayagarh	18
24.	Nuapara	7
25.	Phulbani	25
26.	Puri	33

1	2	3
27.	Rayagada	22
28.	Sambalpur	25
29.	Subarnpur	9
30.	Sundergarh	77
Total		970

Statement-II**Details of Post Office Buildings under construction (location wise)**

1. Paradip (Madhuban)
2. Biramitrapur
3. Rajnigiri
4. Kakatpur
5. Rajgangpur
6. Barambgarh
7. Sahid Nagar
8. Konark

Construction of Bridges on National Highways in Manipur

1594. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of bridges on various National Highways constructed in the State of Manipur during the last three years;

(b) the number of bridges proposed to be constructed during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 in the State;

(c) the details of the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(d) the measures taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No bridge has been constructed (completed) during last 3 years on National Highways in the State of Manipur.

(b) Annual Plan 1999-2000 provides for construction of one minor bridge. The Annual Plan 2000-2001 is yet to be finalised.

(c) Allocation of Rs. 90.00 lakh has been made for the construction of the bridges on National Highways during 1999-2000.

(d) Required funds are being allotted for the development of National Highways including bridges.

[Translation]**Road from Maheshkhoot to Veerpur as National Highway**

1595. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Maheshkhoot to Veerpur road in Bihar is a link between the National Highway No. 32 and 57 which is also the link road running through Khagaria, Saharsa, Madhpura and Supaul districts connecting international border with Nepal;

(b) whether the Government have taken a decision regarding giving priority to developing the road connecting the international border and link road as a National Highway;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to make the road from Maheshkhoot to Veerpur as National Highway; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. The link road from Maheshkhoot on NH-31 connects to Birpur on Indo-Nepal border via Saharsa, Madhepura and Pratapganj on NH-57.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Misuse of Subsidy on LPG

1596. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the subsidy provided by the Government on LPG is being misappropriated for commercial purposes without any check; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far or being taken by the Government to check such misappropriation ?

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) To avoid the misuse of subsidised gas, PSU Oil Marketing Companies have been carrying out regular checks by way of surprise/routine inspections of the distributorships. Raids are also conducted on commercial establishments to seize domestic cylinders. Besides, vigilance drives are also launched periodically on an industry basis to check the diversion. Regular refill audits are undertaken by the Field Officers.

*[English]***Gas for Ramgarh Extension Project in Jaisalmer**

1597. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the Government of Rajasthan regarding the finalisation of agreement for additional supply of gas for Ramgarh Extension Project in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Rajasthan have earmarked Rs. 45.00 crore for the current financial year for installation of additional 1 X 35.5 MW Gas Turbine and 1 X 35.5 MW steam Turbine at Ramgarh;

(c) if so, whether the Government have directed the Oil India Limited and GAIL to supply the minimum required quantity of gas and HSD for a period of 15 years to meet the fuel requirement of the Ramgarh GPTT; 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) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Presently, around 0.50 million standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas is being supplied from the fields of Oil India Ltd. and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. to the Rajasthan State Electricity Board for the gas based power project at Ramgarh as per their requirement. Allocation of diesel for power generation, is done on the recommendation of the Ministry of Power. No such recommendation has been received in respect of the Ramgarh Extension Project.

ATNS on Irregularities

1598. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry and the Department thereunder have not submitted Action Taken Notes (ATNs) on various findings of Comptroller and Auditor General on irregularities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the ATNs are likely to be submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Communications and the Departments under it have been preparing and submitting Action Plan Notes (ATNs) on the C & AG's Reports received by them from time to time.

However, in certain cases ATNs could not be submitted within the stipulated time as more time was needed to verify the facts, to obtain comments from concerned field units and to take appropriate remedial/corrective action thereon.

(c) The Ministry of Communications and the Departments under it are making strenuous efforts to submit all pending ATNs at the earliest possible time.

*[Translation]***Development of Ports at International Level**

1599. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Mumbai, Madras and Kandla Ports at the international level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) As the productivity of some of the Major Ports is less than the productivity of certain foreign ports, constant efforts are being made by the administration of Major Ports and the Government to modernise the ports including Mumbai, Chennai and Kandla ports and improve their productivity by better management and use of labour. Private Sector participation is also being sought in modernisation and expansion of the ports. In the case of Chennai Port, it has been decided to develop a modern Container Terminal with cargo handling facilities at par with the world's best terminals, with a view to handle larger vessels with speed to avoid transshipment of Indian containers from neighbouring foreign ports such as Colombo, Singapore, Dubai and Salalah.

Regularisation of E.D. Employees

1600. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the extra departmental employees working in the post offices of the country are providing significant service;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the number of E.D. employees in the country during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(d) whether the postal employees went on a strike for over a week to press for their demand of their regularisation;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the number of E.D. employees regularised in the country during the last three years and till date, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) ED Agents numbering 3,09,915 as on 31.3.99 man more than 1,28,193 ED Post Offices in the entire rural area. The extra-departmental system is a practical and viable method of extending basic postal facilities to the rural areas where due to inadequate workload full-fledged Departmental Post Offices are not feasible. The ED Agents are engaged on terms and conditions which vary significantly from those of regular Government employees. They are engaged for a period of two to five hours per day and have alternative source of independent livelihood. Being local residents of the post village or from within the delivery jurisdiction of the Branch Post Office they enjoy acceptability in the local community they serve. They provide all basic postal services including agency functions which are of benefit to the rural population and help in socio-economic development.

(c) The Information is being collected from the field units who are responsible for appointment, control etc. of ED Agents and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) Two Federations of postal employees gave notice on 9.5.98 for postal strike from 8.7.98 on a 10-point Charter of Demands, one of which was the demand for implementation of positive recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee (JTC) on Postal Extra Departmental Agents. Postal employees went on strike from 8/9 July, 1998 to 16th July, 1998. The strike was eventually withdrawn on the assurance of the then Minister of Communications for sympathetic and expeditious settlement of the issues. The Government thereafter extended a package of benefits of ED Agents vide orders dated 17.12.98 in full and final settlement of all pending demands relating to implementation of Justice Talwar Committee recommendations. The benefits extended are :

- (i) Raising their basic monthly allowance by a factor of 3.25 for the period 1.1.96 to 28.2.98.
- (ii) Thereafter with effect from 1.3.98 placing them in Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) corresponding to the first two scales of pay recommended by the JTC in case of different categories of ED Agents and the first scale in respect of the ED Sub Postmasters.
- (iii) Increasing the maximum permissible amount of Ex-Gratia Gratuity from Rs. 6,000 to Rs.18,000.
- (iv) Increasing the Office Maintenance Allowance from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/- per month.
- (v) An entirely new facility for paid leave of 10 days for every half year for EDAs without the provision of carry forward or encashment.
- (vi) Further, a provision for lumpsum Severance Amount for EDAs as a form of Post employment benefit.

These benefits involved a total additional expenditure of Rs. 459.09 crores including Rs. 301.35 crores as additional annual expenditure.

(f) The information is being collected from the field units and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Inventory Problem Faced by Refineries

1601. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some refineries are facing inventory problem due to inability to market their products;

(b) if so, whether some private refineries having surplus stock of furnace oil and diesel want to export them but could not do so due to the port congestion problem;

(c) if so, whether public sector petroleum companies are importing these products because of their being cheaper;

(d) if so, the likely impact on our economy due to non-exporting of these items on one side and importing of these items by public sector petroleum companies on the other side; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation specially to save the valuable foreign exchange?

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) Some of the refineries are facing containment problem for de-regulated products like naphtha and LSHS etc. which are primarily on account of full/partial shut down of some of the customer plants from time to time. Such a situation occasionally results in inventory hold up.

(b) Private sector refineries are free to export furnace oil, which is a de-controlled product. They can also export diesel subject to the export contracts being registered with the OCC.

(c) Import of controlled products are made by Indian Oil Corporation as canalising agency keeping the demand and supply position as also the economics of import in view. Import and export of de-controlled products is made on market considerations by public sector and private companies.

(d) and (e) The process of review and monitoring of the demand and supply position is a continuous one. This is done by the Oil Coordination Committee and the Government in consultations with the concerned organisations. This exercise is constantly done so as to save valuable foreign exchange as also to protect our economy from any adverse impact.

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of Kerosene

1602. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI R.L. JALAPPA :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) the details of demand and supply of kerosene in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of kerosene imported by the Government to meet the demand during the said period;

(c) whether some State Governments have urged the Union Government to enhance the allocation of kerosene quota;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demands of the State Governments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PE-

TROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) Kerosene is an allocated product and annual/monthly allocation is made by the Central Government to the States/UTs for distribution through Public Distribution System. The allocation of kerosene is made on historical basis i.e. past year's allocation plus additional allocation out of increase given at the national level based on the principle of giving higher increase to the States with lower per capita availability so as to reduce inter-State disparity. The statement showing the annual allocation to the States/UTs for the last three years is attached. The quantum of kerosene imported by the Government during the last three years is as follows :

Year	Quantity (MMT)
1996-97	3.787
1997-98	3.204
1998-99	5.421

Requests are received from various State Governments for additional allocation of kerosene from time to time. Kerosene is a deficit product in the country, and on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy, the distribution has to be judicious.

Statement

State-wise SKO Allocation for the period from 1996-97 to 1999-2000.

States/UTs	1996-97 (MTs)	1997-98 (MTs)	1998-99 (MTs)	1999-2000 (MTs)
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman & Nicobar	4676	4743	7155	6736
Andhra Pradesh	628138	650785	675056	679848
Arunachal Pradesh	9675	9948	10240	10295
Assam	256772	263760	271235	272623
Bihar	647512	679329	863745	870036
Chandigarh	21348	21562	21778	15408
Dadra N. Haveli	3170	3202	3237	3238
Delhi	243334	245768	248325	204672
Diu & Daman	3003	3033	3064	2438
Goa	27677	27954	28257	28075
Gujarat	814341	822339	831600	832432
Haryana	159099	164853	170563	171731
Himachal Pradesh	57345	58984	60737	61067
Jammu & Kashmir	86392	88828	91433	91921
Karnataka	498797	513054	528301	531167
Kerala	279701	289540	300006	302076

1	2	3	4	5
Lakshadweep	894	906	919	921
Madhya Pradesh	508539	532741	661812	666632
Maharashtra	1542924	1558397	1576298	1577953
Manipur	21498	22064	22670	22781
Meghalaya	19682	20245	20847	20960
Mizoram	7649	7868	8102	8146
Nagaland	13414	13797	14207	14284
Orissa	227701	239501	316597	318903
Pondicherry	15162	15329	15342	15363
Punjab	332224	337118	342376	343127
Rajasthan	345753	361736	440060	443265
Sikkim	7711	7794	7885	7895
Tamil Nadu	682026	698837	716830	720076
Tripura	30577	31451	32386	32562
Uttar Pradesh	1128847	1178862	1391123	1401255
West Bengal	763609	785065	808013	812309
Total	9389194	9659193	10490199	10490199

ISD/STD/PCOs Booths*(English)*

1603. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :
SHRI ASHOK N MOHOL :
SHRI RAMSETH THAKUR :

Oil Refinery at Paradip in Orissa

1604. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether STD/ISD/PCOs booths allotted to handi-capped and unemployed people are being illegally run by other persons;

(b) if so, the number of cases noticed in this regard in the country during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matters;

(d) the number of PCO / ISD / STD booths of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. in Mumbai and Maharashtra Telecommunication Corporation installed during the last three years in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(e) the number of applications received for installation of such booths in the State and the number out of them lying pending alongwith the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected from the concerned field units and will be laid on the table of the House.

(a) the total land required for the oil refinery at Paradip in Orissa;

(b) whether there has been inordinate delay in the acquisition of land and payment of compensation to the farmers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the acquisition of land and payment of compensation?

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) A total of 3350 acre of land is being acquired/alienated for the refinery & associated facilities at Paradip in Orissa. Application for acquisition of land was made by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) on 14.7.98. Private land is being acquired under the Land Acquisition Act. Compensation for the private land have been progressively paid by IOCL to Orissa Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) by 23.3.1999. However, enhanced compensation was demanded by the Government of Orissa in May, 1999 and the final amount was finalised in October, 1999 under consent award. The additional funds,

were released by IOCL in November, 1999. However, disbursement to land losers could start only on 14.1.2000 due to pre-occupation of State administration in cyclone relief work.

Forest Policy to Increase Forest Area

1605. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to change Forest Policy to involve the corporate, cooperative sectors as well NGO's to reclaim forest and non-forest wastelands and to increase the green cover in the country;

(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) to (c) The Government has no proposal for bringing about any change in the National Forest Policy, 1988. However, the Ministry has issued a guideline to all the States on 7.6.1999 for participation of private sector through involvement of NGOs and Forests Department in afforestation/rehabilitation of the degraded forests with their own resources and without having any claim on forest land or forest produce thereupon. In regard to non-forest wastelands, the National Forest Policy envisages a massive need-based and time bound programme of afforestation and tree planting with particular emphasis on fuelwood and fodder development on all degraded and denuded lands in the country eliciting people's support.

Oil Spills Polluting Coastline

1606. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the oil spills from ships and tankers operating along the coastline are a regular occurrence and wrecking immense havoc; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to save the environment from destruction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) No, Sir. However, Coast Guard have undertaken oil spill response action at Mul Dwarka during 1999 in respect of fuel oil spillage from a ship called MV Pacific Acadian.

(b) A National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan to mitigate fall-outs from oil spill disaster has been prepared by the Coast Guard. In addition, Oil Industry Safety Directorate has set up oil spill response centres at Haldia, Kakinada, Chennai, Vadinar, Mumbai and Mangalore to enhance preparedness and response for any marine oil spill. The State Pollution Control Boards also undertake regular monitoring of water quality along the coastline.

Development of MEGA Port

1607. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop some ports as Mega Ports to enable them to receive the fourth generation container vessels; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, portwise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The Jawaharlal Nehru Port on the west coast & the Chennai Port on the east coast have been identified to be developed as hub ports to receive large main-line vessels.

Coal Based Thermal Power Station near Coal Mines

1608. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start a Coal Based Thermal Power Station near the coal mines of the North Eastern Coal Fields of Coal India Limited; and

(b) if so, the complete details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up a power project in Central Sector near the coal mines of the North Eastern Coalfields of Coal India Limited.

Pending Alignment Proposals for National Highways

1609. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether alignment proposals of several National Highways are lying pending with the Government for approval;

(b) whether National Highway-47 and National Highway-49 are among them;

(c) if so, the reason for delay in according approval to these alignments;

(d) whether alignments of By-passes for the said Highways are also proposed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for their construction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) presumably, the Hon'ble Member wants to know about the alignment proposals of National Highways in Kerala. No such proposal is pending in the Ministry.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A total 8 Nos. of Bypasses along National Highways No. 17, 47 & 49 are proposed and the alignment proposals of these Bypasses have already been approved.

(f) Construction of four Bypasses viz. Alapuzha, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram - Neyyattinkara Bypass on NH-47 and Calicut Bypass on NH-17 are in progress and the work for the remaining Bypasses would be taken up after completion of land acquisition depending upon the inter se priority of works and availability of funds.

Pollution due to Plastic Bags

1610. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the enactment on use of plastic bags and packaging material has remained only on paper due to lack of enforcing agencies at the ground level;

(b) if so, the details of the present status on enforcement of the law on the ban of plastic bags;

(c) the details of steps taken to check the increasing pollution in Metropolitan/major cities and industrial areas in various States during the recent past; and

(d) the details of action plan worked out for the States for 2000-2001 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests have brought out Recycled Plastics Manufacture & Usage Rules, 1999. The rules provide for enforcement agencies as follows:

- (i) The prescribed authority for enforcement of the provisions of these rules related to manufacture and recycling shall be State Pollution Control Boards in respect of States and the Pollution Control Committees in respect of Union Territories.
- (ii) The prescribed authority for enforcement of the provisions of these rules related to the use, collection, segregation, transportation and disposal shall be the District Collector/Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district where no such

Authority has been constituted by the State Government/Union Territory administration under any law regarding non-biodegradable garbage.

(c) Final notification on the Recycled Plastics Manufacture & Usage Rules, 1999 was brought out on 2nd September, 1999. The Ministry has written to all the State Governments and Union Territories to strictly enforce these Rules. A number of States and Union Territories have launched campaigns to create awareness against littering of plastic bags. The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshdweep, Maharashtra and Punjab have either notified or are in the process of notifying their own legislations to check littering of plastics and other non-biodegradable material.

(d) Enforcement of Recycled Plastics Manufacture & Usage Rules, 1999 has to be co-ordinated at the district level. It is for the State Governments to prepare necessary action plans.

Safety Development Work By NHAI

1611. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has avoided safety measures in its development works;

(b) if so, whether the NHAI propose to pay compensation to the victims of accidents on the National Highways;

(c) whether NHAI has ignored various demands for improvement and safety of the passenger amenities; and

(d) the steps taken by the NHAI in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) NHAI is paying due attention to the safety aspects in the development of National Highways. Suitable provisions for junction improvement, passenger wayside amenities, truck parking lay-byes, rest areas, bus-bays etc. are kept in the project being prepared for implementation.

Transfer of Fuel Linkage

1612. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested to the Union Government to transfer the Fuel Linkage presently allocated to the Karnataka Power Corporation in favour of some other joint venture power project;

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

(c) the time by which the clearance is likely to be accorded to in this case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Government has received a proposal from Government of Karnataka for transferring the naphtha linkage from M/s Karnataka Power Corporation Limited to the newly formed joint venture company viz. M/s KPC Bidadi Power Corporation Ltd. in respect of the 400 MW Combined Cycle Power Project at Bidadi in Karnataka.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Marketing Plan for LPG and other Petroleum Products in Maharashtra

1613. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG cylinders made available to the consumers in Maharashtra over the past three years alongwith percentage therein; year-wise;

(b) the number of LPG dealers operating in each district of Maharashtra; and

(c) the details of marketing plan for LPG and other petroleum products for Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra for 2000-2001, district-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) The packed LPG sale by the PSU Oil Companies in the State of Maharashtra for the last 3 years alongwith percentage of growth is given below :

Year	Packed LPG sale (in TMT)	% Growth
1996-97	665	7.95
1997-98	727	9.3
1998-99	785	8.0

(b) The number of LPG dealers operating in each district of Maharashtra is given in the attached statement.

(c) The marketing plan for the petroleum products is not prepared on yearly basis.

Statement

Districtwise No. of existing LPG Distributorships in Maharashtra as on 1.2.2000

Name of District	Total
Ahmednagar	19
Akola	14
Amravati	18
Aurangabad	23
Beed	6
Bhandara	6
Mumbai	148
Buldhana	9
Chandrapur	18
Dhule	11
Gadhiroli	2
Hingoli	3
Jalgaon	34
Jalna	6
Kolhapur	23
Latur	6
Nagpur	55
Nanded	8
Nandurbar	5
Nasik	42
Osmanabad	4
Parbhani	7
Pune	87
Raigad	23
Ratnagiri	7
Sangli	13
Satara	19
Sindhudurg	5
Solapur	19
Thane	77
Wardha	9
Washim	1
Yeatmal	12

[Translation]

**Development of Telecommunication
Network in Assam**

1614. SHRI TARUN GOGOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for the development of Telecommunication network in Assam during the last three years and the current financial year;

(b) whether the development work has since been completed as per the targets fixed for the State;

(c) if so, the details of the amount spent for the development work in the State during each of the last three years and till date, separately; and

(d) the number of new telephone connections provided in the State particularly in Jorhat district during the last three years and till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Funds allocated for development of Telecommunication network in Assam are as shown below :

Year	Rs. Crores
1996-97	89.67
1997-98	130.52
1998-99	130.69
1999-2000	161.51

(b) Yes, Sir. The development work in Assam has since been completed as per the targets fixed.

(c) The details of amount spent during the last three years & current year up to 31.1.2000.

(Rs. Crores)

1996-97	90.69
1997-98	122.45
1998-99	112.85
1999-2000 (upto 31.1.2000)	79.98

(d) The number of new telephone connections provided in Assam and particularly in Jorhat District during the last three years and current year (upto 31.1.2000) are as follows :

Year	Assam	Jorhat District
1996-97	18003	2725
1997-98	36477	7254
1998-99	50375	6700
1999-2000 (upto 31.1.2000)	34416	4029

LPG Agencies at Motihari in Bihar

1615. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps in the Motihari district of Bihar;

(b) the number of persons on the waiting list in these LPG agencies and the time by which they are likely to be provided LPG connections;

(c) the average number of times the consumers are given LPG cylinder in a year; and

(d) the number of consumers being given new LPG connections each year ?

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) At present, there are 3 LPG distributorships and 4 Retail Outlets in the Motihari town in East Champaran district of Bihar.

(b) to (d) The waiting list with the concerned distributors is 2823, at present. Normally, distributors maintain a minimum gap of 21 days between supply of two consecutive LPG refills to a customer. New 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 Govt. has a plan to release one 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.

[English]

Ban on Forestry Activities

1616. SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take the measures to compensate and ameliorate, the abject economic hardship faced by a sizeable tribal population of the North-Eastern States, in view of the prevailing ban on the forestry activities;

(b) if so, the specific steps undertaken or proposed to be undertaken, for the resumption of forestry activities;

(c) whether Government are monitoring the performance of the respective State Governments to implement various directives; and

(d) if so, the observations made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) :

(a) and (b) Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Writ Petition No. 202/95, reiterating the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, directed vide order dated 12.12.1996 that felling in forests can be done only as per working plans approved by Government of India. Hon'ble Court has also imposed complete ban on transportation of timber and timber products from North-Eastern States to rest of the country. Taking into account the perception of the Ministry about weak infrastructure in the North-Eastern Region and large dependency of the local people on the forest resources, Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 15.1.1998 modified the above order allowing transportation of felled timber as well as directed that working plans should be prepared in the North-Eastern States within a period of two years and in the interregnum the forest shall be worked according to the annual felling programme approved by the Ministry.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There has been slow progress in implementation of the various directives given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the North-Eastern States.

Natural Gas to Mumbai Suburban Area

1617. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide Mumbai High Natural Gas to the Mumbai suburban and adjoining Thane district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a 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) Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL), a Joint Venture Company of Gas Authority of India Limited and M/s British Gas Plc., U.K., after drawing gas from the Mumbai High, is supplying piped natural gas to domestic, commercial/industrial and automotive sectors in different areas of Greater Mumbai. At present, there is no plan to extend the gas supply to the Thane district.

Forest Land to The Tribals

1618. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give Forest Land on lease to the tribals for cultivation;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed by the Government for the purpose; and

(c) the total area of land allocated to the tribals particularly in Wayanad District of Kerala so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b, As the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 which came into effect on 25.10.1980, no State Government or other authority can make, except with the prior approval of the Central Government, any order directing de-reservation of forest land and/or its use for non-forestry purposes.

The cases in which specific orders for de-reservation or diversion of forest areas in connection with any project including cultivation were issued by the State Government prior to 25.10.1980, that approval of the Central Government will not be necessary. However, any forest land that has been or is being utilised for any non-forestry purpose including cultivation without the approval of the State Government before 25.10.1980 or the approval of the Central Government after 25.10.1980, is illegal and violative of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

However, as per various Guidelines & Rules framed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, a provision exists for regularisation of pre-1980 encroachments where the State Governments had taken a decision before enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, to regularise encroachments of eligible category as per the certain criteria evolved by the State Government in accordance with local needs and conditions but could not implement their decision before the commencement of the Act.

(c) As per a proposal received from the Government of Kerala, 28588.159 hectare of forest land which was encroached prior to 1.1.77 in five districts (Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Pathanamthitta and Kollam), was regularised by this Ministry of 31.1.1995. No proposal for Wayanad district has been received.

LNG Terminal at Cochin

1619. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on LNG Terminal at Cochin has since been completed ;

(b) if so, the total money likely to be spend on this project; and

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

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) and (c) Petronet LNG Ltd. has signed a long term LNG Sale Purchase Agreement with M/s RasGas of Qatar for supply of 2.5 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) LNG from January 1, 2005 for the Cochin Terminal. The estimated cost of the Terminal is US\$360 million.

Pension Scheme for Port and Dock Employees

1620. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Joint Committee of the Indian Ports Association and Port and Dock Unions have recommended improvements in the Pension Scheme for the Port and Dock employees;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have approved the proposals;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some proposals of the Committee have not been approved; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The recommendations of the committee are based on the recommendations of the Vth Central Pay Commission for Government employees. The recommendations have been approved by the Government only to the extent they are comparable to those accepted for Central Government employees.

Four Laning of Bangalore to Devanahalli

1621. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether preliminary report for four laning of Bangalore to Devanahalli (30 kms) has been prepared;

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

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has sought approval for the alignments; and

(d) 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) Rs. 102 crores approximately.

(c) and (d) The alignment of Yelahanka Bypass on this section of the road is already approved.

Telephone Facility in Rural Areas

1622. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Indian Telecom Scenario: An Overview" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated February 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 COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This news paper report while quoting the targets set in the National Telecom Policy, 1994 has commented upon the recent steps taken to encourage competitive environment through new Telecom Policy, 1999, reorganisation of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and need to encourage the growth of I based technology. It is true that the objective of telephone on demand envisaged in the National Telecom Policy, 1994 could not be met. It is clearly mentioned in the New Telecom Policy, 1999 that even while achieving more than the targetted growth of telephones during the 8th five year plan by Department of Telecom, the development in the private sector was not adequate due to several factors. It is with a view to removing these Limitations that the New Telecom Policy, 1999 was brought in and it is expected that after it is fully implemented, the targets envisaged will be met. A major thrust of the Govt. is to encourage the growth of I based services including Internet Services. With these objectives in view a National Internet Backbone (NIB) is under installation and expected to be commissioned shortly. For encouraging the growth of Internet licenses for ISPs are being given freely. Already over 60 ISP licensees have started operation for providing internet services.

Promotion of Non-Timber Forest Produce

1623. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scheme viz. "promotion of non-timber forest produce" has been sanctioned for the States under the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned for the purpose; State-wise and

(c) the funds utilized by the various States out of the sanctioned amount so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants for an amount of

Rs. 69.85 crores has been sanctioned for the States under the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) The amount sanctioned and utilized by the various States is given in the attached statement.

Statement

Sanctioned amount of 9th Plan, Released upto February, 2000 Utilisation upto September/December 1999

Rs. in lakh			
States	Sanction 9th Plan 1997-98 to 2001-2002	Released upto Feb. 2000	Utilised upto Sep/ Dec.99
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	448.38	207.15 *	152.09
Arunachal Pradesh	317.75	36.25 *	NR
Assam	205.65	61.20 *	28.70
Bihar	134.20	28.00	NR
Goa	57.42	31.22	27.00
Gujarat	451.96	195.39 *	204.60
Haryana	164.50	103.99	89.69
Himachal Pradesh	167.80	55.63	43.39
Jammu & Kashmir	782.55	443.81 *	343.92
Karnataka	244.20	148.21	123.46
Kerala	66.85	27.45	17.72
Madhya Pradesh	615.82	218.30	133.03
Maharashtra	436.69	87.17	30.70
Manipur	194.36	119.18	76.24
Meghalaya	104.63	12.00	NR
Mizoram	177.20	83.90	59.06
Nagaland	36.90	5.00	NR
Orissa	492.00	266.97 *	245.65
Punjab	158.75	33.50	58.84
Rajasthan	545.35	310.41 *	242.38
Sikkim	409.18	180.81	131.42
Tamil Nadu	118.88	34.04 *	19.36
Tripura	64.70	28.17 *	21.69
Uttar Pradesh	262.75	62.00 *	NR
West Bengal	326.85	134.77	102.38
Total	6985.32	2914.52	2151.32

* Includes Unspent Balance of 8th Plan also.
NR : Not reported by the State.

Marine Aquarium at Digha in Midnapore

1624. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the likely time by which the marine aquarium at Digha in Midnapore district of West Bengal is likely to start functioning; and

(b) the reasons for the abnormal delay of 4 to 5 years for the commissioning of this Project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) The Marine Aquarium and Research Centre, Digha, Midnapore, comprises a Research Wing and an Aquarium. The Research Wing of the Centre is already functional. The Marine Aquarium is likely to be functional before the end of the year 2001, as per present schedule.

(b) The abnormal delay in the opening of the Aquarium for the public has taken place due to litigation by the contractor to whom the work of furnishing of the Aquarium was entrusted.

Reduction of Telephone Tariff

1625. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India propose to reduce tariff of telephones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 had stipulated a general review of the effect of the 1st tranche of the rebalancing exercise, on revenues/traffic. The TRAI Secretariat has accordingly started collecting the data from operators with a view to conduct the review. A final view will be taken by the reconstituted Authority in due course.

Import of Kerosene

1626. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow duty free import of Kerosene for the traditional fishermen; and

(b) 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) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

CNG Activities by GAIL

1627. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CNG is being continuously flared up at the isolated fields located nearby Jorhat, Sibsagar, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia Towns in the upper Assam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the GAIL proposes to extend its CNG activities by using the Gas that is being flared; 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) There is no flaring in Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). However, out of total 5.526 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) of natural Gas being produced by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) in the upper Assam area, 0.546 MMSCMD is flared. Process upsets and sudden fluctuation of demand; time lag between production and setting up of matching facilities for gas utilization; unavoidable technical flaring to maintain pilot flares to avert escape of unburnt gas into the atmosphere; and uneconomical integration of gas from small isolated fields with main gas grid mainly attribute to the flaring of gas in the area.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Waiting List of LPG Connections in Rajasthan

1628. DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for LPG connection in Rajasthan, District-wise;

(b) the time by which the waiting lists are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the number of LPG connections proposed to be released in the State during the year 2000, District-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) The district-wise waiting list registered with PSU Oil Companies for LPG connections in Rajasthan is given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) New 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 Govt. has a plan to release one 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.

Statement

The District-wise Waiting List in the State of Rajasthan

District	Total
Ajmer	19488
Alwar	8883
Banswara	8200
Barmer	6358
Bharatpur	1
Bhilwara	11471
Bundi	3682
Bikaner	39487
Chittorgrah	11848
Churu	18033
Dausa	5689
Dholpur	5548
Durgapur	764
Haran	2560
Hanumangarh	10615
Jhalawar	6599
Jalore	4037
Jaipur	172603
Jaisalmer	1340
Jhunjhunu	8169
Jodhpur	79084
Karauli	10808
Kota	63877
Nagaur	14113
Pali	13928
Rajasmand	9839
Sawaimadhopur	11552
Sikar	20928
Sirohi	3366
Sriganganagar	19632
Tonk	9859
Udaipur	8033
Civil Supplies	1800

*[Translation]***New Scheme for Power Theft**

1629. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
DR. SANJAY PASWAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new scheme to prevent power theft to avoid loss of crores of rupees each year to the State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said scheme is similar to that of in vogue in South Africa and European countries; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. Theft of power has already been recognised as a cognisable offence under the Section 39 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 with deterrent punishment up to 3 years imprisonment, or fine of not less than Rs. 1000 or both. However, the Government is considering to introduce a new scheme under which funds will be provided to power utilities to undertake investment in sub-transmission and distribution projects including the provision of meters at all levels with the object of reducing T & D losses and improving the operational efficiency of State Power Utilities. However, release of funds would be contingent on the State Government accepting conditionalities with regard to reform and restructuring.

Shortage of Telephone Cables

1630. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of telephone cables in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which this shortage is likely to be made good ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No Sir, Bulk of the requirement has already been received and the remaining small quantity is likely to be received during March 2000.

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

Petrol Pump and LPG Agencies in M.P.

1631. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps and LPG agencies functioning in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether new petrol pumps and LPG agencies would be set up in remote rural areas of the State where backwards, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are dominating; and

(c) if so, the extent of representation to be given to the backwards, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in such allotments ?

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 are 1024 retail outlet dealerships and 358 LPG distributorships in operation in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) As per the existing policy retail outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships are set up at viable locations including in remote and rural areas. 25% dealerships/distributorships are reserved for SC/ST category. There is no reservation for backward classes.

*[English]***Indo-Bangladesh Agreement for Exploration of Natural Gas**

1632. DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

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

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have signed any agreement for the exploration of Natural Gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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) and (c) Do not arise.

Threat to Western Ghats

1633. SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Western Ghats straddling Kerala and Karnataka is one of the most environmentally threatened area of the world;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Western Ghats Ranges are unique and distinct in their geology, topography, climate, ecology, vegetation, biodiversity and endemism and have been considered ecologically fragile and sensitive. A separate Western Ghat Development Programme was launched by the Government of India from the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan. The main objectives of this programme are Eco-preservation, Eco-restoration and Eco-development. The allocation of special Central assistance made to the State Governments under Western Ghats Development Programme for the firsts three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan are as under :

State	Units in Rs. Lakhs		
	Allocation		
Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Maharashtra	1517.00	1911.00	2097
Karnataka	1122.00	1413.00	1551.00
Kerala	946.00	1191.00	1308.00
Tamil Nadu	791.00	997.00	1094.00
Goa	232.00	295.00	320.00
Total	4608.00	5807.00	6370.00

**Private Sector Participation In
Hydel Power Projects**

1634. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the response of the private sector to the Hydel Power Projects;

(b) the details of incentives offered by the Government to attract private investors in the development of Hydel Power Projects during the Eighth Plan;

(c) whether the Government propose to offer better incentives to the private sector during the Ninth Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The following schemes for setting up Hydro electric power projects in the private sector have been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) :

S.No.	Name of the Project/ Promotor/State	Capacity (MW)
1.	Baspa Stage-II HEP, M/s Jaiprakash Hydro Power Ltd. Himachal Pradesh	300
2.	Malana HEP, M/s Malana Power Company Limited, Himachal Pradesh	86
3.	Vishnuprayag HEP, M/s Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd. Uttar Pradesh	400
4.	Srinagar HEP, M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd. Uttar Pradesh	330
5.	Maheshwar HEP, M/s Shree Maheshwar Hydel Power Corpn. Ltd. Madhya Pradesh	400

The following schemes for setting up hydro electric power projects in the private sector have been accorded in-principle' clearance of CEA and the promoters of these projects are required to submit the complete Detailed Project Report to CEA for accord to techno-economic clearances :

S.No.	Name of the Project/ Promoter/State	Capacity (MW)
1.	Allain Duhangan HEP, M/s Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mill, Himachal Pradesh	192
2.	Karcham Wangtoo HEP, M/s Jai Prakash Industries Limited, Himachal Pradesh	1000
3.	Dhamwari Sunda HEP, M/s Dhamwari Power Company Himachal Pradesh	70
4.	Upper Krishna HEP, M/s Chamundi Power Corporation Limited Karnataka	1107

(b) to (d) Government has taken several measures for accelerating the growth of hydro power development. These include higher budgetary support to Central Public Sector Undertakings like National Hydro-electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC), North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) and Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC), advance action for new hydel projects, liberalised policy to attract private sector participation and action plan for hydro power development in North Eastern Region.

Government of India has announced a Policy on Hydro Power Development in August, 1998 in order to accelerate the pace of hydro power development. The policy inter-alia envisages the following measures for this purpose :

- (i) Providing a differential pricing for peaking power to facilitate greater investment in hydel projects which have the capability to supply peaking power in a cost effective manner.
- (ii) Providing an institutional mechanism for dealing with geological risks.

- (iii) Utilising the joint venture frame work for promoting hydel projects.
- (iv) Simplification of procedures relating to transfer of clearances from State Government to Central Public Sector Undertakings and State Government to private sector.
- (v) Enhancing the ceiling limit for Techno-economic clearance by CEA in respect of projects promoted on the MoU route.
- (vi) Transfer of work relating to the development of small hydel projects upto 25 MW capacity from Ministry of Power to Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources and providing a suitable incentive package.

Air, Water and Environment Pollution Acts

1635. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Central Acts on Air, Water and Environmental Pollution are applicable to Jammu and Kashmir State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether cases of violations of these acts by the State Government have come to the notice of the Union Government during the last three years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Central Acts viz.: the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 are applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. However, amendments made in 1978 and 1988 to the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 have not been adopted by Jammu & Kashmir State Legislature. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

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

[Translation]

Construction of Bridge on NH No. 3

1636. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any bridge is being constructed between Muraina and Gwallor on National Highway No.3;

- (b) if so, the time fixed for completion thereof;
- (c) the expenditure to be incurred thereon;
- (d) whether any estimates had been made regarding the construction of bridge on the Aasan river during the last five years and if so, its estimated cost thereof; and
- (e) the difference between the estimates and the actual expenditure incurred on the construction of the said bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) An estimate for construction of bridge across river Aasan was sanctioned by the Ministry for Rs. 825 lakhs in October, 1998. Bridge is expected to be completed by June 2001. Till January, 2000 an expenditure amounting to Rs. 162.59 lakhs has been incurred on it.

[English]

Proposal for Linking up of National Highway

1637. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the proposal to link up the National Highway from Midnapore to North Bengal via Bankura, Beliatore and Durgapur in West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The road from Midnapore to Bankura is already a part of National Highway No. 60 There is no proposal to link Bankura, Baliaore and Durgapur through National Highway.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pilot Project

1638. SHRI SURESH RAMARO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has decided to launch a pilot project for passing voice traffic over the Internet protocol;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the outcome of the experiments done in respect of this technology in the urban and rural areas; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure good quality of voice under the project ?

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

(b) Pilot project includes using IP technology for passing voice traffic between six cities.

(c) Pilot project is yet to be executed.

(d) To ensure good quality of voice Department is following the standards as recommended by international standardisation institutions.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Telegraph Services in Bihar

1639. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any initiative for the modernisation of telegraph services in Bihar;

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

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) The Micro-processor based Store and Forward Message Switching system (SFMS), Formatted Terminal Concentrators (FTCs) Electronic Key Board Concentrators (EKBCs), the terminals of these systems and Fax machines have been provided in different districts in Bihar. The district-wise details are given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) No separate budget is provided for the purpose.

(e) The Modernisation is an ongoing process and the action is taken on need basis.

Statement

District-wise Status of Modernisation in Bihar

S.No.	Name of District	SFMS/SFT-Port	Fax
1	2	3	4
1.	Patna	Available	Available
2.	Arrah	Available	Available
3.	Dhanbad	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4
4.	Gaya	-do-	-do-
5.	Bokaro	-do-	-do-
6.	Ranchi	-do-	-do-
7.	Jamshedpur	-do-	-do-
8.	Muzaffarpur	-do-	-do-
9.	Sitamarhi	-do-	-do-
10.	Chapra	-do-	-do-
11.	Katihar	-do-	-do-
12.	Bhagalpur	-do-	-do-
13.	B. Deoghar	-do-	-do-
14.	Purnea	-do-	-do-
15.	Bihar Sharif	-do-	-do-
16.	Buxar	-do-	-do-
17.	Giridih	-do-	-do-
18.	Sasaram	-do-	-do-
19.	Aurangabad	-do-	-do-
20.	Jehanabad	-do-	-do-
21.	Nawada	-do-	-do-
22.	Hazaribagh	-do-	-do-
23.	Daltonganj	-do-	-do-
24.	Lohardaga	-do-	-do-
25.	Samastipur	-do-	-do-
26.	Darbhanga	-do-	-do-
27.	Madhubanj	-do-	-do-
28.	Motihari	-do-	-do-
29.	Gopalganj	-do-	-do-
30.	Siwan	-do-	-do-
31.	Hazipur	-do-	-do-
32.	Saharsa	-do-	-do-
33.	Munger	-do-	-do-
34.	Begusarai	-do-	-do-
35.	Khagaria	-do-	-do-
36.	Kishanganj	-do-	-do-
37.	Banka	-do-	-do-
38.	Bettiah	N/A	Available
39.	Araria	-do-	-do-
40.	Jamui	-do-	-do-
41.	Bhabhua	-do-	-do-
42.	Chaibasa	-do-	-do-
43.	Madhepura	-do-	-do-
44.	Godda	-do-	-do-
45.	Dumka	N/A	Available

1	2	3	4
46.	Sahebganj	-do-	-do-
47.	Supaul	-do-	-do-
48.	Gumla	-do-	-do-
49.	Lakhisarai	-do-	-do-
50.	Sheikhpura	-do-	-do-
51.	Koderma	-do-	-do-
52.	Chatra	N/A	N/A
53.	Pakur	-do-	-do-
54.	Sheohar	-do-	-do-
55.	Garhwa	-do-	-do-

Legend

SFMS - Store and Forward Message Switching System

SET - Store and Forward Telegraph System

N/A Not available.

Speed Post Services in J & K

1640. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of district headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir not having Speed Post Services;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Speed Post facility is likely to be provided in every district headquarters of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The name of district headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir not having Speed Post Services are – Leh, Kargil, Kupwara, Badgam, Pulwama, Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch, Doda and Anantnag.

(b) and (c) Speed Post is a premium product which is run on business considerations requires reliable and quick mode of transport. The expansion of Speed Post Service is an on-going process depending on market situation.

[English]

Malpractices by LPG Dealers

1641. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to take action to curb malpractices adopted by the LPG dealers which has come to the notice of the Government in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to curb the malpractices; and

(d) the number of complaints received in this regard during the last one year found to be true ?

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) Regular check of the LPG distributors are carried out by Officers of the Oil Companies at different levels. If any of the distributor is found indulging in any malpractice/irregularities, action is initiated against such distributor for the established malpractice/irregularity, depending upon its nature, as per the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship agreement in vogue.

The PSU Oil Marketing Companies have conducted 19326 inspections during the year 1998-99 and detected irregularities/malpractices in 613 cases and action was taken against the erring distributors.

Proposals Pending Clearance in A.P.

1642. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals pending with the Government for the environment clearance in respect of the surface transport, drinking water, power and industry in regard to Andhra Pradesh at the beginning of 1999;

(b) the number of proposals cleared by the Government during 1999; and

(c) the total number of proposals pending at present and the time by which these are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) :

(a) The number of proposals pending in regard to Andhra Pradesh at the beginning of 1999 is as follows :

Surface transport	-	1
Drinking water	-	Nil
Power	-	2
Industry	-	25

(b) Ten proposals pertaining to Andhra Pradesh were accorded environment clearance during 1999.

(c) Five proposals are pending as on 29.2.2000. The proposals will be considered and a decision regarding environmental clearance taken within three months, from the date of submission of complete information to this Ministry.

**Investment by GAIL and BPCL in
Indraprastha Gas Ltd.**

1643. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment made by GAIL and BPCL in Indraprastha Gas Limited;

(b) whether Indraprastha Gas Ltd. has not been able to match its advertisements in the matter of CNG supply to the motor cars and vehicles;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to examine the whole unit and its contribution in the supply of CNG to the motor vehicles ?

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) Till date Gas Authority of India Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. have invested Rs. 17.8 crore and Rs. 22.5 crore, respectively in the Indraprastha Gas Ltd.

(b) With the initiative and efforts of Indraprastha Gas Ltd. the consumption of Compressed Natural Gas in Delhi has increased from 65000 Kgs per month in January, 1999 to 3,37,000 Kgs per month in January, 2000. The number of vehicles using CNG has also increased from 1367 to 3990 during the above period.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The performance of Indraprastha Gas Ltd. is monitored through regular Board meetings by the Promoting Companies.

Turnover and Profits of Indian Oil Corporation

1644. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the projected target set by the Indian Oil Corporation in terms of turnover and profit during the fiscal year 1999-2000;

(b) the extent to which the target is likely to be achieved; and

(c) the investment planning of Indian Oil Corporation for the Ninth Five Year Plan 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 projected target as per Revised Estimates 1999-2000 set by Indian Oil Corporation in terms of Turnover and Profit during the financial year 1999-2000 is as under :

	Rs. Crores
Turnover	85,310
Profit After Tax	2,500

The above target is likely to be achieved.

(c) The approved outlay for the IXth plan in respect of Indian Oil Corporation is Rs. 25488 Crore.

Financial Clearance for Extension of four Laning

1645. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not given the financial clearance for the acquisition of land for the four laning from Aluru to Trichur on National Highway No. 47;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the financial clearance likely to be given; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) Land Acquisition estimate for four laning between Aluva (Aluru) to Angamaly was sanctioned for Rs. 4.19 Crore in the year 1999 and the proposal for land acquisition from Angamaly to Trichur for four laning has not been received from State PWD.

Performance of Indian Telephone Industry

1646. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of Indian Telephone Industry ;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to set up new branches of ITI in 2000-2001; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location wise?

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

(b) The performance of ITI for the last three years is as below :

Year	Turnover (Rs. Crs.)	Profit After Tax (Rs. Crs.)	Net Worth (Rs. Crs.)
1996-97	1021	- 50.90	102
1997-98	1293	15.26	108
1998-99	1539	27.10	128

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of 'C' above.

Oil and Natural Gas Fields in Assam

1647. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Oil and Natural Gas fields in Assam;

(b) the quantum of Oil and Natural Gas produced by these fields during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the potentiality of Gas extraction in the Barak Valley district of Assam; and

(d) the quantity of Gas extracted, if any, during the last three years in Assam ?

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 number of oil and natural gas fields/structures/finds of various sizes in Assam established by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) as on 1.4.1999 are 58.

(b) to (d) The oil and gas production in Assam during the last three years is as under :

Year	OIL (MMT)*	Gas (BCM)\$
1996-97	4.796	1.942
1997-98	5.114	2.018
1998-99	5.077	2.055

* MMT : Million Metric Tonnes

\$ BCM : Billion Cubic Metres.

The ultimate reserve base of the three gas fields in Barak Valley of Assam is 1.169 BCM.

Power Policy

1648. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to evolve a comprehensive Power Policy for the power projects;

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

(c) whether the single window clearance of power projects would also be dealt with therein; and

(d) if so, the details in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) An Energy Policy Committee had been set up in the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary, Planning Commission on 25.8.1995 to recommend an outline of the Energy Policy for the next 15-20 years. The committee was, at a later stage, chaired by Member (Energy), Planning Commission. The other members of the Committee include Secretaries to the Government of India in the Ministries of Power, Coal, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Environment and Forests, Department of Atomic Energy, Chairman, Power Finance Corporation, Director, Tata Energy Research Institute, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Developmental Research, Secretary General, Confederation of Indian Industry and Adviser (Energy), Planning Commission as Member Secretary.

The Committee has held nine meetings so far and various issues relating to the present energy scenario, future demand and policy issues have been discussed in detail during these meetings. The Committee is in the process of finalising its report.

(c) and (d) The Energy Policy Committee does not deal with issues of single window clearance but only highlights the policy issues which need to be pursued in the energy sector.

Changes in the Electricity Acts

1649. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Comprehensive Power Act on the Cards" appearing in the 'Statesman' dated February 9, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of anomalies that came to the notice of the Union Government in the existing Power Acts;

(c) whether the issue has been discussed in the Power Ministers' Conference before its implementation; and

(d) if so, the response of the various State Governments thereto ?

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

(b) to (d) The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) was engaged as a consultant of advice on the legislative changes that are considered necessary for

accelerating the reform process and the policy decisions which the States and the Centre should consider for accelerating reforms. The NCAER has submitted a draft Electricity Bill to replace the existing three Electricity Laws (The Indian Electricity Act, 1910, The Electricity (Supply), Act, 1948 and The Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998)

The draft Bill suggests corporatisation of all the State Electricity Boards and their restructuring into separate entities that would provide for accountability based on profit centres, whether public or private; and setting up/reinforcing the Regulatory Commissions on the lines of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. It stresses the need for efficiency and competition with the objective of providing reliable power supply to all consumers at competitive prices. It also provides for a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities.

In order to generate a national debate on the issue and to evolve a consensus on the draft Bill suggested by NCAER, its copies have been circulated to all concerned for their comments, suggestions and advice. In the power Ministers' Conference held on 26.2.2000, the Power Ministers/representatives of the States were requested to expedite their views/comments on the draft legislation at the earliest.

Upgradation of Power Stations

1650. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any modernisation and upgradation exercise in respect of power stations in the country was undertaken during the Eighth Plan period;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to initiate the process of modernisation and upgradation of power stations in the country during the Ninth Plan period; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to improve the availability and performance of old thermal units, a renovation and modernisation (R & M) programme covering 44 thermal power stations comprising 198 units with an aggregate capacity of 20869.43 MW in the country was launched in the year 1990-91 for implementation during 8th Plan period. Similarly for hydro stations, based on the recommendations of National Committee, a scheme for renovation, modernisation and upgrading of hydro power plants was started covering 55 hydro schemes. Till 8th Plan, 8 schemes have been completed. State-wise details of thermal power stations and hydel stations are enclosed as statement-I and II.

(d) and (e) The balance work of the 8th Plan which has spilled over to 9th plan in respect of R & M of thermal schemes and R & MU of hydro schemes is proposed to be completed during 9th Plan. In order to give a fillip to this programme, the Government has announced a new scheme for providing assistance to the State utilities, under this scheme, additional Central Plan Assistance of Rs. 1,000 crores, to State Governments and Union Territories during 2000-2001 for undertaking investments on R & M of old and inefficient plants and for strengthening the distribution system.

Statement-I

Details of Thermal units covered under R & M Programme (Phase-II)

S.No.	Board/ Utility	Station	Units	Capacity MW
1	2	3	4	5
1.	NTPC	Badarpur	1-5 (3 x 95 + 2 x 210)	705.00
2.	DVB	I.P.	1-5 (1 x 30 + 3 x 62.5 + 1 x 60)	277.50
3.	HPGCL	Faridabad	1-3 (3 x 55)	165.00
4.	HPGCL	Panipat	1-2 (2 x 110)	220.00
5.	PSEB	Ropar	1-2 (2 x 210)	420.00
6.	PSEB	Bhatinda	1-4 (4 x 110)	440.00
7.	RSEB	Kota	1-2 (2 x 110)	220.00
8.	UPSEB	OBRA	1-13 (5 x 50 + 3 x 100 + 5 x 200)	1550.00
9.	UPSEB	Panki	1-4 (2 x 32 + 2 x 110)	284.00
10.	UPSEB	Harduaganj	1-8 (1x 30 + 2 x 40 + 4 x 60 + 1 x 105)	455.00

1	2	3	4	5
11.	UPSEB	Parichha	1-2 (2 x 110)	220.00
12.	MPEB	Amarkantak	1-4 (1 x 30 + 1 x 20 + 2 x 120)	290.00
13.	MPEB	Korba (E)	1-8 (4 x 50 + 2 x 120)	440.00
14.	MPEB	Korba (W)	1-2 (2 x 210)	420.00
15.	MPEB	Satpura	1-9 (5 x 62.5 + 1 x 200 + 3 x 210)	1142.50
16.	GEB	Ukai	1-5 (2 x 120 + 2 x 200 + 1 x 210)	850.00
17.	GEB	Gandhinagar	1-2 (2 x 120)	240.00
18.	GEB	Dhuvaran	1-6 (4 x 63.5 + 2 x 140)	534.00
19.	GEB	Wanakbori	1-3 (3 x 210)	630.00
20.	MSEB	Koradi	1-7 (4 + 115 + 1 x 200 + 2 x 210)	1080.00
21.	MSEB	Nasik	1-5 (2 x 140 + 3 x 210)	910.00
22.	MSEB	Bhusawal	1-3 (1 x 58 + 2 x 210)	478.00
23.	MSEB	Chandrapur	1-4 (4 x 210)	840.00
24.	MSEB	Parli	1-5 (2 x 30 + 3 x 210)	690.00
25.	MSEB	Paras	2 (1 x 58)	58.00
26.	TNEB	Ennore	1-5 (2 x 60 + 3 x 110)	450.00
27.	TNEB	Tuticorin	1-3 (3 x 210)	630.00
28.	TNEB	Mettur	1-4 (4 x 210)	840.00
29.	APGENCO	Kothagudem 'A' (OECF)*	1-4 (4 x 60)	240.00
	APGENCO	Kothagudem (B & C)	1-4 (2 x 105 + 2 x 110)	430.00
30.	APGENCO	Nellore	1 (1 x 30)	30.00
31.	NLC	Neyvelli	1-9 (6 x 50 + 3 x 110)	600.00
32.	WBPDC	Kolaghat	2-3 (2 x 210)	420.00
33.	WBSEB	Santalidih	1-4 (4 x 120)	480.00
34.	DVC	Chandrapura	1-6 (3 x 120 + 3 x 140)	780.00
35.	DVC	Durgapur	1-4 (2 x 75 + 1 x 140 + 1 x 210)	500.00
36.	DVC	Bokaro	1-3 (3 x 50)	150.00
37.	BSEB	Patratu	1-10 (4 x 40 + 2 x 90 + 2 x 105 + 2 x 110)	770.00
38.	BSEB	Barauni	1-4 (2 x 50 + 2 x 105)	310.00
39.	BSEB	Muzaffarpur	1-2 (2 x 210)	420.00
40.	ASEB	Bongaigaon	1-4 (4 x 60)	240.00
41.	ASEB	Chandrapura	1 (1 x 30)	30.00
42.	ASEB	Kathalguri & Golkey	1-7 (3 x 2.705 + 4 x 2.705)	18.93
43.	ASEB	Lakwa	1-4 (4 x 15)	60.00
44.	ASEB	Namrup	1-5 (3 x 23 + 1 x 12.5 + 1 x 30)	111.50
Total				20869.43

Statement-II**Details of 55 R & M Hydro Schemes Identified by the National Committee**

S.No.	Project Name	Installed Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Machkund Stage-I	3 x 17 + 3 x 21.25
2.	Nizam Sagar	2 x 5
3.	Lower Sileru	4 x 115
4.	Srisailem	7 x 110
Bihar		
5.	Subernrekha	2 x 65
Gujarat		
6.	Ukai (U 1 & 3)	4 x 75
Himachal Pradesh		
7.	Bassi	4 x 15
8.	Giri	2 x 30
Jammu & Kashmir		
9.	Chennai	5 x 4.66
10.	Lower Jhelum	3 x 35
11.	Sumbal Sindh	2 x 11.3
Karnataka		
12.	Mahatma Gandhi	4 x 12 + 4 x 18
13.	Nagjhari (U2)	6 x 135
14.	Sharavathy (U1-8)	8 x 89.1
15.	Sharavathy	2 x 89.1
16.	Sivasamudram	6 x 3 + 4 x 6
Kerala		
17.	Nerimangalam	3 x 15
18.	Poringalkuthu	4 x 8
19.	Sabarigiri	6 x 50
20.	Sholayar	3 x 18
Maharashtra		
21.	Koyna I & II Stage I	4 x 65 + 4 x 75
22.	Koyna-III (U 10, 11 & 12)	4 x 80
Meghalaya		
23.	Kyredemkulai	2 x 30
24.	Uiam Stage I & II	4 x 9 + 2 x 9
Orissa		
25.	Hirakud-I (U1 & 2)	2 x 37.5
26.	Hirakud-I (U3 & 4)	2 x 24

1	2	3
27.	Hirakud-I (U5 & 6)	2 x 37.5
28.	Hirakud-I	—
29.	Hirakud-II	3 x 24
Punjab		
30.	UBDC-I	3 x 15
Tamil Nadu		
31.	Kadamparai	4 x 100
32.	Kundah -III (U 1 & 2)	3 x 60
33.	Mettur Dam	4 x 10
34.	Moyar	3 x 12
35.	Papanasam	4 x 5.8 (4 x 7 at Unity P.F.)
36.	Pykara	3 x 6.65 + 2 x 11 + 2 x 14
37.	Sholayar-I	2 x 35
Tripura		
38.	Gumti	3 x 5
Uttar Pradesh		
39.	Chilla (U1, 3 & 4)	4 x 36
40.	Khatima	3 x 13.8
41.	Obra	3 x 33
42.	Pathri (U3)	3 x 6.8
43.	Ramganga	3 x 66
44.	Rihand	6 x 50
45.	Tiloth	3 x 30
West Bengal		
46.	Jadhaka Stage-I	3 x 9
Central Sector		
47.	Bhakra RB	5 x 135 (5 x 120 MW Name Plate Rating)
48.	Dehar (Us, 3 & 4)	6 x 165
49.	Ganguwal (U2)	2 x 24.2 + 1 x 29.25
50.	Kotla (U3)	-do-
Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)		
51.	Maithon	3 x 20
52.	Panchet	1 x 40
National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC)		
53.	Baira Siul	3 x 60
54.	Loktak	3 x 35
North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO)		
55.	Khandong (U1)	2 x 25
Total		9652.00

*[Translation]***LPG Connections in Dahod, Gujarat**

1651. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the waiting list for LPG connections in Dahod district and Dahod city of Gujarat as on February 15, 2000;

(b) the time by which the waiting lists are likely to be cleared;

(c) the number of LPG connections released during 1998 and 1999 in the said district; and

(d) the number of LPG connections proposed to be released during 2000 and 2001 ?

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 on 1.2.2000, the waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies in the Dahod district of Gujarat is 94 including 54 in the Dahod city.

(b) to (d) The total number of LPG connections released during 1998 and 1999 in the said district is 1051 and 8067 respectively. New 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 Govt. has a plan to release one 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.

Amount for National Highways in M.P.

1652. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to Madhya Pradesh for the repair and maintenance of National Highways during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the amount spent on National Highway Nos. 7 and 27 separately during the said financial years; and

(c) the number of narrow bridges and culverts on these two National Highways widened from the said amount during these financial years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The following allocation has been done to the State of Madhya Pradesh under Maintenance and Repair :

	1998-99 M & R	1999-2000 M & R (upto 1/2000) (Rs. in lakhs)
	3945.04	5224.493
(b)	1998-99	1999-2000 (Rs. in lakhs)
NH 7	563.97	445.30
NH 27	33.74	30.51

(c) During this period widening of 21 culverts/bridges were completed and work on 2 bridges are in progress.

*[English]***Constitution of Committee for Road Projects**

1653. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a uniform organisational setup in the highway sector for the effective implementation of various road projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted to suggest the measures for quick implementation of the road projects;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the committee; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Works for National Highways which are the primary responsibility of this Ministry, are generally being executed by the State PWDs under the agency system. Thus, the organisational set up is already uniform.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Setting up and Renovation of Power Projects

1654. SHRI BASANGOUDA R. (YATNA) PATIL :

SHRI R.S. PATIL :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the demand of power in the country as on date, state-wise, sector-wise;

(b) the details of the companies given the works for setting up of power projects during the last three years alongwith capacity thereof in the country; State-wise;

(c) the present status of each of such power project; and

(d) the details of new power projects proposed to be set up or renovated during 2000-2001 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The peak demand/peak met power supply position in the country during the month of January, 2000 State-wise is given at enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) Details of Central Sector/Private companies, thermal and hydel power projects sanctioned/Techno economic cleared during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) 2125.5 MW Thermal and 1219.5 MW Hydel capacity is expected to be set up during 2000-2001. The details of thermal and hydel units are given in the enclosed statement-III.

Details of thermal and hydel power projects proposed to be renovated during 2000-2001 are given in the enclosed statement-IV.

Statement-I

Region/State/System	January, 2000	
	Peak demand	Peak met
1	2	3
Northern Region		
1. Chandigarh	157	157
2. Delhi	2850	2498

1	2	3
3. Haryana	2270	2070
4. Himachal Pradesh	604	604
5. Jammu & Kashmir	1125	950
6. Punjab	3250	3160
7. Rajasthan	3463	3463
8. Uttar Pradesh	6580	5058
Western Region		
1. Gujarat	7393	5953
2. Madhya Pradesh	6836	4808
3. Maharashtra	11523	9540
4. Goa	260	231
Southern Region		
1. Andhra Pradesh	6665	6179
2. Karnataka	4432	3944
3. Kerala	2290	2092
4. Tamil Nadu	5743	5405
Eastern Region		
1. Bihar	1273	1124
2. D.V.C.	1276	1276
3. Orissa	1793	1781
4. West Bengal	2718	2693
North Eastern Region		
1. Arunachal Pradesh	46	47
2. Assam	565	556
3. Manipur	99	95
4. Meghalaya	124	126
5. Mizoram	64	64
6. Nagaland	49	47
7. Tripura	115	92

Statement-II

S.No.	Name of Project	Date TEC	Capacity (MW)	Status
1	2	3	4	
Madhya Pradesh				
1.	Sipat TPP/NTPC	17.1.2000	3 x 660	Investment decision not taken
2.	Pench TPP/M/s Pench Power	19.9.97	2 x 250	FC not achieved
3.	Korba West Extn M/s ITP Ltd.	15.9.97	2 x 210	-do-
4.	Korba East TPP / M/s Daewoo Power	30.12.96	2 x 535	-do-
5.	Bina TPP -Ph I M/s Bina PS	17.6.97	2 x 289	-do-

1	2	3	4
6.	Narsinghpur CCGT M/s GBL	27.6.97	166.55 -do-
7.	Guna CCPP M/s STP Power	19.9.97	330 -do-
8.	Bhilai TPP M/s Bhilai Power	3.10.97	2 x 287 -do-
9.	Raigarh TPP (Ph-I) M/s Jindal	17.11.97	2 x 275 -do-
10.	Ratlam DGPP M/s GVK Power	10.2.98	8 x 14,829 -do-
11.	Pithampura Kheda DGPP M/s Shapoorji)	1.2.98	8 x 14.96 -do-
12.	Bhander CCGT	5.3.98	342 -do-
13.	Khandwa CCP M/s Madhya Bharat	29.5.98	171.17 -do-
Gujarat			
14.	Kawas CCPP St-II/NTPC	19.8.98	650 Under review
15.	Jhanor Gandhar CCPP /NTPC	12.11.98	650 -do-
16.	Surat Lignite TPS M/s GIPCL	26.8.98	250 -do-
17.	Jamnagar Petcoke TPP M/s Reliance Power	24.5.99	500 FC not achieved
18.	Akrimota Lignite TPP M/s GMDCL	6.9.99	250 -do-
19.	Sabermati J Station M/s AEC0	20.11.98	125 -do-
Maharashtra			
20.	Dabhol CCGT-I/ M/s Dabhol PC	4/98	447 Phase-I achieved Ph.II by 3/2000
21.	Patalganga CCGT M/s Reliance Patalganga	22.1.98	447 FC expected
Goa			
22.	Salgaocar CCGT M/s Reliance Salgaocar	-	48 Commissioned
Tamil Nadu			
23.	Tuticorin TPP-IV /M/s SPIC	31.7.97	525 FC not achieved
24.	Samayanallur DGPP/ M/s Balaji	10.2.98	106 -do-
25.	Samalpatti DGPP /M/s Samalpatti	10.2.98	105.6 FC achieved
26.	North Madras St-III/ M/s Trisakti	31.7.98	525 FC not achieved
27.	North Madras St-II /M/s Videocon	3.4.96	1050 -do-
28.	Cuddalore TPP /M/s Cuddalore	13.8.99	1320 -do-
29.	Venbar CCPP/ M/s India Power	24.9.99	1873 FC not achieved
Andhra Pradesh			
30.	Visakhapatnam TPP M/s Hinduja	25.7.98	1040 -do-
31.	Ramagundam TPP M/s BPL	26.6.97	520 Work commenced
32.	Vemagiri CCPP /Vemagiri PGL	14.1.99	492 EPC contract signed. Work in progress
33.	Kondapalli CCGT M/s Lanco Kondapalli	22.1.98	350 Fuel Oil pipe erection in progress GTG-2 placed on foundation. Work in progress for control. Control Switchgear Building
34.	Piddapuram CCGT M/s BSES	-	200 Order for FO system etc. placed
35.	Gautami CCGT M/s Gautami Power	-	358.9 Work in progress
36.	Krishnapatnam B TPP /M/s BBI	16.6.98	520 PPA signed.EPC contractor finalised
37.	Simadhari TPS/NTPC	8.7.97	1000 LOI placed. Wok in progress
38.	Ramagundam TPP /St-III/NTPC	29.4.99	500 status awaited

1	2	3	4
Karnataka			
39.	Kaniminike CCGT /M/s Peenya	20.9.99	107.6 -do-
40.	Tanirbavi CCGT /M/s Tanirbavi	-	220 PPA signed. EPC finalised
41.	Nagarjuna TPP /M/s Nagarjuna	29.4.99	2 x 507.5 Final financial package submitted
42.	Tumkur DGPP /M/s DLF	-	32.5 PPA signed FSA signed.
43.	Mangalore TPP/ M/s Mangalore	10.7.98	4 x 253.3 Under litigation
44.	Multi Fuel Plant /M/s Hospet PL	-	50.8 PPA signed. FSA signed EPC awarded
45.	Bidadi CCPP /M/s KPC Bidadi	-	200 Land acquired. Evaluation of EPC bids in progress
46.	Bellary DGPP /M/s Rayalseema	-	27.8 PPA signed GOK guarantee Signed EPC finalised
Kerala			
47.	Vypeen CCGT /M/s Siasin Energy	25.9.98	678.7 FC not achieved
48.	Kannur CCPP /M/s Kannur Power	16.2.2000	NA status awaited
49.	Cochin CCGT/ M/s BSES	-	173 project in advance stage
A & N Island			
50.	Bambooflat /M/s Suryachakra	20.11.97	20 FC not achieved
Haryana			
51.	Faridabad CCGT/NTPC	8.7.97	429 Erection work in progress
52.	Magnum DG	11.96	4 x 6.3 Already commissioned
Bihar			
53.	Jojobera /TPP M/s Jamshedpur PC	12/97	240 Work in progress
West Bengal			
54.	Bakreshwar TPP/B.K. G Co.	23.8.98	420 FC yet to achieve
55.	Gouripore TPS /M/s Gouripore	19.4.99	150 In abeyance
Orissa			
56.	Talcher STPP St-II/NTPC	23.10.97	4 x 500 works in progress
57.	I B Valley TPP ST-II M/s AES	26.2.99	2 x 250 FC not achieved
58.	Duburi TPS /M/s Kalinga	29.4.99	2 x 250 FC no achieved
Rajasthan			
59.	Anta-St II/NTPC	19.8.98	650 under review
60.	Dholpur CCGT M/s RPG	12.3.98	GT + ST FC not achieved 2 x 231.75 + 239.2
61.	Barsingsar Lignite / M/s HVCL	20.4.98	2 x 250 EPC signed. FC not achieved.
62.	Chambal Naptha based Power Project /M/s Chambal PL	29.10.98 (State clearance)	166 -do-
63.	Mathania ISCC /M/s RSPCL	27.8.99	140 FC not achieved.
U.P.			
64.	Auriaya St.II/ NTPC	30.11.98	630 under review
65.	Rihand /NTPC	1.10.99	1000 Inv. decision not taken
66.	Rosa TPP /M/s Indo Gulf Fer.	19.9.97	2 x 283.5 FC extn sought upto 6/01

1	2	3	4
Hydro			
H.P.			
67.	Baspa St.II /M/s JPIL	12/93	3 x 100 PPA signed. Project execution by M/s JPHPC Work in progress
68.	Malana /RSWML	27.7.98	86 FC to be achieved TEC Trf. to M/s Malana PCL Work in progress
69.	Chamera St.II /NHPC	18.5.99	300 Agreement between NHPC AND Consortium lead by M/s Jaiprakash Ind. Ltd signed. Work in progress
U.P.			
70.	Vishnu Prayag/ JPIL	30.6.97	400 Inv. & survey works in progress
Assam			
71.	Kopili St. II/NEEPCO	6.7.99	25 LOI placed for Tgset and Package I. Work in progress.
Sikkim			
72.	Teesta St. V/NHPC	11.2.2000	510 Development works in Progress
Manipur			
73.	Loktak DS/NHPC	30.12.99	90 Work in progress
Mizoram			
74.	Tuirial /NEEPCO	7.7.98	60 Work in progress
Madhya Pradesh			
75.	Maheshwar / M/s SMHPCL	30.12.96	400 Works awards placed. Land acquisition and R & R works in progress

Statement-III*Capacity addition programme for the year 2000-2001 (Tentative)*

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Capacity (MW)	Comm. Schedule
1	2	3	4	5
Thermal				
Central Sector				
1.	Faridabad CCGT/NTPC	Haryana	144.0	10/2000
State Sector				
1.	Panipat TPS St. IV, U-6	Haryana	210.0	2/2001
2.	Suratgarh TPS, U-2	Rajasthan	250.0	4/2000
3.	Khaperkheda TPS, U-3	Maharashtra	210.0	5/2000
	U-4	Maharashtra	210.0	11/2000
4.	Bakreswar TPP	West Bengal	210.0	9/2000
5.	Leimakhong DG	Manipur	36.0	11/2000
(Slippage from 1999-2000)				

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Kovilkalappal GT ST	TNEB	107.0	9/2000 10/2000
Private Sector				
1.	Kondapalli CCGT GT M/s LKPL ST	Andhra Pradesh	112.0	5/2000
		Andhra Pradesh	126.0	8/2000
2.	Pillaiperumalanallur GT CCGT (PPN Power) ST	Tamil Nadu	225.0 105.5	12/2000
3.	Samalpatti DG DG-1 & 2 (Samalpatti) DG- 3 & 4	Tamil Nadu	30.0 30.0	2/2001 3/2001
4.	Jojobera TPS (U-1) M/s Jamshedpur Power Co)	Bihar	120.0	1/2001

Note : Slippage from the programme of 1999-2000, if any, would also get added to the capacity addition programme of 2000-2001.

Hydro

S.No.	Project	Installed Capacity (MW)	Capacity addition during the year (MW)
1	2	3	4
1.	Ghanvi	2x 11.25	22.5
2.	Upper Sindh-II	2 x 35	35.0 (Unit-II)
3.	Upper Singh Ext.	1 x 35	35.0
4.	Sewa-III	3 x 3	9.0
5.	Chennai-III	3 x 2.5	5.0 (Unit II & III)
6.	Ranjit Sagar	4 x 150	600.0
7.	Pahalgam	2 x 1.5	3.0 (under MNES)
8.	Upper Indravati	4 x 150	300.0 (Unit-III & IV)
9.	Srisailem Left Bank Power House	6 x 150	150.0 (Unit-I)
10.	Sharavathy Tail Race	4 x 60	60.0 (Unit-I)

Statement-IV

Details of Units covered under R & M Programme (Phase-II)

S.No.	Board/Utility Station	Capacity (MW)	Sanctioned Est. Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	NTPC - Badapur (U 1-5)	705	14018.00
2.	DVB - I.P. (U 1-5)	277.50	1744.00
3.	HPGCL - Faridabad (U 1-3)	165	1050.00
4.	HPGCL - Panipat (U 1-2)	220	1658.00
5.	PSEB - Ropar (U 1-2)	420	2494.65
6.	PSEB - Bhatinda (U 1-4)	440	2340.84

1	2	3	4
7.	RSEB - Kota (U 1-2)	220	3904.00
8.	UPSEB - Obra (U 1-13)	1550	14367.00
9.	UPSEB - Panki (U 1-4)	284	2570.00
10.	UPSEB - Harduaganj (U 1-8)	455	3320.00
11.	UPSEB - Parichha (U 1-2)	220	1734.00
12.	MPEB - Amarkantak (U 1-4)	290	3674.00
13.	MPEB - Korba (E) (U 1-6)	440	7710.00
14.	MPEB - Korba (W) (U 1-2)	420	940.00
15.	MPEB - Satpura (U 1-9)	1142.50	17707.17
16.	GEB - Ukai (U 1-5)	850	3090.00
17.	GEB - Gandhinagar (U 1-2)	240	346.00
18.	GEB - Dhuvaran (U 1-6)	534	2724.00
19.	GEB - Wankbori (U 1-3)	630	1544.00
20.	MSEB - Koradi (U 1-7)	1080	6765.00
21.	MSEB - Nasik (U 1-5)	910	12122.00
22.	MSEB - Bhusawal (U 1-3)	478	4179.00
23.	MSEB - Chandrapur (U 1-3)	840	4179.00
24.	MSEB - Parli (U 105)	690	5416.00
25.	MSEB - Paras (U-2)	58	998.00
26.	TNEB - Ennore (U 1-5)	450	6486.00
27.	TNEB - Tuticorin (U 1-3)	630	1043.00
28.	Mettur (U 1-4)	840	312.00
29.	APGENCO - Kothagundam 'A' (U 1-4)	240	14171.00
	APGENCO - Kothagundam 'B' & 'C' (U 1-4)	430	2903.00
30.	APGENCO - Nellore (U -1)	30	1385.00

1	2	3	4
31.	NLC - Neyveli (U 1-9)	600	25000.00
32.	WBPDCL - Kolaghat (U 2 & 3)	420	2000.00
33.	WBSEB - Santaldih (U 1-4)	480	8490.00
34.	DVC - Chandrapur (U 1-6)	780	2722.00
35.	DVC - Durgapur (U 1-4)	500	36481.00
36.	DVC - Bokaro (U 1-3)	150	284.00
37.	BSEB - Patratu (U 1-10)	770	7583.00
38.	BSEB - Barauni (U 1-4)	310	1577.00
39.	BSEB - Muzaffarpur (U 1-2)	220	292.00
40.	ASEB - Bongaigaon (U -4)	240	880.00
41.	ASEB - Chandrapura (U -1)	30	252.00
42.	ASEB - Kathalguri & Golkey (U 1-7)	18.93	633.00
43.	ASEB - Lakwa (U 1-4)	60	1777.00
44.	ASEB - Namrup (U 1-5)	111.50	3268.00

S.No.	Name of Project/ Capacity	Benefit Exp. MW	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)
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Hydro Schemes**(I) RM & U Schemes**

1.	Lower Sileru/ A.P. 4 x 115 MW	24	1335.00
2.	Srisaillam/ A.P. 7 x 110 MW	—	1632.00
3.	Mahatma Gandhi/Karnataka 4 x 12 + 4 x 18 MW	120	3390.00
4.	Hirakud-II/Orissa, 3 x 24 MW	72	8205.00
5.	Pykara /T.N. 3 x 6.65 + 2 x 11 + 2 x 14 MW	69.95	2606.00
6.	Bhakra RB /BBMB, 5 x 120 MW	185	7750.00

(II) Other Schemes

1.	Ganguwal (U 3) BBMB 24.2. MW	27.63	2500.00
2.	Kotla (U2) BBMB 24.2 MW	28.12	2500.00
3.	Sharavathy/Karnataka 2 x 103.5 MW—	—	499.00
4.	Limnamakki/Karnataka 2 x 27.5 MW	—	80.00
5.	Salal St./NHPC 3 x 115 MW	—	6147.00
6.	Bhira Tail Race/Maharashtra 2 x 40 MW	—	180.00

Bridges Blown-up in Jammu and Kashmir

1655. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of bridges on National Highways blown-up either by the terrorist group or others in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years;

(b) whether these are being rebuilt;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Two bridges on National Highways in Jammu and Kashmir were blown-up during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Damaged bridges have since been repaired, details of which are given below :

NH No.	Location	Date when Blown up	Approx. cost of repairs (Rs. in lacs)
1A	Km 20 on Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Section of NH-1A	5.11.98	2.17
1B	Kms 140.40 Kishtwar-Sinthan Pass section of NH-1B	23.10.99	2.15

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Shivdi-Navasheva Linked Road and Western Express Highway Scheme

1656. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shivdi-Navasheva link road and Western Express Highway (Worli to Nariman Point) scheme are pending for clearance with the Government;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) The alignment of proposed Mumbai Trans Harbour link (Shivdi-Nhava link) crosses various installations of Mumbai Port Trust. The Mumbai Port Trust had suggested for change in the alignment of the project to the Project Authorities of the Government of Maharashtra. No further proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra has been received by the Mumbai Port Trust.

The proposal of Western Express Highway has not been referred to the Ministry of Surface Transport by the Government of Maharashtra.

[English]

Clearance to Dhansingh Toli Irrigation Project

1657. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Dhansingh Toli Irrigation Project in Gumla district of Bihar is still under consideration for clearance for a long time;

(b) if so, the date on which it was received by the Union Government for clearance;

(c) the reasons for not clearing the proposal so far; and

(d) the likely date by which it is expected to be cleared?

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

(b) to (d) A proposal for diversion of 40.85 hectare of forest land for construction of Dhansingh Toli irrigation project in district Gumla was received from State Government of Bihar under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in May 1991. After scrutiny of the proposal State Government was requested to furnish certain details regarding area for compensatory afforestation and its detail scheme in July 1991.

Subsequently State Government submitted a revised proposal for diversion of 36.71 hectare of forest land for the same project in July 1997. State Government was asked to furnish certain essential details in September 1997 to which complete information was submitted only in October 1999 where the forest area for diversion has been further modified to 53.62 hectare.

After discussing the proposal in Forest Advisory Committee in the month of October 1999, Ministry issued in principle approval on 3.12.1999 for diversion of 53.62 hectare of forest land subject to fulfilment of conditions namely; transfer and mutation of equivalent non-forest land for raising compensatory afforestation in favour of State Forest department, transfer of fund for compensatory afforestation over equivalent non forest land and transfer of fund for penal compensatory afforestation to an extent of double the area used in violation over degraded forest land.

It is now for the State Government to fulfil these conditions and send compliance report for issue of final approval under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Expansion of Oil Refinery at Barauni

1658. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA :
SHRI N.R.K. REDDY :
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the capacity of the Barauni Refinery;

(b) if so, the total investment likely to be made for the purpose;

(c) the details of contracts finalised in this regard; and

(d) the time by which expansion of the refinery is likely to be completed ?

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) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., propose to expand the capacity of Barauni Refinery from 4.2 to 6 Million Metric Tonnes per Annum at a cost of Rs. 1803 crore.

(c) The project is being executed on Lumpsum Turn-key (LSTK) basis. It has been divided in four LSTK contracts out of which 3 have been finalised and the fourth is under finalisation.

(d) The project is scheduled to be mechanically completed by February, 2002.

[Translation]

Telephone Bills Payment Facility in Rural Areas

1659. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the facilities provided by the Government to the telephone subscribers of the rural areas for ensuring cash payment of their telephone bills;

(b) whether the cheques for the payment of telephone bills are not accepted by local post offices in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the acceptance of cheques by the post offices in the rural areas;

(e) whether the permission from some Government Authority is required for the payment of such cheques; and

(f) if so, the details including the exact procedure for the same in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Payment of telephone bills in cash is accepted in the department post offices in rural areas.

(b) No, Sir. Cheques in payment of telephone bills are also accepted.

(c) to (f) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

Conservation of Wildlife

1680. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of cases sent by Madhya Pradesh relating to wild life that lying pending for approval during the last three years;

(b) the time by these cases would be approved;

(c) whether the Government would provide financial assistance to the State Government for the protection of wild life; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard for the said period, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) No proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government for assistance under the scheme "Project Tiger" is pending for approval. Under the scheme Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries during 1999-2000, proposals worth Rs. 14.21 crore was received from Madhya Pradesh which is higher than the total allocation available to the Ministry under this scheme. Position in respect to previous years is also more or less the same. The allocations are made to different States based on the number and area of the protected areas, richness in bio-diversity, variety of species involved, past performance of the State Governments, utilization of the amount provided during the previous years and approved allocation of the Ministry under the scheme. The funds released by the Government to various States and Union Territories under the schemes Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries are given in the attached statement-I and II.

Statement-I

State-wise release of funds for the last three years under the centrally sponsored scheme Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries

S.No.	State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	43.39	50.72	87.54
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	27.953	57.91	50.983
3.	Assam	54.62	58.05	53.44
4.	Bihar	6.00	—	27.85
5.	Goa	Nil	11.07	21.30
6.	Gujarat	17.005	13.80	22.10
7.	Haryana	14.57	37.20	21.50
8.	Himachal Pradesh	61.50	49.80	47.46
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	124.70	7.00	5.50
10.	Karnataka	78.17	84.12	99.201
11.	Kerala	49.29	49.35	59.975
12.	Madhya Pradesh	195.67	35.93	151.75
13.	Maharashtra	48.845	27.783	123.43
14.	Manipur	13.50	19.64	13.28
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	13.48	8.45	12.30
17.	Nagaland	15.29	9.00	9.70
18.	Orissa	34.22	68.73	95.54
19.	Punjab	14.03	8.65	11.57
20.	Rajasthan	82.34	89.52	66.89
21.	Sikkim	12.51	11.00	12.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	61.284	74.63	61.18
23.	Tripura	29.81	—	19.97
24.	Uttar Pradesh	112.11	89.57	118.01
25.	West Bengal	69.69	72.96	55.21
26.	A & N Islands	—	—	22.00
27.	Chandigarh	12.00	Nil	20.00
Total		1211.93	934.883	1289.679

Statement-II**Scheme : Project Tiger**

S.No.	Name of Tiger Reserve State	Funds Released 1997-98	Funds Released 1998-99	Funds Released 1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.700	18.010	18.495
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.000	47.680	30.590
3.	Assam	45.080	35.000	87.290
4.	Bihar	36.750	153.990	109.900
5.	Karnataka	25.000	69.340	128.169
6.	Kerala	34.950	39.190	42.665
7.	Madhya Pradesh	133.778	225.125	278.785
8.	Maharashtra	60.530	110.740	114.435
9.	Mizoram	12.450	9.650	21.430
10.	Orissa	49.300	67.650	72.450
11.	Rajasthan	149.885	472.265	211.095
12.	Tamil Nadu	45.600	32.500	58.780
13.	Uttar Pradesh	125.012	199.750	212.950
14.	West Bengal	58.950	179.985	137.140
Total		807.985	1660.875	1516.174

*[English]***Oil Exploration**

1661. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of oil exploration on recently offered blocks has since been commenced;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to award the bids in respect of the remaining oil exploration blocks ?

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. The Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) containing detailed terms and conditions, work programme etc. for the blocks awarded under first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) have not been signed so far.

(c) The exploration activities in the country involving acquisition of new data, reprocessing/reinterpretation of the

existing data and offer of blocks form a continuous and on-going process.

*[Translation]***Tower Telephone Connection in Bihar**

1662. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is demand of Tower Telephone Connections in the villages of Monghyr, Godda, Devghar and Dumka districts of Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons for not meeting the said demand; and

(c) the time by which the Tower Telephone Connections are likely to be provided in the said Districts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) There is demand for public telephone facility in villages of Monghyr, Godda, Devghar & Dumka districts of Bihar. VPTs are being provided through tower telephones, underground cables and Overhead lines in these districts. Government plans are to provide the facility in all the remaining villages gradually by March, 2000 subject to the availability of resources.

*[English]***Telephone Facility**

1663. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from public representatives for providing telephone facility to the subscribers of Haldibari W.B.) from Jalpaiguri Telephone Exchange instead of Mekhliganj;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

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

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

(b) The details of the representation received in this connection are as under :

In 1998, Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, MP (LS) vide his letter dated 17.6.98 represented to the then MO (C) for provision of direct connectivity between Haldibari and Jalpaiguri.

(c) Local call facility at 180 sec. Pulse rate (i.e. inter dialing without STD (Code) has been provided between subscribers of Mekhliganj SDCA (including Haldibari) and

Jalpaiguri SDCA. Haldibari Exchange has also been directly connected to Jalpaiguri TAX through 120 chl. Digital UHF for STD service.

Seminar on Intellectual Property Right

1664. SHRI R.S. PATIL :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

- (a) whether a global seminar on the intellectual property right was held recently in Capital;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the Government propose to bring Indian Law at par with the international law and practices;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;
- (e) the suggestions made by the participants of the seminar; and
- (f) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a), (b), (e) and (f) An Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Intellectual Property Policy Issues in the Next Millennium was organised by the World Intellectual Property Organisation, in association with Department of Industrial Development, and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, in New Delhi from July 7 to 9, 1999. The Forum was attended by senior officials responsible for intellectual property rights policies and administration from 20 countries of Asia and the Pacific region to examine various issues concerning policy development in the field of intellectual property.

In addition, the Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA) and the Federation Internationale de Conseils en Propriete Industrielle (FICPI) privately organised a joint Forum in New Delhi from 11-13 February, 2000 to provide an insight into the current situation in the field of intellectual property prevailing in the world. Asian Patent Attorneys Association is an association comprising of lawyers practicing in the field of intellectual property mainly from Asian countries. Federation Internationale de Conseils en Propriete Industrielle (FICPI) is an International Association of lawyers from all over the world.

(c) and (d) Insofar as the issues being handled by the Department of Industrial Development are concerned, legislation to comply with the obligations contained in TRIPS Agreement of the WTO Agreement were introduced in Parliament in its Winter Session, 1999. These were related to trademarks, geographical indications, designs and patents.

While the legislation pertaining to trademarks and geographical indications have been passed by the Parliament, the Designs Bill is to be considered by Lok Sabha. A Joint Committee of Parliament is examining the Patents Bill.

Uniform Rules for State Pollution Control Boards

1665. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

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

- (a) whether the State Pollution Control Boards are adopting and implementing their own rules and regulations;
- (b) if so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board has decided to set up a committee to frame guidelines on a uniform consent procedure, which State Pollution Control Boards and committees could follow; and
- (c) if so, the likely time by which uniform rules would be framed and States directed to implement pollution control norms in accordance with such rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In pursuance of the decision of the Forty Sixth Conference of the Chairmen and Member Secretaries of State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) held at New Delhi on July 14, 1998 the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) set up a committee to formulate proposals regarding uniform consent procedure to be followed by SPCBs and PCCs. Based on the report of the committee, a notification containing the Draft Rules to provide for uniform consent procedure to be followed by the SPCBs and PCCs has been issued on 20.12.1999, inviting suggestions/objections by persons likely to be affected prior to their finalisation.

[Translation]

Clearance to Hydro Power Projects

1666. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : 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 ko Panbijali Par Kaam Karne Ke Liye Hari Jhandi" appearing in the "Navbharat Times" dated February 8, 2000;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the time by which these Hydro Power Projects are likely to start functioning and the power in Megawatts proposed to be generated there from; and

(d) the extent to which it would overcome the power shortage in the country ?

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

(b) to (d) Government of India (GOI) has permitted National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to set up hydro power projects in the country in 1997. Further, GOI announced a Policy on Hydro Power Development in August, 1998 with an objective to accelerate the share of Hydro power which has been continuously declining over the last three decades.

NTPC has recently signed an agreement with the Government of Himachal Pradesh as well as Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board for implementation of Kol Dam Hydro-electric project (800 MW) in Himachal Pradesh. The project is envisaged to start functioning during 11th Plan.

Funds for National Parks and Sanctuaries to States

1667. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government to the State Governments for the development of the Project Tiger, national parks and sanctuaries during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total amount for which the proposals were sent to the Union Government under the said schemes during the aforesaid period;

(c) the total funds released by the Government to various States and Union Territories under the schemes; and

(d) the criteria adopted to provide funds to the States thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The demand of budget from State Governments for central assistance under the schemes 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries' and Project Tiger' is usually many times more than the budget allocation available. The allocations are made to different States based on the number and area of the protected areas, richness in bio-diversity, variety of species involved, past performance of the state government, utilisation of the amount provided during the previous years and approved allocation of the Ministry under the scheme. The funds released by the Government to various States and Union Territories under these schemes are given in the statement-I and II.

Statement-I

Funds Released (Rs. in lakhs) under the Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries"

S.No.	State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	43.39	50.72	87.54
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	27.953	57.91	50.983
3.	Assam	54.62	58.05	53.44
4.	Bihar	6.00	Nil	27.85
5.	Goa	Nil	11.07	21.30
6.	Gujarat	17.005	13.80	22.10
7.	Haryana	14.57	37.20	21.50
8.	Himachal Pradesh	61.50	49.80	47.46
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	124.70	7.00	5.50
10.	Karnataka	78.17	84.12	99.201
11.	Kerala	49.29	49.35	59.975
12.	Madhya Pradesh	195.67	35.93	151.75
13.	Maharashtra	48.845	27.783	123.43
14.	Manipur	13.50	19.64	13.28
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	13.48	8.45	12.30
17.	Nagaland	15.29	9.00	9.70
18.	Orissa	34.22	68.73	95.54
19.	Punjab	14.03	8.65	11.57
20.	Rajasthan	82.34	89.52	66.89
21.	Sikkim	12.51	11.00	12.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	61.284	74.63	61.18
23.	Tripura	29.81	Nil	19.97
24.	Uttar Pradesh	112.11	89.57	118.01
25.	West Bengal	69.69	72.96	55.21
26.	A & N Islands	20.56	Nil	22.00
27.	Chandigarh	12.00	Nil	20.00
Total		1211.93	934.883	1289.679

Statement-II**Funds Released (Rs. in Lakhs) under the Scheme : "Project Tiger"**

S.No.	State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.70	18.01	18.495
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.00	47.68	305.90
3.	Assam	45.08	35.00	87.29
4.	Bihar	36.75	153.99	109.90
5.	Karnataka	25.00	69.34	128.169
6.	Kerala	34.95	39.19	42.665
7.	Madhya Pradesh	137.778	225.125	278.785
8.	Maharashtra	60.53	110.74	114.435
9.	Mizoram	12.45	9.65	21.43
10.	Orissa	49.30	67.65	72.45
11.	Rajasthan	149.885	472.265	211.095
12.	Tamil Nadu	45.60	32.50	58.78
13.	Uttar Pradesh	125.012	199.75	212.95
14.	West Bengal	58.95	178.985	137.14
Total		807.985	1660.875	1516.174

*[English]***Amendment in Forest Act**

1668. SHRI VAIKO :
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI :

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

(a) whether certain hill districts and forest/tribal areas are facing difficulties due to provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to suitably amend the said Act with a view to removing hurdles;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, no State Government or other authority can make except with the prior approval of the Central Government any order directing de-reservation of forest land and or its

use for non-forestry purposes. In fact by conserving the forests, the Act safeguards the interest of tribal and other local people who are heavily dependent on forest resources for their sustenance.

Moreover, provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 do not affect the enjoyment of recorded rights/concessions of local people and specially tribal for their own bonafide domestic use.

This Ministry has framed a detailed guideline for processing of proposals received from State Government under the said Act and this has been revised from time to time to ensure speedy decision on proposals received under the Act. This include delegation of powers to Regional Offices to decide development projects involving forest area up to 5 hectare (except that of mining and regularisation of encroachment) constitution of State Advisory Groups comprising of representatives from the State Governments etc.

Special relaxation in respect of compensatory afforestation has also been made for certain development projects involving forest land up to 20 hectare in hill districts and other districts having forest area exceeding 50% of the total geographical area by permitting it to be raised over degraded forest twice in extent to the area being diverted. Moreover, no compensatory afforestation is insisted for small public utility projects involving forest land up to one hectare.

In view of above there is no need to amend Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 at present.

Power Projects in Karnataka

1669. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of power projects proposed to be set up in Karnataka in collaboration with the foreign companies ;

(b) the names of companies involved therein;

(c) the installed power generation capacity and locations of these projects; and

(d) the time by which the projects are likely to be accorded approval by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The following schemes for setting up power projects in Karnataka involving foreign direct investment, have been accorded TEC of CEA :

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Promoters
1.	Toranagallu Thermal Power Project	260 (fully commissioned)	M/s Jindal Tractebel Power Company Limited
2.	Mangalore Thermal Power Project	1013.2	M/s Mangalore Power Company
3.	Nagarjuna Thermal Power Project	1015	M/s Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.
4.	Kaniminke Combined Cycle Power Project	107.6	M/s Peenya Power Company

Detailed Project Reports which have been received in CEA in respect of the following schemes involving foreign direct investment for setting up power projects in Karnataka will be taken up for techno-economic appraisal after the req-

uisite statutory/non-statutory inputs/linkages are tied up by project promoters and necessary clarifications/details are furnished :

S.No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Promoters
1.	Almatti HEP	1107	M/s Chamundi Power Corporation Limited
2.	Bangalore TPP	500	M/s Pulakeshi Power Company
3.	Bijapur TPP	350	M/s KEI Energy Private Limited
4.	Nanjangud CCGT	110	M/s IPS Power Company
5.	Hassan CCGT	189	M/s Hassan Power Supply Co. Ltd.
6.	Mandya CCPP	164.4	M/s Mandya Power Partners Pvt. Ltd.
7.	Mea Shivapur Konnur LNG based CCPP	500	M/s Wesco Power Generation Ltd.

[Translation]

**India-Kazakhstan Joint Commission on
Oil and Gas**

1670. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

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

(a) whether the joint commission of India and Kazakhstan has decided to pay attention towards the oil and gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the country is likely to be benefited therefrom ?

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) Protocols have been signed at the Third meeting of Inter-Governmental Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scien-

tific and Technical co-operation held in March, 1999 for promoting and strengthening co-operation between the two countries including the hydrocarbon sector. No concrete proposal has so far been firmed up.

New Post Offices

1671. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for setting up of new post offices and sub-post offices in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(b) the number of post offices and sub-post offices that has been set up and start functioning during the said plan period as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) A target of 500 sub Post Offices and 2500 Branch Post Offices has been fixed for opening in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan. State-wise details are given in statement attached.

(b) 123 sub Post Offices and 1260 Branch Post Offices have been set up and started functioning during the said plan period as on date

Statement*Circle wise details of targets fixed for opening of Post Offices and Sub Post Offices during the 9th Five Year Plan*

S.No.	Circles	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Branch Post Offices	Sub Offices	Branch Post Offices	Sub Offices	Branch Post Offices	Sub Offices
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	2	10	2	15	2
2.	Assam	25	2	54	5	50	5
3.	Bihar	40	5	72	2	50	3
4.	Delhi	5	2	4	2	4	2
5.	Gujarat	25	2	31	2	30	3
6.	Haryana	15	2	13	3	15	2
7.	Himachal Pradesh	10	2	7	1	10	1
8.	J & K	15	1	23	1	15	1
9.	Karnataka	30	5	12	4	21	3
10.	Kerala	10	2	12	3	4	2
11.	Madhya Pradesh	37	2	50	5	40	4
12.	Maharashtra	35	3	69	3	50	3
13.	North East	25	3	54	3	40	3
14.	Orissa	27	2	10	2	14	2
15.	Punjab	17	2	12	2	10	1
16.	Rajasthan	33	2	30	1	27	2
17.	Tamil Nadu	21	2	10	2	15	2
18.	Uttar Pradesh	70	6	82	3	50	3
19.	West Bengal	50	3	43	4	40	6
Total		500	50	598	50	500	50

Note : Circle wise targets for the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are yet to be finalised.

[English]

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Refund to Investors by Kuber Ltd.

1672. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Company Law Board Ne Kuber Ko Logon Ke Paise Byaj Samet Lautane Ko Kaha" appearing in the Nav Bharat Times, dated February 5, 2000;

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

(c) whether the said directions of Company Law Board are also applicable to the Kuber Planters Ltd.;

(d) if so, the time by which the investors of Kuber Planters Ltd. are likely to get their money back ; and

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Company Law Board has passed an order on 31.12.99 in respect of M/s Kuber Mutual Benefits Ltd. directing the company to refund the deposits as per schedule of repayment of the deposits given in the order.

(c) to (e) The orders of the company Law Board are not applicable to M/s Kuber Planters Ltd. since it is a separate legal entity.

Complaint Against Telecom Officials

1673. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received large number of complaints against linemen/Jr. officials of telephone department in Metro cities from the telephone subscribers;

(b) if so, the nature of complaints received during the last one year till date;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure quick installation/shifting of telephones after issue of O.B. in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Some complaints have been received from the telephone subscribers against various levels of officials including linemen/Junior officials of Telephone Department in Metro cities. These complaints are generally regarding delay in execution of works such as installation of new telephone connections, shift of telephones, rectification of faults etc.

(c) The complaints are investigated invariably and in cases where allegations are established, suitable departmental disciplinary action is initiated. In cases of demand of bribe/illegal gratification wherein the subscribers are co-operative enough, traps are arranged in co-ordination with the CBI to catch the culprits red-handed.

(d) Following steps are taken to ensure quick installation/shifting of telephones :

(i) Progress regarding execution of OB's is monitored regularly.

(ii) Technically non-feasible areas are made feasible at the earliest.

[Translation]

Installation of Power Plants

1674. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number alongwith the names of places where power plants have been installed during the last three years and the power requirement likely to be met from such plants; and

(b) the details in the regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) There are 40 Hydro electric projects of 1436 MW and 68 Thermal power projects of 7716.7 MW capacity installed during the last three years namely 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99. Thus 9152.7 MW of capacity addition has been achieved from these plants. The details of these plants are given in the attached statement.

Statement

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
Capacity addition during 1996-97			
Hydro			
1.	Uri U1 to 4 (NHPC)	Jammu & Kashmir	4 x 120
2.	Kopili Extn. U1 & 2 (NEEPCO)	Assam	2 x 50
3.	Gaj U-1, 2 & 3	Himachal Pradesh	3 x 3.5
4.	Dimbhe	Maharashtra	5
5.	Lower Periyar	Kerala	60
6.	Eastern Gandak U-2	Bihar	5
Thermal			
1.	Jegurupadu GT-1 to 3 GVK Ind.	Andhar Pradesh	3 x 52.8
2.	Tenughat-II TVNL	Bihar	210
3.	Kathalguri GT-6 NEEPCO	Assam	33.5
4.	Godavari GT-2 & 3 SPECTRUN	Andhra Pradesh	2 x 47
5.	Rokhia PH-II GT-5	Tripura	8
6.	Mejia U-2 DVC	West Benal	210
7.	Kothagudem U-9	Andhra Pradesh	250

1	2	3	4
Capacity addition during 1997-98			
Hydro			
1. Warna U-1	Maharashtra	8	
2. Kalinadi II U-1	Karnataka	50	
3. Lower Periyar U-2 & 3	Kerala	2 x 60	
4. Lower Bhawani Dam RBC U-1 & 2	Tamil Nadu	2 x 4	
5. Eastern Gandak U-3	Bihar	5	
6. Teesta Canal Falls PH-I U-1, 2 & 3	West Bengal	3 x 7.5	
Ph-II	West Bengal	7.5	
7. Nuraanag U-1, 2 & 3	Arunachal Pradesh	3 x 2	
8. Bhadra RBC U-1*	Karnataka	6	
* Advanced from 1998-99 programme			
Thermal			
1. Kutch Lig. III	Gujarat	75	
2. Brahampuram DG-1 to 4	Kerala	4 x 20	
3. Hazira ST/ ESSAR	Gujarat	185	
4. Jegurupadu ST/GVK Ind.	Andhra Pradesh	77	
5. Godavari GT-1/SPECTRUM	Andhra Pradesh	47	
6. Rokhia GT-6	Tripura	8	
7. Budge-Budge I/CESC	West Bengal	250	
8. Chandrapur U-7	Maharashtra	500	
9. GHTP Bhatinda U-1	Punjab	210	
10. Agartala GT-1 to 3 NEEPCO	Tripura	3 x 21	
11. Tanda U-4	Uttar Pradesh	110	
12. Kathalguri ST-1 & 2 NEEPCO	Assam	2 x 30	
13. Gandhinagar U-5 / GSECL/GEB	Gujarat	210	
14. Mejia U-3 /DVC	West Bengal	210	
15. Godavar ST/SPECTRUM	Andhra Pradesh	67	
Units envisaged subsequently and commissioned during the year.			
1. Pegutham GT 1 to 3/Gujarat Torrent	Gujarat	3 x 135	
2. Vijjeswaram ST/AP Gas	Andhra Pradesh	59.8	
3. Adamtilla/DLF Power GT-1, GT-II & ST	Assam	3 x 3	
4. Baskhandi DLF Power GT 1 to 3	Assam	3 x 3.5	
5. Baroda GIPCL GT-1 & ST	Gujarat	167	
6. Kothagudem U-10	Andhra Pradesh	250	
Capacity addition during 1998-99			
1. Warna U-2	Maharashtra	8	
2. Kadana PSS U-2	Gujarat	60	
3. Kalinadi II U-1 & 2 (Kodasalli)	Karnataka	2 x 40	
4. Kalinadi II (Kadra) U-2 & 3	Karnataka	2 x 50	
5. Teesta Canal Falls Ph-II U-2 & 3	West Bengal	2 x 7.5	

1	2	3	4
6.	Sobra U-1 & 2	Uttar Pradesh	2 x 3.0
7.	Poringalkuthu L B Extn	Kerala	16
8.	Sathunur Dam	Tamil Nadu	7.5
9.	Koyna Stage IV U-4	Maharashtra	250
			(advanced from 1999-2000)
Thermal			
1.	Suratgarh U-1	Rajasthan	250
2.	Banaskandi ST	Assam	5
3.	Agartala GT-4 NEEPCO	Tripura	21
4.	Kathalguri ST-3 NEEPCO	Assam	30
5.	Pathuthan ST Guj. Torrent	Gujarat	250
6.	GHTP Bhatinda U-2	Punjab	210
7.	Karaikal GT/PPCL	Pondicherry	22.9
8.	Brahmapuram DG-5	Kerala	20
9.	Kayamkulam GT-I, NTPC	Kerala	115.3
10.	Dabhol GT-I, GT-2 and ST Dabhol Power Company	Maharashtra	740
11.	Wankobri TPS U-7	Gujarat	210
12.	Basin Bridge DG-1 to 4 GMR Vasavi	Tamil Nadu	4 x 50.0
13.	Torangallu U-1/Jindal	Karnataka	130
14.	Budge-Budge U-2, CESC	West Bengal	250
Units not included in the commissioning programme of 1998-99 but commissioned during the year :			
1.	Unchahar U-3 NTPC	Uttar Pradesh	210
2.	Raichur U-5/KPCL	Karnataka	210
3.	Birsingpur U-3 (Sanjay Gandhi TPP)	Madhya Pradesh	210
4.	Kayamkulam GT-2, NTPC	Kerala	115.3
5.	Vindhyachal U-7, NTPC	Madhya Pradesh	500

Goods Export and Import through Sea Route

1675. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be
pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge amount of goods are exported
and imported in the country through the sea route;

(b) if so, the places at the sea shores in the country
where the job of loading and unloading from the ships is
carried out;

(c) whether the big cargo ships have to stop in the
sea miles off the shore due to less depth of sea where from
small ships and boats carry the cargo to the shore; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the depth of sea
near the shores at these ports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SUR-
FACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a)
Goods weighing 189 million tonnes were exported or imported
in the country during 1998-99 through sea-route;

(b) Loading or unloading of goods on to from the ships
is carried out at various major minor intermediate ports in the
country. The names of Major Ports in the country are as un-
der :

Calcutta, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Tuticorin,
Cochin, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Jawaharlal Nehru,
Mumbai and Kandla.

Minor Intermediate ports in the country are spread over
in the following Maritime States and Union Territories :

Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Orissa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshdweep.

(c) and (d) Due to draft restrictions larger vessels cannot be berthed in some ports. In such a situations, cargo loading unloading from such vessels is carried out in the deep sea. The cargo from to the shore is brought with the help of smaller vessels barges.

The minimum depth of Entrance Channel to various Major Ports is as follows :

	(In meters)
Calcutta	6.7
Haldia	
Paradip	12.8
Visakhapatnam	
Inner Harbour	10.7
Outer Harbour	17.5
Chennai	
Inner Harbour	18.6
Outer Harbour	19.2
Tuticorin	10.4
Cochin	11.4
New Mangalore	15.4
Mormugao	13.7
J.L. Nehru	11.0
Mumbai	10.9
Kandla	4.3
Vadinar	23.5

[English]

Privatisation of Road Sector

1676. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose the privatisation of the road sector and the projects are being/to be awarded on BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) basis;

(b) if so, the details of the private sector participation in building the nation wide road sector as on date;

(c) whether the Government have issued any policy guidelines to these private sectors, with regard to the collection of levy of toll from the commuters;

(d) whether the necessary legislative amendments have been carried out in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

(f) the number of major and smaller projects involving investment more than 100 crores and less than 100 crores at present being carried out by private sectors in the country, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Road projects are being awarded on BOT basis.

(b) A statement giving details is annexed.

(c) Yes, Sir. Detailed & comprehensive guidelines on private sector participation in national highway projects have already been issued.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The National Highways Act, 1956 has been amended to enable private sector participation in national highway projects.

(f) The details are given in the enclosed statement in reply to part (b) above.

Statement

List of BOT Projects Awarded

S.No.	Project Name	NH No.	State	Length in km	Cost in crores	Date of signing	Likely/actual date of completion	Agency	Current Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	* Thane-Bhiwandi Bypass	3 & 4	Maharashtra	24	103	12.9.95	31.12.2001	MOST	in progress
2.	** Chaitan Road Over bridge	8	Gujarat	14 lane ROB	10	19.9.96	15.7.1998	MOST	completed
3.	**Udaipur Bypass	8	Rajasthan	11	24	Jul-96	22.4.1998	MOST	Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Construction of six bridges	5	Andhra Pradesh	6 Nos. bridges	50	9.4.97	8.6.2001	MOST	In progress
5.	Coimbatore Bypass	47	Tamil Nadu	33	90	3.10.97	3.12.1999	MOST	in progress
6.	Durg Bypass	6	Madhya Pradesh	18.4	68	5.11.97	5.5.2000	NHAI	in progress
7.	Narmada Bridge	8	Gujarat	6	113	21.11.97	21.12.2000	MOST	in progress
8.	**Nardhana ROB	3	Maharashtra	13	34.21	25.11.97	22.7.1999	MOST	Completed
9.	**Patelganga Bridge & ROB	17	Maharashtra	1 no.	33.3	29.11.97	20.7.1999	MOST	Completed
10.	Hubli-Dharwar Bypass	4	Karnataka	30.35	68	5.2.98	5.11.2001	MOST	in progress
11.	Nellore Bypass	5	Andhra Pradesh	18	73	17.2.98	Oct. 2000	NHAI	Concession agreement signed construction yet to commence
12.	Koratalaiyar Bridge	5	Tamil Nadu		30	28.10.98	Nov. 2000	MOST	in progress
13.	Kambatki Ghat Tunnel & Road	4	Maharashtra	8	37.8	16.11.98	Nov. 1999	MOST	In progress
14.	Nasirabad ROB	6	Maharashtra	30m	10.45	16.11.98	May 2001	MOST	In progress
15.	Wainganga Bridge	6	Maharashtra	530m	32.6	16.11.98	July, 2000	MOST	In progress
16.	Mahi Bridge	8	Gujarat		42	16.11.98	25.4.2000	MOST	in progress
17.	ROB At Kishangarh Bypass	8	Rajasthan	Km	16.66	27.11.98	31.12.2009	NHAI	Concession agreement signed construction yet to commence
18.	Bridge Across River Watrak	8	Gujarat		48.2	1.3.99		MOST	In progress
19.	Moradabad Bypass	24	Uttar Pradesh	18	100			NHAI	In progress through SPV
20.	ROB at Dera Bassi	22	Punjab	ROB	36.11	8.9.99		MOST	agreement signed construction yet to commence

* Original work since completed and opened to traffic. Widening to four lanes is in progress.

** Since completed and opened to traffic.

Ship Service between Mangalore and Mumbai

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

1677. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared?

(a) whether a proposal for starting a ship service between Mangalore and Mumbai is pending with the Union Government for clearance for a long time ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. However, Shipping Corporation of India has received a request from the Port of New Coast for commencement of

feeder service on the West Bengal of India connecting New Mangalore and Mumbai. A feasibility study is presently at an advanced stage to establish the viability and other details of the proposal.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Distribution of petroleum products in small towns and villages

1678. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any fresh initiatives to formulate new strategies to cater to the interests of consumers in small towns and villages for distribution of LPG and other petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the physical targets set and achieved during the last three years for Maharashtra, year-wise;

(c) the action plan for the current year and next three years, productwise; and

(d) the waiting list for LPG and demand supply projections for petroleum products for the next three years in Maharashtra ?

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 per the existing policy, the following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including small towns and villages:

- (i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.
- (ii) Urban locations having population of 5,000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.
- (iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.
- (iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

The criteria for setting up of Retail Outlet dealerships and SKO/LDO dealerships is based on distance volume norms.

Accordingly 2078 LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plan 1996-98. Of these, apart from locations included in urban areas 540 locations are earmarked for rural areas and 1429 locations are earmarked for urban-rural areas, which include 39 from rural and 82 from rural-urban areas of Maharashtra.

In the current RO Marketing Plan 1996-98, out of 927 locations included all over the country 84 locations have been included from Maharashtra which include 11 retail outlets from the rural areas of the State.

As regard SKO-LDO, 155 SKO/LDO, dealerships have been included in the Marketing Plan 1996-98. Out of these, 30 SKO/LDO dealerships have been earmarked for Maharashtra to be set up at 29 Taluka Headquarters and one at a District Headquarter of the State.

Selection of dealerships/distributorships is a continuous process and no targets are fixed for commissioning of dealerships/distributorships.

(d) As on 1.12.1999 there was waiting list of 9326336 of LPG connections all over the country including 837248 in Maharashtra. Demand projections of MS/HSD, LPG and SKO for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 for Western Region including Maharashtra is indicated below :

Product	Demand Projection in TMT		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
MS	1931	2088	2252
HSD	11136	12039	12986
SKO	3592	3699	3810
LPG	2079	2304	2490

All efforts are made to meet the above demand.

Pending Projects in Tamil Nadu

1679. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of projects pertaining to Tamil Nadu are pending for environmental/forest clearance;
- (b) the details of projects pending for more than a year;
- (c) the reasons for their non-clearance;
- (d) whether any previously refused projects have been given clearance on review during the last three years; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Eighteen (18) projects for environmental clearance and Nine (9) projects for forest clearance are pending.

(b) and (c) List of projects pending for more than one year along with reasons is given at statement-I.

(d) and (e) List of projects previously refused but reconsidered and given clearance during the last three years is given at statement-II.

Statement-I

List of Pending Proposals of Tamil Nadu

S.No.	Name of the Projects	Reasons for Pendency
1.	Mining operation by TAMIN in Yellikaradu bit I, Salem.	Proposal was discussed in State Advisory Group meeting and it was decided to consider this proposal after receipt of additional proposal for the encroached area of 6.60 ha. of Yellikaradu Bit-II, as the approach road for both the mining leases passes through this 6.60 ha. area.
2.	220 KV line from Pykara Ultimate stage HEP at Nilgiris and Coimbatore by TNEB.	Central Electricity Authority has been requested to furnish comments on the technical feasibility of the project to utilise the existing line for this by upgradation.
3.	Constn. of prayer hall by Muslim community in Kodiakadu RF Nagapattinam.	The forest area falls in a wildlife sanctuary and as such State Government has been requested on 24.1.2000 for getting concurrence of IBWL. After receipt of that proposal shall be considered.
4.	Link road in Theni division Madurai	Original proposal rejected on 21.9.89. Revised proposal submitted by State Govt. is under process.
5.	6.5 MMTPA Refinery at Cuddalore of M/s Nagarjuna Oil Corporation Limited (NOCL).	The proposal was examined in the EC [I] meeting held on 18.2.99 and additional clarifications on the SO ₂ emissions etc. were sought. A sub-Committee inspected the site in March 99. The proposal was again considered by the EC [I] in April 99. EC [I] recommended the project. However, as the linked SPM/Jetty projects etc. which required CRZ clearance had not been received in the Ministry, the refinery proposal was not processed. The linked SPM/Jetty proposal has since been approved and risk assessment related aspects of the refinery proposal discussed further with the project proponent.

Statement-II

List of proposals previously refused, but reconsidered and given clearance in last three years

S.No.	Name of the Projects	Details with date of clearance
1.	Construction of Shenbagathope reservoir across Kamandalar river Thiruvannamalai	Earlier this proposal was rejected on 25.7.99. Revised proposal received and discussed in Forest Advisory Committee. Accordingly approval in principle accorded on 23.2.2000.
2.	Constn. of Adavimainar koll reservoir across Hanuman Nadhi Nellai Kattabomman	Earlier rejected on 16.9.96. Recognised after receipt of additional information from State Government and approved on 8.11.99.

Maintenance under National Highway road Development Project

1680. SHRI DINESH PATEL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether decision was taken by the Government in December 1998 to hand over National Highways in various states to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for maintenance under the National Highway Road Development Project (NHRDP);

(b) whether the National Highways have not been handed over to NHAI as yet; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The sections of National Highways required by NHAI for implementation of projects have already been handed over to them.

(c) Does not arise.

Power Generation in the North-East Region

1681. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give thrust to power generation in the North-East sector;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted for generating more power in that region; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Government of India is giving adequate thrust for the development of power sector in North-Eastern Region and Sikkim. As many as four Conferences of Power Ministers of North-Eastern Region and Sikkim have since been held since 1998 and with their due deliberations, various power generation schemes have been identified for execution. Brief status of capacity addition programme of Central Sector Projects in North Eastern Region and Sikkim is given below :

Central Sector

Present installed Capacity	=	730 MW
1. Kopili HEP, Assam		250 MW
2. Assam Gas Based CGPP		291 MW
3. Agartala Gas Based PP		84 MW
4. Loktak HEP		105 MW

Capacity Addition Plan

IX Five Year Plan

Doyang HEP (Nagaland)	75MW
Ranganadi Stage-I HEP	405 MW
Arunachal Pradesh	
Rangir HEP (Sikkim)	60 MW
Total	540 MW

X Five Year Plan

Tuirial HEP (Mizoram)	60 MW
Kameng HEP (Arunachal Pradesh)	600 MW
Tuivai HEP (Mizoram)	210 MW
Loktak D/S Project (Manipur)	90 MW
Kopili Stage-II HEP (Assam)	25 MW
Teesta V (Sikkim)	510 MW
Total	1495 MW

The following projects have been identified for capacity adding during XI Plan period and beyond :

Ranganadi Stage-II HEP	
(Arunachal Pradesh)	100 MW
Dikrong HEP (Arunachal Pradesh)	100 MW
Lower Kopili HEP (Assam)	150 MW
Tipaimukh HEP (Manipur)	1500 MW
Subansiri & Dihang Basin in	20700 MW
Arunachal Pradesh	
Total	22550 MW

Setting up of Power Projects in Manipur

1682. SHRI BHIM DAHAL :
SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to set up Loktak Down Stream Hydro-Electric Project in Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of new power projects proposed to be set up in the State ;

(d) the number of projects approved by the planning commission for the State during the year 1999-2000;

(e) the stages at which these proposals are lying pending; and

(f) the steps being taken to expedite the clearance of projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (f) Loktak Downstream Hydro-electric Project (3 x 30 MW) is located in Tamenglong District in Manipur on river Leimatak. Government approval has been accorded for execution of the project by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) at an estimated cost of Rs. 578.82 crores (April 1999 Price Level) with completion in 6-1/2 years. Works of infrastructure development facilities at the project are in progress. An amount of Rs. 5.89 crores has been spent upto December, 1999.

Tipaimukh Hydro-electric project (1500 MW) has been identified for being executed by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) in Manipur. After signing the requisite agreement with the State Government of Manipur, NEEPCO proposes to initiate action for obtaining all requisite clearances required for obtaining the investment clearance from Government.

Loan and Advances to Shipping Company

1683. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any amount of loan and advances has been given to each Shipping Company, public as well as private, during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) if so, the purpose for which the amount was given;

(c) the loans and advances outstanding against each company as on 31 March 1999; and

(d) the manner in which this financial aid has been utilized by each company ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Government does not sanction loan and advances to a private shipping company. However, the Government has given Rupee loan during last three years to Shipping Corporation of India, a Public Sector Shipping Company as per detail given below :

Years	Amount of loan (Rs in crores)
1996-97	30.00
1997-98	20.00
1998-99	20.00

(b) The above loans were granted to Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) towards rupee back-up loan for payment of deferred yard credit instalments in respect of vessels acquired by SCI.

(c) The total outstanding loan against Shipping Corporation of India, including the loan granted during the last 3 years, are to the tune of Rs. 451.89 crore.

(d) The loans granted to Shipping Corporation of India during the last three years have been utilized for the purpose, as stated in reply to part (b), above.

East Coast Road Project

1684. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to sanction Rs. 1200 crore for the East Coast Road Project upto Kanyakumari at the earliest to expedite this most important road work in the South;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for the inordinate delay to complete the remaining portions being traversed via Tuticorin to reach Cape Comorin ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. This Ministry is primarily responsible for development & maintenance of National Highways (NH) only and all other roads fall within the purview of the respective State Government. Since the East Coast road does not form part of N.H. network, it falls within the purview of State Government of Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Closure of Evening College

1685. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bar Council of India has decided to close the evening colleges with effect from June, 2000 as reported in the Indian Express, dated November 8, 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this proposition is fraught with the stiff opposition from the students as well as the teaching community; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) The Bar Council of India has recently amended Rules concerning three-year law course after graduation (i.e. Rule 2(1) in Part IV Section-B, Bar Council of India Rules) to provide that all law colleges which are exclusively running evening sessions shall switch over to 'Day' session during the academic year

2000-2001, failing which they will not be entitled to approval of affiliation by the Council. The main reason for this is to bring improvement in legal education which is possible only through full-time day colleges equipped with all necessary infrastructure and facilities. The details thereof are given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) There is some resistance from the management of some colleges in the State of Andhra Pradesh which have been denied approval of affiliation to evening law colleges by the Bar Council of India. Some of these colleges have gone to the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and obtained stay order. Further course of action will depend upon the Court's decision.

Statement

- (i) Evening law colleges cannot impart legal education as prescribed under the rules of Bar Council of India in view of the revision of curriculum recently carried out by the Bar Council of India. The revised curriculum prescribes 21 compulsory subjects, three optional subjects and four papers in practical training making a total of 28 subjects in the LL.B. course. The evening colleges hardly function for two, to two and a half hour a day which is totally inadequate to impart legal education prescribed by the Bar Council of India under its rules.
- (ii) The evening law colleges are monthly manned by part time teachers who are practising lawyers. These colleges do not have sufficient number of qualified full-time teachers. Professional courses like LL.B. cannot be imparted through part-time teachers alone.
- (iii) Evening law colleges are conducted in colleges which are imparting courses in other disciplines and independent buildings are not available to law colleges with adequate infrastructural facilities.
- (iv) Since the practical training has been revised and includes court visits and other aspects of practical training, evening colleges can not do justice to such training as envisaged by the Bar Council of India.
- (v) The majority of the students on the rolls of the evening colleges are employed persons who want to improve their qualifications for career advancement and want to enrol as advocate after retirement. Such students are not serious in their studies and this contribute to the lowering of standards of legal education. These are some of the reasons which prompted the Bar Council of India to ask the evening law colleges to convert themselves into full time day colleges.
- (vi) Attendance requirement are rarely adhered to in the evening law colleges as majority of the students are employed.

Funds Spent for Rest Areas by NHAI

1686. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount spent by National Highways Authority of India on Rest Areas of National Highways in the country and particularly in Orissa in 1998-99 and the current year;
- (b) the budget earmarked for this purpose in the current year;
- (c) whether any design has been evolved in regard to the road safety; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to utilize such design throughout the country ?

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

(b) Nil

(c) and (d) A Manual for Safety in Road Design has been brought out by this Ministry. Indian Roads Congress has also published a number of standards concerning safety in the design, construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. These are being used for National Highways works throughout the country.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

1687. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number and capacity of telephone exchanges functioning in Bihar during the last three years till date, exchange-wise;
- (b) whether the Government propose to increase the present capacity of the existing telephone exchanges and open some new telephone exchanges in the State during 2000-2001;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and exchange-wise;
- (d) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the State at present, exchange wise; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the State ?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details in respect of increase in the capacity of the existing telephone exchanges are given in the attached statement-I and II.

There is also proposal to open 75 new telephone exchanges during the year 2000-2001. The location is yet to be finalised.

(e) The following steps are being taken to clear the waiting list :

- (1) Increase in the capacity of existing exchanges.
- (2) Opening of new telephone exchanges.
- (3) Laying of underground cables.
- (4) Induction of digital pair gain systems in non-feasible areas.

Statement-I

(A) Expansion of Switching Capacity for large exchanges during 2000-2001.

S.No.	Name of exchanges	Increased in capacity by (lines)
1	2	3
1.	Arrah	1500
2.	Buxer	1000
3.	Bhagalpur	2000
4.	Sabour	1000
5.	Sultanganj	1000
6.	Kahalgaon	3000
7.	Banka	3000
8.	Siwan	4000
9.	Barharia	1000
10.	Hasanpura	1000
11.	Gopalganj	500
12.	Sasamusa	1000
13.	Thawe	1000
14.	Daltonganj	2000
15.	Garhwa	2000
16.	Darbhanga	12000
17.	Madhubani	1000
18.	Sakari	1000
19.	Rajnagar	1000
20.	Samastipur	2000
21.	Begusarai	1000

1	2	3
22.	Lakhminia	2000
23.	Dhanbad	5000
24.	Jharia	4000
25.	Sindri	1000
26.	Katras	2500
27.	Loyabad	2000
28.	Bokaro Steel City	6000
29.	Chass	3000
30.	Balidih	2000
31.	Bermo	2000
32.	Dumka	1500
33.	Deoghar	3000
34.	Jasidih	1000
35.	Sahibganj	2000
36.	Godda	1000
37.	Gaya	8000
38.	Manpur	3000
39.	New Godown	2000
40.	Anmach	2000
41.	Nawada	3500
42.	Hasua	1000
43.	Warsaliganj	1000
44.	Jehanabad	2500
45.	Hazaribagh	2000
46.	Charhi	1000
47.	Giddi	1000
48.	Jhumari Talayya	1000
49.	Giridih	500
50.	Jamshedpur	13000
51.	Chaibasa	2000
52.	Chakradharapur	1500
53.	Katihar	2500
54.	Manihari	1000
55.	Mirchai	1000
56.	Purnea	3000
57.	Gulababagh	3000
58.	Kishanganj	1000
59.	Araria	1000
60.	Forbesganj	1000
61.	Motihari	500
62.	Sugauli	1000

1	2	3
63.	Turkaulia	1000
64.	Betia	1500
65.	Chanpatia	1000
66.	Raxaul	500
67.	Adapur	1000
68.	Ramgarhwa	1000
69.	Lakhisarai	2000
70.	Barahiya	1000
71.	Surajgarha	1000
72.	Jamui	3000
73.	Muzaffarpur	11500
74.	Ratwara	3000
75.	MIT	3000
76.	Dholi	1000
77.	Sitamarhi	3000
78.	Bairagania	1500
79.	Hazipur	2000
80.	Mahua	2000
81.	Patna	19000
82.	Danapur	6000
83.	Maner	1000
84.	Bihta	2000
85.	Barh	3000
86.	Bakhtiarpur	1000
87.	Biharsarif	4000
88.	Ranchi	7000
89.	Kanke	2000
90.	Gumla	500
91.	Khunti	2000
92.	Sahra	2000
93.	Madhepura	1000
94.	Murliganj	1000
95.	Singheshwarasthan	1000
96.	Sasaram	3000
97.	Tilouthu	1000
98.	Dalmiagar	1000

Statement-II*(B) Small Capacity exchahges*

S.No.	Name of Exchange	Increase in capacity by
1	2	3
1.	Jagdishpur	512 lines
2.	Akbarnagar	"
3.	Bheldi	"
4.	Basantpur	"
5.	Baniapur	"
6.	Viraul	"
7.	Rajmahal	"
8.	Benipur	"
9.	Maheshpur	"
10.	Bakribarwan	"
11.	Salmari	"
12.	Gurubazar	"
13.	Narayanpur	"
14.	Seotar	"
15.	Ghorashahan	"
16.	Maner	"
17.	Paliganj	"
18.	Bundu	"
19.	Muri	"
20.	Bangaon	"
21.	Bihea	1000 lines
22.	Isuapur	"
23.	Behat	"
24.	Pakur	"
25.	Jhajha	"
26.	Bhadaiya	"
27.	Bargainia	"
28.	Naubatpur	"
29.	Barahat	Expansion from C.Dot -512 to 1000 lines
30.	Katoria	"
31.	Birpanti	"
32.	Belaganj	"
33.	Rafiganj	"
34.	Wazirganj	"
35.	Dhamdaha	"

1	2	3
36.	Barsoi	"
37.	Bahadurganj	"
38.	Thakurganj	"
39.	Bakhtiarpur	Expansion from C.Dot -512 to 1000 lines
40.	Hathidah	"
41.	Ekanagarsarai	"
42.	Simdega	"
43.	Utakishanganj	"
44.	Kanti	"
45.	Vidupur	"
46.	Mosabani	"
47.	Behragora	"
48.	Hathua	Expansion from 1000 to to 1400 lines
49.	Mairwa	"
50.	Maharajganj	"
51.	Jainagar	"
52.	Muskipur	"
53.	Jamtara	"
54.	Jamui	"
55.	Janakpur Road	"
56.	Fatua	"
57.	Mokama	"
58.	Kanke	"
59.	Khunti	"
60.	Birpur	"
61.	Simri Bakhtiarpur	"

Contribution by IOC for Monuments

1688. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has formulated any scheme to adopt one historical monument from every State and Union Territory of the country so as to make its contribution in conservation and maintenance thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the grants provided for the purpose by the IOC so far ?

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) Indian Oil Corporation Limited propose to create a non-profit trust in the name and style of "The Indian Oil Foundation" (IOF) with an initial corpus of Rs. 25 crores and a recurring annual contribution of Rs. 10 crores to serve the following objectives :

- (i) To protect, preserve and promote the National Heritage, in collaboration with Archeological Survey of India (ASI) and National Culture Fund (NCF) of the Government of India.
- (ii) To promote awareness, knowledge and involvement in our National heritage and Culture in association with Government as well as non-Government Organisations of repute; and
- (iii) To undertake any other activity associated with, and in consonance of the objectives.

To begin with eight sites viz. Elphanta Caves (Maharashtra), Hampi (Karnataka), Sarnath (UP), Vattakottai (Tamil Nadu), Qutub Minar (Delhi), Nalanda (Bihar), Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh) and Rani Ki Vav (Gujarat) have been identified. Subsequently, at least one Heritage site would be developed in each of the remaining States and Union Territories. Grants will be released once the Indian Oil Foundation Trust is registered.

[English]

Outlets for Petrol/Diesel/LPG

1689. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to meet the demand of petroleum products the oil industry proposed to open retail outlets for the petrol/diesel and LPG distributorship at suitable sites during early 1998;

(b) if so, whether the then Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas asked the Members of Parliament to conduct survey of their constituencies and send details of the places where they want additional outlets;

(c) if so, the details of MPs who submitted their requirement of LPG agencies, petrol/diesel outlets in their constituencies; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

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) Suggestions are received from time to time from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other sources for setting up new retail outlets and LPG distributorships. Such suggestions are sent to the Oil Companies for conducting feasibility surveys of the locations. The locations found feasible are included in the Marketing Plans. Accordingly, in the current Marketing Plan 1998-99, 927 retail outlet dealerships and 2078 LPG distributorships have been included from different parts of the country. Locations included in the marketing plan are advertised by the Oil Companies for selection of dealers/distributors through Dealer Selection Boards.

[Translation]

Conversion of National Highways into Four and Six lanes

1690. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the National Highways of the country proposed to be converted into four lanes and six lanes, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to assign the work of conversion to the private sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the National Highways would be converted into four lane and six lane roads ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The Hon'ble Member is perhaps referring to the National Highway Development Project (NHDP) which comprises of the construction of 4/6 laning of National Highways on the Golden Quadrilateral and the North-South and East-West Corridors. The National Highway falling on NHDP are as under :

- (i) Golden Quadrilateral
NHs No. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 46 connecting Delhi-Calcutta-Chennai-Mumbai-Delhi
- (ii) North-South Corridor
NHs No. 1, 1A, 3, 7, 26 from Srinagar to Kanyakumari
- (iii) East-West Corridor
NHs No. 8A, 8B, 14, 15, 25, 28, 31, 31C, 36, 54, 57, 76 from Silcher to Porbander
- (iv) Spur on Salem-Cochin Section on NH-47

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some sections of the National Highways where traffic is enough to support private sector participation will be developed on BOT basis.

(d) NHDP is targeted to be completed by 2009.

Laying of Telephone Cables in Lalpur

1691. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether digging work to lay telephone cables started in Lalpur city under Jamnagar/Porbandar District in Gujarat has been stopped now :

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the telephones of that area get out of order frequently as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the action taken to make the telephones proper functional and the time by which the digging work is likely to be started again ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The cables as per planning in Lalpur city of Jamnagar Secondary Switching Area have been laid except for one route on Lalpur-Bhanvad road for village Pipli. For this route also cable have been laid except of Railway crossing. Total cable laid is 3600 Conductor kilometer against the planned cable of 3678 Conductor Kilometer.

(b) For Pipli a railway crossing is involved for which permission from Railway is awaited.

(c) No Sir.

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

[English]

Optical Fibre Cables

1692. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to replace all telephone cables by the underground optical fibre cables in some States under consideration of the Department of Telecommunications;

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

(c) the time by which the said installation work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Under group Optical Fibre Cables are not being proposed for

replacing all telephone cables. However, these are being laid mostly to inter-connect different towns for long distance transmission and also to connect different exchanges in the same city.

[Translation]

Amendment of State Reorganisation Act

1693. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal with regard to amendment of the State Reorganisation Act, 1956 section 51(2) is lying pending with the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government with regard to amendment of section 51(2) of the State Reorganisation Act, 1956.

Burden on Judiciary

1694. DR. SANJAY 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 the news item captioned "Overburdened judiciary struggles with crisis of credibility" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated December 13, 1999;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item relates to huge pendency in the courts and the delay in the disposal of cases.

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of both civil and criminal cases. 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.

A periodical review of the Judge strength in the High Courts is undertaken by the Government once in three years. On the basis of the review in 1998, it has been decided to create more posts of Judges in High Courts.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary is also being implemented since 1993-94. The Scheme includes construction of court buildings and residential quarters for the judges/Judicial Officers covering High Courts and Subordinate Courts. Funds aggregating to Rs. 619 crore have been spent by various States and Union territories under this Scheme till 1998-99.

The State Governments have been requested to take necessary action regarding financial autonomy to the High Courts and the Courts under their control as well as to fill up vacancies in the subordinate judiciary.

[English]

Expansion of Thermal Power Plant in Orissa

1695. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps for the expansion to Thermal Power Plant to Kaniha in Orissa;

(b) if so, the total MW of power expected to be generated on completion of this project; and

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

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

(b) and (c) National Thermal Power Corporation is implementing Stage-II expansion (4 x 500 MW) of Talcher Super Thermal Power Project at Kaniha in Orissa. The first unit is scheduled for commissioning in November, 2003 and the other three units at an interval of nine months each thereafter.

National Power Development Fund

1696. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up National Power Development Fund by levying a cess of 10 paise per unit on the power produced through out the country ;

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

(c) whether views of the State Governments on the matter have been ascertained;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the details of programmes mooted for utilisation of the Fund ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) The Policy on Hydro Power Development announced by the Government in August, 1998 provides for the establishment of National Power Development Fund through levy of cess at 10 paise per Kwh of electricity consumed in the country. A proposal to levy cess as 5 paise per Kwh of electricity generated was subsequently put up for consideration of the Government but was deferred.

[Translation]

**Constitution of Regulatory Authority
for Truck Industry**

1697. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to constitute a regulatory authority for the truck industry;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which this authority is likely to be constituted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Crude oil and Gas Reserve in Assam

1698. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of latest expert study/assessment of crude oil and gas reserves carried out in Assam;
- (b) the total number of wells recommended for drilling for the purpose of exploration and development works; and
- (c) the actual numbers of such wells drilled so far ?

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) Dr. A.W. Bally, was given consultancy project by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) on the "India's Tertiary folded belts and fore land basins – a ranking of exploration opportunities". This consultancy project had not made an assessment of crude

oil & gas reserves of Assam nor recommended drilling of wells. The in-place reserves in Assam estimated by ONGC and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) as on 1.4.99 are about 1053 Million Metric Tonne of crude oil and 310 Billion Cubic Metre of natural gas.

**Inclusion of Coastal areas into National and
Express Highways**

1699. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether several proposals have been submitted by the public representatives and respective States regarding the inclusion of Coastal Areas from Trivandrum, Kerala to Bombay in the National and Express Highways; and
- (b) if so, the response of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Salem-Cochin Section of NH No. 47 has since been included in the National Highways Development Project (NHDP).

Wells Dugged by ONGC

1700. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of wells dugged by ONGC in various off-shore in teh country during the last three years;
- (b) the results of the analysis of the data obtained therefrom;
- (c) whether the ONGC propose further exploration in these areas; 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) During the period 1.4.96 to 31.3.99 Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) had drilled 64 exploratory wells in Western offshore and 9 exploratory wells in Eastern offshore. The analysis of the data obtained from drilling of these wells have given significant leads in the various offshore areas. In Western offshore, eleven wells proved to be oil bearing and eleven wells proved to be gas bearing. Besides, seven wells had hydrocarbon indications. In the Eastern offshore one well proved to be oil bearing and three wells gave indications of oil.

Ninety development wells to tap the production of discovered fields were also drilled in offshore areas during the same period.

(c) and (d) Exploration efforts by ONGC in Western and Eastern offshore sectors including Deep Water areas, are currently in progress in terms of seismic data acquisition and drilling of wells. Seismic survey programme, both 2D and 3D, and drilling of wells have been contemplated to be continued in these areas during 2000-2002.

Purchase of power By States

1701. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has approached Gujarat and Maharashtra Governments to purchase power from these States;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed to this effect; and

(c) if so, the amount likely to be paid to each State and the quantum of power in Megawatts to be supplied to Andhra Pradesh ?

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

(b) and (c) (i) Maharashtra has agreed to supply 200 MW power to Andhra Pradesh on round the clock basis. The rate of power will be Rs. 2.45 per KWH for off-peak hours (22.00 Hrs. to 06.00 Hrs.) and Rs. 2.80 per KWH for peak hours (06.00 Hrs. to 10.00 Hrs.).

(ii) Gujarat has agreed to supply 100 MW to 200 MW power to Andhra Pradesh @ Rs. 3.00 per KWH for a period of three months as detailed below :

100 MW from 6.00 Hrs. to 21.30 Hrs.

200 MW from 21.30 Hrs. to 6.00 Hrs.

Tiger Population

1702. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the tiger population as per latest assessment alongwith the rate of increase registered therein over the last three years;

(b) the details of projects launched to protect and check the declining number of tigers through the comprehensive conservation measures and achievements reported thereunder during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the details of total number of cases of violation of Wildlife Protection Act registered/reported during this period, State-wise and number of cases pending as on December 31, 1999; and

(d) the details of fresh initiatives taken/to be taken for

drawing an comprehensive action plan for the conservation of Tiger Population ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Tiger population as per latest assessment during 1997 is enclosed in statement-I.

(b) In addition to the Project Tiger scheme launched during 1973, other schemes of Eco-development in and around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves and an externally aided component of this scheme have also been launched. A voluntary relocation programme has been launched by Government of India under the Beneficiary Oriented Scheme for Tribal Development to rehabilitate tribal people outside national parks and for making the national parks encumbrance free. Side by side sufficient incentive is given to the relocated people for establishment out side the national parks. The details of funds released under these schemes during the last three years are given in statement-II.

(c) Details of number of cases of violation as reported by the States are enclosed in statement-III.

(d) Details of initiatives taken are enclosed in statement-IV.

Statement-I

Population of Tigers in the country as reported by the States

S.No.	Name of the State	1972	1979	1984	1989	1993	1997
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Tamil Nadu	33	65	97	95	97	82
2.	Maharashtra	160	174	301	417	276	257
3.	West Bengal	73	296	352	353	335	361
4.	Haryana	102	156	202	257	305	350
5.	Bihar	85	110	138	157	137	103
6.	Assam	147	300	376	376	325	458
7.	Rajasthan	74	79	96	99	64	58
8.	Madhya Pradesh	457	529	786	985	912	927
9.	Uttar Pradesh	262	487	698	735	465	475
10.	Andhra Pradesh	35	148	164	235	197	171
11.	Mizoram	-	65	33	18	28	12
12.	Gujarat	8	7	9	9	5	1
13.	Goa, Daman & Diu	-	-	-	2	3	6
14.	Orissa	142	173	202	243	226	194
Total		1578	2589	3454	3981	3375	3435

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15. Kerala		60	134	89	45	57	N.R.
16. Meghalaya		32	35	125	34	53	N.R.
17. Manipur		1	10	6	31	—	N.R.
18. Tripura		7	6	5	—	—	N.R.
19. Nagaland		80	102	104	104	83	N.R.
20. Arunachal Pradesh		69	139	219	135	180	N.R.
21. Sikkim		—	—	2	4	2	N.R.
22. Haryana		—	—	1	—	—	N.R.
Total		249	426	551	353	375	N.R.

N.R. - Not reported by States.

Statement-II**Scheme : Project Tiger**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of Tiger Reserve State	Funds Released 1997-98	Funds Released 1998-99	Funds Released 1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.700	18.010	18.495
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.000	47.680	30.590
3.	Assam	45.080	35.000	87.290
4.	Bihar	36.750	153.990	109.900
5.	Karnataka	25.000	69.340	128.169
6.	Kerala	34.950	39.190	42.665
7.	Madhya Pradesh	133.778	225.125	278.785
8.	Maharashtra	60.530	110.740	114.435
9.	Mizoram	12.450	9.650	21.430
10.	Orissa	49.300	67.650	72.450
11.	Rajasthan	149.885	472.265	211.095
12.	Tamil Nadu	45.600	32.500	58.780
13.	Uttar Pradesh	125.012	199.750	212.950
14.	West Bengal	58.950	179.985	137.140
Total		807.985	1660.875	1516.174

Scheme : Eco Development in and around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves :

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of Tiger Reserve State	Funds Released 1997-98	Funds Released 1998-99	Funds Released 1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.399	40.020	44.534
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.998	15.229	13.820
3.	Assam	10.250	42.34	20.000
4.	Bihar	—	15.000	38.39
5.	Karnataka	34.650	20.350	62.250
6.	Kerala	—	70.550	36.450
7.	Madhya Pradesh	51.330	65.890	54.200
8.	Maharashtra	7.435	41.880	86.675
9.	Mizoram	10.500	2.000	45.500
10.	Orissa	45.775	22.600	12.000
11.	Rajasthan	36.930	53.440	16.740
12.	Tamil Nadu	4.120	18.100	31.960
13.	Uttar Pradesh	41.453	101.860	51.510
14.	West Bengal	66.525	44.390	48.873
15.	Gujarat	—	—	9.64
16.	Himachal Pradesh	58.400	—	86.84
17.	Jammu & Kashmir	22.490	—	13.700
18.	Manipur	4.750	10.400	10.110
19.	Nagaland	—	10.000	8.000
20.	Punjab	9.140	10.200	—
21.	Sikkim	—	5.850	26.000
22.	Tripura	—	44.40	—
Total		434.145	634.499	729.208

Scheme : Centrally sponsored Beneficiary Oriented Tribal Development Scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	Funds Released 1997-98	Funds Released 1998-99	Funds Released 1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Karnataka	25.000	—	68.500
2.	Madhya Pradesh	45.000	350.000	201.080
3.	Orissa	40.000	—	—
Total		110.000	350.000	269.580

Scheme : Eco-Development in and around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves - Externally aided component :

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	Funds Released 1997-98	Funds Released 1998-99	Funds Released 1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Karnataka	50.000	432.000	655.150
2.	Madhya Pradesh	50.000	365.870	217.720

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Rajasthan	50.000	158.000	150.000
4.	West Bengal	377.000	457.700	300.000
5.	Bihar	50.000	89.985	200.000
6.	Gujarat	360.000	161.000	689.200
7.	Kerala	449.500	378.950	102.570
Total		1386.500	2043.505	2314.640

Statement-III

Name of the State	Year	Cases detected	Cases filed in court	Cases under investigation	Cases compounded	Cases where final decision has been taken/closed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1997-98	6	5	1		
	1998-99	10	6	3	—	1
Bihar	1996-97	4	—	—	—	4
	1997-98	7	—	—	—	7
	1998-99	1	—	—	—	1
Delhi	1996-97	35	20	3	4	8
	1997-98	26	10	10	2	4
	1998-99	31	13	12	—	6
Goa	1996-97	8	—	4	—	4
	1997-98	14	—	5	—	9
Gujarat	1996-97	38	14	3	21	—
	1997-98	36	6	3	27	—
	1998-99	43	14	6	23	—
Haryana	1996-97	307	72	81	154	—
	1997-98	350	112	117	121	—
Karnataka	1996-97	58	—	58	—	—
	1997-98	81	—	81	—	—
	1998-99	22	—	22	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	1996-97	312	234	—	—	78
	1997-98	109	130	—	—	60
	1998-99	135	83	—	—	52
Maharashtra	1996-97	7430	1347	5950	120	13
	1997-98	8578	1648	6815	101	14
	1998-99	3978	745	3168	54	11
Meghalaya	1996-97	6	5	—	—	1
	1997-98	10	10	—	—	—
	1998-99	6	4	—	—	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mizoram	1996-97	8	—	—	4	4
	1997-98	4	—	2	—	2
	1998-99	8	—	3	5	—
Orissa	1996-97	53	22	—	—	31
	1997-98	35	12	—	—	23
	1998-99	83	35	—	—	48
Punjab	1996-97	215	174	28	13	—
	1997-98	235	199	31	5	—
	1998-99	214	194	20	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	1996-97	407	31	231	—	145
	1997-98	861	50	599	—	212
	1998-99	709	61	457	—	191
Sikkim	1996-97	3	—	—	1	2
	1997-98	3	—	—	2	1
	1998-99	4	—	1	1	2
Tamil Nadu	1996-97	86	17	9	—	60
	1997-98	51	17	5	—	29
	1998-99	38	12	1	—	25

Statement-IV*Steps Taken by the Government of India***National Level**

1. Setting up of a National Coordination committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy director, Wildlife Preservation & Scientific Organizations like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.
2. Training Programmes and Workshops have been organized to sensitize the above departments to be proactive in control of trade and smuggling of wildlife products.
3. A special co-ordination committee with Secretary (E & F) Special Secretary (Home), Director, CBI And representative of the Chairman, Central Board of Excise & Customs has been created to ensure better co-ordination in the efforts to curb smuggling of wildlife products.
4. Central assistance is being provided to State Governments to strengthen the protection infrastructure including armed squads, vehicles, communication network and co-ordination between the Park managers.
5. Schemes for awards and rewards for outstanding performance and acts of valour has been introduced to encourage detection and reporting.
6. The State Government have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

7. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Governmental Organisations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.

8. Supporting programmers of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.
9. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.
10. Site specific special force in Project Tiger Areas.
11. Special Strike force all over the country to control trade.
12. Creation of wildlife trade control bureau.

International Level

1. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e. Global Forum for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in tiger conservation :
 - (i) A protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China.
 - (ii) An MOU with his Majesty's Government of Nepal has been signed.
 - (iii) Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.
3. Several resolutions at CITES to check illegal trade in tiger parts and products have been adopted at India's initiative.

4. The Millennium Tiger Conference was held in March 1999. The conference declaration suggested several action points for conservation of tiger both at national and international level.

Projects Sanctioned by REC

1703. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has recently sanctioned some power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such States alongwith the location of projects as well as amount sanctioned for the purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the number of villages electrified in Karnataka during the Eighth Plan period and also as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Details of four small generation projects sanctioned by Rural Electrification Corporation in the recent past are as under :

Year	Name of Project	State	Gen. Source	Cap. (MW)	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Loan
1998-99	Leh	J & K	Diesel	2.00	3.590	3.231
	Kargil	-do-	-do-	2.00	4.250	3.825
	Korba	M.P.	Hydro	1.00	4.040	3.636
	Malankara	Kerala	-do-	10.50	30.000	21.900
Sub-Total				15.50	41.880	32.592

(c) Karnataka had achieved 100% electrification of the villages by the end of March, 1989 as per 1981 census. As per 1991 census out of a total 27066 inhabited villages, 26678 villages have been declared electrified by the end of October 1999. 287 villages have been declared non-feasible for electrification by Karnataka.

Conservation of Tigers

1704. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :
SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE :

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

(a) whether a team of senior UN Officials representing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) visited India to discuss strategies on conservation of tigers;

(b) if so, details of the strategies discussed and decisions arrived at;

(c) the details of latest review of the project tiger State-wise; and

(d) the details of international assistance so far awaited for the protection of endangered species along with action plan for future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They discussed protection measures in the field as well as control of trade outside forest, and suggested to strengthen field protection units and creation of strike force for control of trade.

(c) Project Tiger Reserves have been reviewed by experts and members of the Steering Committee for Project Tiger as per details below :

Name of State	Tiger Reserve reviewed
Assam	Manas
Bihar	Palamau
Karnataka	Bandipur
Kerala	Periyar
Maharashtra	Melghat
Orissa	Simlipal
Rajasthan	Ranthambore
	Seriska
Uttar Pradesh	Corbett
	Dudhwa

The major observations of the reviews inter alia include:

1. Inadequate strength of field staff in the tiger reserves.
2. Insurgency and extremism in certain areas.
3. Shortage of resources for enforcement.
4. Need for Management Plans.
5. Need for extension of area of tiger reserves.
6. To divert grazing pressure.

(d) Government of India is implementing scheme of Ecodevelopment in and around National Parks and Sanctuaries. This includes an externally aided component of US \$ 67 million. This said amount is to be used for :

1. Strengthening the enforcement infrastructure of the selected protected Area.
2. Eco-development of people living around the Protected area.

3. Seeking co-operation of the local people in protection, control of grazing and fire conservancy. [English]

[Translation]

Hike in Prices of Petroleum Products

1705. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI A. NARENDRA :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

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

(a) whether the deficit of oil pool account has increased in the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring down this deficit;

(d) whether the Government propose to hike the prices of diesel, petroleum and cooking gas to bring down the subsidy on these products; and

(e) 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) The cumulative outstandings of the oil companies from the oil pool account are estimated to be around Rs. 6000 crores as on 31.3.2000 as against Rs. 3408 crores on 31.3.1999.

(b) The increase in oil pool deficit has been due to increase in the prices of the crude oil and petroleum products in the international market.

(c) With a view to reduce the deficit in the oil pool account, the Government have effected periodical revision of prices of petroleum products.

(d) and (e) The ex-storage point prices of LPG (Domestic), kerosene oil (PDS), diesel, petrol and aviation turbine fuel are price administered whereas, the prices of other petroleum products are de-controlled. Government had, in September 1997, decided that the price of diesel would be fixed on the principle of import parity pricing upto the ex-storage point level. Further, Government had, in November 1997, decided that the subsidy on LPG (Domestic) and kerosene oil (PDS) will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% and 33.33% of the import parity price by 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from 2002 onward.

LPG Consumers in Tamil Nadu

1706. SHRI E.M. SUDARASANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of domestic LPG consumers of different Oil Corporation in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether there has been abnormal delay in getting refills by the consumers of various oil corporations particularly that of the Indane in the State; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure quick delivery of domestic LPG cylinders to the consumers 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 number of LPG customer of Public Sector Oil Companies as on 1.1.2000 in the State of Tamil Nadu is as under :

Name of Cos.	Figs. in lakhs
IOC	23.7
BPC	8.05
HPC	4.45
IBP	0.13

(b) and (c) Presently no shortage in supply of LPG in the State of Tamil Nadu has been reported by PSU Oil Companies. However, whenever LPG backlog develops, PSU Oil Companies take various measures including maximizing imports, operating the bottling plants on extended hours/Sundays and holidays, etc. to meet the demand in the affected markets.

Delay in Completion of Liquidation or Winding up of Companies

1707. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether undue delay takes place in completion of liquidation or winding up process of the companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that such proceedings are completed expeditiously ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Normally, delay takes place in completion of liquidation or winding up process of the companies due to pending misfeasance pro-

ceedings against the ex-directors of companies, pending decree for realisation that the various court cases pending in different District courts and also due to litigations pending regarding the Title Deed of land in the name of the companies (in liquidation). Liquidation or winding up proceedings are conducted by the Official Liquidator under the direction and control of the concerned High Court of the State and the High Court issues directions to Official Liquidator for completion of liquidation or winding up proceedings.

(c) Recently, the Government has constituted a Committee of Experts to examine the existing law relating to winding up proceedings of the companies to remodel it for expediting winding up proceedings.

Amendment to Indian Registration Act

1708. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tamil Nadu Government has made an amendment to the Section 28 of the Indian Registration Act, 1908 by virtue of which every document registered outside the State of Tamil Nadu in respect of properties in the border areas of Tamil Nadu and Kerala shall be null and void;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether people residing in the border areas of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have properties both in Tamil Nadu and Kerala and for them the amendment creates untold miseries and hardships; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to alleviate the sufferings of such people ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, sir.

(b) to (d) Since Section 28, of the Registration Act, 1908 (Central Act XVI of 1908) provides for the presentation of document for registration in the office of a Sub-Registrar, within whose sub-district, the whole or some portion of the property to which the document relates is situated, a large scale registration of documents effecting properties in Tamil Nadu are resorted to in Sub-Registrars Office in the neighbouring States by including in the document a small piece of immovable property situated in the neighbouring States, with the obvious reason of getting the property registered in the said neighbouring States at a lower rate of stamp duty. This practice was adopted with the fraudulent intention to evade stamp duty payable in State in Tamil Nadu. In order to plug this loophole, the Government of Tamil Nadu sent the Registration (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 1997 to the Ministry of Home Affairs on 21.2.1997. The said Bill has been assented by the President on 27.3.1997. The government of Tamil Nadu published the same on 29.3.1997 as Act No. 19 of 1997.

Assam Gas Cracker Project to R.I.L.

1709. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN :
SHRI M.K. SUBBA :

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

(a) whether the Government had entrusted the Assam Gas Cracker Project to Reliance Industries Limited, in 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof including cost of the project and its contemplated production capacity;

(c) the progress, if any, made in settling the project and the reasons for delay, if any;

(d) whether the Government propose to entrust the project to Indian Oil Corporation, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation or Oil India Limited operating in the region; and

(e) 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) The Assam Industrial Development Corporation, a State Government of Assam Undertaking formed a joint venture with M/s Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. in 1995 to implement the Assam Gas Cracker Project with production capacity of 3 lakh Tonnes of Ethylene per annum. Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. have taken initial steps such as Environment Impact Assessment study, discussions with process licensors and technology suppliers etc. The Government of Assam and M/s Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. are in the process of finalising the site for location of the project. Feedstock Supply Agreement between Oil India Ltd. and Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. has been concluded in all respects except for issues relating to Liquidated Damages. The estimated cost of the project is about Rs. 3600 crore and the project is expected to be commissioned in 44 months after finalisation of the Feedstock Supply Agreement(s) and acquisition of land.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Pre-Trial Bargain

1710. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Panel moots pre-trial bargain to cut backlog' appearing in the Hindustan Times dated February 7, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The news item relates to the recommendations made by the Law Commission pertaining to plea bargaining in the context of huge backlog of criminal cases pending at the trial stage. The recommendations of the Law Commission are under examination.

[Translation]

Public Telephones in Villages

1711. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI M.K. SUBBA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many of the Gram Panchayats in Assam and other North Eastern States and in Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar districts in Gujarat still remain without telephone connections ;

(b) if so, the number or percentage of such unconnected villages and panchayats in the said States and districts;

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided in such States and districts; and

(d) the targets fixed for each year of the Ninth Five Year Plan for connecting villages with telephone connections in the country and the said State and districts and the advancements made in this regard so far, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Some Gram Panchayats in Assam and other North-Eastern States and in Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar districts in Gujarat are still without telephone connections. Details are given in the Statement-I. All the villages in these States and districts are proposed to be covered by the end of the 9th Plan subject to the availability of sufficient resources. The yearly targets/achievements in the country and the States of Assam, North-East and Districts of Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar are in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Number and Percentage of Villages and Gram Panchayats without telephone connections

State/Distt.	Total villages	Villages without VPTs	%age of villages without VPTs	Total Gram Panchayats	Gram Panchayats without VPTs	% age of Gram Panchayats without VPTs
Assam	22,224	8,371	37.7	2,485	391	15.7
Arunachal Pradesh	3,599	3,011	83.7	944	558	59.1
Manipur	2,394	1,710	71.4	429	70	16.3
Meghalaya	5,629	4,443	78.9	450	45	10.0
Mizoram	770	152	19.7	613	184	30.0
Nagaland	11,192	632	53.0	1,001	595	59.4
Tripura	862	232	26.9	910	363	39.9
Total for North-East	14,446	10,180	70.5	4,347	1,815	41.8
Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	645	51	7.9	640	27	4.2
Bhavnagar (Gujarat)	865	114	13.2	853	113	13.2

Statement-II

Targets and Achievements for VPTs

Year	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	2001-2002
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement (till 1.3.2000)	Target	Target
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andaman & Nicobar	181	30	53	56	63	35	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	3000	1566	400	526	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Assam	4000	2484	2900	2907	3000	498	4744	1125
Bihar	12000	2615	6000	2137	8000	2213	17700	33187
Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haryana	508	195	20	0	26	0	17	0
Himachal Pradesh	2500	1504	1000	1208	2500	1311	3000	3710
Jammu & Kashmir	1200	437	1000	783	1500	273	900	1019
Karnataka	3000	3389	2500	2521	2000	1757	1000	720
Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	5500	3878	4000	3707	5000	1104	3000	1406
Maharashtra	4940	2725	2670	2462	0	0	0	0
Goa	60	36	30	10	0	0		
Arunachal Pradesh	362	50	171	21	750	10	1000	1000
Manipur	232	115	232	48	300	44	500	954
Meghalaya	812	180	232	233	300	111	1500	3025
Mizoram	122	15	52	30	79	13	46	40
Nagaland	214	44	232	21	307	23	226	122
Tripura	258	70	81	51	264	32	0	0
Orissa	8819	2402	2400	2242	3000	716	10000	13163
Punjab	1245	1327	345	173	0	0	0	0
Rajasthan	5000	3269	2540	2585	0	302	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1000	2530	142	196	0	6	157	0
UP (East)	14000	8618	7500	8219	7000	5498	15500	15009
UP (West)	8000	2197	5500	2937	6000	2911	3650	10810
West Bengal	7800	3153	4930	3955	4826	531	7000	9870
Sikkim	200	4	70	50	174	10	0	0
Calcutta Telecom	47	22	0	0	47	0	0	0
Total	83000	42855	45000	37058	45136	17898	70000	95100

Note : No targets have been fixed by Deptt. of Telecom. Services for Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar districts in Gujarat as in Gujarat, all the remaining villages is to be covered by fixed service provider.

[English]

(d) the targets, fixed in this regard for the ensuing year ?

Energy Conservation Drive

1712. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched an energy conservation drive, to promote ways and means to save power ;

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

(c) the steps taken to implement the same so far; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Power and Public Sector Undertakings under its administrative control have agreed to jointly undertake National Energy Conservation Awareness Campaign in print & electronic media during the financial year 1999-2000 to propagate and popularise the theme of energy conservation among the industries and general public at large. An amount of Rs. 6.00 crores has been earmarked for the campaign on energy conservation, reforms and restructuring of power sector. Meanwhile the Ministry of Power has introduced the Energy Conservation Bill 2000 in the Lok Sabha on 24.2.2000. The Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Energy. The salient features of the Energy Conservation Bill 2000 is annexed herewith as statement.

Statement

The salient features of the Energy Conservation Bill 2000 are as under :

- (i) The Central Government in Consultation with the BEE will lay down energy conservation standards for any equipment or appliance consuming, generating, energy transmitting or supplying energy.
- (ii) The Central Government will enforce a scheme for compulsory affixing of labels on notified equipment and appliances to indicate in a clear, and readable manner, the rate of energy consumption of such equipment and appliances, at the stages of manufacture, import, supply, distribution, sale or dealership.
- (iii) The Central Government in consultation with BEE will notify industries, establishments and any user or class of users of energy, building complex as designated consumers having regard to intensity or quantity of use of energy. Designated Consumers will comply with energy consumption standards and norms.
- (iv) As and when notified by the designating agency being the Central Government, energy audit by an accredited auditor shall be mandatory for all designated consumers in the industries and establishments. Such consumers would be required to furnish returns on energy consumed and actions taken on the recommendations of the accredited energy auditor in the prescribed period and manner. The periodicity of the audit would be as notified by BEE. Energy managers with prescribed qualifications may be required to be appointed by designated consumer. Such designated consumers would be required to submit a report on the status of energy conservation to the BEE/State on an annual basis.
- (v) Every designated consumer may be required to comply with the prescribed energy conservation norms. Different standards and norms could be prescribed for different designated consumers keeping in view distinguishing factors such as technology/process adopted, age of the plant/building, form of energy used, raw material used etc.
- (vi) The designated consumer shall prepare a scheme(s) for energy conservation in the manner prescribed by the Central Government and implement such scheme as may be prescribed by the Central Government.
- (vii) The Bureau of Energy Efficiency would prepare guidelines for Building Codes relating to energy conservation and State Government shall notify the same. The codes could be notified to suit local climate conditions or other compelling factors.
- (viii) A State Government shall designate any agency to coordinate, enforce and regulate matters relating to implementation of the legislation within the State.

The State Government shall designate SERC to perform adjudicating function. Wherever the SERC is not in position, the State Government shall appoint the Law Secretary or his nominee having legal background in that State/UT as an adjudicating officer and such officer shall cease to be adjudicating officer immediately on establishment of SERC in the State.

- (ix) The Central and State Governments shall promote mass awareness for energy conservation, consumer education and consumer guidance and shall also take steps to encourage preferential treatment for energy efficient equipment/devices and appliances.
- (x) For the purpose of the legislation, energy shall be defined as any form of energy derived from fossil fuels, hydro-electricity, including electrical energy drawn from the grid. This will also include electricity produced by renewable sources of energy including bio-mass when connected to the grid. However, renewable sources of energy when used in isolation from the grid shall not be covered in the definition of energy for the purpose of the proposed legislation.

[Translation]**Setting up of Petrol Pumps in H.P.**

1713. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is no adequate facility of petrol and diesel pumps in the hilly districts of Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether petrol pumps are available only in few towns whereas hilly people live in far flung areas;
- (c) whether the Government have received representations to step up petrol pumps in far flung areas of the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the places in Himachal Pradesh for which the proposals for the setting up of the petrol and diesel pumps are under consideration and the time by which these pumps are likely to be set up ?

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) Representations are received from time to time from different parts of the country including from Himachal Pradesh. Retail Outlet dealerships are set up at the economically viable locations as per Oil Industry's Volume Distance Norms all over the country including in hilly and other areas in Himachal Pradesh. As on 1.10.1999 there were 98 retail outlet dealerships in Himachal Pradesh. Further to meet the increasing demand, 28 more retail outlet dealerships are to be set up in Himachal Pradesh.

*[English]***Rehabilitation of Oilfields of Mumbai High**

1714. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :
 PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
 SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

- (a) whether Mumbai High oilfields have lost their potential due to mis-management;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have made any attempt to improve the exploration of crude oil from there;
- (c) if so, the rehabilitation measures taken to protect the Mumbai High oilfields in the national interest;
- (d) whether the Government have appointed Gileffi and Cline to work out a feasibility study on the Mumbai High oilfields;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which it is likely to submit its report ?

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) Oil production rates have declined in Mumbai High due to oil field entering the declining phase of production which occurs in the life cycle of any producing oilfield.

Based on detailed study of shortfall in oil production, various measures, both short term and long term, have been identified. Some of the measures undertaken to arrest/slow down the declining trend and increase the production of crude oil are :

- (i) Drilling of infill wells, horizontal wells and extended reach drilling wells.
- (ii) Adoption of drain hole technology and scale removal jobs.
- (iii) Re-completion of poorly producing wells with side tracking.
- (iv) Workover jobs, redistribution of water injection to maintain reservoir pressure and optimisation of gas lift facilities.
- (v) Hiring of consultants of international repute for formulation of re-development plan of Mumbai High field.
- (vi) Acquisition of 3-D seismic data for better understanding of the reservoir for future development plans.

- (vii) Trial of new technology "Gel Technology" in Mumbai High field for control of excessive gas and water production.

(d) to (f) The Government have not appointed any consultation agency for this field. However, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has engaged Gaffney Cline and Associate (GCA) as consultant for drawing up a cost effective additional development plan of Mumbai High.

Security cover for Power Projects

1715. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
 SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the States are facing problems regarding security cover for power projects and distribution and transmission of electricity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether such issue has been discussed in Power Minister's meet held recently;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

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

(b) 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 covered to these projects. However, 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.

(c) to (e) 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, vigour 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 pro-

gressively 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.

STD/ISD/PCO'S Booths

1716. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :
SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of PCO/STD/ISD booths installed in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh during the last three years separately, district-wise;

(b) the number of applications lying pending for the installation of such booths in both the States separately;

(c) the reasons for their pendency; and

(d) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The information is given in the statement attached.

(b) As on 31.12.99 a total of 18861 and 18064 applications are pending in Kerala & Andhra Pradesh Circles respectively.

(c) The applications are pending for various reasons such as want of spare capacity in the exchange, non-feasibility of the area, non-availability of reliable media, etc.

(d) The pending applications are to be cleared progressively subject to technical feasibility and the applicants fulfilling other conditions.

Statement

Name of the SSA (Telecom Distts.)	PCOs installed during the year		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
Kerala Telecom Circle			
Trivandrum	747	1070	1358
Kollam	606	704	755
Alleppey	481	571	743
Pathanamthita	690	838	1053
Kottayam	764	960	1149
Ernakulam	2403	2898	3255
Thrissur	1058	1203	1414

1	2	3	4
Palghat	634	830	874
Calicut	1626	1847	1978
Kannur	834	1364	1469

Andhra Pradesh Telecom Circle

Adilabad	0	20	39
Ananthapur	10	534	246
Chittoor	52	10	603
Cuddapah	10	54	400
East Godavari	174	142	373
Guntur	113	339	264
Hyderabad	802	492	858
Karimnagar	40	318	177
Khammam	73	30	196
Krishna	9	299	929
Kurnool	87	65	467
Mahabubnagar	11	88	64
Medak	34	35	145
Nalgonda	9	60	213
Nellore	58	63	133
Nizamabad	0	1	338
Prakasham	148	31	205
Srikakulam	9	22	161
Vishakhapatnam	99	172	344
Vizianagaram	0	51	237
Warangal	0	0	1
West Godavari	36	92	734

Capacity Addition of Hydel Power Projects

1717. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hydel Power Projects have failed to achieve the prescribed target capacity addition during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of hydel power projects cleared by Central Electricity Authority so far;

(d) whether the Government have failed to exploit the potential of Hydro Power for want of funds in the country;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any long term planning has been made by the Government to improve the situation during the Ninth Plan period; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the share of central sector, State and private sectors in capacity addition, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Hydro capacity installation of 9282.2 MW was programmed to be added during 8th Plan which was revised to 3796.70 MW after the mid term appraisal. Hydro capacity installation of 2427.65 MW was actually achieved during the 8th Plan period.

(b) Slippage in the addition of planned hydro capacity during 8th Plan was mainly due to problems relating to Resettlement and Rehabilitation, law and order, funds constraints, contractor problems, slow progress of works, delay in award of works, natural calamities, inter-state disputes and low priority given by some State Governments.

(c) As on 29.2.2000, 29 Hydro projects 5 in private sector and 24 in public sector, excluding those which have got investment sanction have been accorded techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

(d) and (e) A re-assessment of hydro electric potential of the country carried out during 1978-87 have indicated hydro electric potential of 84044 MW (at 80% load factor) of major/medium schemes. As on 1.2.2000, out of this assessed potential, hydro electric projects of potential of 16.13% have been developed, 6.25% are under construction and 3.34% have been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority. Therefore, 74.28% of the Hydro electric potential of the country is yet to be harnessed. The reasons for slow development of hydro electric potential are problems relating to rehabilitation, availability of good contractors, environment and forest clearance, law and order, land acquisition, geological surprises, apart from inter state aspects and slow development of North Eastern Region.

(f) and (g) The Planning Commission had formulated a capacity addition programme of 40245.2 MW from/during 9th Plan, Sector-wise details are given below :

	MW
Central	11908.0
State	10747.7
Private	17588.5

State-wise details of the programme are given in the attached statement. These does not include liquid fuel capacity of 6000 MW for which State-wise projects have not yet been identified. Mid term appraisal carried out in July, 1999 has indicated 28097.2 MW feasible capacity addition.

Statement

Project-wise details of capacity additions as per Planning Commission

Name of the Project	State	Benefits during 9th Plan (MW)
1	2	3
Northern Region		
State Sector/Private Sector Projects		
Panipat U-6	Haryana	210.0
Dadupur	Haryana	6.0
W.Y.C.-II	Haryana	16.0
Baspa-2	H.P.	300.0
Ghanvi	H.P.	22.5
UHL-II	H.P.	100.0
Dhamvari Sunda	H.P.	70.0
Gurunak Bhatn	Punjab	420.0
Thein Dam M.P.P.	Punjab	600.0
Rajghat (50%)	U.P.	22.5
Sobla	U.P.	6.0
Tanda TPS	U.P.	110.0
Kata Patwar HE	U.P.	19.0
Suratgarh TPS	Rajasthan	500.0
Jakham	Rajasthan	5.0
Upper Sind II	J & K	70.0
Upper Sind III	J & K	35.0
Sewa- III	J & K	6.0
Chennai-II	J & K	6.0
Pahalgaoon	J & K	3.0
Central Sector Projects		
Nathpa Jhakri	H.P.	1500.0
Dulhasti	J & K	390.0
RAPP Ext. U-3 & 4	Rajasthan	440.0
Tehri St-I	U.P.	1000.0
Unchahar-II	U.P.	420.0
FBD. CCGTA - NTPC	Haryana	280.0
FBD. CCGTB - NTPC	Haryana	140.0
Auriya CCGT-II	U.P.	257.0
Auriya CCGT-II	U.P.	393.0
Anta CCGT-II	Rajasthan	393.0
Anta CCGT-II	Rajasthan	257.0
Total		7977.0

1	2	3
Western Region		
State Sector/Private Sector Projects		
Kadana - II U-3 & 4	Gujarat	60.0
Kutch Lignite U-3	Gujarat	75.0
Sardar Sarovar (16%)	Gujarat	64.0
Sardar Sarovar (16%)	Gujarat	40.0
Gandhi Nagar U-5	Gujarat	210.0
Hazira CCST	Gujarat	185.0
Mangrol Lig.	Gujarat	250.0
S. Mati J. TPS	Gujarat	120.0
Wanakbori U-7	Gujarat	210.0
Pyguthan CCGT	Gujarat	413.7
Pyguthan CCST	Gujarat	241.0
Bansagar IV	M.P.	20.0
Bansagar Ton	M.P.	60.0
Bansagar Ton	M.P.	30.0
Birsingpur Ext.	M.P.	420.0
Rajghat (50%)	M.P.	22.5
Sardar Sarovar (57%)	M.P.	370.5
Korba East	M.P.	1000.0
Maheshwar	M.P.	80.0
Chandrapur U-7	Mah.	500.0
Dudhganga	Mah.	24.0
Koyna St. IV	Mah.	1000.0
Sardar Sarovar (27%)	Mah.	175.5
Warna	Mah.	16.0
Dabhol CCGT-I	Mah.	740.0
Bhadravati TPS	Mah.	1072.0
Dabhol CCGT II	Mah.	1275.0
Ghatghar PSS	Mah.	250.0
Central Sector Projects		
Vindhyachal-II	M.P.	1000.0
Kawas CCGT-II	Gujarat	393.0
Kawas CCST-II	Gujarat	257.0
Total		10574.0
Southern Region		
State Sector/Private Sector Projects		
Kothagudem-IV	A.P.	250.0
Singur H.E.	A.P.	15.0
Srisaillam LBPH	A.P.	900.0
Vizag TPS	A.P.	1040.0
Godavari CCST	A.P.	114.3

1	2	3
Jegrupadu CCST	A.P.	77.0
Bhadra RBC	Kar.	6.0
Kalinadi -II	Kar.	150.0
Kalinadi-II	Kar.	120.0
Sharavarti T.R.	Kar.	240.0
Mangalore TPS	Kar.	1000.0
Raichur U-5 & 6	Kar.	420.0
Torangallu TPS	Kar.	260.0
Brindaban	Kar.	12.0
Sarapadi HE	Kar.	90.0
Brahampuram DG	Ker.	100.0
Kakkad	Ker.	50.0
Kozhikode DG	Ker.	120.0
Lower Periyar	Ker.	120.0
Porigalkuthu-4	Ker.	16.0
Kutiyadi Extn.	Ker.	50.0
Malanka	Ker.	7.0
Peppare HE	Ker.	3.0
Basin Bridge W.H.	Tamil Nadu	30.0
Kundah-5 Extn.	Tamil Nadu	30.0
Lower Bhawn LBC	Tamil Nadu	8.0
Satnnur Dam	Tamil Nadu	7.5
North Madras-II	Tamil Nadu	1050.0
PP Nallur CCGT	Tamil Nadu	220.5
PP Nallur CCST	Tamil Nadu	110.0
NLC II Ext. U-0	Tamil Nadu	250.0
Basin Bridge DG	Tamil Nadu	200.0
Karaikal CCGT	Pond.	7.5
Karaikal CCST	Pond.	15.0
Central Sector Projects		
Simhadri TPS	A.P.	1000.0
Kaiga	Kar.	440.0
Kymklm CCGT NTPC	Ker.	350.0
Neyveli FST. Extn.	Tamil Nadu	420.0
Hy. Bad CCGT	A.P.	393.0
Hy. Bad CCST	A.P.	257.0
Total		9948.8
Eastern Region		
State Sector/Private Sector Projects		
Chandil HE	Bihar	8.0
Eastern Gandak	Bihar	5.0

1	2	3
North Koel	Bihar	24.0
Tenughat Ex. 3-5	Bihar	630.0
Potteru	Orissa	6.0
Lower Indravati	Orissa	600.0
IB-Valley 3 & 4	Orissa	420.0
Balimele St. 2	Orissa	120.0
Bargarh	Orissa	9.0
Rathongchu	Sikkim	10.0
Rolep HE	Sikkim	9.0
Mejia TPS	D.V.C.	210.0
Maithon RBC	D.V.C.	500.0
Teesta Can. Fall	W.B.	45.0
Teesta Can. Fall	W.B.	22.5
Bakreshwar 1-3	W.B.	630.0
Balagarh TPS	W.B.	500.0
Budge-Budge	W.B.	500.0
Central Sector Projects		
Rangit	Sikkim	60.0
Talcher II	Orissa	500.0
Total		4808.5

North Eastern Region**State Sector/Private Sector Projects**

Lakwa WH U-1	Assam	22.5
Lakwa WH U-2	Assam	25.0
Dhansiri HEP	Assam	20.0
Karbi L Borp	Assam	100.0
Nuranang	Ar. Pr.	6.0
Umiyam UMT HE-V	Mehgalya	18.0
Likimro	Nagaland	24.0
Serlui B	Mizoram	9.0
Rokhia Ph-II U-2	Tripura	8.0

Central Sector Projects

Ranganadi	Ar.Pr.	405.0
Kaithalguri B	Assam	90.0
Doyang	Nagaland	75.0
Agartala G.P.P.	Tripura	84.0
Kopili Ext.	Assam	25.0

Total **911.5**

[Translation]**Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan**

1718. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Rajasthan particularly in Jodhpur district, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some new telephone exchanges in the State during 2000-2001 and in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the estimated funds allocated for the purpose during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) At present 1856 telephone exchanges are working in Rajasthan out of which 80 telephone exchanges are working in Jodhpur district. The district-wise details are given in attached statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is proposed to set up 100 telephone exchanges during 2000-2001 and 100 more in 2001-2002.

(d) Demand for Grants for the year 2000-2001 in respect of Department of Telecom Services has not been approved by the Parliament yet. The allocation of funds Statewise will be done only after the approval of the Demand for Grants of the DOTS by the Parliament.

Statement

District-wise number of telephone exchanges functioning in Rajasthan (as on 31.1.2000).

S.No.	Name of district	No. of exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Ajmer	80
2.	Alwar	99
3.	Bharatpur	45
4.	Dholpur	13
5.	Barmer	58
6.	Jaisalmer	20
7.	Bhilwara	65
8.	Bikaner	57
9.	Bundi	36
10.	Kota	41

1	2	3
11.	Chittorgarh	54
12.	Churu	71
13.	Jaipur	146
14.	Dausa	40
15.	Jhalawar	32
16.	Jodhpur	80
17.	Nagaur	89
18.	Sirohi	57
19.	Jalore	46
20.	Pali	124
21.	Swaimadhopur	31
22.	Karoli	24
23.	Sikar	81
24.	Sriganganagar	94
25.	Hanumangarh	50
26.	Tonk	43
27.	Udaipur	78
28.	Banswara	33
29.	Dungarpur	32
30.	Rajasmad	48
31.	Jhunjhunu	68
32.	Baran	21

[English]

Telecom Facilities in Jammu and Kashmir

1719. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ISD/STD/PCOs booth functioning at present in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of applications lying pending for the installation of said booths in the State, district-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor and the time by which these applications are likely to be processed and approved in the State particularly in Jammu District;

(d) whether the Government propose to improve the telecommunications facilities in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) At present 2062 PCOs are functioning in Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) At present 7401 applications are pending for allotment of PCO booths. The Telecom Distt wise break-up is as under :

Name of the Telecom Distt.	Applications Pending
Jammu	5488
Rajouri	452
Leh	92
Srinagar	748
Udhampur	621

(c) The applications are pending due to various reasons such as want of spare capacity in the exchange, non feasibility of the area, non availability of reliable media, court cases, etc. The pending applications are to be cleared progressively in all the Telecom Distts. including Jammu subject to technical feasibility and the applicants fulfilling other conditions.

(d) Yes, sir.

(e) To improve telecom facilities, electronic telephone exchanges have been provided in the whole state. Reliable media on optical fibre cable and engine alternators have been provided in the exchanges to meet the power crisis.

Telephone Directory

1720. SHRI SULTAN SALUHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States where the telephone directory could not be printed in time during the last three years due to contractual failure;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the policy relating to printing of telephone directory to ensure their timely printing;

(c) if so, whether the telephone directory brought out in Delhi by the Government is very illegible and there is great difficulty in locating a telephone number or read the name of a person; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to bring out a clear and legible telephone directories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, the present policy of the department is to print one telephone directory for each telecom district every alternative year & a supplementary directory in the intervening year. In most of the States, there are more than one telecom district. While in some telecom districts of each State, the printing of telephone directories were completed in time, at some places the same has been delayed due to various reasons such as non-availability of contractors due to economic backwardness of the area, litigation due to contractual failure etc.

(b) Yes, Sir. Earlier the telephone directories were printed on positive royalty basis. Whenever those could not be printed on positive royalty such cases were referred to department of Telecom Head Quarters by the Circles for relaxation of the conditions. This process caused certain amount of delay in bringing out the directories. Recently, the telephone directory printing policy has been reviewed and it has been decided to print the directories even on negative royalty or on cost sharing basis. CGMs of the telecom circles have been delegated almost full powers to decide such cases in order to bring out the directories in time. In this review, the earlier arrangement of providing full directory each year has also been modified to printing of directory in alternate years and a supplementary directory in the intervening year. This will further help in timely printing of directories.

(c) Telephone Directories in Delhi unit was got printed with 6 point printing according to DoT guidelines on the subject. However some complaints regarding illegibility have been received.

(d) To obviate the complaint, MTNL propose to bring out next Directory using 8 point printing & improved Paper quality.

Installation of outdated telephone Instruments

1721. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of old and outdated telephone instruments are installed in every State and also in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to replace these old and outdated telephone instruments;

(c) if so, the time by which all the old and outdated instruments likely to be replaced by the new ones; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (d) For providing new telephone connections mostly new telephone instruments with push button dial are provided. However, wherever the old type of telephone instrument with rotary dial are existing, these are being replaced with the new push button type of telephone instruments under mission better communication scheme. All such old type of telephone instruments are proposed to be replaced by the end of 9th five year plan period.

Power Generation

1722. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total power generation in both the Hydel and Thermal sectors in the country by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan as against the installed capacity in this regard;

(b) the comparative ratio of consumption of power in the industrial, agriculture and domestic sectors as against the demand thereof;

(c) the comparative rise in the cost of power generation and the consequential rise in the power tariffs in the country;

(d) the estimated planned targets set for the power generation in both the thermal and hydel sectors for the Ninth Plan period; and

(e) the comparative ratio of power availability in the industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors ?

THE MINISTERS OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The installed capacity and energy generation in Hydel and Thermal sectors in the country at the end of 8th Five Year Plan i.e. 1996-97 is given below :

Installed Capacity (MW) (as on 31.3.1997)		Energy Generation (MU) 1996-97	
Hydel	Thermal	Hydel	Thermal
21658.08	61010.28	68900.80	317041.87

(b) The actual consumption (restricted) was 82%, 99% and 87% of the consumption estimated as per the 15th Electric Power Survey Committee Report in the industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors respectively.

(c) The details are given in enclosed statement-I, II A, B C and III.

(d) As per mid-term review, feasible capacity addition during 9th Plan is 28097.2 MW comprising of 8399.2 MW from Hydro, 18818 MW from Thermal and 880 MW from Nuclear.

(e) The comparative ratio of the actual power available in the industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors during the period 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given at the enclosed statement-IV.

Statement-I

Average Cost of Generation (Thermal/Hydro) of various SEBs during the year 1996-97 & 1997-98

S.No.	Name of SEBs	Cost of Generation			
		Average Thermal (P/Kwh)		Average Hydro (P/Kwh)	
		1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	APSEB	113.48	117.71	18.11	19.92
2.	MSEB	113.61	124.10	27.24	31.95

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	HVPNL	198.89	212.56	23.17	28.34
4.	GEB	144.32	162.02	32.98	22.69
5.	MPEB	111.29	122.59	72.60	75.64
6.	TNEB	155.79	175.60	19.57	22.84
7.	UPSEB	134.36	160.14	24.84	36.89
8.	WBSEB	119.92	135.10	92.69	151.23
9.	PSEB	152.52	164.11	24.45	32.30

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	RSEB	162.83	169.60	27.80	27.73
11.	HPSEB	—	—	28.60	31.19
12.	Meghalaya SEB	—	—	102.49	80.84
13.	Karnataka SEB	238.50	259.12	—	—

* Karnataka SEB is having DG sets

** Avg. cost of Thermal & gas.

Statement-II A*Statement Showing Estimated average rates of Electricity (Paise/Month) as on 1.4.1997*

S.No.	Name of State Utility	Tariff Effective from	Domestic			Commercial		
			2 KW (100 kwh)	5 KW (400 kwh)	10 KW (1000 kwh)	5 KW (200 kwh)	10 KW (1000 kwh)	20 KW (2000 kwh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	A.P.	1.8.1996	136.00	248.50	272.00	386.00	382.00	381.50
2.	Assam	8.9.1994	105.00	230.00	230.00	315.40	363.90	363.90
3.	Bihar	1.7.1993	139.00 U 46.00 R	150.75 —	161.10	451.00	287.80	289.90 —
4.	Gujarat	22.10.1996	181.25 165.69	302.72 U 272.27 R	335.53 U 300.91 R	398.14	412.99	414.84
5.	Haryana	1.7.1996	240.00	262.00	267.00	345.00	345.00	345.00
6.	H.P.	10.2.1997	61.00	71.00	74.00	195.00	235.5	245.25
7.	J & K	1.4.1988	54.9	54.9	54.9	91.5	91.5	91.5
8.	Karnataka	1.7.1996	121.25	203.75	296.5	478.75	471.25	473.13
9.	Kerala	1.2.1997	110.00	286.00	286.00	480.7	443.3	443.3
10.	M.P.	1.7.1996	92.2	179.35	208.87	363.76	419.68	425.37
11.	Maharashtra	1.7.1996	133.5	260.00	342.5	412.9	481.10	418.1
12.	Meghalaya	1.9.1996	85.00	103.75	107.5	176.00	184.00	185.00
13.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	1.4.1997	111.25	180.31	201.13	295.00	325.00	325.00
14.	Punjab	11.7.1996	135.25	168.06	194.63	269.00	269.00	269.00
15.	Rajasthan	1.10.1996	132.5	158.88	168.55	273.5	295.5	298.25
16.	T.N.	15.2.1997	100.00	177.5	221.00			
	Chennai Metro Area					378.00	394.8	396.9
	Non Metro Area					367.5	384.3	386.4
17.	U.P.	3.1.1997	145.00 U 42.00 R	190.25	198.50	378.27	378.27	378.27
18.	W.B.	19.11.1996	147.68 U 143.01 R	277.33 U 270.22 R	340.85 U 330.10 R	302.04 U 296.21 R	405.38 U 399.75 R	405.38 399.75
19.	Ar. Pradesh	1.3.1993	95.00	135.00	135.00	210.00	235.00	235.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
20.	Goa	1.3.1997	85.00	112.5	144.00	216.25	262.25	273.63
21.	Manipur	30.10.1992	87.2	177.2	162.2	252.2	162.2	162.2
22.	Mizoram	1.3.1992	85.00	90.00	93.00	100.00	116.00	118.00
23.	Nagaland	1.12.1995	200.00	275.00	275.00	300.00	350.00	350.00
24.	Sikkim	1.4.1995	80.00	110.00	116.00	155.00	163.00	164.00
25.	Tripura	1.6.1992	100.00	100.00	100.00	140.00	140.00	140.00
26.	A & N Islands	1.12.1995	85.00	158.75	183.5	200.00	250.00	290.00
27.	Chandigarh	1.11.1996	112.5	154.88	180.85	246.00	246.00	246.00
28.	D & N H	1.2.1987	72.5	85.63	88.25	122.00	124.4	124.7
29.	Daman & Diu	1.10.1994	87.5	106.88	152.75	125.00	165.00	182.5
30.	Delhi							
	DVB	1.4.1997	105.00	203.44	270.38	535.09	325.09	325.09
	NDMC	1.4.1997	105.00	203.75	270.5	510.59	352.59	430.59
31.	Lakshadweep	1.4.997	150.00	200.00	200.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
32.	Pondicherry	1.4.997	55.00	77.50	97.00	189.80	239.72	247.26
33.	A. E. Co.	18.12.1996	234.08	305.48	342.24	443.66	499.37	503.81
34.	CESC	20.11.1996	145.68	279.36	338.85	300.04	403.38	403.38
35.	DVC	1.1.1996						
	(a) Bihar area							
	(b) W. Bengal area							
36.	DPL	10.2.1995	92.43	255.1	255.1	239.9	311.5	311.5
37.	Mumbai							
	BEST	1.8.1994	82.5	236.27	330.83	487.38	591.88	627.63
	BSES	1.3.1997	151.8	416.8	425.8	572.6	604.17	615.34
	TATA	1.11.1996	—	369.41	369.41	382.61	369.41	369.41

AP = Andhra Pradesh, HP=Himachal Pradesh, J & K = Jammu & Kashmir, MP=Madhya Pradesh, TN =Tamil Nadu, UP= Uttar Pradesh, WB = West Bengal, Ar. P=Arunchal Pradesh, A & N Islands = Andaman & Nicobar Islands, D & NH = Dadra & Nagar Haveli, AE Co=Ahmedabad Electricity Company, CESC = Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation, DVC = Damodar Valley Corporation, DPL = Durgapur Projects Ltd., U = Urban, R=Rural, N=Non-continuous process industries, P=Continuous Process Industries

Statement-II B

Statement Showing estimated average rates of Electricity (Paise/Month) as on 1.4.1997

S.No.	Name of State Utility	Tariff Effective from	Agriculture		Industry	
			5 HP, 15% LF (408 kwh)	10HP, 20% LF (1089 kwh)	Small 10HP, 25%LF 11361 KWh	Medium 50 KW, 40% LF 14600 KWh
1	2	3	10	11	12	13
1.	A.P.	1.8.1996	27.98	20.05	308.52	333.63
2.	Assam	8.9.1994	90.00	150.00	178.60 U 81.60 R	227.10
3.	Bihar	1.7.1993	40.15	31.09	157.09	140.54

1	2	3	10	11	12	13
4.	Gujarat	22.10.1996	51.06	61.22	233.87	262.44
5.	Haryana	1.7.1996	55.15	50.00	345.00	345.00
6.	H.P.	10.2.1997	65.00	65.00	140.00	185.00
7.	J & K	1.4.1998	12.2	12.2	48.8	48.8
8.	Karnataka	1.7.1996	10.21	7.65	206.02	221.48
9.	Kerala	1.2.1997	60.39	59.04	161.44	156.04
10.	M.P.	1.7.1996	61.27	45.91	186.4	315.57
11.	Maharashtra	1.7.1996	40.85	38.26	219.3	418.12
12.	Meghalaya	1.9.1996	56.00	56.00	149.49	168.43
13.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	1.4.1997	85.00	85.00	215.00	285.00
14.	Punjab	11.7.1996	53.68	52.75	195.00	210.00
15.	Rajasthan	1.10.1996	47.31	41.46	240.00	280.00
16.	T.N.	15.2.1997	25.53	19.13	221.52	
	Chennai Metro Area					344.02
	Non Metro Area					333.52
17.	U.P	3.1.1997	52.7	38.11	333.84	343.63 N
						361.22 P
18.	W.B.	19.11.1996	41.67	85.00	296.09 U	354.14
					282.80 R	
19.	Ar. Pradesh	1.3.1993	-	-	185.00	195.00
20.	Goa	1.3.1997	50.00	50.00	150.00	192.33
21.	Manipur	30.10.1992	72.2	72.2	91.18	100.14
22.	Mizoram	1.3.1992	45.00	45.00	95.00	95.00
23.	Nagaland	1.12.1995	150.00	150.00	250.00	275.00
24.	Sikkim	1.4.1995	120.00	122.04	126.63	186.44
25.	Tripura	1.6.1992	50.00	60.00	100.00	140.00
26.	A & N Islands	1.12.1995	50.00	50.00	180.00	180.00
27.	Chandigarh	1.11.1996	39.18	38.25	176.00	196.00
28.	D & N H	1.2.1987	50.00	50.00	170.10	170.36
29.	Daman & Diu	1.10.1994	50.00	50.00	120.00	151.89
30.	Delhi					
	DVB	1.4.1997	52.50	52.50	325.09	325.09
	NDMC	1.4.1997	-	-	325.59	325.59
31.	Lakshadweep	1.4.997	-	-	150.00	150.00
32.	Pondicherry	1.4.997	11.74	7.27	143.92	149.97
33.	A. E. Co.	18.12.1996	233.79	233.23	282.00	300.41
34.	CESC	20.11.1996	-	-	294.09	342.08
35.	DVC	1.1.1996				
	(a) Bihar area		-	-	-	-
	(b) W. Bengal area		-	-	-	-
36.	DPL	10.2.1995	120.00	199.00	223.93	273.38

1	2	3	10	11	12	13
37.	Mumbai					
	BEST	1.8.1994	-	-	472.59	502.32
	RSES	1.3.1997	50.00	50.00	543.41	505.23
	TATA	1.11.1996	-	-	355.34	346.94

AP = Andhra Pradesh, HP=Himachal Pradesh, J & K = Jammu & Kashmir, MP=Madhya Pradesh, TN =Tamil Nadu, UP= Uttar Pradesh, WB = West Bengal, Ar. P=Arunachal Pradesh, A & N Islands = Andaman & Nicobar Islands, D & NH = Dadra & Nagar Haveli, AE Co=Ahmedabad Electricity Company, CESC = Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation, DVC = Damodar Valley Corporation, DPL = Durgapur Projects Ltd., U = Urban, R=Rural, N=Non-continuous process industries, P=Continuous Process Industries

Statement-II C

Statement Showing estimated average rates of Electricity (Paise/Month) as on 1.4.1997

S.No.	Name of State Utility	Tariff Effective from	Industry			Railway Traction
			Large 1000 kw, 65% LF 474500 Kwh	Heavy 10000 Kw, 60% LF 4380000 Kwh	Heavy 15000 Kw, 50% LF 5475000 Kwh	12500 Kw, 30% LF 2737500 Kwh
1	2	3	14	15	16	17
1.	A.P.	1.8.1996	355.99	410.28	419.14	364.99 at 132/220 KV
2.	Assam	8.9.1994	214.18	227.87	232.29	-
3.	Bihar	1.7.1993	211.99	214.58	202.07	275.21 at 25 KV
4.	Gujarat	22.10.1996	349.23	380.48	-	395.53
5.	Haryana	1.7.1996	345.00	345.00	336.00	367.23 66KV & above
6.	H.P.	10.2.1997	210.00	210.00	207.08	-
7.	J & K	1.4.1988	48.80	48.80	-	-
8.	Karnataka	1.7.1996	370.37	388.09	394.44	293.72 at 11 KV
9.	Kerala	1.2.1997	167.48	170.22	-	-
10.	M.P.	1.7.1996	371.31	374.08	365.17	421.63 at 132/220 KV
11.	Maharashtra	1.7.1996	384.61	388.29	-	361.00
12.	Meghalaya	1.9.1996	156.07	157.83	-	-
13.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	1.4.1997	334.57	354.09	358.04	384.25 at 25 KV
14.	Punjab	11.7.1996	233.00	233.00	226.58	275.00
15.	Rajasthan	1.10.1996	301.00	301.00	297.92	291.00
16.	T.N.	15.2.1997				
	Chennai Metro Area		337.04	350.26	346.80	357.15
	Non-Metro Area		326.54	339.76	336.30	347.15
17.	U.P.	3.1.1997	369.26 N 395.46 P	371.85 N 398.56 P	364.55 N 391.20 P	451.75 at 25 KV -
18.	W.B.	19.11.1996	333.31	333.95	326.11	347.15 at 25 KV
19.	Ar. Pradesh	1.3.1993	250.00	250.00	-	-
20.	Goa	1.3.1997	228.69	237.03	241.76	-
21.	Manipur	30.10.1992	78.64	79.62	82.16	-

1	2	3	14	15	16	17
22.	Mizoram	1.3.1992	105.00	105.00	105.00	-
23.	Nagaland	1.12.1995	275.00	275.00	-	-
24.	Sikkim	1.4.1995	113.85	115.42	-	-
25.	Tripura	1.6.1992	-	-	-	-
26.	A & N Islands	1.12.1995	-	-	-	-
27.	Chandigarh	1.11.1996	225.00	225.00	218.58	-
28.	D & N H	1.2.1987	180.86	181.85	-	-
29.	Daman & Diu	1.10.1994	160.29	163.20	-	-
30.	Delhi					
	DVB	1.4.1997	364.14	367.39	366.71	392.91
	NDMC	1.4.1997	-	-	-	-
31.	Lakshadweep	1.4.997	-	-	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	1.4.997	186.37	193.92	-	-
33.	A. E. Co.	18.12.1996	334.15	336.82	-	-
34.	CESC	20.11.1996	350.75	352.64	346.58	353.66
35.	DVC	1.1.1996				
	(a) Bihar area		207.92	212.89	216.26	251.47 at 132 KV
	(b) W. Bengal area		219.61	224.95	228.57	251.47 at 132 KV
36.	DPL	10.2.1995	262.40	264.62	-	-
37.	Mumbai					
	BEST	1.8.1994	309.48	312.15	-	-
	BSES	1.3.1997	389.03	380.87	-	-
	TATA	1.11.1996	308.60	312.24	321.73	345.44 6.6 KV to 33 KV

AP = Andhra Pradesh, HP=Himachal Pradesh, J & K = Jammu & Kashmir, MP=Madhya Pradesh, TN =Tamil Nadu, UP= Uttar Pradesh, WB = West Bengal, Ar. P=Arunchal Pradesh, A & N Islands = Andaman & Nicobar Islands, D & NH = Dadra & Nagar Haveli, AE Co=Ahmedabad Electricity Company, CESC = Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation, DVC = Damodar Valley Corporation, DPL = Durgapur Projects Ltd., U = Urban, R=Rural, N=Non-continuous process industries, P=Continuous Process Industries

Statement-III

Statement showing estimated average rates of electricity (paise/month) as on 1.4.1998

S.No.	Name of State Utility	Tariff Effective from	Industry			Railway Traction
			Large 1000 kw, 65% LF 474500 Kwh	Large 10000 Kw, 60% LF 4380000 Kwh	Heavy 15000 Kw, 50% LF 5475000 Kwh	12500 Kw, 30% LF 2737500 Kwh
1	2	3	14	15	16	17
1.	A.P.	1.8.1996	369.02	423.31	431.17	378.02 at 132/220 KV
2.	Assam	8.9.1994	214.18	227.87	232.19	-
3.	Bihar - U	1.7.1993	211.99	214.58	221.97	275.21 at 25 KV
	R					
4.	Gujarat - U	22.10.1996	382.98	414.23	-	429.28
	R					

1	2	3	14	15	16	17
5.	Haryana	15.10.1997	351.00	351.00	341.00	414.23 at 66 KV & above
6.	H.P.	10.2.1997	210.00	210.00	207.08	—
7.	J & K	24.11.1987	71.98	71.98	—	—
8.	Karnataka	1.7.1997	397.48	417.43	425.74	330.70
9.	Kerala	1.2.1998	182.97	186.00	—	—
10.	M.P.	1.7.1996	371.31	374.08	365.27	421.63
11.	Maharashtra	1.7.1996	390.61	394.29	—	367.00
12.	Meghalaya	1.9.1996	156.07	157.83	—	—
13.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	1.4.1997	334.57	354.09	358.14	384.25 at 25 KV
14.	Punjab	11.7.1996	248.00	248.00	241.56	290.00
15.	Rajasthan	1.06.1997	330.00	330.00	328.31	320.00
16.	T.N.	15.2.1997				
	Chennai Metro Area		337.04	350.26	348.80	357.15 at 25 KV
	Non-Metro Area		326.54	339.76	336.33	347.15
17.	U.P.	3.1.1997 U	415.72 N	418.31 N	418.31 N	498.21
		R	441.92 P	445.02 P	437.88 P	
18.	W.B. U	19.11.1996	333.31	333.95	328.11	347.15
	R					
19.	Ar. Pradesh	1.3.1993	250.00	250.00	—	—
20.	Goa	1.3.1997	297.79	308.52	314.64	—
21.	Manipur	30.10.1992	78.64	79.62	82.16	—
22.	Mizoram	1.3.1992	105.00	105.00	105.00	—
23.	Nagaland	1.12.1995	275.00	275.00	—	—
24.	Sikkim	1.12.1997	132.85	134.42	—	—
25.	Tripura	1.6.1992	—	—	—	—
26.	A & N Islands	1.4.1998	—	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	20.11.1997	301.00	301.00	292.31	—
28.	D & N H	1.2.1987	180.86	191.85	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	1.4.1998	234.15	236.06	—	—
30.	Delhi					
	DVB	1.4.1997	384.20	387.53	384.55	413.05
	NDMC	1.4.1997	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	1.4.997	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	1.4.997	186.37	193.92	—	—
33.	A. E. Co.	26.2.1998	370.54	373.87	—	—
34.	CESC	20.11.1996	350.75	352.64	348.56	353.66
35.	DVC	1.5.1997				
	(a) Bihar area		237.72	244.00	248.79	294.42 at 132 KV
	(b) W. Bengal area		252.22	259.00	264.56	294.42 at 132 KV

1	2	3	14	15	16	17
36.	DPL	10.2.1995	262.40	264.62	-	-
37.	Mumbai					
	BEST	15.7.1997	319.99	323.60	-	-
	BSES	1.3.1997	364.03	355.87	-	-
	TATA	1.11.1996	308.60	312.24	321.73	345.44 6.6 KV to 33 KV

AP = Andhra Pradesh, HP=Himachal Pradesh, J & K = Jammu & Kashmir, MP=Madhya Pradesh, TN =Tamil Nadu, UP= Uttar Pradesh, WB = West Bengal, Ar. P=Arunachal Pradesh, A & N Islands = Andaman & Nicobar Islands, D & NH = Dadra & Nagar Haveli, AE Co=Ahmedabad Electricity Company, CESC = Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation, DVC = Damodar Valley Corporation, DPL = Durgapur Projects Ltd., U = Urban, R=Rural, N=Non-continuous process industries, P=Continuous Process Industries

Statement-IV

All India Sectorwise energy consumption during the year 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98 (utilities only)

	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98*	
	Energy Consumed (GWH)	Percentage to Total	Energy Consumed (GWH)	Percentage to Total	Energy Consumed (GWH)	Percentage to Total
a. Domestic	51733.25	21.36	55266.54	22.70	61697.71	23.82
b. Industrial Power	104693.13	43.23	104164.65	42.79	106003.98	40.93
c. Agriculture	85732.15	35.41	84018.95	34.51	91276.93	35.25
Total (a+b+c)	242158.53	100.00	243450.14	100.00	258978.62	100.00

* Provisional

Sale of NTPC Units

1723. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Move to sell off power plants will bring in much needed investments" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 25, 1999;

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

(c) the details of the procedure to be adopted for the sale of such units ?

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

(b) and (c) In order to enable the Government to implement and accelerated power development programme, the Government is considering various options for mobilising resources to supplement the funds likely to be provided in the plan and to leverage the strengths of different central public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Power. M/s State Bank of India (SBI) Capital Markets and M/s ICICI have been commissioned as consultants to suggest various options for leveraging the financial and technical strengths of different Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) including their

restructuring to enable them to take up power schemes in a big way. A decision on the modality of leveraging the financial strength of different CPSUs will be taken after analysing the recommendations of the consultant and after considering the views of the concerned Ministries and Planning Commission. The Consultants are yet to submit their report to the Government.

Plant Load factor of Power Projects by NTPC

1724. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the plant load factor of power projects functioning under National Thermal Power Corporation during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether any improvement has been made in the efficiency of such plants during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor indicating the average cost of energy per unit of National Thermal Power Corporation, plant-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Na-

tional Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) coal based power stations have been performing at a high average plant Load Factor of more than 75% during the last three years, which is well above the national average, as can be seen from the following:

Year	NTPC PLF (%)	All India PLF (%)
1998-99	76.6	64.6
1997-98	75.2	64.7
1996-97	77.0	64.4

All the NTPC power stations are generating at high level of efficiency except in case of Eastern Region stations where low generation schedule is given by Regional Electricity Boards/Load Despatch Centre due to low regional demand. To improve the generation, export of NTPC power to the deficit neighbouring regions, with the availability of inter-regional transmission links, has been increased to the present level of about 1000 MW. Efforts are on to further increase the export. The gas stations are run as per gas availability.

Details of PLF and plant-wise average cost of energy sent out per unit for NTPC plants in Eastern Region is given in the attached statement.

Statement

PLF/Average cost of energy of NTPC stations in the Eastern Region

Station	1999- Jan'2000 (%)	1998-99 (%)	1997-98 (%)	1996-97 (%)	Average cost of energy sent out P/Kwh 1998-99
Eastern Region					
Farakka STPS (1800 Mw) West Bengal	45.70	39.10	43.10	46.10	284.23
Kahalgaon STPS (840 MW) Bihar	55.90	54.20	46.50	48.20	206.42
Talcher STPS (Kaniha) (1000MW) Orissa	58.40	52.40	49.70	37.10	198.12
Talcher TPS (460 MW) Orissa	58.70	55.80	52.00	38.40	133.97

Abbreviation:

STPS : Super Thermal Power Project

PLF : Plant Load Factor.

Loan to State Electricity Boards

1725. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Planning Commission propose to route loans to State Electricity Boards (SEBs) through the respective State Governments during the year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for opting new system of funding the rural electrification programme;

(c) whether this change would affect the on-going schemes; and

(d) if so, the complete details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Performance of Regional Selection Boards

1726. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of Regional Selection Boards for the selection of dealers for the petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details of shortcomings noticed in the functioning thereof especially the corruption reported in the selection of dealers;

(c) the details of fresh initiatives taken or guidelines issued to ensure fair and deserving selection of agents for the petroleum products; and

(d) the details of marketing plan for petroleum products for the current year and 2000-2001 in the country ?

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) Complaints against the functioning of the Dealer Selection Boards are received from time to time and a number of Court cases have been filed against selection in different Courts. Functioning of OSB/DSBs reviewed from time to time. Accordingly, the dealer Selection Boards last constituted have recently been dissolved. In order to ensure selection in a fair and impartial manner, Government have laid down detailed Dealer Selection Guidelines on 1.4.1997.

(d) 927 Retail Outlet dealerships and 2078 LPG distributorships and 155 SKO-LDO dealerships have been included in the Marketing Plans 1998-99.

Proposal for Bypass on NH-6

1727. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to built Bypass on the National Highway No.6;

(b) if so, whether these are being built under the Built Operate and Transport system;

(c) whether the By-pass for city Akola in Maharashtra is being built this year;

(d) if so, under which scheme it is being built; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The construction of by-passes at Amravati and Paldhi on National Highway No. 6 in Maharashtra State have been taken up from Government funding. However, the construction of Akola bypass on this highway is proposed to be taken up on BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) basis but not in the current financial year.

Two-way system Project on NHs in West Bengal

1728. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the two-way system project is going on National Highways in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the total cost thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, two projects of widening to four lanes of National Highway 2 in West Bengal are in progress between Barakar-Raniganj and Raniganj-Panagarh which were sanctioned for Rs. 231.62 crore. The projects are targetted for completion in October, 2000 and January, 2001 respectively.

[Translation]

Telecom Facilities

1729. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations from the public representatives to set up a separate TDM office in Dahod under the Godhra District in Gujarat;

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

(c) the time by which TDM office is likely to be set up in Dahod;

(d) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Dahod region of Gujarat;

(e) the number of new telephone connections provided in the said region during the last three years; and

(f) the number of new telephone connections proposed to be provided there during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representation was received for bifurcating Godhara Telecom District in the two Telecom Districts, viz Dahod and Godhra. A Telecom District (Secondary Switching Area-SSA) is the basic unit of operation for the purpose of administration, charging, routing and numbering plan. S.S.A. is generally not bifurcated because of operational and administrative reasons.

(c) Dahod is a part of Godhra SSA and no separate TDM offices is proposed to be opened there. But a D.E. has been posted at Dahod.

(d) The waiting list of Dahod region is 771 as on 29.2.2000.

(e) Telephone connections provided in Dahod region:

Year	New Telephone provided
1996-97	1384
1997-98	1655
1998-99	1685

During 1999-2000, 1442 connections have been provided upto February, 2000. Another 1000 telephone connections are likely to be provided in March 2000.

(f) Approximately 3,000 telephone connections are planned to be provided during 2000-2001 in Dahod region.

[English]

Setting up of a Panel for Telecom Disputes

1730. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a new panel for the settlement of telecom disputes on the lines of Lok Adalats to solve the disputes between the licence granting authorities and licence holders for the speedy disposal of the disputes outside the courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its proposed powers and jurisdiction;

(c) whether the Government have arranged a meeting between the officials of the Department of Telecommunications (DOT), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for the settlement of dispute over the Calling Party Pay (CPP) regime;

(d) if so, whether any such meeting has been convened;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) whether any final settlement has been arrived at to solve this problem; and

(g) if not, 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) and (b) Prior to its amendment by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 promulgated on 24th Jan. 2000, the TRAI Act 1997 had *inter-alia* provided for limited adjudicatory functions to be performed by TRAI, which did not cover the settlement of licensor-licensee dispute.

With a view to strengthen the regulatory framework in the telecommunciations sector, Govt. promulgated the above mentioned Ordinance on 24th Jan. 2000. As a result of the amendments brought about to the TRAI Act 1997, the dispute settlement mechanism has been restructured and strengthened. Chapter IV of the TRAI Act 1997, under which TRAI had got limited adjudicatory powers, has been replaced, to provide for the establishment of a separate disputes redressal body, known as the "Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal", to adjudicate *inter-alia* any dispute between a licensor and a licensee. Appeals against the orders of the said Tribunal shall lie to the Supreme Court, as specified in the relevant provisions of the amended TRAI Act 1997.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

(f) and (g) The Calling Party Pay (CPP) regime in its present form has been struck down by the Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in their judgement dated 17th January, 2000. The Hon'ble judges also clarified that TRAI may consider whether the CPP regime or a free incoming call regime can be introduced within the terms and conditions of existing licenses and conditions of existing licenses and within the policy as framed by the Government.

[Translation]

Clearance to Shivadi-Nahava-Sheva Link Road and Express Highway Projects

1731. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shivadi-Nahava-Sheva Link Road and the Western Express Highway Projects are pending for consideration and approval with the Ministry;

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be given clearance; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The proposal for Shivadi-Nahava-Sheva Link Road was received in May 1998 for environmental clearance. The proposal of Worli-Nariman Point Sea Link Project was received in August 1999. Due to inadequate information, these proposals were not considered and the proponents were requested to submit complete details which have not been received.

[English]

Disposal of Used Batteries

1732. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI :
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

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

(a) whether the Government plan to control the disposal of used lead acid batteries ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to control the disposal/illegal processing of the batteries by manufacturers and dealers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is in the process of finalising a preliminary notification calling for objections/suggestions on the Management and Handling of Used Lead Acid Batteries in the county. As per the proposed preliminary notification all manufacturers, importers, re-conditioners, assemblers and dealers shall collect used batteries in lieu of new batteries sold. Cent percent collection is proposed to be achieved in a phased manner. To ensure environment friendly re-processing, collected batteries are required to be sold to only such re-cyclers who are regis-

tered with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Consumers are required to return used batteries only to the authorised agents. The respective State Pollution Control Board/Committee shall be the monitoring agency. The manufacturers are required to submit quarterly returns on collection to the concerned State Pollution Control Board/Committee.

[Translation]

International Financial Assistance for Bihar

1733. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some international financial institutions are providing financial assistance for the construction of bridges and roads in Bihar;

(b) if so, the names of these financial institutions and the amount of assistance being provided by each out of them;

(c) the names and length of the roads and bridges to be constructed therefrom; and

(d) the time limit fixed for the completion of the construction work of the said roads and bridges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) The Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country and all other roads are essentially the responsibility of the State Government concerned. As far as National Highways are concerned, four laning of Barwa Adda-Barakar Section of NH-2 (length 42.89 km) at a cost of Rs. 127.89 crore is in progress at present under loan assistance from the Asian Development Bank. The work is targeted for completion by June 2000.

[English]

Internet Services

1734. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Internet Services Providers (ISPs) are permitted to obtain Bandwidth from foreign satellites;

(b) whether the Government are discussing this matter with the Ministry of Information Technology and the Department of Space;

(c) if so, the details thereof :

(d) whether the Government propose to set up Internet nodes at every district headquarters in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of salient features of National Frequency Allocation Plan 2000;

(g) the ratio of public and private sector participation therein, separately;

(h) the number of internet and ISDN centres functioning at present in the country, State-wise, location-wise;

(i) the names of the authorised Internet Service Providers in the country;

(j) whether the Government propose to set up more internet nodes mobile service centres and ISDN centres in the country during 2000-2001; and

(k) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, location wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are permitted to obtain bandwidth from foreign satellites which are coordinated over India. This policy has been finalised after discussion with the Department of Space and Ministry of Information Technology. Also a Standing Committee chaired by Department of Space having representatives from Ministry of Information Technology, Department of Telecom Services and Wireless Planning & Co-ordination (WPC) have been set up to give clearance to individual proposals.

(d) and (e) Department of Telecom Service has planned to set up at least one internet node at every secondary switching are of the country. The list is placed at enclosed statement-I.

(f) National Frequency Allocation Plan - 2000 (NFAP-2000) has been developed which gives details of various frequency bands allocated for different types of radio communication services. Frequency bands, which can be used for various types of applications are also indicated. The NFAP-2000 will form the basis for development, manufacturing and spectrum utilisation activities in the country.

(g) The Plan has been evolved with wide participation from public and private sectors and the frequency bands may be shared between public and private sectors.

(h) The list of Internet and Integrated Service Digital Network (ISDN) centres functioning in the country, Statewise and locationwise is placed at enclosed statement-II and III.

(i) The names of authorised Internet Service Provider in the country is placed at enclosed statement-IV.

(j) Yes, Sir, the Government proposes to set up more internet nodes, mobile service centre and ISDN centres in the country during 2000-2001.

(k) The Department of Telecom Services has planned to set up at least one internet node at every Secondary Switching Area (SSA) for which procurement of equipment is in progress. These nodes are planned to be commissioned progressively by December 2000.

Department has decided to introduce Cellular Mobile Services in the form of a pilot project in 18 cities of the country and it is expected to be implemented during 2000-2001. The list is given at enclosed statement-V.

Suitable guidelines for introduction of ISDN services in the country has been issued. ISDN services are proposed to be introduced in all District Headquarters and other stations, where

- (i) Demand exists for provision of such services.
- (ii) The local switches (New Technology & centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) are capable of supporting ISDN facility.

Statement-I

List of Proposed Internet Nodes

S.No.	Circles	List of Internet nodes Station
1	2	3
I	Andaman & Nicobar	
1.		Port Blair
II	Andhra Pradesh	
1.		Hyderabad
2.		Vijayawada
3.		Vishakhapatnam
4.		Tirupati
5.		Rajamundari
6.		Guntur
7.		Eluru
8.		Warrangal
9.		Adilabad
10.		Anathapur
11.		Cuddapah
12.		Karimnagar
13.		Khammam
14.		Kurnool
15.		Sangareddy
16.		Nellore
17.		Srikakulam
18.		Mehboobnagar
19.		Nalgonda

1	2	3
20.		Ongole
21.		Vizinagaram
III.	Assam	
1.		Guwahati
2.		Jorhat
3.		Silchar
4.		Bongaigaon
5.		Barpeta
6.		Bhubri
7.		Dibrugarh
8.		Golaghat
9.		Karimganj
10.		Nagaon
11.		North Lakhimpur
12.		Sibsagar
13.		Tezpur
14.		Tinsukia
IV	Bihar	
1.		Patna
2.		Jamshedpur
3.		Ranchi
4.		Bhagalpur
5.		Bokaro
6.		Dhanbad
7.		Darbhanga
8.		Gaya
9.		Muzzarffarpur
10.		Arrah
11.		Chapra
12.		Daltonganj
13.		Dumka
14.		Hazaribagh
15.		Katihar
16.		Motihari
17.		Munger
18.		Sasaram
V.	Gujarat	
1.		Ahmedbaci
2.		Surat
3.		Vadodara
4.		Rajkot

1	2	3
5.		Bhavnagar
6.		Jamnagar
7.		Gandhinagar
8.		Bharauch
9.		Bhuj
10.		Junagarh
11.		Mehsana
12.		Surendernagar
13.		Valsad
14.		Palampur
15.		Himmatnagar
16.		Godharah
17.		Daman
18.		Amreli
19.		Silvasa
20.		Diu
21.		Anand
22.		Navasari
VI	Himachal Pradesh	
1.		Shimla
2.		Solan
3.		Mandi
4.		Dharmshala
5.		Hamirpur
6.		Kullu
VII	Haryana	
1.		Faridabad
2.		Gurgaon
3.		Ambala
4.		Panipat
5.		Hissar
6.		Rohtak
7.		Sonipat
8.		Y. Nagar
9.		Karnal
10.		K.K.R.
11.		Sirsa
12.		Bhiwani
13.		Bahadurgarh
14.		Jind
15.		Rewari

1	2	3
16.		Kaithal
17.		Fatehabad
18.		Narnaul
VIII	Jammu & Kashmir	
1.		Jammu
2.		Srinagar
3.		Rajouri
4.		Udhampur
5.		Leh
IX	Karnataka	
1.		Bangalore
2.		Mysore
3.		Dharwad
4.		Belgaum
5.		Bellary
6.		Davangere
7.		Gulbarga
8.		Shimoga
9.		Tumkur
10.		Bagalkot
11.		Bidar
12.		Bijapur
13.		Ghitradurga
14.		Gadog
15.		Haveri
16.		Kolar
17.		Koppal
18.		Raichur
X.	Kerala	
1.		Emakulam
2.		Trivandrum
3.		Kannaur
4.		Kozhikode
5.		Trichur
6.		Kollam
7.		Kottayam
8.		Palghat
9.		Pathanmthitta
10.		Alleppy
11.		Kasargod

1	2	3
12.		Malappuram
13.		Kalpetta
14.		Idukki
15.		Kavarathi
XI	Madhya Pradesh	
1.		Indore
2.		Bhopal
3.		Gwalior
4.		Jabalpur
5.		Raipur
6.		Durg
7.		Ujjain
8.		Bilaspur
9.		Ratlam
10.		Sagar
11.		Dewas
12.		Satna
13.		Rewa
14.		Khandwa
15.		Mandsaur
16.		Chhindwara
17.		Guna
18.		Katni
19.		Vidisha
20.		Dhar
21.		Chhatarpur
22.		Raigarh
23.		Khargaoon
24.		Shivpuri
25.		Morena
26.		Bhind
27.		Betul
28.		Rajnandgaon
29.		Jagdarpur
30.		Seoni
31.		Korba
32.		Hoshangabad
33.		Balaghat
34.		Damoh
35.		Sarjuga (Aambikapur)

1	2	3
36.		Tikamgarh
37.		Sehore
38.		Shahdol
39.		Narsinghpur
40.		Shajapur
41.		Sheopurkalan
42.		Datia
43.		Mandla
44.		Jhabua
45.		Barwani
46.		Panna
47.		Sidhi
48.		Raisen
49.		Rajgarh
50.		Kanker
51.		Janjgir
52.		Jashpurnagar
53.		Dindon
54.		Dantewada
55.		Kotia (Mahendragarh)
XII	Maharashtra	
1.		Pune
2.		Nasik
3.		Nagpur
4.		Kalyan
5.		Ahmednagar
6.		Panjim
7.		Madgaon (Goa)
8.		Akola
9.		Latur
10.		Chandrapur
11.		Amravati
12.		Dhule
13.		Satara
14.		Ratnagiri
15.		Jalna
16.		Wardha
17.		Parbani
18.		Yeotmal
19.		Pen
20.		Beed

1	2	3
21.		Bhandara
22.		Osmanabad
23.		Khamgaon (Buldhana)
24.		Gadchiroli
XIII	North East	
1.		Shillong
2.		Agartala
3.		Aizwal
4.		Imphal
5.		Itanagar
6.		Kohima
XIV	Orissa	
1.		Bhubaneshwar
2.		Cuttack
3.		Berhampur
4.		Rourkela
5.		Sambhapur
6.		Balasore
7.		Baripada
8.		Dhenkanal
9.		Keonjhar
10.		Koraput
11.		Phulbani
12.		Bolangir
13.		Bhawanipatna
XV	Punjab	
1.		Ludhiana
2.		Chandigarh
3.		Jalandhar
4.		Amritsar
5.		Patiala
6.		Hoshiarpur
7.		Bhatinda
8.		Kapurthala
9.		Sangrur
10.		Ferozpur
11.		Faridkot
12.		Muktesar
13.		Mansa
14.		Gurdaspur
15.		Nawan Shahar
16.		Ropar

1	2	3
17.		Moga
18.		Fatehgarh Sahib (may be installed at Mandigobindgarh)
XVI	Rajasthan	
1.		Jaipur
2.		Jodhpur
3.		Udaipur
4.		Kota
5.		Ajmer
6.		Bhilwara
7.		Bikaner
8.		Alwar
9.		Sriganganagar
10.		Sikar
11.		Pali
12.		Bharatpur
13.		Chittorgarh
14.		Banswara
15.		Hanumangarh
16.		Jhunjhunu
17.		Sawaimadhopur
18.		Bundi
19.		Nagaur
20.		Barmer
21.		Churu
22.		Dausa
23.		Tonk
24.		Rajsamand (Kankroli)
25.		Dungarpur
26.		Jaisalmer
27.		Dholpur
28.		Baran
29.		Jalawar
30.		Sirohi
31.		Jalore
32.		Karauli
XVII	Tamil Nadu	
1.		Coimbatore
2.		Madurai
3.		Cuddalore
4.		Dindigal

1	2	3
5.		Erode
6.		Hosur
7.		Kanchipuram
8.		Karur
9.		Karaikudi
10.		Nagarcoil
11.		Namakkal
12.		Pondicherry
13.		Salem
14.		Tanjore
15.		Thirunelveli
16.		Trichy
17.		Tuticorin
18.		Vellore
19.		Sivakasi
20.		Kumbakonam
21.		Nagapatnam
22.		Pudukkottai
23.		Ooty
24.		Thiruvannamalai
25.		Tiruvallur
26.		Tirupur
27.		Villupuram
28.		Ramanathapuram
XVIII	U.P.(E)	
1.		Lucknow
2.		Kanpur
3.		Varanasi
4.		Allahabad
5.		Gorakhpur
6.		Jhansi
7.		Farrukhabad
8.		Mau
9.		Shahjahanpur
10.		Faizabad
11.		Etawah
12.		Sitapur
13.		Unnao
14.		Raibareilly

1	2	3
15.		Mirzapur
16.		Sultanpur
17.		Azamgarh
18.		Jaunpur
19.		Lalitpur
20.		Pratapgarh
21.		Basti
22.		Barabanki
23.		Banda
24.		Deoria
25.		Ballia
26.		Gonda
27.		Lakhimpur
28.		Bhadohi
29.		Ghazipur
30.		Mainpuri
31.		Behraich
32.		Fatehpur
33.		Kannauj
34.		Auriya
35.		Hardoi
36.		Padraunna
37.		Balrampur
38.		Ambedkar Nagar
		(Akbarpur)
39.		Hamirpur
40.		Sidhartha Nagar
41.		Sonabhadra
		(Roberts Ganj)
42.		Sant Kabirdas
		(Khalilabad)
43.		Maharajganj
44.		Karvi
45.		Mahoba
46.		Jalaun
47.		Kanpur Rural
48.		Chandaulli

1	2	3	1	2	3
49.		Manjhanpur	20.		Etah
		(Kaushambi)	21.		Nainital
50.		Bhinga (Sharawasti)	22.		Bijnor
XIX	U.P. (W)		23.		Pilibhit
1.		Ghaziabad	24.		Pithoragarh
2.		Gautam Budh Nagar	25.		Budaun
3.		Agra	26.		Pauri
4.		Meerut	27.		Chamoli (Gopeshwar)
5.		Dehradun	28.	-	Bagpat
6.		Saharanpur	29.		Uttarkashi
7.		Aligarh	XX	West Bengal	
8.		Bareilly	1.		Siliguri
9.		Moradabad	2.		Durgapur
10.		Muzzaffarpur	3.		Kharagpur
11.		Mathura	4.		Burdwan
12.		Hardwar	5.		Bankura
13.		Ferozabad	6.		Berhampore
14.		Bulandshahar	7.		Coochbehar
15.		Rampur	8.		Gangtok
16.		Udham Singh Nagar	9.		Jalpaiguri
		(Rudrapur)	10.		Krishnagar
17.		Almora	11.		Malda
18.		Mahamaya Nagar	12.		Raiganj
		(Hathras)	13.		Suri
19.		Joti Ba Phule Nagar			
		(Amroha)			

Statement-II*Citywise/Statewise list of Internet Centres*

Telecom Circle	City	ISP Name
1	2	3
Delhi	Delhi	M/s VSNL M/s Bharti BT M/s MTNL M/s Sigma Input Output Tech. India Ltd. M/s Track Polymers (Net-4) M/s Global Electronic Commerce Services Ltd. M/s Dishnet Ltd. M/s WWW Communications Ltd. M/s CG Fafemail Ltd.

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M/s Wipro
		M/s Manipal Control Data Electronic Commerce Ltd.
		M/s VSNL
		M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. Chennai
		M/s Dishnet Ltd.
		M/s Mylai Karpagambal Information Systems Pvt. Ltd.
		M/s Compuware Interactive Television (P) Ltd.
		M/s Global Electronic Commerce Services Ltd.
		M/s CG Faxmail Ltd.
		M/s Sigma Input Output Tech. India Ltd.
	Coimbatore	M/s Wipro
		M/s Manipal Control Data Electronic Commerce Ltd.
		Internet Nodes at Chennai-10
		M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. DTS
		Internet nodes at Coimbatore-2
	Madurai	M/s C.S. Prosofttech Informatics DTS
		Internet nodes at Madurai-2
	Salem	M/s Vintamass Network Pvt.
	Pondicherry	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. DTS
		Internet nodes at Pondicherry-2
Maharashtra	Kancheepuram	DTS
	Trichy ,	DTS
	Sivakashi	DTS
	Total Internet nodes in	20
	Tamil Nadu	
	Mumbai	M/s VSNL
		M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd.
		M/s Rolta Ltd.
		M/s Dishnet Ltd.
		M/s Global Electronic Commerce Service
		M/s CG Faxmail Ltd.
		M/s Wipro
		M/s Manipal Control Data Electronic Commerce Ltd.
		M/s VSNL
		M/s Dishnet Ltd.
	Pune	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. Chennai
		M/s Weikfield Mnemonix Infonetworks Pvt. Ltd.
		M/s Sigma Input Output Tech. India Ltd.
		M/s Global Electronic Commerce Service Ltd.
		M/s Wipro
		M/s Manipal Control Data Electronic Commerce Ltd.

1	2	3
	Nagpur	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. M/s Auto Treads Pvt. Ltd. DTS
	Kalyan	M/s Websurf
	Satara	M/s Suchibh Comm. Pvt. Ltd.
	Nasik	DTS
	Kolhapur	DTS
	Sangli	DTS
	Sawantiwadi	DTS
	Solapur	DTS
	Aurangabad	DTS
	Panji	DTS
	Nanded	DTS
	Jalgaon	DTS
	Total Internet nodes in Maharashtra	32
Karnataka	Bangalore	M/s VSNL M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. M/s Bharti BT M/s Manipal Control Data Electronic Commerce Ltd. M/s Global Electronic Commerce Services Ltd. Zee Telefilm Ltd. M/s Sigma Input Output Tech. India Ltd. M/s CG Fafemail Ltd. M/s Wipro
	Hubli	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. Chennai DTS
	Belgaum	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. Chennai DTS
	Davangere	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. Chennai DTS
	Shimoga	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. Chennai
	Mangalore	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. Chennai M/s Manipal Control Data Electronic Commerce Ltd. DTS
	Bellary	DTS
	Hasan	DTS
	Mysore	DTS
	Total Internet nodes in Karnataka	22
Anadhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. Chennai M/s Pioneer Online Services M/s Southern Online Services Ltd. M/s Sigma Input Output Tech. India Ltd. M/s Sagarsoft International Ltd. M/s Global Electronic Commerce Services Ltd.

1	2	3
		M/s Nomus Internet Systems, Baroda
		M/s Global Online Services Pvt. Ltd.
		M/s Wipro
		DTS
	Khammam	M/s Southern Online Services Ltd.
	Guntur	M/s Pioneer Online Service
		DTS
	Kakinada	M/s Southern Online Services Ltd.
	Karimnagar	M/s Southern Online Services Ltd.
	Vijayanagar	M/s Southern Online Services Ltd.
	Vijayawada	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. Chennai
		DTS
	Vishakhapatnam	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd.
		DTS
		M/s Pioneer Online Service
	Total Internet nodes in A.P.	21
Gujarat		
	Ahmedabad	M/s Data Link Impex Pvt. Ltd.
		M/s Eleclipse Network Pvt. Ltd.
		M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. Chennai
		M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd.
		M/s Blazenet Pvt. Ltd.
		M/s Global Electronic Commerce Services Ltd.
		M/s Jindal Information Technology Ltd.
		M/s Swastik Netvision Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
		M/s Wipro
		DTS
	Baroda	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. Chennai
		M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd.
	Surat	M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd.
		DTS
	Rajkot	M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd.
	Jamnagar	M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd.
	Gandhidham	M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd.
	Bharuch	M/s Narmada Cyberzone Pvt. Ltd.
		M/s Swastik Netvision Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
	V.V. Nagar	M/s Planet Internet Satellite, Gujarat
	Valsad	M/s Bytes Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.
	Bhavnagar	M/s Baldev Shipbreakers Ltd.
	Total internet nodes in Gujarat	22

1	2	3
M.P.	Bhopal	M/s Bharti Telenet DTS
	Indore	M/s Bharti Telenet DTS
	Gwalior	M/s Bharti Telenet DTS
	Raipur	M/s Bharti Telenet DTS
	Jabalpur	M/s Bharti Telenet DTS
	Total internet nodes in M.P.	10
West Bengal	Calcutta	M/s VSNL M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. M/s Patriot Automation Projects (P) Ltd. M/s Global Electronic & Commerce M/s CG Fafemail Ltd. M/s Wipro
	Siliguri	DTS
	Durgapur	DTS
	Kharagpur	DTS
	Total Internet nodes in West Bengal	9
Rajasthan	Jaipur	M/s Data Infosys Ltd. M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. M/s Vertec Comm. Ltd. DTS
	Total Kota	M/s Kappa Infotech Pvt. Ltd.
	Udaipur	M/s Bohra Pratisthan Pvt. Ltd.
	Total Internet nodes in Rajasthan	6
U.P (West)	Ghaziabad	M/s Surevin Consultants Pvt. Ltd.
	Agra	DTS
	Dehradun	DTS
	Total Internet nodes in UP (West)	3

1	2	3
UP (East)	Lucknow	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. DTS
	Varanasi	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd.
	Allahabad	DTS
	Kanpur	DTS
	Total Internet nodes in UP (East)	5
Punjab	Ludhiana	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd.
	Chandigarh	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd. DTS M/s Sab Infotech Ltd. M/s I-Ninety One Interconnect
	Total Internet nodes in Punjab	5
Kerala	Cochin	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd.
	Thiruvananthapuram	M/s Srishti Open Pvt. Ltd. DTS
	Alleppy	DTS
	Emakulam	DTS
	Idukki	DTS
	Kollam	DTS
	Kottayam	DTS
	Calicut	DTS
	Palghat	DTS
	Trichur	DTS
	Kannur	DTS
	Tiruvella	M/s Satyam Infoway Ltd.
	Total Internet nodes in Kerala	13
Orissa	Bhubaneswar	M/s Ortel Communications Ltd. DTS
	Total Internet nodes in Orissa	2
Bihar	Jamshedpur	M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd., Chennai DTS
	Patna	DTS
	Dhanbad	DTS

1	2	3
	Ranchi	DTS
	Total Internet nodes in Bihar	5
Haryana	Panipat	M/s Paliwal Financial Services (P) Ltd.
	Ambala	DTS
	Total Internet nodes in Haryana	2
Assam	Guwahati	DTS
	Silcher	DTS
	Total Internet nodes in Assam	2
J & K	Jammu	DTS
N.E.	Shillong	DTS
	Agartala	DTS
	Total Internet nodes in NE	2

Statement-III*ISDN Stations & Working Connections*

Name of Station	Name of Circle	Working connections		Waiting List
		BRA	PRA	
1	2	3	4	5
1. Port Blair	A & N	0	—	0
2. Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	602	—	0
3. Guntur	"	3	—	0
4. Vijayawada	"	20	—	0
5. Visakhapatnam	"	13	—	9
6. Rajamundry	"	1	—	1
7. Tirupati	"	0	—	1
8. Eluru	"	0	—	0
9. Anaparthi	"	0	—	0
10. Warangal	"	0	—	0
11. Nellore	"	0	—	0
12. Guwahati	Assam	1	—	0
13. Ranchi	Bihar	2	—	0
14. Jamshedpur	"	3	—	0
15. Ahmedabad	Gujarat	107	1	1
16. Baroda	"	55	2	0
17. Mehsana	"	0	—	25

1	2	3	4	5
18. Nadiad	"	1	-	1
19. Rajkot	"	13	0	0
20. Surat	"	10	0	0
21. Faridabad	Haryana	24	-	0
22. Gurgaon	"	194	-	0
23. Panipat	"	0	-	0
24. Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	2	-	0
25. Dharamshala	"	0	-	0
26. Mandi	"	0	-	0
27. Solan	"	0	-	0
28. Srinagar	J & K	2	-	0
29. Bangalore	Karnataka	12977	-	0
30. Belgaum	"	3	-	0
31. Davangere	"	2	-	0
32. Gulbarga	"	1	-	0
33. Hubli	"	2	-	0
34. Karwar	"	1	-	0
35. Kolar	"	1	-	0
36. Mandya	"	1	-	0
37. Mangalore	"	6	-	0
38. Mysore	"	13	-	0
39. Shimoga	"	2	-	1
40. Tumkur	"	1	-	0
41. Eranakulam	Kerala	42	1	5
42. Kannur	"	0	0	0
43. Kottayam	"	3	-	0
44. Kozhikode	"	5	0	0
45. Trichur	"	2	0	1
46. Trivandrum	"	35	0	2
47. Goa	Maharashtra	20	-	0
48. Kalyan	"	13	-	0
49. Nagpur	"	24	-	0
50. Nasik	"	50	-	0
51. Pune	"	451	-	0
52. Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	49	-	0
53. Gwalior	"	3	-	0
54. Indore	"	15	-	0
55. Jabalpur	"	8	-	0
56. Raipur	"	3	-	0
57. Amritsar	Punjab	0	-	0
58. Ludhiana	"	0	-	10
59. Jalandhar	"	3	-	7

1	2	3	4	5
60.	Patiala	0	—	2
61.	Chandigarh	33	—	0
62.	Jaipur	46	4	6
63.	Jodhpur	7	—	1
64.	Udaipur	2	2	2
65.	Bikaner	1	0	0
66.	Kota	2	0	0
67.	Ajmer	0	0	0
68.	Bhilwara	0	0	0
69.	Coimbatore	90	5	25
70.	M.M. Nagar	9	—	1
71.	Mevalur Kuppam	8	—	0
72.	Madurai	40	—	0
73.	Pondicherry	21	—	9
74.	Salem	5	—	3
75.	Sivakasi	3	—	0
76.	Somanur	1	—	0
77.	Thanjavur	1	—	1
78.	Tirupur	12	—	0
79.	Tirunelveli	7	—	1
80.	Trichy	8	—	3
81.	Tuticorin	14	—	7
82.	Vellore	3	—	0
83.	Lucknow	31	—	0
84.	Kanpur	31	—	0
85.	Gorakhpur	3	—	0
86.	Varanasi	11	—	0
87.	Allahabad	5	—	0
88.	Faizabad	0	—	0
89.	Barabanki	0	—	0
90.	Jhansi	3	—	0
91.	Etawah	0	—	0
92.	Mainpuri	0	—	0
93.	Basti	0	—	0
94.	Khalilabad	0	—	0
95.	Farrukhabad	0	—	0
96.	Agra	52	—	0
97.	Dehradun	21	—	0
98.	Gaziabad	9	—	0
99.	Noida	211	—	0

	1	2	3	4	5
100.	Meerut	"	5	—	0
101.	Moradabad	"	4	—	1
102.	Calcutta	Calcutta TD	613	—	0
103.	Chennai	Chennai TD	1461	18	0
104.	Delhi	Delhi MTNL	1977	47	247
105.	Mumbai	Mumbai MTNL	3803	—	0
	Total		11662	80	373

Statement-IV*List of ISP Licences issued*

S.No.	Name of Company	Category	Service Area
1	2	3	4
1.	MTNL	'B'	Delhi
2.	MTNL	'B'	Mumbai
3.	M/s Ortel Comm. Ltd.	'C'	Bhubaneswar
4.	M/s Rolta India Ltd.	'B'	Mumbai
5.	M/s Surevin Consultants (P) Ltd.	'C'	Ghaziabad
6.	M/s United Internet Commn. (P) Ltd. Mumbai	'C'	Jaipur
7.	M/s Bareilly Commn. Ltd.	'C'	Bareilly
8.	M/s Paliwal Financial Services (P) Ltd. Panipat	'C'	Karnal
9.	M/s Somani Overseas Ltd. Surat	'C'	Surat
10.	M/s Arun Girija Comn. (P) Ltd. Patna	'C'	Patna
11.	M/s Kinjaru Appliances (P) Ltd. Ahmedabad	'C'	Rajkot
12.	M/s Elclipse Network Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Ahmedabad
13.	M/s Weikfield Mnemonix Infonetworks Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Pune
14.	M/s S.N.C. Infotech Pvt. Ltd. Ghaziabad	'C'	Ghaziabad
15.	M/s Zaverchand Cyber Infotech (P) Ltd.	'C'	Vadodara
16.	M/s Srishti Open Systems (P) Ltd. TVM	'C'	Trivandrum
17.	M/s Sukhakarta Fin Trade Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai	'A'	All India
18.	M/s Trikon Electronics Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai	'B'	Mumbai
19.	M/s Suchibh Communications Pvt. Ltd. Satara (M.P.)	'C'	Satara
20.	M/s Satyam Inforway (P) Ltd. Chennai	'A'	All India
21.	M/s S.K. Digital Technology Pvt. Ltd. Durgapur (W.B.)	'C'	Durgapur
22.	M/s C.S. Prosof Tech Informatics Pvt. Ltd. Madurai	'C'	Madurai
23.	M/s Indusind Cable Television Ltd. Mumbai	'B'	Mumbai
24.	M/s Indusind Distribution Ltd. Mumbai	'A'	All India
25.	M/s Cosmos Link Network (P) Ltd. Surat	'C'	Baroda
26.	M/s Cosmos Link Network (P) Ltd. Surat	'C'	Surat
27.	M/s Wipro Ltd. Bangalore	'A'	All India

1	2	3	4
28.	M/s Manipal Control Data Electronics Commerce Ltd. Bangalore (Surrendered with effect from 1.10.99)	'B'	Karnataka
29.	M/s Zee Telefilms Ltd. New Delhi	'A'	All India
30.	M/s Global Electronic Commerce Service Ltd. New Delhi	'A'	All India
31.	M/s Southern Online Services Pvt. Ltd. Hyderabad	'B'	Andhra Pradesh
32.	M/s Punjab Communications Ltd. Mohali	'B'	Punjab
33.	M/s Internet Promoters India Ltd., New Delhi	'B'	Delhi
34.	M/s Ankhnet Information Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai	'B'	Mumbai
35.	M/s Jain Studies Ltd. New Delhi	'C'	Ghaziabad
36.	M/s Swastik Netvision Telecom Pvt. Ltd. Ahmedabad	'B'	Gujarat 079 - 6406575
37.	M/s Gateway Internet Service Pvt. Ltd. Kakinada	'C'	Rajamundry 0884 - 67323
38.	M/s Yog Kshem Communications Pvt. Ltd. Gwalior	'C'	Indore 0751 - 331982
39.	M/s Yog Kshem Communications Pvt. Ltd. Gwalior	'C'	Bhopal
40.	M/s Bharti Communications (India) Pvt. Ltd. Valsad	'C'	Valsad 02638 - 64089
41.	M/s Dishnet Limited, Chennai	'A'	All India 044 - 8284322
42.	M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd, Ahmedbad	'B'	Gujarat 079 - 6562315
43.	M/s Vasnet Comms. Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Mangalore 0324 - 456640
44.	M/s A-Team Information Technology (P) Ltd. Erode	'C'	Erode 0424 - 215843
45.	M/s Ircon International Ltd. R.K. Puram	'A'	All India 011 - 6889361
46.	M/s C.G. Faxemail Ltd. New Delhi	'A'	All India 011 - 6924281
47.	M/s Bohra Pratisthan Pvt. Ltd. Rajasthan	'C'	Udaipur 0294 - 410433
48.	M/s Compuwave Interactive Television Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Chennai 044 - 4344707
49.	M/s Czar Oleoresin (P) Ltd.	'C'	Gulbarga 08472 - 585102
50.	M/s Czar Oleoresin (P) Ltd.	'C'	Mangalore
51.	M/s Masterchip Internet Services	'C'	Nizamabad 08462 - 23536
52.	M/s CMC	'A'	All India 011 - 46231111
53.	M/s STPI	'A'	All India 011 - 4364034
54.	M/s ERNET	'A'	All India 011 - 4363081
55.	M/s Vintamaas Network Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Salem 04288 - 61723
56.	M/s Bytes Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Valsad 02638 - 43095
57.	M/s Data Securities Ltd.	'C'	Jaipur 0141 - 51339
58.	M/s Mylai Karpagambal Information System Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Chennai 044 - 4937189
59.	M/s Kirloskar Computer Services Ltd.	'B'	Karnataka 080 - 3322082
60.	M/s Growth Compusoft Exports Ltd.	'B'	Gujarat 079 - 6561621
61.	M/s Blazenet Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Gujarat 079 - 403618
62.	M/s Baldev Shipbreakers Ltd.	'C'	Bhavnagar 0278 - 411816
63.	M/s Varda Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Nagpur 0712 - 545328
64.	M/s IN Technet Ltd.	'B'	Andhra Pradesh 040 - 216663
65.	M/s Pioneer Online Services Ltd.	'B'	Andhra Pradesh 040 - 3220299
66.	M/s Global Online Services Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Hyderabad 040 - 3744233
67.	M/s Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	'B'	- 022 - 2624100

1	2	3	4
68.	M/s Punjab Wireless Systems Ltd.	'A'	All India 0172 - 670867
69.	M/s Nomus Internet Systems	'B'	Andhra Pradesh 0265 - 3127348
70.	M/s Vital Continuity Elect (P) Ltd.	'C'	Ranchi 0651 - 2011046
71.	M/s Sprint RPG India Ltd.	'A'	All India 011 - 6863172
72.	M/s Web Surf Pvt. Ltd. Thane	'C'	Kalyan 0251 - 431373
73.	M/s VASAVI Solutions (P) Ltd.	'C'	Visakhapatnam 0891 - 568483
74.	M/s BSES Telecom Ltd.	'B'	Mumbai 080 - 5521792
75.	M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd. Ahmedabad	'B'	Delhi 079 - 6562615
76.	M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd. Ahmedabad	'B'	Rasjasthan 079 - 6562615
77.	M/s Spectrum Softech Solutions	'C'	Ernakulum 0484 - 317530
78.	M/s E. Com Opportunities Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Gujarat
79.	M/s Bharati BT Internet Ltd.	'A'	All India
80.	M/s Bharati Telenet Ltd.	'B'	Madhya Pradesh
81.	M/s Opto Network Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Ghaziabad
82.	M/s Value Healthcare Pvt.Ltd.	'B'	Mumbai
83.	M/s E-Connect Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Udaipur
84.	M/s Waare Instruments Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Valsad
85.	M/s Jindal Information Technology Ltd.	'B'	Gujarat
86.	M/s Gemini Comm. Ltd.	'C'	Coimbatore
87.	M/s Swarnadra Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Vijayawada
88.	M/s Vertex Comm. Ltd.	'C'	Jaipur
89.	M/s Datalink Impex Pvt.Ltd.	'B'	Gujarat
90.	M/s Nano Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'A'	All India
91.	M/s Shah New Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Nadiad
92.	M/s ARM Ltd. Hyderabad	'B'	Andhra Pradesh
93.	M/s Agarwal Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Indore
94.	M/s J & K State Industrial Dev. Corp. Ltd.	'C'	Srinagar
95.	M/s Transport Corporation of India Ltd.	'C'	Faridabad
96.	M/s Transport Corporation of India Ltd.	'C'	Kalyan
97.	M/s B.P.L. Telecom Ltd.	'A'	All India
98.	M/s Data Infosys Ltd.	'B'	Rajasthan
99.	M/s Sigma Input Output Tech. India Ltd.	'A'	All India
100.	M/s World Gate Networks Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Surat
101.	M/s Future Consultants Ltd.	'C'	Kanpur
102.	M/s Future Consultants Ltd.	'C'	Lucknow
103.	M/s Sagarsoft International Ltd.	'B'	Andhra Pradesh
104.	M/s Satyasai Online P. Ltd.	'C'	Visakhapatnam
105.	M/s Rising Sun Infonet P. Ltd.	'B'	Gujarat
106.	M/s Narmada Cyberzone P. Ltd.	'C'	Bharuch
107.	M/s Chiman Trade Link P. Ltd.	'C'	Nadiad
108.	M/s Auto Treads (I) P. Ltd.	'C'	Nagpur

1	2	3	4
109.	M/s TCI Bhoruka Projects Ltd.	'C'	Jaipur
110.	M/s SCAD Consultants P. Ltd.	'C'	Baroda
111.	M/s WWW Communications Ltd.	'B'	Delhi
112.	M/s I-Ninety One International Ltd.	'C'	Chandigarh
113.	M/s Genesis Education P. Ltd.	'B'	Andhra Pradesh
114.	M/s Planet Internet Satellite (VVN) P. Ltd.	'C'	Nandiad
115.	M/s Solstice Network Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Andhra Pradesh
116.	M/s Compucom (I) Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Jaipur
117.	M/s Maharishi global Link Pvt. Ltd.	'A'	All India
118.	M/s Track Polymers Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Delhi
119.	M/s Estel Communciations Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Gurgaon
120.	M/s Sab Infotech Ltd.	'C'	Chandigarh
121.	M/s Pukhya Solutions P. Ltd.	'B'	Gujarat
122.	M/s Chandra Net Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Gujarat
123.	M/s Baroda Network P. Ltd.	'C'	Baroda
124.	M/s Manipal Control Data Electronics Commerce Ltd.	'A'	All India
125.	M/s BPL Net Dot Com Pvt. Ltd. (Old Name M/s India Internet Access Services P. Ltd. w.e.f. 4.11.99)	'A'	All India
126.	M/s Pacific Intenet (P.) I. Ltd.	'A'	All India
127.	M/s Delux Telecom. P. Ltd.	'C'	Mehasana
128.	M/s Asianet Satellite Comm. Ltd.	'C'	Thiruvananthpuram
129.	M/s Asianet Satellite Comm. Ltd.	'C'	Ernakulam
130.	M/s Rajkotnet P. Ltd.	'C'	Rajkot
131.	M/s Kappa Infotech P. Ltd.	'C'	Kota
132.	M/s Data Access (I) Ltd.	'B'	Delhi
133.	M/s N.S. Net Source (I) P. Ltd.	'C'	Vishakhapatnam
134.	M/s Lee & Nee Software (Exports) Ltd.	'C'	Bhubaneswar
135.	M/s Gujarat State Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	'B'	Gujarat
136.	M/s Indian Quotations Systems P. Ltd.	'B'	Mumbai
137.	M/s Spectra Net P. Ltd.	'B'	Delhi
138.	M/s Spectra Net P. Ltd. Ghaziabad	'C'	Ghaziabad
139.	M/s Spectra Net P. Ltd. Ghaziabad	'C'	Gurgaon
140.	M/s Magnacorp India Ltd.	'B'	Delhi
141.	M/s Millennium Services Online P. Ltd.	'C'	Amritsar
142.	M/s Infonet Services (I) P. Ltd.	'C'	Amritsar
143.	M/s Nanda Net Com. Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Mumbai
144.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects (P) Ltd.	'B'	Calcutta
145.	M/s Independent Business Machines (P) Ltd.	'C'	Chandigarh
146.	M/s Rida Communciations (P) Ltd.	'C'	Aligarh
147.	M/s Harita Finance Ltd.	'A'	All India

1	2	3	4
148.	M/s Amoeba Telecom Private Ltd.	'C'	Coimbatore
149.	M/s Online Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Chandigarh
150.	M/s Hathway Cable & Datacom Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Mumbai
151.	M/s Hathway Cable & Datacom Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Chennai
152.	M/s Hathway Cable & Datacom Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Maharashtra
153.	M/s Kelnet Communication Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Trivandrum
154.	M/s Kelnet Communication Services Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Ernakulam
155.	M/s Wilnet Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Ahmedabad
156.	M/s City Online Services Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	A.P.
157.	M/s Karvy Consultants Ltd.	'B'	A.P.
158.	M/s Khushagra Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Bhopal
159.	M/s Assured Web Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Bhopal
160.	M/s Bhaskar Multi Net Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Jaipur
161.	M/s Dataware Internet Works Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Kerala
162.	M/s Comat Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Shimoga
163.	M/s EMTICI Engineering Ltd.	'C'	Nadiad
164.	M/s Direct Internet Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Delhi
165.	M/s Maxwell Tradelink Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Kalyan
166.	M/s Jain Infonet Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Rajasthan
167.	M/s Shahjanand Internet Service Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Surat
168.	M/s My-Net Service India Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Salem
169.	M/s Excell Media Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Visakhapatnam
170.	M/s Eleelipse Network Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Gujarat circle
171.	M/s ISP India Pvt. Ltd.	'A'	All India
172.	M/s SwiftMail Communications Ltd.	'A'	All India
173.	M/s C.S. Prosoftech Informatic Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Tirunelveli
174.	M/s Shivam Datatech Pvt. Ltd. Delhi	'B'	Delhi
175.	M/s Koaventy Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Visakhapatnam
176.	M/s Trident NetCom Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'A'	All India
177.	M/s SAB Infotech Ltd.	'B'	Punjab
178.	M/s Satyasai OnLine Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Rajamundry
179.	M/s Dialnet Communications Ltd.	'B'	New Delhi
180.	M/s Netconnect (India) Ltd.	'C'	Mysore
181.	M/s Orbet Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'A'	All India
182.	M/s Fascel Ltd.	'B'	Gujarat
183.	M/s Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizer Co. Ltd. (GNFC)	'B'	Gujarat
184.	M/s Allnet Systems Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Chennai
185.	M/s Shivam Infoways Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Jodhpur
186.	M/s Jump India Pvt. Ltd.	'A'	All India

1	2	3	4
187.	M/s Vertec Communications Ltd.	'B'	Rajasthan
188.	M/s Chemical & Metallurgical	'B'	Delhi
189.	M/s HCL Comnet Systems & Services Ltd.	'A'	All India
190.	M/s Quest Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Valsad
191.	M/s Condor Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Karnataka
192.	M/s Tandem Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Trivandrum
193.	M/s Spectra Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'A'	All India
194.	M/s CJ Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Ghaziabad
195.	M/s Link Communications Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Gurgaon
196.	M/s Paliwal Financial Service (P.) Ltd.	'B'	Delhi
197.	M/s EX & DC Technology Promotion Centre	'B'	Kerala
198.	M/s Tawi E Com Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Jammu Tawi
199.	M/s Gujarat Informatics Ltd.	'B'	Gujarat
200.	M/s Yenkey Network Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Bellary
201.	M/s Blueweb Infosystem Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Mumbai
202.	M/s Comsat Max Ltd.	'A'	All India
203.	M/s Marvel Indenting Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Vadodara
204.	M/s Argosy Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Raigad
205.	M/s Millennium Internet Services Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Jalandhar
206.	M/s Burgundy Tradings Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Delhi
207.	M/s S.S. Netcom Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	North East
208.	M/s MX Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Kerala
209.	M/s MX Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Chennai
210.	M/s Neptune Cyberworld Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Rajkot
211.	M/s Astro Network India Pvt. Ltd.	'A'	All India
212.	M/s Direct Internet Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Gurgaon
213.	M/s Direct Internet Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Ghaziabad
214.	M/s World Tel Tamilnadu Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Chennai
215.	M/s World Tel Tamilnadu Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Tamil Nadu
216.	M/s All India Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Bhubaneswar
217.	M/s L & T Netcom. Ltd.	'A'	All India
218.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Jamshedpur
219.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Mumbai
220.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Guwahati
221.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Karnataka
222.	M/s Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Siliguri
223.	M/s Interra Global Ltd	'A'	All India
224.	M/s Bharti Comtel Ltd.	'B'	Haryana
225.	M/s Media Video Ltd.	'B'	Delhi
226.	M/s Mahaveer Leafin & Holdings Ltd.	'B'	Karnataka

1	2	3	4
227.	M/s Multitech Computer Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Gurgaon
228.	M/s Wilnet Communications P. Ltd.	'A'	All India
229.	M/s Trak Polymers Limited	'A'	All India
230.	M/s S-Four Microsystems Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Eluru
231.	M/s Shell Information Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Ahmednagar
232.	M/s Krishan Raghava Online Pvt. Ltd.	'C'	Eluru
233.	M/s Narmada Cycebzzone (P) Ltd.	'B'	Gujarat
234.	M/s Informagic Services (P) Ltd.	'B'	Mumbai
235.	M/s Netware Infoways Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Delhi
236.	M/s Megabite Infoways Pvt. Ltd.	'B'	Karnataka
237.	M/s Information Technologies (India) Ltd.	'A'	All India
238.	M/s Kapabale Data Consultants Ltd.	'C'	Kanpur
239.	M/s Wetware Infoways (P) Ltd.	'B'	Andhra Pradesh
<hr/>			
	A B C Total		
	37 88 114 239		

Statement-V*List of proposed Mobile Service Centres :*

Circle	City
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
	Vijayawada
	Tirupati
	Guntur
	Vishakapatnam
	Amalpuram
Bihar	Kakinada
	Patna
	Biharsharif
	Hazipur
	Badh
	Arah
Tamil Nadu	Rajgir
	Chennai
	Madurai
	Coimbatore
West Bengal	Calcutta
	Haldia

[Translation]**Allocation of funds for National Highways**

1735. SHRI RAJO SINGH :
SHRI A. NARENDRA :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDYEYA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government to State Governments for construction and maintenance of National Highways during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 separately, State-wise ;

(b) the amount actually released and utilised till date for the purpose and the time by which the remaining allocation is likely to be released;

(c) the quantum of funds utilised by the State Governments and the amount lying unutilised, State-wise;

(d) the reasons for the amount lying unutilised, State-wise;

(e) whether some of the State Governments have requested to the Union Government for additional allocation for externally aided projects;

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

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) A statement indicating allocation for 1999-2000 is annexed. Similar allocation for 2000-2001 would be decided after the budget is passed.

emments are not available. However, all the States are expected to utilise the entire amount by 31.3.2000.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. Government of Madhya Pradesh has made a request for additional allocation. The matter is under consideration.

Full details of the utilisation of funds by the State Gov-

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State	NH (O) 99-2000 upto 1/2000	M & R 99-2000 upto 1/2000	SRP 99-2000 upto 1/2000	EAP 99-2000 upto 1/2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5045.00	3440.260	3657.00	50.00
2.	Assam	2186.83	3199.440	2500.00	0.00
3.	Bihar	6000.00	5367.640	6100.00	0.00
4.	Chandigarh	100.00	66.000	50.00	0.00
5.	Delhi	1200.00	139.840	160.00	0.00
6.	Goa	1500.02	627.690	700.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	10451.43	2103.170	2068.00	0.00
8.	Haryana	4500.00	1611.700	400.00	4700.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4500.00	1692.250	664.00	0.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	135.00	290.000	100.00	0.00
11.	Karnataka	4600.08	3410.900	4850.00	1224.00
12.	Kerala	10468.12	1984.000	1500.00	1300.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3226.75	5254.493	3000.00	6500.00
14.	Maharashtra	10354.31	3844.630	4000.00	6000.00
15.	Manipur	1010.75	826.080	0.00	0.00
16.	Meghalaya	1730.28	805.890	400.00	0.00
17.	Mizoram	300.00	355.000	500.00	0.00
18.	Nagaland	750.00	426.630	423.00	0.00
19.	Orissa	4350.00	2922.240	2516.00	5500.00
20.	Pondicherry	319.46	87.000	164.00	0.00
21.	Punjab	2000.00	1883.860	400.00	4000.00
22.	Rajasthan	5778.17	3520.000	4967.00	200.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	6500.00	4179.660	8000.00	0.00
24.	Tripura	50.00	185.000	0.00	0.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	11005.35	5575.490	4793.62	3500.00
26.	West Bengal	5738.02	3000.00	1530.00	3500.00
27.	Ministry	100.00	0.00	0.00	726.00
28.	BRDB	11230.00	0.00	93.72	0.00
29.	NHAI	0.00	0.00	0.00	49160.00
Total		115129.57	56798.86	53536.34	86360.00

*[English]***Joint Venture by Oil Companies In Gulf Countries**

1736. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope for county's public sector oil companies to set up joint ventures in Gulf Countries; and

(b) if so, the possibilities explored in this regard and areas identified by the public sector oil companies for the purpose and the outcome thereto ?

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 Public Sector Oil Companies have been continuously exploring the possibilities of business opportunities abroad including the Gulf countries. The results achieved so far in respect of the Gulf countries are briefly indicated below:

- Balmer Lawrie Limited is already operating a successful Joint Venture in the Gulf countries for providing services to the oil sector by supplying plastic and metal can packaging. The company has also been executing projects in areas like Greases, Lube Blending, and also exploring the possibility of Infrastructure and Information Technology related Joint Venture.
- Oil India Limited has entered into a farm out agreement with M/s Total Exploration, Oman for exploration and production of Hydrocarbons in onshore in the Sultanate of Oman.
- ONGC Videsh Limited in partnership with M/s Reliance Industries Limited is pursuing an opportunity in Iraq for participation in the development of a discovered oil field.
- Petronet LNG Limited has contracted import of LNG from Qatar and there is also a possibility of its participation in the liquefaction facilities in Qatar.

*[Translation]***Re-Construction of Chamari Nala Bridge**

1737. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for the construction of National Highways during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the provision made for the purpose;

(c) whether Chamari Nala Bridge located between Jhansi and Kanpur at National Highway No.25 is in a dilapidated condition;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to re-construct the said bridge; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Details are given at enclosed statement I and II.

(b) An amount of Rs. 8862.02 crore (at 1996 price level) has been made available during Ninth Five Year Plan by Planning Commission. In addition to this, amount out of cess on petrol & diesel will also be available.

(c) and (d) This Ministry has sanctioned estimate for Rs. 323.80 lakhs on 31.3.99 for the re-construction of bridge over Chamari Nala in km 222 of Shivpuri-Bhogpur section of NH No. 25 in Uttar Pradesh.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Physical Targets/Achievements for the Ninth Five Year Plan of MOST (Department of Road Transport & Highway)

S.No.	Scheme	Unit	Ninth Plan Target (1997-2002)
1.	Widening to two lanes	Km	1194
2.	Widening to four lanes	Km	202
3.	Strengthening weak 2 lanes	Km	2908
4.	Bypasses	No.	20
5.	Major Bridges	No.	40
6.	Minor Bridges including ROB's	No.	228

Statement-II*National Highway Development Project & other works by NHAI*

Widening to four lanes	Length	Total length to be covered	Length already Four laned/ under implementation	Balance length to be four laned	Target date of completion	On going works*	Total for award by 2002
Golden Quadrilateral	Km	5952	504	5448	2003	434	4716
North-South & East-west corridors	Km	7300	628	6672	2009	264	386
Others	Km	1000	0	1000	2009	214	794

* additional 298 km through MOST

Internet Facility

1738. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided any representations regarding the miserable condition of the communication system in Chattarpur and Tikamgarh districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the internet facility is negligible in the said districts; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard during the last three years alongwith the results thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Internet node was commissioned in Bhopal in August, 1998. Forty one Internet connections from Chattarpur and Tikamgarh districts are working as on 29.2.2000 on dial up basis.

Department has planned to commission Internet node at Chattarpur which is expected to be in operation by middle of this year.

[English]

Scientific System of Loading and Unloading At Ports

1739. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether for want to the scientific system of loading and unloading at ports of the country, there is delay in the process of loading and unloading;

(b) If so, whether the consignment owners have to give demurrage charges to the shipping companies as a result of the said delay;

(c) whether delay in loading and unloading of consignments at the ports in the country is far more as compared to delay at international ports; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the scheme of the Government to do away with such delays ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The loading and unloading rate at the ports is consistent with the available equipments and labour productivity. However, there is a scope for reducing the time taken for cargo handling by modernising the system of loading unloading of the cargo at Ports.

(b) Demurrage is not payable by the shippers during the loading unloading process irrespective of the time taken.

(c) and (d) The level of mechanisation, labour productivity and management practices in the international ports are different from those existing at Indian Ports. A direct comparison of delays in loading and unloading of cargo at Indian Ports with international Ports may be of relevance, as the type of ships that call at the international ports, handling methods, the equipment used and the type of cargo vary widely. To minimise the delays, the following measures are being taken :

- (i) Mechanisation and modernisation of cargo handling equipments.
- (ii) Replacement of obsolete equipment.
- (iii) Rationalisation of manning scales.
- (iv) Privatisation in different areas in Port sector.
- (v) Streamlining of procedure and change in cargo handling methods.
- (vi) Introduction of Electronic Data Interchange.

Cellular Telephones

1740. SHRI ANANT GUDHE :
SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cellular telephones subscribers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the present pattern of charges for the said telephones;

(c) the number of cities in the country where the cellular telephone facility has been provided, till date, State-wise;

(d) the number of cities where the said facility is proposed to be provided during 2000-2001, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide said facility in Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Motihari, Saharsa, Purnea and Bettiah cities of Northern Bihar;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this facility is likely to be provided in the cities not having this facility; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the cellular telephone available to common man in the rural and urban areas of the country particularly in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of cellular telephone subscribers in the country, licensed service Area-wise is given in statement-I.

(b) The Cellular operators are presently offering standard tariff package with monthly rental of Rs. 475/- and Air Time Charge of Rs. 4/- per minute in Metros, and Rs. 500/- and Rs. 4.50 respectively in Circles.

(c) to (g) Bids were invited for grant of licences of private companies for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service throughout the country. Except for two Telecom Circles (Namely, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar) where there were no bids. Licences have been granted to various private operators throughout the country, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Bihar Telecom Circles.

Licences have also been granted to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) as well as field units of Department of Telecom Services (DTS) for providing Cellular Service in the country.

As per the Licence Agreement granted to the private cellular operators atleast 10% of the District Headquarters

will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of Licence. The licensees have also been permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns lies with the Licensee companies depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas as per the licences grantee. A list of cities furnished by Cellular Operators Association of India, service areas-wise where the cellular service is operational by private companies, is given in enclosed Statement-II.

DTS and MTNL shall also be providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in different parts of the country. DTS has proposed to provide Cellular Mobile Services initial in few cities of the country as a Pilot Project. The State-wise list of cities proposed under pilot project is given in enclosed statement-III. The proposed cellular service is expected to be introduced during the year 2000-2001. Based on the experience gained and successful implementation of Pilot Project, the case for introduction of Cellular Mobile Service in other parts of the country on a wider scale shall be considered.

Statement-I

Number of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service subscribers in the country, licensed service area-wise

(As furnished by COAI)

S.No.	Licensed Service Area (Metro City/ Telecom Circles)*	No. of Subscribers (Dec. '99)
1	2	3
1.	Delhi	279552
2.	Mumbai	298744
3.	Calcutta	68030
4.	Chennai	47004
5.	Maharashtra	102367
6.	Gujarat	107528
7.	Andhra Pradesh	87949
8.	Karnataka	104787
9.	Tamil Nadu	71153
10.	Kerala	80781
11.	Punjab	79672
12.	Haryana	20172
13.	U.P. East	48897
14.	U.P. West	99696
15.	Rajasthan	15482

1	2	3
16.	Madhya Pradesh	30167
17	West Bengal	4674
18.	Himachal Pradesh	4761
19.	Bihar	17419

1	2	3
20.	Orissa	8403
21.	Assam	5590
22.	North East	803
All India Total		1583611

* Note : Telecom Circles are generally continuous with State Boundaries with some exceptions.

Statement-II

Cellular Coverage in Cities/Towns of India

(Position as of January, 2000)

(As supplied by Cellular Operators Association of India)

S.No.	Telecom Circles/ Metro Cities	Name of Operator	Areas covered	Number of cities covered by each operator
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	J.T. Mobile Ltd.	Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntur, Vishakhapatnam, Nellore, Tirupathi, Vizag, Uppal, Kattedan, Hayatnagar, Pattancheru, Rangareddy, Krishna, Gannavaram, Kankipadu, Adavinekkala, Tenali, Budampadu, Vejendla, Ponnuru, Chebrolu, Dagadarthi, Kovur, Kodur, Mypadu, Mathukur, Buchireddy, Palem, Chittoor, Chandragiri, Vadamalapeta, Gajula, Mandyam, Gajuwaka, Agnampudi.	33
	Andhra Pradesh	Tata Cellular Communication Ltd.	Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Vishakhapatnam, Rangareddy, Krishna, West Godavari, East Godavari, Guntur, Machilipatnam, Kakinada, Eluru, Sangareddy, Lingampally, Kukatapally, Uppal, Vanasthalipuram, Shaumabad, Medchal, Jeedimefla, Kapra, Hayatnagar, Gannavaram, Hanuman Jn., Tolaprolou, Ibrahimpatnam, Mangalageri, Anakapalle, Gajuwaka, Zellamanchilli, Payakaraopeta, Rajahmundry, Rajanagaram, Ravulapalem, Tuni, Prathipadu, Bhimadole, Bhebrole, Tadepalligudum, Tanuku, Kovure, Vatluru, Ptancheru, Bolareum, Aranavara, Nalgonda, Nellore, Kakinada, Chittoor, Tirupathi,	49
2.	Assam	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Guwahati	1
3.	Bihar	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Patna, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Dhanbad, Jharis, Hajipur	6
4.	Calcutta	Modi Telstra Pvt. Ltd.	Fully covered (Metro)	1
5.	Chennai	Usha Martin Telecom Ltd.	-do-	1
	Chennai	RPG Cellular Ltd. Sky Cell Communication Ltd.	Fully covered (Metro) Maraimalai Nagar Export Promotion Zone, Minzur, Mahabalipuram	4

1	2	3	4	5
		Sky Cell Communicaton Ltd.	Fully Covered (Metro)	1
6. Delhi		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Fully covered (Metro) Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Gurgaon	5
		Sterling Cellular Ltd.	Fully covered (Metro) Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Gurgaon	5
7. Gujarat		Birla AT & T Communications Ltd.	Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Kheda, Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Valsad, Rajkot, Mehsana, Jamnagar, Bareja, Por, Karjan, Kim, Udhna, Pipodara, Gandevi, Chikli, Pardi, Udwarda, Dungra, Nadiad, Anand, Ankleswhar, Navsari, Silvassa, Vapi, Adalaj, Kudasana, Koba, Shertha, Sola, Gota, Chiloda, Sarkhej, Khodiar, Aslali, Jetalpur, Uttarsanda, Borival, Matar, Vidhyanager, Vadatal, Karamsad, Bhayali, Jaspur, Fertilizer Nagar, Kashipura, Palej, Amod, Diva, Jhaghdia, Kabinwad, Panoli, Kosamba, Mangrol, Sayan, Kamrej, Kator, Amroli, Utaran, Dumas, Saonpalsana, Atul, Dadra, Dabhel, Linch, Dhinoj, Panchot, Kherva, Magroda.	71
		Fascal India Ltd.	Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Kheda, Anand, Nadiad, Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Sachin, Navasari, Billimora, Pardi, Valsad, Vapi, V.V. Nagar, Chhatrak, Mehsana, Kalol, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Sanand, Padra, Vaghodiya, Borsad, Ankleshwar, Kim, Palsana, Gandevi, Chikhali, Daman, Silvassa, Gandhidham.	32
8. Haryana		Escotel Mobile Communicaiton Ltd.	Ambala, Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Yamuna Nagar, Kurukshetra, Shahbad, Kundli, Rohtak, Hissar, Jagadhari, Bhiwani, Kaika, Kaithal, Rohtak, Rewari, Sirsa, Yamunanagar, Bahadurgarh.	19.
9. Himachal Pradesh		Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Shimla, Solan, Parwanoo, Baddi, Barotiwala, Barog, Dhalli, Sago, Thoeg, Bhuntar, Naldhera, Kufri, Kasoli, Chail, Kandaghat, Bhunter, Kullu-Manali, Solan, Nala.	19
		Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Shimla	1
10. Karnataka		JT Mobiles Ltd.	Bangalore, Mysore, Mangalore, Attibele, Chandrapura, Nelamagala, Nanjangudu, Srirangapatna, Ullal, Panamburu, Kankanadi, Baikampady, Kolor, Kavur, Kottar, Urva, Surathkal, Dakshin, Kannad	18
		Spice Communication Ltd.	Bangalore, Mangalore, Mysore, Tumkur, Chitradurga, Davangere, Dharwad, Belgaum, Hubli, Hassan, Shimoga, Chikmagalur, Gadag, Renebennur, Sagar, Harihar, Udupi, Manipal, Bhatkal, Tiptur, Bhadravathi, Hoskote, Mandya, Bellary, Gulbarga, Bidadi, Nelmangala, Sakleshpur, Kundapur, Gonikoppal, Nanjangud, Madikeri, Hospet.	33
11. Kerala		BPL Cellular Ltd.	Alleppy, Aroor, Calicut, Chavakkad, Chertala, Chengannur, Changannassery, Cochin, Guruvayoor, Karunagapalli, Kannur, Kodungalore, Kollam, Kottayam, Kunnamkulam, Malappuram, Manjery, Muvattupuzha, Palakkad, Palai, Thallasserry, Thrissur, Thirvalla Trivandrum, Varkala, Aluva, Feroke, Mavlikara, Chalakudi, Trinjalkuda, Perumbavoor, Angamali, Kalamassery, Tripunithiura, Kozhikode, Kondotti, Valapatnam, Thodupuzha, Kanjikode.	39

1	2	3	4	5
	Escotel Mobile Communication Ltd.	Allapuzha, Aluva, Angamaly, Attingal, Chalakuddy, Changanassery, Chengannur, Chingavanam, Cherthala, Chavakkad, Emakulam, Ettumanur, Feroke, Kalamassery, Kottayam, Kollam, Kozhikode, Kannur, Mallapuram, Manjeri, Pallimukku, Shaktikulangara, Trivandrum, Thrissur, Thiruvalla, Tripunithura, Thalassery, Tirur, Kottackal, Perinthamimanna, Kunnamkulam, Kasarkode, Kanjanhad, Kanjikode, Koddungallore, Kayamkulam, Muvattupuzha, Perumbavoor, Palakkad, Thodupuzha.		40
12. Madhya Pradesh	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Indore, Dewas, Ujjain, Ratlam, Bhopal, Mandideep, Pithampura, Raipur.		8
	RPG Cellcom Ltd.	Indore, Bhopal, Dewas, Sehore, Ujjain, Mandideep, Pithampura, Dhar, Betma, Sagore, Raisen		11
13. Maharashtra	Birla AT & T Communication Ltd.	Pune, Nasik, Ahmednagar, Panjim, Margao, Satara, Kolhapur, Sangli, Aurangabad, Alibaug, Jalna, Amravathi, Akola, Wardha, Jalgaon, Bhiwandi, Ulhasnagar, Karad, Ichalkaranji, Lovovola, Pimpri, Chinchwad, Mapusa, Ponda, Chakan, Telegaon, Pen, Khopoli, Khandala, Sirur, Supe, Nevasa, Narsapur, Shival, Islampur, Jaisinghpur, Rajgurunagar, Manchar, Sinner, Shahapur, Ranjangaon, Chikalthana, Tivim, Porvorim, Betim, Raibandar, Old Goa, Banastarim, Kundairm, Goa, Velha, Agacaim, Cortalim, Verna, Nuvem, Majorda, Navelim, Varca, Cavelossim, Mobur Betul, Chapora Fort, Vagator Beach, Anjuna Beach, Baga Beach, Calangute, Candolim, Aguada Fort, Miramar Beach, Cabo, Dona Paula, Mormugao, Vasco, Dabolim, Bogmalo Beach, Colva, Benaulim.		77
	BPL Cellular Ltd.	Pune, Nagpur, Nasik, Kohlapur, Goa, Satara, Aurangabad, Ichalkaranji, Sangli, Miraj, Jalgaon, Malegaon, Dhule, Jalna, Bhuswal, Ahmednagar, Amravati, Akola, Karad, Alibag, Panjim, Madgaon, Lonavala.		23
14. Mumbai	BPL Mobile Communications Ltd.	Fully covered (Metro) Navi Mumbai, Kalyan		3
	Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd.	Fully covered (Metro)		1
15. North East	Hexacom India Ltd.	None		Nil
	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Shillong		1
16. Orissa	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri		3
17. Punjab	Spice Communication Ltd.	Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Bhatinda, Patiala, Khanna, Hoshiarpur, Jagraon, Moga, Sangrur, Faridkot, Kapurthala, Nawanshahar, Muktsar, Mohali, Panchkula, Mandi, Gobindgarh, Rajpura, Goraya, Phagwara, Beas, Batala, Kotkapura, Nabha, Barnala, Rampura Phul,		

1	2	3	4	5
			Malout, Abohar, Dhuri, Malerkotla, Bang., Mahalpur, Derabassi, Zirakpur, Dhanaula, Phillaula, Kharar, Kartarpur, Bahadurgarh, Shambu, Banur, Raya, Dhillwan, Sahnewal, Saikikhurd, Abul, Kharana, Goniana, Mandi, Verka, Rupnagar, Pathankot.	51
18. Rajasthan	Hexacom India Ltd.	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Kota, Beawar, Kishengarh, Makran, Bhilwara		9
19. Tamil Nadu	BPL Cellular Ltd.	Bhawani, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Erode, Gobinchettipalayam, Karur, Kanchipuram, Madurai, Mettupalayam, Namakkal, Ooty, Pondicherry, Pollachi, Rajapalayam, Salem, Sivakasi, Tirupur, Tiruchirappally, Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Udumalpetai, Vellore, Villipuram, Virudhunagar, Avinasi, Coonoor, Tribhuvanai, Udumalpet, Ranipet, Arasur.		
	AIRCEL Ltd.	Coimbatore, Thudiyalur, Tiruppur, Perianaikenpalayam, Karamadai, Mettupalayam, Ooty, Annur, Avinashi, Suler, Palladam, Pollachi, Udumalpet, Coonoor, Kotagiri, Salem, Pallipalayam, Erode, Bhavani, Komarapalayam, Sankagiri, Perundurai, Namakkal, Thichengodi, Madurai, Palani, Trichy, Srirangam, Manachanallur, Thiruverambur, Thanjavur, Kulithalai.		32
20. Uttar Pradesh	Aircel Digilink Ltd.	Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi & Badohi		5
	Koshika Telecom Ltd.	Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Bhadohi, Unnao, Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Nawabganj, Mirzapur, Shuklaganj, Faizabad, Mughul Sarai, Jaunpur, Barabanki, Jagadishpur, Gorakhpur.		17
21. Uttar Pradesh (W)	Escotel Mobile Communication Ltd.	Meerut, Agra, Aligarh, Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly, Bulandshahr, Dehradun, Mathura, Ferozabad, Hapur, Saharanpur, Muzzafer Nagar, Haldwani, Rudrapur, Bilaspur, Bazpur, Kashipur, Haridwar, Roorkee, Khatauli, Mussourie, Bijnor, Chandausi, Hathras, Khurja, Kitcha, Modinagar, Pillibhit, Rishikesh, Sambhal, Shamli, Vrindavan, Siliguri, Darjeeling, Durgapur, Asansol, Raniganj.		37
22. West Bengal	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Siliguri, Darjeeling, Durgapur, Asansol, Raniganj.		5

Statement-III

Circle	City
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Tirupathi, Guntur, Vishakapatnam, Amlapuram, Kakinada.
Bihar	Patna, Biharsharif, Hazipur, Badh, Arah, Rajgir.
Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore
West Bengal	Calcutta, Haldia.

Bifurcation of SEBs into Corporations

1741. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Electricity Boards in various States are being bifurcated into separate corporations;

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

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the manner in which it is proposed to ensure that the bifurcation is uniformly implemented in all the States; and

(e) if not, the fresh guidelines issued to the SEBs to increase their operational efficiency in generation and distribution of power ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The consensus arrived at in the Chief Ministers' Conference held in December, 1998 envisaged, *inter-alia*, unbundling/corporatisation of State Electricity Boards, as a step towards reforms in the power sector. So far, five States namely, Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have unbundled/corporatised State Electricity Boards.

(c) to (e) The Government of India took the initiative to promote the reforms process in the power sector. A concerted effort was made to evolve a consensus on the need and structure of reforms. The Government of India commissioned various studies by engaging consultants. Ms V.S. Rekha, Legal Consultant was engaged to review the existing Central Electricity Acts and suggest an amended and consolidated Central Law which would meet the requirements of liberalisation of the electricity sector. The Administrative Staff College of India conducted studies on the restructuring of regulatory system in the power sector in India. A one-man Committee headed by Shri S.J. Coelho, former Chairman of Gujarat Electricity Board looked into the problems facing the distribution sector. The Government of India also organised Chief Minister's/Power Minister's Conferences to evolve a consensus on the power sector reforms.

Recently, the Ministry of Power had asked the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) as a consultant, to suggest legislative changes it considered necessary to accelerate the reform process uniformly throughout the country.

The NCAER has submitted draft Electricity Bill to replace the existing three electricity laws (The Indian Electricity Act, 1910, Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and The Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998). The draft Bill suggests, *inter alia* unbundling/corporatisation of all the State Electricity Boards and their restructuring into separate entities that would provide for accountability based on profit centres, whether

public or private. Bill seeks to enable States to unbundle SEBs without enacting legislations for the purpose.

Internet Telephony

1742. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the software industry association has urged the Government to allow Internet Telephony in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Internet Service Providers Association have requested the Government to consider allowing Internet Telephony.

(c) As per the New Telecom Policy 1999 Internet Telephony shall not be permitted at this stage. However, Government will continue to monitor the technological innovations and their impact on national development and review this issue at an appropriate time.

Electoral Reforms

1743. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Election Commission has sought opinion of the State Governments on the poll reforms; and

(b) if so, the response thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Protection of Ansupa Lake

1744. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for the ecological and environmental protection of the Ansupa Lake in Cuttack district of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision to receive any grants or assistance from the environment agencies of the United Nations or USA or any other foreign countries or agencies in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal was received from the Government of Orissa in March, 1998 to take up conservation of Anusupa Lake under the National Lake Conservation Plan at a total cost of Rs. 10.80 crore. Anusupa Lake is not amongst the 10 identified urban lakes proposed under the National Lake Conservation Plan, which is yet to be approved by Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Postal Life Insurance Facility

1745. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the benefits of Postal Life Insurance are not being extended to the diabetic patients in the Department of Communications;

(b) if so, whether the Government would make provision to cover the diabetic patients under Postal Life Insurance; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, diabetic patients are not being extended the benefits of Postal Life Insurance by the Department of Post under the Ministry of Communications.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Postal Life Insurance underwrites only healthy lives. Because of the high risk potential to their lives, it does not insure diabetics.

[English]

Oil Refinery in Haryana

1746. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an oil refinery in Haryana; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction ?

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

is one refinery in Haryana at Panipat. There is no proposal to set up another oil refinery in Haryana State.

[Translation]

Out of Order Telephones

1747. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government have received any representations regarding irregular telephone services and telephones and STD lines remaining out of order in the urban and rural areas of the country particularly in Bihar and Lalpur region of Jamnagar district of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the last two years, till date;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide uninterrupted telephone services in the country particularly in the said State and region;

(d) whether the Government propose to install modern equipments to improve the communication set up in all the district headquarters of Bihar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Such representations are being received and the deficiencies brought out are redressed promptly. The details of such complaints received in Bihar and Lalpur region of Jamnagar District of Gujarat during the last two years are given below :

1.	Bihar	153
2.	Gujarat	5
	(in respect of Lalpur region)	

(c) The following steps are being taken to provide uninterrupted services and better maintenance of telephones in the country including the said State and region :

- (1) Upgradation and rehabilitation of external plant.
- (2) Replacement of electro-mechanical exchanges by electronic exchanges.
- (3) Laying of underground cable in ducts.
- (4) Providing reliable media of OFC/ digital UHF.
- (5) Introduction of laying of 5 pair PIJF cable to subscriber premises.
- (6) Computerization of fault repair and customer services.

- (7) Introduction of IVRS systems for booking the complaint.
- (8) Opening of internal DPs in multi-storey buildings.
- (9) Provision of pagers to line staff.
- (10) Because of acute shortage of power supply in Bihar, higher capacity of battery, power plant and engine alternator are being provided.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Modern exchange equipments are already working at all the district headquarter's of Bihar. However, there is proposal to install Internet nodes at 18 places in Bihar during 2000-2001. Other than this latest-art-of-technology equipment like SDH, WLL, TDMA-PMP systems are also being planned.

[English]

Reforms in the Power Sector

1749. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the States that adopted the power sector reforms approved by C.Ms. Conference in 1996;
- (b) the Grants and loans provided by the Union Government to the States for adopting the power reforms during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of power sector in the States where reforms have taken place; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) During the last few years, several States initiated reforms. Orissa was the first State to undertake comprehensive reforms by enacting the Orissa Electricity Reform Act, 1995, setting up of SERC and unbundling of SEB. The States of Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have also unbundled/corporatised their SEBs and set up regulatory Commissions. Other States like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have either constituted or notified the constitution of SERC.

(b) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) funds SEBs to undertake reforms and also transmission and distribution activity in the States. The international financial institutions like World Bank, DFID, CIDA etc are also supporting the reform efforts of the States subject to fulfilment of certain conditionalities for the success of reforms.

(c) and (d) The status of reforms in Orissa has been reviewed. There has been significant improvement in the PLF of thermal power stations and tariff has also been rationalised. In the phase of transition, the Grid Corporation of Orissa

(GRIDCO) has been facing financial difficulties. The Government of Orissa/GRIDCO has prepared a financial restructuring plan to overcome the problem. In case of other States like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka the progress of reforms is closely watched. Recently, the Ministry of power signed Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding with the States of Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, charting out the time-bound actions to be taken for reforms of the State power sector.

Waterways Sector

1749. SHRI A. NARENDRA :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to attract the private companies to invest in the Inland Waterways sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Necessary action has already been initiated to evolve a comprehensive policy at the earliest which also envisages fiscal incentives for attracting investment from the private sector and their participation in development of the IWT Sector. No time limit for taking a final decision in this regard could be stipulated.

Foreign Investment in Telecom Sector

1750. SHRI Y.S. VIVAKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India is lobbying for big bucks abroad for foreign investment to bring a revolution in the telecom sector;
- (b) if so, whether Ministry was serious in creating the telecom revolution in the country;
- (c) if so, whether the World Bank and other foreign investors are ready to invest in this sector;
- (d) if so, whether any concrete measures have been worked out in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(c) Investment made by various countries in the Telecom Sector is enclosed as statement-I.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Details are given in statement-II.

Statement-I

Actual Inflow of FDI in Telecom Sector from August 91 to December '99 (Country wise)

S.No.	Country	FDI	%
1.	Argentina	0.01	0.00
2.	Australia	342.50	0.81
3.	Austria	9.50	0.02
4.	Bahrain	8.00	0.02
5.	Canada	411.60	0.98
6.	Denmark	72.50	0.17
7.	Finland	355.80	0.84
8.	France	834.90	1.98
9.	Germany	12.70	0.03
10.	Hong Kong	683.70	1.62
11.	Israel	560.00	1.33
12.	Japan	539.80	1.28
13.	Kuwait	0.50	0.00
14.	Luxembourg	101.60	0.24
15.	Malaysia	599.90	1.42
16.	Mauritius	28243.30	66.91
17.	Netherlands	2143.90	5.08
18.	NRI	756.70	1.79
19.	Philippines	73.50	0.17
20.	Singapore	54.20	0.13
21.	South Korea	196.70	0.47
22.	Sweden	881.90	2.09
23.	Switzerland	2.30	0.01
24.	Thailand	1716.60	4.07
25.	UK	749.40	1.78
26.	USA	2860.10	6.78
Total		42211.51	(Rs. in Million)

Statement-II

Investment Policies and Incentives

Foreign Investment Policy for Telecom Sector

- ♦ No industrial license required and no public sector reservation for setting up manufacturing units.
- ♦ Automatic approval of foreign equity upto 100% in manufacturing projects.
- ♦ Automatic approval for technology fee upto US \$ 2 million net of taxes.
- ♦ Automatic approval for royalty upto 5% on domestic sales and 8% on export sales.
- ♦ Possibility for higher technology fee through special approvals.
- ♦ Foreign equity participation upto 49% for telecom services viz. Basic, Cellular Mobile, Paging, other Value Added Services, and Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite permitted on automatic basis subject to the terms and condition of license.
- ♦ Foreign equity participation upto 49% in Investment companies set up for investments in telecom Service Sector permitted. (Investments by these companies in a licensee company will be treated as part of domestic equity and will not be counted against "Total Foreign Equity" if the management of the investing company is with the Indian owners)
- ♦ Telecom services companies are not permitted to make royalty payments.

Incentives for telecom service sector

- ♦ License fee paid by telecom service providers is eligible for amortisation for tax purposes.
- ♦ Assignability of Licenses permitted.
- ♦ Limit of External Commercial borrowings (foreign currency debt) raised to 50% of the project cost.
- ♦ Investments in equity shares and debentures of telecom services companies qualify for tax rebate.
- ♦ Complete Tax holiday for a five year period and 30% tax holiday for further five years during the first 15 years from commencement of business.
- ♦ Concessional rate of custom duty on specified telecom equipment.
- ♦ Import of all capital goods required for manufacturing telecom equipment allowed without any license.

Telecom Facilities

1751. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :
SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the progress made both in rural and urban areas in Maharashtra in expending, upgrading and strengthening of the communication and postal network in terms of expanding the telephone lines capacity and providing new telephone connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) the standard norms for granting new telephone connections and said connections proposed to be provided during the next five years in the State;

(d) the number of Public Telephone Booths added during each of the last three years and the number of such booths functioning at present in the State; and

(e) the details of action plan proposed for 2000-2001 and Ninth Five Year Plan period in terms of expansion, upgradation and strengthening of Postal and Telecommunications, fresh investment and physical targets set to be achieved in the rural and urban areas in the country and particularly in Maharashtra ?

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

(b) The details are enclosed at statement-I.

(c) Order for providing telephone connections are released after the registration for new connections, depending on the position in the waiting list and the category of the registrant i.e. under OYT, Special and General categories. Proposals for the provision of telephone connections for the next five year has not been finalised. However, it is proposed to provide 7.05 lakh telephone connections in Maharashtra State during 2000-2001

(d) The number of Public Telephone Booths added during each of the last three years in Maharashtra including MTNL Mumbai is given below.

1996-97	9208
1997-98	12464
1998-99	20598

The total number of Public Telephone Booths functioning as on 31.1.2000 in the State are 114943.

(e) The details are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

For Telecom Services : Details in respect of addition of net switching capacity and new telephone connections for the last three years in Maharashtra including MTNL Mumbai is as under :

S.No.	Items	1996-97			1997-98			1998-99		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1.	Net Switching capacity	14190	472614	486804	102004	377764	479768	96293	531870	628163
2.	New Telephone Connections	34357	406403	440760	83442	405705	489147	78101	405404	483505

For Postal Services : New Branch Post offices opened, sub Post Offices opened including those with upgradation and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras opened in Maharashtra during the last three years are as under :

Year	Branch Offices opened	Sub Offices opened	PSSKs opened
1996-97	31	12	20
1997-98	34	04	20
1998-99	69	03	30

Statement-II

For Telecom Services : It is proposed to provide 52.4 lakh telephone connections in the country during 2000-2001 and

7.05 lakh telephone connections in Maharashtra during this period. The approved targets for the country for the Ninth Five Year Plan for expansion, upgradation and strengthening of Telecommunications services are addition of 230 lakh lines of net switching capacity and provision of 185 lakh new telephone connections with outlay of Rs. 37995 crores for DOT and Rs. 5446 crores for MTNL against the proposed outlay of Rs. 83250 crores both for DOT and MTNL. However the total plan outlay of DOT and MTNL is likely to be Rs. 73619 crores estimated in the mid-term appraisal for the whole country during the Ninth Five Year Plan period and the number of new telephone connections is also likely to be about 220 lakhs against the original targets of 185 lakhs.

For Postal Services : Details of 9th Five Year Plan Outlay for expansion of postal network (for country)

S.No.	Name of Scheme/ Programme	Approved Outlay (Rs. Crores)	Physical Targets
1.	Opening of Branch Post Office and Sub Post Offices	27.68	2500 Branch Post offices and 250 Sub Post Offices.
2.	Provision of Infrastructural equipment to Branch Post Offices	12.00	2400 Branch Post Offices
3.	Opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sews Kendras*	3.02	2700 PSSKs
Total		42.70	

* Panchayats Sanchar Sews Yojna was not part of the 9th Five Year Plan initially and was included in Annual Planning 1998-99 when targets were approved by the Planning Commission for two years only i.e. 1998-99 and 1999-2000. The Annual Plan for 2000-2001 for rural and urban areas for the country and Maharashtra is yet to be finalised.

[Translation]

Construction of Express Highways

1752. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated or proposed to formulate a plan regarding the construction of Express Highways in view of growing traffic and heavy vehicles;

(b) if so, the names of the States where the express highways are likely to be constructed;

(c) the likely system of operation to traffic thereon; and

(d) the time by which the plan is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

New Postal Policy

1753. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1782 dated March, 8, 1999 regarding New Postal Policy and state;

(b) whether the Government have received the modified draft policy paper of New Postal Policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof including changes made therein; and

(d) if not, the time by which this policy is likely to be finalised and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The modified

draft policy paper on the National Postal Policy is under formulation and will be finalised shortly.

[English]

Closure of ABL

1754. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations regarding the survival of ABL in Shahbad, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the said factory is at the verge of closure;

(d) if so, the reason therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government for the survival of this factory ?

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

(b) A representation was received in July, 1999 from the ACC-Babcock General Workers' Union, District Gulbarga, Karnataka, expressing concern about future of their Boiler Manufacturing facility at Gulbarga due to lack of sufficient orders. Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) had also written to the Minister of State for Power on 30.12.1999 regarding the same matter. The representations, in particular, raised the issue of securing boiler orders for the Talcher Thermal power project in Orissa of the National Thermal Power Corporation.

(c) and (d) The promoters of M/s ABB-ABL Ltd. have informed that there is no workload in both the boiler manufacturing units owned by them including the factory at Gulbarga, Karnataka. The company has also stated that as a result of continuing low workload situation, the Company is likely to turn sick unless corrective steps are taken.

(e) So far as placement of orders is concerned, in an era of global competition, it is neither possible nor desirable for the Central Government to ask a project developer to award any contract to ABB-ABL Ltd., in preference to another. Thus, ABB-ABL, like any other manufacturer/supplier, has to compete with others on a level playing field. As regards award of boiler package for the Talcher power project of NTPC, which has been awarded to BHEL, the Allahabad High Court, in its recent judgement, has upheld award of the contract to BHEL. Meanwhile, the company has been advised to consider exploring the vast opportunities available under renovation and modernisation schemes of thermal plants with funding from the Power Finance Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow the 7th March, 2000.

11.50 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Tuesday, March 7, 2000/ Pongal 17, 1921 (Saka)

**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)**

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Monday, March 6, 2000/Phalguna 16, 1921 (Saka)

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Col./line	For	Read
16/6	5	55
38/9 (From below)	24.69	25.69
58/8 (from below)	(b)	(c)
122/17 and 18	2 3	3 2
145/5	-50.90	(-)50.90
189/19	11.4	11.8
197/3	Shri Dinesh Patel	Shri Dinsha Patel

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