

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, February 25, 1999/Phalgun 6, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues, namely, Sarvashri Mohan Lal Pipil and G. Narayan Reddy.

Shri Mohan Lal Pipil was a Member of Sixth Lok Sabha representing Khurja Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh from 1977 to 1979.

Shri Pipil was a well-known social and political worker. He was associated with various social and cultural organisations in different capacities. He worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden. He also took keen interest in the women's welfare and village development.

As an able parliamentarian, Shri Pipil actively participated in the proceedings of the House and lost no opportunity to highlight the problems faced by the downtrodden.

Shri Pipil contributed several articles in various newspapers.

Shri Mohan Lal Pipil passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi due to ill health on 13 August, 1998 at the age of 68.

Shri G. Narayan Reddy was a Member of Third Lok Sabha representing Adilabad Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh from 1962 to 1967. He was also a Member of Rajya Sabha from 1970 to 1976.

Earlier, Shri Reddy was a Member of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1962.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Reddy worked for the upliftment of the farmers and welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

He was a vigilant parliamentarian and availed of every opportunity to highlight in the Lok Sabha problems faced by farmers and people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Narayan Reddy was tragically murdered on 16 December, 1998 at the age of 72.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The Members may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.04 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.05 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Train Accidents

*41. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents/derailments/fire in trains, including goods trains which occurred during the last three months and till date, train/location/State-wise alongwith reasons therefor;

(b) the number of persons killed/injured in each of such accidents and the value of Government property damaged thereby;

(c) the number of Committees appointed to inquire into the causes of such accidents;

(d) the findings of the inquiry committees and action taken thereon;

(e) the amount of compensation given by the Government to the victims; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check such accidents?

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

Statement

(a) The number of consequential train accidents including Goods trains during the last three months from November 1998 to January 1999 are given below:—

	Passenger	Others	Total
Collision	3	3	6
Derailements	25	35	60
Level Crossing	18	4	22
Fire	—	—	—
Total	46	42	88

Figures are provisional

(2) Railways do not maintain State-wise accident statistics. However, Zonal Railway-wise break up of consequential train accidents for period November 1998 to January 1999 is as follows:—

	Collision	Derailements	Manned	Unmanned	Fire	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6
CR	—	19	—	3	—	22
ER	—	5	1	—	—	6
NR	3	6	2	3	—	14
NE	2	5	—	1	—	8
NF	—	5	1	—	—	6
SR	—	9	—	1	—	10

	1	2	3	4	5	6
SC	—	—	—	3	—	3
SE	1	6	2	5	—	14
WR	—	5	—	—	—	5
Metro	—	—	—	—	—	—
KRC	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	60	6	16	—	88

Figures are provisional

(3) Broad cause of Railway accidents for the period are given below:—

Failure of Railway Staff	43
Equipment Failure	21
Other than Railway Staff	18
Combination of Staff	2
Incidental	2
Could not be established	1
Under. Investigation	1

Figures are provisional.

(b) No. of persons killed/injured in Railway accident for period November 1998 to January 1999:—

Killed	—	255
Injured	—	270

The accident wise details of no. of persons killed/injured is attached at Appendix A. The figures are provisional.

(2) The provisional value of the Government property damaged in the above accidents is 15 crores.

(c) and (d) Each of above accidents is inquired into by a committee of officers or in some cases by Commissioner of Railway Safety, depending upon the extent of damage. As per findings of the inquiry committee, the main causes of these accidents has been classified as human failure, equipment failure, sabotage and other miscellaneous factors.

Action under 'Discipline and Appeal Rules' is initiated against the staff found responsible for these accidents.

(e) Accident compensation claims are decided by Railway Claims Tribunal. No decree from the Railway Claims Tribunal for the accidents that have occurred during the last 3 months has so far been received. However, in each case of train accident involving passenger casualties, ex-gratia payment is made as follows: death—Rs. 15,000/-, grievous injury—Rs. 5,000/- and simple injury—500/-.

(f) Steps taken to bring down the incidence of train accidents on Indian Railways are as under:—

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the signaling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error.

- (iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections.
- (iv) Walkie-Talkie sets are being progressively supplied to Drivers and Guards on selected routes.
- (v) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.
- (vi) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.
- (vii) For detecting rail fractures and weld failures 96 more double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors are being procured.
- (viii) In addition to the above, 2 Self Propelled Ultra Sonic Rail Testing Cars are also being procured.
- (ix) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (x) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, Routine Over Hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.
- (xi) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossing and visibility for drivers has been improved.
- (xii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
- (xiii) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- (xiv) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- (xv) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.
- (xvi) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.
- (xvii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

ANNEXURE

S. No.	Date	Railway	Division	Type	Train	Brief Particulars	K	G	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1.	01/11/1998	North Eastern	Varanasi	Collision	Up Amausi & 5203	Up Amausi load standing at Km. 458/13 due to engine trouble, when 5203 Express dished in rear	2		1
2	20/11/1998	South Eastern	Chakradharpur	Derailment	DN SSSR GOODS	While the train was on run, driver disregard Home Signal and entered catch siding resulting in derailment of train engine and six BOBS			2
	20/11/1998	Northern Railway	Moradabad	Unmanned	Light Engine No. 17963	One Vikram-tempo dashed against light engine at unmanned level crossing	2		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
							K	G	S
4	24/11/1998	Central Railway	Mumbai	Unmanned	2618 EXP.	While on run road roller dashed against train engine at UM/Lxing resulting in derailment of engine and rest 4 coaches	1		
5	26/11/1998	Northern Railway	Ambala	Collision	2903 EXP. & 3152 EXP.	While on run, 2903 derailed and parted encroaching other line, 3152 Exp. collided with derailed coaches of 2903 Exp.	212	95	43
6	29/11/1998	South Eastern	Sambalpur	Manned	8452 EXP.	While the train being piloted due to defective gate interlocking, one bus broke and opened the gate barrier and dashed against the train	6		6
7	29/11/1998	North Eastern	Varanasi	Collision	DN NBQ-1 & DN NBQ -2	NBQ-1 was waiting at Home Signal of Swan-NBQ-2 train collided in rear of NBQ-1	2		
8	02/12/1999	North Eastern	Samastipur	Unmanned	5201 EXPRESS	While on run train dashed against a Jeep at Unmanned Level crossing gate no. 127/C.	1	1	4
9	02/12/1998	South Eastern	Waltair	Unmanned	UP BCX GOODS	While on run train dashed against a Maruti Car at Unmanned level crossing.		1	2
10	03/12/1998	Central Railway	Bhusaval	Deraiment	8029 EXPRESS	While on run train engine & 11 coaches derailed out of which 5 coaches capsized.	9	12	42
11	04/12/1998	Northern Railway	Delhi	Unmanned	9367 EXPRESS	While on run train dashed against a Tractor at Unmanned level crossing no. 89 C	1		
12	08/12/1998	Central Railway	Sholapur	Deraiment	6012 EXPRESS	While in to the main line loco & 6 coaches derailed blocking through communication.		1	1
13	10/12/1998	South Eastern	Khurda Road	Deraiment	8410 EXPRESS	While on run in block section, 12 coaches derailed blocking through communication			4
14	10/12/1998	Northern Railway	Ambala	Manned	6 LJK PASS	While on run train dashed against Tata Sumo at Manned level crossing gate no. 42 C.	2	1	
15	11/12/1998	Central Railway	Mumbai	Unmanned	6635 EXPRESS	While on run train dashed against Empty Gas Tanker at Unmanned level crossing no. 51.	1	1	
16	13/12/1998	Northern Railway	Delhi	Manned	2011 EXPRESS	While on run train dashed against a Tractor at Manned level crossing gate no. 19 C.	1		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
							K	G	S
17	14/12/1998	South Central	Vijaywada	Unmanned	7616 EXPRESS	While on run train dashed against a Car at Unmanned level crossing Gate.	2	1	1
18	15/12/1998	South Eastern	Waltair	Unmanned	238 DN DMU	While on run, train dashed against Truck at Unmanned level crossing gate. on BG line running blocking through communication.	1		
19	15/12/1998	North Frontier	Alipurduar	Manned	5813 EXPRESS	While on run the train dashed a Truck no. WB-031738 resulting in obstruction parallel to MG route.		1	
20	15/12/1998	South Eastern	Waltair	Manned	7479 EXPRESS	While train was on run, It dashed against Bullock cart at Manned Level crossing gate no. 43 resulting blocking Up line.			1
21	20/12/1998	Central Railway	Bhopal	Unmanned	9167 EXPRESS	One Tractor suddenly came on track at Unmanned Ldng No. 74 and hit against the train engine. No blockage to traffic.	2		
22	25/12/1998	South Central	Hubli	Unmanned	TRIPPLE LIGHT ENGINE	While on run one Truck dashed against engines at Unmanned level crossing no. 19. No blockage to traffic.	1	4	
23	25/12/1998	Central Railway	Sholapur	Deraiment	EMPTY PETROL TANK	While on run one OT (E) derailed near Home signal of Loni station blocking Up line only.	1	5	
24	25/12/1998	Eastern Railway	Dhanbad	Manned	7054 JDK SPL	While on run one BCCL Bus forcibly opened the gate and dashed against the train engine blocking through communication.	10	5	
25	02/01/1999	South Eastern	Adra	Deraiment	315 PASS	While on run in block section 5 reannost coaches derailed blocking through crossing		2	3
26	04/01/1999	Northern Railway	Delhi	Unmanned	2 RKB PASS	While on run, one tempo dashed against the train engine at Unmanned Level crossing	2	3	
27	08/01/1999	South Central	Sambalpur	Unmanned	8448 EXP.	While on run in block section, one tractor dashed against the train engine at unmanned crossing gate	1		
28	11/01/1999	South Eastern	Khurda Road	Unmanned	8478 Exp.	While on run in block section, one tractor dashed against the train engine at unmanned crossing.	1		
29	13/01/1999	Southern Railway	Bangalore	Unmanned	TS 1 EMU	While on run in block section, one auto rickshaw dashed against the train engine level crossing.	1		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
								K	G	S
30	15/01/1999	South Central	Vijaywada	Unmanned	351 Pass.	While on run in block section, one tractor with trolley dashed against train engine level crossing.	3	3		
31.	27/01/1999	South Eastern	Bilaspur	Unmanned	8477 Exp.	While on run in block section, 1 truck dashed against the train engine at unmanned crossing.			1	2
32.	30/01/1999	North Eastern	Lucknow	Derailment	1144 Exp.	While on run, 9 coaches derailed on Br. No. 263 blocking through communication			1	9

K= Killed, G = Grievous Injury, S = Simple Injury

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has stated in his statement that 255 persons have been killed and 270 injured in train accidents. He has also stated in his reply that the Rs. 15000 are given to the Kith and Kin of those killed, Rs. 5000 to seriously wounded and Rs. 500 to slightly injured. But I am very surprised to read his reply that the Government are still not aware as to how the poor people are killed in railway accidents and there provision for compensation and not any single victim has been provided full amount of compensation within three months.

When they have identified the number of persons killed, they might have given Rs. 15000/- to their family members after re-identifying them. But it is matter of sorrow that these people have not been provided full amount of compensation. The Minister has stated that the court is looking into these cases regarding railway accidents. He also has not given the statewide details of the persons killed and on what basis they have provided Rs. 15000 or 500 to them. I am unable to know how much money has been given to whom. The details showing 255 persons killed and 270 persons injured does not state how much money has been disbursed among them. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister on what basis he has provided money to them.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an ex-gratia payment is made by Railways to the people killed or injured in train accident as immediate relief. However it is made as follows: Death Rs. 15,000/-, grievous injury Rs. 5,000/- and simple injury Rs. 500. It is not an compensation rather it is an ex-gratia payment. The amount of compensation is provided by Railways Claims Tribunals after settling the claims. The compensation of Rs. four lakh is provided in the event of death. The

compensation to a seriously injured is given after determining the degree of physical disability of a person. In some cases, the compensation of Rs. four lakh is given to a person who has become physically disable but the claims are settled by Railways Claim Tribunal. The payment of compensation is made thereafter only.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : I want to say that the compensation of Rs. fifteen thousand or five thousand is provided to the injured persons after it has been settled by the Railways Claims Tribunal as the Minister has just stated. What criteria is adopted by you in this regard and how much time the Railway Claims Tribunal takes to decide that the victims should be provided relief. When the persons eligible for compensation are already identified, what is the necessity of identifying them again. It is a problem for them because most of these persons have small children. The Government should pay attention to this problem. Secondly, the Minister says that Walke-talke sets are being progressively supplied. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the time by which these sets are likely to be supplied alongwith the number of places where these sets are to be supplied. No detail has been furnished in this regard but it has been stated only that these are immediately supplied. He has stated that there has been progressive increase in use of TIC Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sultanpuri, please ask your Supplementary. Anyhow, today the Hon'ble Minister is going to present the Railway Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : If he presents the Railway Budget, he should be awarded a commendation certificate

because when the two persons were killed, in a rail accident Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had resigned from the Ministry. But so many persons have been killed that it is difficult to keep on account. I recommend that he should be awarded with a commendation certificate on behalf of the House because he is doing a very good work. You have written in your reply that you will supply Walkie-Talkie sets. I ask you by when you will supply these Walkie-Talkie sets so that the accidents may be checked. The chowkidars at the railway crossings should be deployed in such a way so that train accidents may be avoided. If you have such scheme. Please tell the House.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am able to understand only one question that have been asked in this long speech, that is, the time by when the Walkie-Talkies are being supplied for contact between a driver and a guard.

I want to submit that Walkie-Talkie sets would be provided in all the passenger trains throughout the country to establish a link between the driver and the guard by 31st March, 1999 and this facility will also be provided in all the goods trains during the ensuing financial year.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very surprising and amazing that during three months from November, 1998 to January, 1999, more than 80 accidents have taken place and hundreds of people have been killed. The Minister always says that he has got the Railway Standing Committee and also the Experts Committee to advise on safety measures. Now, when he has come to know through the inquiry committees that most of the accidents have taken place because of human failures, equipment failures and sabotage, he gives a normal reply that the Expert Committee is there, he is giving walkie-talkie to staff, there is no problem and everything is under control. But again the accident takes place and again an inquiry is instituted. That is of no use. This is a very serious matter where human lives are involved. 90 crore people are very much concerned about these accidents. Accidents have been taking place for the last 50 years, but why have more than 80 accidents taken place during these three months? The House should know about it. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister must come forward with a concrete and categorical assurance as to whether he is going to appoint another Expert Committee, in addition to the Standing Committee of Railways comprising the Members of this House, to see that what best safety measures of international standards he can provide.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Are you not interested in safety from accidents? I am not pleading for myself. I normally travel by plane. I am pleading for the poor man, the common man. So, please do not take it so lightly.

Sir, Shri Nitish Kumar is supposed to be a dynamic Minister and he will take dynamic measures also. He must introduce safety measures of international standard. In the world, in how many countries have so many railway accidents taken place? Why are more accidents taking place in this country? He should tell the people of India about what specialised systems he is going to introduce and what he is going to do.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble member has been mentioning the accident figures of the last three months. But if we look at the figures of accidents in Indian Railways, then during the year 1960-61 a total number of 2131 accidents took place. Later on this figure has come down to 400 during the last three-four years. Therefore it is wrong to say that accidents are increasing in the Indian Railways. The number of accidents are coming down due to the safety measures being adopted during the last few years. It would be better if we achieve the state of no-accidents. Continuous efforts should be made in this regard. If we take into consideration the figures as to how many accidents have taken place per million train kilometers then these were 5.5 percent during the year 1960-61, which come down to 0.61 per cent during the year 1995-96 and which further came down to 0.58 per cent during the year 1997-98. So the number of accidents have been continuously decreasing. As per the internationally recognised standards our performance have been continuously improving so far as safety measures are concerned in comparison to the previous years. Therefore it is wrong to say that the accidents are increasing. Still efforts should be made to eliminate possibility of accidents. The Indian Railways have set up Accidents Enquiry Committee so many times. So as to devise safety measures to avoid the accidents. Last year three such committees were set up. Last year a new Expert Committee was set up under the chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna to review the safety measures. All the experts are there in the committee and they are enquiring into it. This Committee was set up last year itself. They will submit their report as to what safety measures the Indian Railway should adopt in the changing scenario and the extent to which the recommendations of the experts of the committees set up earlier have been implemented. They are contemplating in that regard. Let us wait until their report is submitted.

Several measures are taken after learning lessons from every accidents. This is an ongoing process.

[*English*]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : When that Expert Committee gives its final report, the Minister may again take the House into confidence and inform us about the measures he would be taking regarding safety of passengers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The report of the committee would be laid on the table of the House when it is submitted.

[*English*]

SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL (Erandol) : Sir, as per the report given by the Minister, the maximum accidents have taken place because of jointing between the two rails.

Now-a-days, the jointing of the two rails is done by welding, and it is checked by ultrasonic testing. The accident which took place on the 3rd of December in Bhusaval was totally due to the failure of the jointing system. When the matter was discussed with the engineers, I was told that this type of jointing method is a faulty one. I would like to know whether the hon'ble Minister is aware of the particular aspect of jointing. In the olden days, jointing was done by bolting which was much supported than jointing by welding. If it is so, I would like to know whether he would like to switch-over to this method of jointing of the two rails.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in past two rail lines were jointed by fish plates and the trains moving on them did not travel on high speed. Keeping in view the speed factor, the welded rails were used so as to gain high speed. As far as welding technology is concerned, it is also improving and we are making efforts to achieve good welding results by using improved welding technology. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is there any possibility of an accident between Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri George Fernandes in Bihar? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister clearly avoiding the basic issues, explained the

procedural details as to how much money is given by the tribunal in cases of accidental death and simple injury. However, the basic question raised, remains unanswered. The basic question was as to how many accidents occurred, the extent of property damaged and the steps taken by the Government thereafter. These details are of the last three months. Since the time you took over as the Railway Minister, not a single day has passed when we have not heard of rail accidents, a large number of accidents are taking place in the country especially in Bihar. This is the basic question. The original question is

[*English*]

- "(a) the number of train accidents/derailments/fire in trains, including goods trains which occurred during the last three months and till date, train location/State-wise along with reasons therefor
- (b) the number of persons killed/injured in each of such accidents and the value of Government property damaged thereby;"

[*Translation*]

You must answer it. These days, people in general and middle classes in particular are very scared in travelling in trains as there is no safety and security of life and property in train coupled with increasing number of train accidents. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened to the question, won't you listen to my answer? The Hon'ble Member has just read out the question but has not read the answer tabled in the House. The answer to all the questions. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : No, Sir, are you facing any difficulty in providing oral answer? You are a Minister, the officers have written answers, is it my job to read them?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This is the procedure here. The answer to each question is there in the lobby. You can get it in the notice office as well. The answer to the original question raised by Hon'ble Member has already been furnished. He should be advised to go through the answers also.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I have not read it, can't you tell me?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : As far as the question of accidents is concerned, it has already been replied as to when and how many accidents have occurred. As far as

Bihar is concerned you also share it. For the last two-three years in Bihar, you have been making the railways your target. Even that also contribute to it.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : When did the accident occur because of that?

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : In the answer laid on the Table it is stated that failure of the railway staff is causing the maximum number of accidents and that 42 is the number of accidents that occurred because of this. In most of the Zones and Divisions the staff is not sufficient in number. Those Zones and Divisions are under-staffed and as such the staff there is overburdened. When the staff is overburdened with the work, their efficiency is bound to be badly affected. Have the Committee enquiring into this issue gone into this aspect of the problem before saying that the failure of the railways staff is causing the maximum number of accidents?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : When causes of the accident are analysed, it is found that maximum number of accidents take place due to human failure, which is true. As far as shortage of staff is concerned, the Railway Safety Review Committee will look into this aspect also. As far as I know, shortage of staff has never been reported to be a cause of accident.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : The Hon'ble Minister has laid the answer on the table concerning the train accidents. At many places in the north eastern railways we have noticed that accidents have taken place a number of times at a particular place between Gola Gokaran Nath and Mailani. I have written a number of letters to you with regard to the maintenance. Accidents in the north eastern railways can be attributed to lack of maintenance. We do not even get the reply to whatever correspondence we make with the Hon'ble Minister.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You will get a letter in response to your letter, before that an enquiry will be held about the specific place which you have mentioned. If it is found correct responsibility will be fixed.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : We receive only acknowledgement and not the reply.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is generally seen that whenever any major train accident occurred the people of the country gets its news is widely

through the T.V., radio and newspapers and the Hon'ble Minister's reacts only afterwards. While accidents that occur every other day on the unmanned crossings if the country, barely capture anybody's attention. The Government has given a statement it was perhaps given by the hon'ble Minister or by the Minister of State and it was stated that unmanned crossings will be manned very soon. I would like to know the time by when you propose to man the unmanned crossings in the country in general and Darbhanga in particular in the Madhubani district of Bihar which falls under your commissioner.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There are more than 40,000 level crossings in the country amongst which 24,000 crossings are unmanned. A capital investment of Rs. eight to ten lakh is required to man one crossing, so you can very well estimate how much money would be required to man 24,000 unmanned crossings. Therefore, please wait for sometime, we also have some proposal.

[English]

Uniform Editorial Policy for Doordarshan

+
*42. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out a UNIFORM EDITORIAL POLICY for both in-house and Private News Bulletins on Doordarshan;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to curb the freedom of Doordarshan listeners to know facts and get news which are not be the liking of the Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the producers of "Aaj Tak" are not conforming to the policy of the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):
(a) The editorial policy and content of news bulletins on Doordarshan is not determined by the Government and comes within the purview of Prasar Bharati.

(b) to (f) Question does not arise.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, my question was mainly relating to one declaration which I saw in some newspapers from the side of the hon'ble Minister that a new Editorial Policy is going to be made. Also, regarding the right of the citizens to get free and fair news, I think, the answer which has been given does not contain anything about that, except a blanket statement that 'since everything is with Prasar Bharati, this thing does not arise.'

In spite of Prasar Bharati and in spite of the fact that autonomy has been given to it, is it the venture of the Government to see that somehow a new policy is going to be brought about, so that the editorial or the news item of Doordarshan as well as the private bulletin which comes in that, are controlled by the new policy. I would think that though the Fourth Estate, as we call it, is one of the strongest arms of democracy, it is not there in the Constitution. But that has become the most important arm of democracy.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.C. Thomas, please come to the question.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : My question is whether the news item which appeared in some of the newspapers, especially in *The Pioneer* dated 24.1.1994 where it has been reported that 'the hon. Minister has said that a new Editorial Policy is going to be brought in for Doordarshan news to have a uniform policy', is true. If that is true or if that is not true, what is actually there in the mind of the Government with regard to the free and fair means of propagation of the news through media?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the Government also think that the people of this country have a right to get free and fair news. As far as the newspaper referred to by the hon'ble Member is concerned, it does not come under the purview of this Question, and now I cannot refer to that newspaper. I am very sorry for this. I can personally talk or write to him regarding that newspaper.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : It has been widely reported.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : As far as the formulation of news policy for Doordarshan is concerned, it is for Prasar Bharati to decide. Prasar Bharati is an autonomous corporation. They are free to derive whatever kind of news policy they want, and the Government would not like to interfere there.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Though it is a fact that Prasar Bharati is an independent body, it is also a fact that the

news items which favour the Ruling party are getting more credence. ...*(Interruptions)* You do not want to be the Ruling party! ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We do not have time. Shri P.C. Thomas, you ask your Supplementary, please.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : It is also a fact that when political developments are there, the parties are given publicity. Doordarshan do not give much credence to many of the parties from the Opposition side. This is not my complaint alone. It is a general complaint which has been stated in this House itself by many other Members also, and even by you also when you were here.

Now, I would like to say that somehow there is a feeling that even though Prasar Bharati has been formed, I do not know what is the position with regard to the present. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.C. Thomas, are you going to ask the Supplementary or not, please tell me. What is this?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Even though Prasar Bharati has been formed, there are complaints with regard to the news items and the emanation of current affairs. There has been a lot of criticism that there has always been interference either from the Government side or from the treasury benches. What action would be taken by the Government to see that this does not take place in future? I would like to know whether the hon'ble Minister plans to give a full statement with regard to the way in which Prasar Bharati is functioning with respect to the emanation of news in this country.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : People always differ about the content of a news bulletin. People always think it is objective or subjective. As far as the law of the land is concerned, under Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 Prasar Bharati is autonomous and Government has no intention to interfere into their news bulletins. If they are subjective on some matter, naturally this debate will be heard by the Prasar Bharati officials and they can take a proper viewpoint. I have no right under the law of the land to interfere even if the Prasar Bharati goes wrong.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has told very simply that they have no control. Perhaps I have not witnessed such simplicity during the last twenty years in this House that there is no control because it is autonomous etc. If the hon'ble

Prime Minister had been here I might have asked him that perhaps the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is not required, will he abolish it? Since he is not here I want to ask another question to the hon'ble Minister and expect that he would reply to this question.

One programme called "Aaj Tak" is being telecast which has also been mentioned in this question. This is very popular programme. There should not be any attempt to discontinue this programme or to interfere in this regard or try to change its prime time slot. Is it not a fact, that perhaps the hon'ble minister does not like this programme? Is it not a fact that hon'ble minister wants this programme to be discontinued and he has also been trying for the same? Is this not true that if not at the behest of the Government then on behalf of the Prasar Bharti there had been attempts to discontinue this programme or to kill this programme? Is this not true that there are some guidelines of Prasar Bharti and perhaps the "Aaj Tak" has violated those guidelines? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This question relates to uniform editorial policy for Doordarshan.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : You read it. The words "Aaj Tak" are there, I am a very disciplined and careful Member.

[Translation]

Isn't it true that without serving any notice to the "Aaj Tak" people there has been some attempts to change the timings of this programme, to stop it, to bring charges in this programme and suppress it? Will the hon'ble minister assure this House that the Prasar Bharti would not do any kind of injustice to this programme and no attempts would be made to discontinue the programme?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the allegation is untrue and irrelevant that the Government are interfering in telecasting of the programme "Aaj Tak" on Doordarshan. I am denying it completely ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : You had made this statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Please do not interrupt. If you get the permission and ask question, I am ready

to answer it. ...*(Interruptions)* I can not answer if they interrupt like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vora, Please do not disturb. Let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, so far as the time limit of the programme 'Aaj Tak' is concerned, no change has been made so far in the programme since our Government came to power. The programme is being telecast on the same time as it used to be. As far as I know contract of 'Aaj Tak' is upto 31 March, 1999. Now it is upto Doordarshan whether it wants to continue the programme or discontinue it. The Government do not want to interfere in this matter any way. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, the Leader of the Opposition wants to ask something.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called Kumari Mamata Manerjee.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is a fact the 'Aaj Tak' is a very popular programme.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Even the Prime Minister sees it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Everybody sees it, especially the politicians. So, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether it is a fact that the Government is going to close the chapter. Is it a fact that the Government is not going to give an extension for the 'Aaj Tak' programme? If it is so, may I request the Government that the 'Aaj Tak' programme should be continued? The hon'ble Minister must assure the House that it will be continued. ...*(Interruptions)* Please do not disturb. I am referring to 'Aaj Tak' and 'Khas Khabar'. There is a regional channel also. They are doing really an excellent work. The Government does not interfere. I am happy that the Government does not interfere in this business, especially with regard to 'Aaj Tak' and 'Khas Khabar'. In my State, there is a regional channel also. What is the reaction of the Government for the extension of this programme? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Officially, it is very difficult for me to comment. ...*(Interruptions)* As a Member of the Government, it is very difficult for me to assess

whether 'Aaj Tak' is a popular programme or not. I cannot assess it because I do not have the statistics with me. But when Kumari Mamata Banerjee says that it is popular, I take her words. So, it is a popular programme; I do not dispute that.

As I said earlier, under the law of the land, I have no authority either to continue or discontinue 'Aaj Tak'. So, when I have no authority, how can I give an assurance? ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : He can convey the Parliament's views that 'Aaj Tak' should be continued. ...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The Minister must give a categorical assurance. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, I agree with Kumari Mamata Banerjee that 'Aaj Tak' is a very popular programme. But since Mr. Minister is not having the assessment of programme with him, I do not have to say anything in this regard. As far as the matter of interference is concerned, I feel that some changes are being made therein. A change is visible in the way the news is being presented in the 'Aaj Tak' today in comparison to what was being presented earlier. The popular faces and smiling faces used to be shown in the programme. The 'Aaj Tak' used to show smiling face of Shri Madan Lal Khurana. But it is not showing now-a-days. I know that no specific information has been provided in this regard and if so, would you state the reasons therefore?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 'Aaj Tak' is a programme prepared by a private producer which was started on Doordarshan on 17 July, 1995. Its preview used to be conducted till 30 November, 1997. After 1st of December, the cassette is being telecast in the same way as received from 'Aaj Tak'. Our Government has not made any change in the decision taken on 1st of December. But even today the cassette that is sent by 'Aaj Tak' is shown on Doordarshan.

[*English*]

Forget about preview, the Government does not even look at it. It is straight put into jacket and shown to the people. So, there is no such question.

[*Translation*]

So far as the question of showing less number of smiling faces is concerned, the 'Aaj Tak' is a private programme and we can not give any suggestion to them. But through the House I would suggest them to take daily interview of Shri Sharad ji so that smiling faces may be seen on T.V. again.

[*English*]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, through you, I would like to say that it is not proper for the hon'ble Minister to give such an answer. This House is elected by 100 crores of people of this country. We are expressing the views of the people. Laws of the land are made by this Parliament. Therefore, the views of the hon'ble Members must be passed on to the Prasar Bharati. Otherwise, in the name of autonomy, they will do whatever they like. Already we had approved a law in this House. The former Minister Shrimati Sushma Swaraj introduced that Bill with some amendments and we approved it; and it is pending in the Rajya Sabha.

So, my request now to the hon'ble Minister is that he must pass on the views expressed by the hon'ble Members to the Prasar Bharati. Then, they would think that is the voice of the people of India. So, that is my request.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the leader of the TDP is a very valued partner of this alliance Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (Ramanathapuram) : Sir, the hon'ble Minister must say whether the autonomous body is accountable to the Parliament or not. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, though I do not hold the Communication Minister's portfolio, as a postman between Parliament and the Prasar Bharati, I will honestly communicate to the Prasar Bharati whatever is discussed here today. But if the law of the land does not permit me to give an assurance and if I do not have the authority, how can I give an assurance to the House? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : Then, what is the need of having a Minister for Prasar Bharati here? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Shri Rupchand Pal.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the hon'ble Minister has made repeated reference to the Prasar Bharati. But for some time now, indications are available that the hon'ble Minister is working overtime to dismantle Prasar Bharati and instructions have been sent from his Office to the Editorial Desk as to what should be broadcast and what should not be broadcast. May I know from the hon'ble Minister whether it is a fact that instructions have been sent from the Minister's Office to black out or ignore as much as possible a national event, when the National Seminar of the Secular Parties was held on the 20th of this month?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, would you like to reply?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I would like to answer every question, Sir.

No instructions have been sent by the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Then, why has it been blacked out? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You may have to ask the Prasar Bharati. Do not ask me; I am not answerable about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are getting a new definition of autonomy. I would like to know, through you, if an organization is autonomous, is anybody answerable to this House or not regarding that autonomous body? If the Minister says that he has no authority to answer anything, the Minister has no business to continue in this Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been learning Parliamentary democracy for quite some time, almost the whole of our life. But I never

heard such an answer from any Minister. Even if an organization is autonomous, it is connected to one Ministry or the other.

SHRI VAIKO : What is wrong in his statement?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not like to go into the details as to how this autonomous body, Prasar Bharati, is run and how the officials were changed in spite of the Acts and opinions of the Parliament. If that comes under the authority of the Minister and the Government, then why can he not answer the questions raised by this House?

He says he is not the Minister of Communications. It is not the job of the Minister of Communications to convey the feelings of this House to Prasar Bharati. But it is the job of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to do that. This Minister hardly deserves to be the Minister in this Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is replying. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister should be told how to behave in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, please take your seats. The hon'ble Minister is on his legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : Shri Chandra Shekhar has no authority to say whether the Minister deserves to be the Minister or not. ...*(Interruptions)* Let him withdraw his words. ...*(Interruptions)* It is none of his business. ...*(Interruptions)* It is the prerogative of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to decide whether a Minister deserves to be the Minister or not. ...*(Interruptions)* How can he say that? ...*(Interruptions)*

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

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : His words should be removed from the records. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ananth Kumar, please sit down.

[*Translation*]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : It is the prerogative of the Prime Minister ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I appeal to you to please take your seat.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : How can he say it? He should withdraw it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you to please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should be expunged from the records. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVANA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Speaker, Shri Chandra Shekhar is an Ex-Prime Minister. It is not becoming of him to ...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum) : Just because he is a senior Member, can he say whatever he likes? ...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : He is not here at your mercy.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pathak, please take your seat.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, he has no right. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you to please take your seats.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is strange that Shri Chandra Shekhar can say like that ...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Chandra Shekhar has spoken and this is a question hour. ...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, you first ask him to withdraw it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have now called the Minister.

[*Translation*]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Such a senior member has said

[*English*]

then he should explain what he means by it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Those people are asking a question and we want to reply. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Shri Chandra Shekhar wants to speak, he was not allowed to speak, how can he speak?... (Interruptions)

11.53 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Lal Prasad and some other hon'ble members stood on the floor near the Table of the House

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Lal Ji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you coming to the podium?
Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am again telling you to go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

11.56 hrs.

At this stage Shri Lalu Prasad and some other hon'ble members went back to their seats

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, you are the custodian of the House. ...(Interruptions) You have to bear in mind how the Members of the Ruling Party or the Opposition Party should behave. You must point it out. The House is taken for granted. Sir, the Minister is a colleague of ours. But I am sorry to say that he has very eloquently replied to the question that he is not responsible to Parliament. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I have not said this
...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, you, should protect the rights of the hon'ble Members of this House
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you to please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that unnecessarily this whole trouble has started. What I told in my speech is that you should ask the Ministers how to behave in this House. I do not know how it is unparliamentary or how it is offensive. Hundreds of times this thing has been said in this House during the last 50 years. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : I also know what has happened in this House. ...(Interruptions) It is my right ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only said that the Minister of Information and Broadcasting should not have said that he is not the Minister of Communication. But he will convey the feelings of the House to the Prasar Bharati. I told that when an autonomous body is represented by some Minister in this House, according to my information and understanding, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting is the appropriate authority to convey the feelings of this House to the Prasar Bharati. I said, "please tell the Ministers how to behave in this House". This is what I said
...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : You also said that he does not deserve to be a Minister.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am in this House or the other House for more than 35 years. I have never said a word on which I had to retrace it. But Sir, if anything is offensive in your opinion, you strike it out. I do not think that I have said anything offensive.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : That was offensive. You said that he has no right to become a Minister. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not this hon'ble Member who is decide. I still feel that it is for the Hon'ble Speaker to decide. ...(Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Minister may reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Vaiko, please take your seat. Mr. Minister may reply now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : This is not the Assembly of Bihar.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Thomas, please take your seat. Laluji, what is this? Now the Minister may reply. Only one minute is left now and then the time will be over.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It is agreed. But an allegation has been made and you are not allowing me to answer. This is not fair. Shri Chandra Shekhar has said something and I have to answer him.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Chandra Shekhar is a senior most Member. He has a right to express his view. I want to make two-three point for him and particularly for this House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER Question Hour is over.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, as regards Prasar Bharti, the entire issue has been supported from all sides of the House. We would like to know the exact view of the Minister because the entire House is eager to know the exact *locus standi vis-a-vis* Prasar Bharti. So, the Minister may be allowed to reply and you may give him an opportunity to do so.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. If the House agrees, he may give a reply.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, he may reply.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, we want a half-an-hour discussion on this subject. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give reply to two-three issues raised in the House, ignoring today's controversy. I am not a senior Member like Shri Chandra Shekhar. He has wide experience and knowledge. I am saying this from the core of my heart.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you may please address the Chair and not the Members. It is better to do so to avoid confrontation.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : They never abide by the directions of the Chair. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Laluji, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It is elementary politics which I understand that every Minister of this country is responsible to Parliament. There is no question of a Minister being irresponsible to Parliament and a person who does not think that he is responsible to Parliament, as rightly said by Shri Chandra Shekhar, does not deserve to be a Minister. This is my first point. But the responsibility of a Minister is derived from the laws which this honourable Parliament has passed.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, he is evading the answer.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Thomas, what is this? Please take your seat.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, he is lecturing to us. What is this?

MR. SPEAKER : He is not lecturing but replying.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is replying. Please take your seat.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : When a particular hon'ble Member made an allegation that a particular news item was blacked out, the only thing I said is this. Shri Chandra Shekhar is sitting next to me; he should have heard it properly. The only thing I said is that my Ministry has never issued instructions. What Prasar Bharti shows is its autonomy. How can I, at this point of time, reply whether their blacking out was right or wrong? I do not understand what Shri Chandra Shekhar has said.

So I cannot reply offhand because under the law which we all passed, all day to day functioning of the Prasar Bharati is independent and autonomous
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Then, why is he saying that the DD will not have two editorial policies. He is saying so many things. But he has refused to issue instructions to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I cannot reply to late comers.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We are not later comers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, we have already discussed this subject.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : The issue is whether "Aaj Tak" is going to continue or not, whether he is going to convey it to the Doordarshan or not.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I beg of the House to tell me a law under which I can issue an instruction to continue or discontinue a particular programme. I will follow the wish of the House. The House is supreme. But if I do not have authority, I cannot do anything in that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. Dr. Subramanian Swamy, what is this?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, you can direct him.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, lastly, as usual, Shri Chandra Shekhar has made some harsh comments. He has a right to do so. Shri Chandra Shekhar, you have a right to say whether I deserve to be a Minister or not as I have a right to think whether he deserved to be a Prime Minister or not ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a question of accountability.

MR. SPEAKER : Pilotji, already the Question Hour was over.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I have got one more thing. There is no institution which is not accountable to Parliament. In his speech he has said: "I am not accountable to Parliament." It must go on record that everybody is accountable to Parliament. Otherwise, Parliament has no business.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Recruitment in Armed Forces

*43. SHRI ANANT KUMER HEGDE :
COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recruitment made in the three wings of the Defence Forces during each of the last three years, State-wise, with particular reference to North Eastern States, Maharashtra and Rajasthan;

(b) whether the total number of such recruitments in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and North Eastern States is much less in proportion to their population;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of recruitment centres in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and North Eastern States with their locations and the number of centres in which recruitment was done during the last three years;

(e) whether any preference was given to the sons and dependants of ex-servicemen; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) State-wise recruitment is made only in the case of the Army while the recruitment to the Navy and the Air Force is on the basis of All-India merit. The following are the details in respect of the recruitment

made to the Navy and the Air Force during the last 3 years:—

Navy		Air Force	
Year	Number Recruited	Year	Number Recruited
1996	2915	1995-96	4209
1997	2918	1996-97	3136
1998	1142	1997-98	3640

2. The State-wise figures regarding recruitments during the last 3 years to the Army are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

3. The aggregate percentage of recruitment during the last 3 years in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and the North-Eastern States is shown below:—

State	Recruitment from 1995-96 to 1997-98	% as against allocated Vacancies
Maharashtra	15380	98.4
Rajasthan	13488	101
North-Eastern States	7224	95

4. The details of the recruitment centres in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and North-Eastern States are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

5. Certain concessions/relaxations and weightages are given to the sons of ex-servicemen in the three Services. They include concessions in physical standards, bonus marks and facility for instant enrolment of one son of an ex-servicemen who dies in war or war-like situation during peace in the Indian Army. Additional weightage is given to the sons of ex-servicemen (restricted to two sons) over and above the marks obtained by them in the written examination in the Indian Navy. Similar additional weightage is also given to the sons of ex-servicemen in the Indian Air force.

Statement-I

Name of the States/UTs	Recruitment carried out		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
Assam	2157	1187	762
Andhra Pradesh	3276	2862	1809

1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh	42	66	101
Bihar	5807	4069	2721
Goa	12	17	08
Gujarat	1841	890	700
Haryana	5381	2945	2468
Himachal Pradesh	3356	2481	1811
Jammu and Kashmir	6097	2144	1967
Kerala	2322	1816	1135
Karnataka	2712	2135	1278
Maharashtra	8198	4262	2920
Madhya Pradesh	2137	1754	1519
Manipur	578	286	368
Meghalaya	215	164	125
Mizoram	131	95	117
Nagaland	129	183	370

1	2	3	4
Orissa	2110	1294	889
Punjab	6456	4394	3740
Rajasthan	6052	4601	2835
Sikkim	13	21	16
Tamil Nadu	4315	2845	1936
Tripura	129	137	82
Uttar Pradesh	15402	11926	8155
West Bengal	5838	3292	1900
Andaman Nicobar	81	92	64
Chandigarh	07	26	04
Delhi	327	157	191
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	49
Pondicherry	11	03	—
Nepal	2126	1201	919
Daman & Diu	—	—	—
Lahul Spiti	—	49	—
Grand Total	87258	57394	40959

Statement-II
Recruitment Centres

States	Indian Army	Indian Navy	Indian Air Force
Maharashtra	Headquarter Recruiting Zone, Pune Branch Recruiting Office, Mumbai Branch Recruiting Office, Nagpur Branch Recruiting Office, Kolhapur Branch Recruiting Office, Aurangabad	INS Shivaji, Lonavala INS Angre, Mumbai INS Hamla, Mumbai	6 Airmen Selection Centre, Mumbai
Rajasthan	Headquarters Recruiting Zone, Jaipur Branch Recruiting Office, Jodhpur Branch Recruiting Office, Alwar Branch Recruiting Office, Kota Branch Recruiting Office, Jhunjhunu	No. 5 Airmen Selection Centre, Jodhpur	5 Airmen Selection Centre, Jodhpur
North-Eastern States	Headquarters Recruiting Zone, Shillong Branch Recruiting Office, Jorhat Branch Recruiting Office, Narangi Branch Recruiting Office, Rangapahar Branch Recruiting Office, Silchar	No. 11 Airmen Selection Centre, Guwahati	11 Airmen Selection Centre, Guwahati

Note: In addition, recruitment to the Army is also done by various Regimental Training Centres situated in these states under the Unit Hqrs. Quota

[Translation]

Quality of Doordarshan Programmes

*44. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

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

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding the poor quality of Doordarshan programmes during 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government contemplate to ban vulgar films and programmes on all the channels of Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the time by which this ban is expected to be imposed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.. Generally two types of complaints are received on the quality of programmes on Doordarshan; one relating to the quality of the signal itself through cable and the other relating to the quality of the content of the programmes.

(b) Suitable action regarding the quality of the content of the programmes is to be taken by Doordarshan, and the Government do not determine matters relating to the programmes telecast on Doordarshan. Various technical, administrative and commercial measures to improve the quality of the signals through cable are also to be taken by Doordarshan. Government is contemplating suitable modifications in the Cable Law to ensure better quality of signals of Doordarshan transmission through cable.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan follows a programme and Advertisement Code and does not telecast films certified "A" (Adult) by the Central Board of Film Certification on any of its channels. Doordarshan also has a system of preview of films by a committee of experts. In view of the above, the question of any ban by the Government does not arise.

Corporate Status to International Airports

*45. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for giving corporate status to some of the international airports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria adopted for the selection of these airports for this purpose;

(c) the likely impact of such a decision on the employees of the Airports Authority of India;

(d) whether Hyderabad airport is also being considered for corporate status; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to corporatise existing airports at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Calcutta and the proposed new airport at Bangalore. These airports have been selected, in view of the fact that these airports handle a major chunk of the traffic to/from India and massive investments are required to restructure the airports to make them world class. This corporatisation will bring about effective changes in the management and contribute to the overall increase in the productivity and will be able to attract investments to improve the standards of service/facilities.

(c) The AAI is in the process of appointing Financial and Legal Consultants who will advise on the various aspects of corporatisation, including human resource aspect.

(d) and (e) Since the Government of Andhra Pradesh has plans to develop a new international airport near Hyderabad which would be a corporate entity, corporatisation of the existing airport at Hyderabad is not being considered.

[English]

Installation of Instrument Landing System

*46. SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the airports on which category I, II and III Instrument Landing System has been installed;

(b) the advantages that have so far been derived from the installation of these sophisticated category II Instrument Landing System;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the financial loss suffered by the Air India, Indian Airlines and foreign airlines due to cancellation and postponement of their domestic as well as international flights due to 'heavy fog' in Delhi and Srinagar during December, 1998 and January, 1999;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to facilitate the landing of aircraft even in the heavy fog by imparting training to its pilots?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Category I Instrument Landing System (ILS) has been provided at Agrata, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Bhubaneshwar, Bangalore, Bhopal, Khajuraho, Calcutta, Chennai, Coimbatore, Calicut, Dibrugarh, Delhi (Runway 28 and 10), Guwahati, Hyderabad, Imphal, Indore, Jaipur, Jammu, Lucknow, Mangalore, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Ranchi, Rajkot, Trichy, Trivandrum, Varanasi and Vadodara airports.

Category II System has been provided at Delhi airport (Runway 28 end). No airport has Category III ILS at present.

(b) Diversions of aircraft when Runway Visual Range (RVR) is less than 600 mts. and more than 350 mts. are avoided with the installation of Category II ILS System.

(c) and (d) The Financial loss on account of disruption of flights because of fog is being ascertained.

(e) Detailed guidelines have been circulated by the DGCA to all the concerned airlines prescribing the requirements for granting authorisation to pilots for conducting Category II and Category III A operations.

Pak attempt to capture Indian Post in Siachin

*47. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army recently repelled Pakistani attempt to capture Sadi Post in Rewari Complex of Siachin Glacier in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the number of militants arrested in Siachin during the last six months;

(c) the number of attempts made by Pakistani Army to capture the Siachin Post during December 1998 and January 1999;

(d) whether the Indian Government have lodged a strong protest to the Pakistan over the attempts of capturing the Indian Post in Siachin; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Pakistani Government thereto?

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

(b) Nil. Siachen glacier region is an uninhabited area which remains snow bound round the year. There is no militancy in this region. However, exchange of fire with Pakistani troops is a regular phenomenon there.

(c) Three attempts were made by Pakistani troops during December 1998 and January 1999 to capture our posts on Saltoro range in Siachen area.

(d) and (e) Such attempts of Pakistani troops are taken up through DGMO level talks and at times through diplomatic channels. Issue of Pakistani unprovoked firing in the region and their attempts to capture posts was also raised during discussions on Siachen issue under India-Pakistan composite dialogue in November 1998. Pakistan has, however, been denying the fact of such attempts by their troops.

National Wage Structure for Workers in Sugar Industry

*48. SHRI MADAN PATIL :
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Sub-Committee to decide the national wage structure for workers in the sugar industry has been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report;

(d) whether some important Central Trade Unions were not given representation in the said Committee; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) In the meeting of the Industrial Tripartite Committee on Sugar industry held on 18.1.1999, a view was expressed by some Committee members to set up a Sub-Committee to recommend the national wage structure, for workers in the Sugar industry. The Government has not taken a final decision on setting up such a Sub-Committee.

(c) The details of the constitution and the time frame for submission of report, etc. will be worked out only if the Government takes a final decision to set up the Sub-Committee.

(d) and (e) Since the Sub-Committee has not been constituted so far, the question of receiving complaints about representation of Central Trade Unions in the Sub-Committee does not arise.

[Translation]

Income through Advertisements

*49. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

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

(a) whether All India Radio and Doordarshan generate income through broadcast and telecast of advertisements

(b) if so, the income generated during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 by the two organisations separately State-wise;

(c) whether the income to be generated by them during the current year is likely to be lower than the previous years;

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

(e) the measures contemplated by the Government to boost the revenue of Doordarshan and AIR; and

(f) the expenditure incurred on the maintenance and renovation of the Centres during the said period, separately?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of income earned by All India Radio and Doordarshan state-wise for the years, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The revenue earned by Doordarshan is likely to fall during the current financial year in comparison to that of last year due to fragmentation of viewership

and increased competition from satellite channels. However, All India Radio is likely to exceed the amount of revenue earned during the last financial year.

(e) Constant efforts are being made by All India Radio and Doordarshan to boost their commercial revenue earnings. In order to achieve this objective, Doordarshan have taken steps to telecast quality programmes, opening up of more commercial Kendras, to rationalise the commercial advertisement charges, to give incentives to advertisers to make Doordarshan more attractive etc. In-so-far as All India Radio is concerned, sponsored programmes are being introduced in different FM Metro channels to give boost to their revenue earnings.

(f) The expenditure incurred in these activities for the above periods is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
All India Radio	1118.42	1505.32	1631.24
Doordarshan	649.71	539.89	748.00

Statement

Gross Revenue figures for the year 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 (Statewise)

(Rupees in Crores)

State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
All India Radio			
Maharashtra	9.11	9.56	10.70
Goa	0.21	0.24	0.25
West Bengal	4.51	4.59	5.21
Delhi	5.14	6.00	6.38

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	10.58	10.26	10.39
Gujarat	2.53	2.58	3.83
Karnataka	4.87	5.34	5.42
Andhra Pradesh	7.79	6.87	7.32
Rajasthan	2.63	2.79	3.16
Uttar Pradesh	7.07	6.47	8.25
Bihar	2.70	2.89	3.92
Madhya Pradesh	4.12	4.16	5.77
Chandigarh	1.82	1.83	2.04
Orissa	1.46	1.38	1.73
Kerala	5.25	5.47	5.34
Jammu & Kashmir	0.30	0.30	0.72
Network booking on V.B.	1.33	1.54	2.28
National Network and special sponsored prog.	10.02	7.32	10.73
Total	80.97	79.69	93.44

Assam and North-Eastern States are under jurisdiction of CBS Calcutta.
Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh are under jurisdiction of CBS, Chandigarh.

Statement of Income

(Rs. in crore)

State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
Doordarshan			
DD-I/National Network	187.97	283.55	263.88
DD-II/Metro	79.54	102.74	93.79
DD-International	0.00	0.00	0.54
Delhi	24.18	18.04	4.93
Gujarat	4.01	3.14	1.90
Karnataka	18.96	26.28	21.97
M.P.	0.89	0.89	0.97
Orissa	0.85	2.37	2.05
W.B.	14.09	17.75	15.58
Assam	0.48	0.90	0.76
A.P.	18.30	24.13	18.10
Rajasthan	0.52	0.93	0.92

1	2	3	4
Punjab	2.66	2.46	2.50
U.P.	4.14	3.53	2.80
Maharashtra	18.43	26.17	14.49
Bihar	0.15	0.30	0.64
Tamilnadu	40.45	42.83	27.64
Kerala	14.41	16.71	16.60
J & K	0.00	0.00	0.09
Total	430.13	572.72	490.15

N.B. Remaining states donot have Commercial Centres.

[English]

Procurement of Coaches

*50. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) had achieved a major break-through in Coach technology and a prototype coach with speed potential of 160 mph;

(b) if so, whether the Railways had decided in July, 1995 to procure 21 AC Chair cars with-out anti-skid device and three generator-cum-brake vans without power generation equipment at a cost of Rs. 169 crores with transfer of technology;

(c) if so, whether the failure in arranging finance for import of these coaches and delay in finalisation of tender,

resulted in an extra expenditure of Rs. 98.13 crores to Railways; and

(d) if so, the reasons in regard to parts (b) and (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) have developed IRY design of coach which has been cleared to operate at a maximum speed of 125 kmph on Rajasthan standard track and 105 kmph on the main line track.

(b) No, Sir. The Free-on-Borad (FOB) cost was Rs. 143.74 crores as per foreign exchange rate as on date of the offer.

(c) No, Sir. The increase in Free-on-Board (FOB) Rupee value between earlier offer of 1990 and accepted offer of 1994 was Rs. 65.74 crores.

(d) Out of total increase of Rs. 65.74 crores in Indian currency, the increase of Rs. 52.60 crores is on account of depreciation of Indian currency between 1990 and 1994. The increase in foreign currency was from Deutsche Marks 72.2 million to Deutsche Marks 79.4 million i.e. 9.97% approximately in 4 years. The earlier offer could not be accepted because of non-availability of foreign exchange during the period.

Employees of Fire Works and Match Factories

*51. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Fire works and Match factories are denied the statutory benefits due to certain ambiguity in the scheme framed under Labour Acts and Rules;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether either father or mother has been included in the definition of 'Family' under the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 and entitled to the benefits of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 on the death of the unmarried employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) It has since been decided to make dependant father or dependant mother eligible for pension under the EPS, 1995. A notification making necessary amendment in the scheme in this regard has since been issued on 22.2.1999. The dependent parents are already eligible for payment of provident fund and EDLI benefits as per provisions of the schemes.

Leakage of Secret Defence Information

*52. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents that have come to the notice of the Government regarding leakage of secret defence information during each of the last three years;

(b) whether such incidents are increasing day by day;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to contain such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The number of incidents regarding leakage of secret defence information that have come to notice of the Government during each of the last three years is as under:—

1996	1997	1998
2	7	—

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Comprehensive instructions exist on counter intelligence and prophylactic security measures. These measures are also reviewed from time to time.

Crash of Modified Avro Aircraft

*53. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRI JAYA RAMA I.M. SHETTY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a modified Avro Aircraft of DRDO crashed near Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu recently;

(b) if so, the details of losses suffered as a result thereof;

(c) the outcome of the enquiry held into the causes of the crash and the details of compensation paid to the victims;

(d) whether this accident has put a question mark on the development of such Indian AWACS by DRDO; and

(e) the efforts being made to make the AWACS successful and to avoid recurrence of such accidents?

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

(b) The experimental aircraft got fully damaged. Four scientists of DRDO laboratories and 2 test pilots and 2 flight test engineers of the Air Force lost their lives.

(c) The recommendations of the Court of Enquiry are expected shortly. Required compensation actions are being progressed expeditiously.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The technologies developed and experiences gained are being packaged for the AWACS programme.

Firing on Indo-Pak Border

*54. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the Pakistani Forces opened fire on Indo-Pak Border during December, 1998 and January, 1999;

(b) the number of persons injured or killed during the above period in such incidents;

(c) the steps taken to check such firing; and

(d) the compensation paid to the victims of such firing?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) During December 1998 and January 1999, there were 642 incidents of firing on the Indo-Pak border in J&K. There was no incident of firing on Indo-Pak border along Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat during this period.

(b) Five Army men, 1 BSF personnel and 1 civilian were killed and 21 Army men, 3 BSF personnel and 2 civilians were wounded during December 1998 and January 1999 due to unprovoked firing on the border by Pakistani troops.

(c) Appropriate response is given by our troops to unprovoked firing on the border by the Pakistani troops, taking due care that the incidents remain localised and at the same time it proves punitive and effective. Whenever considered necessary, the matter is also discussed in DGMO level talks or taken up through diplomatic channels to defuse the tension.

(d) Armed Forces Personnel who are killed or wounded in war or war like operations, Counter Insurgency or operations border skirmishes are eligible to compensation under liberalised pensionary awards scheme.

[Translation]

Handing over of Loss Making Airports

*55. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports at present in the country;

(b) the number of airports out of these that are earning profits;

(c) the locations of the airports running in losses;

(d) whether there is any proposal to hand over the loss incurring airports in loss to the State Governments/private parties; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) manages 5 international airports, 87 domestic airports and 28 civil enclaves. Of these 120 airports, only 13 airports are making profit.

(c) The list of loss making airports is enclosed as Statement.

(d) and (e) AAI has identified 32 airports to be handed over to the State Governments for their maintenance and upkeep. While Kolhapur and Sholapur have been transferred, to the Government of Maharashtra, approval has also been given for transfer of Akola airport.

Statement

List of loss making Airports

Delhi Safdarjung, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jaipur, Udaipur, Khajuraho, Kullu, Shimla, Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur (Civil), Bilaspur, Deesa, Khandwa, Kolhapur, Sholapur, Akola, Panna, Jabalpur, Lalitpur, Pantnagar, Satna, Kota, Jhansi, Dehradun, Kangra, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Bhavnagar, Kandla, Keshod, Porbandar, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhopal, Raipur, Madurai, Trichy, Salem, Thiruvananthapuram, Belgaum, Hubli, Mangalore, Hyderabad, Tirupathi, Rajamundry, Agatti, Pondicherry, Tuticorin, Vellore, Vijaywada, Cuddapah, Dona Konda, Mysore, Warrangal, Hassan, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Ranchi, Gaya, Jodbani, Muzzafarpur, Raxaul, Chakulia, Jharsuguda, Balurghat, Coochbihar, Malda, Behala, Dibrugarh, Guwahati, North Lakhimpur, Imphal, Aizwal, Dimapur, Agartala, Kailashahar, Kamalpur, Passighat, Rupsi, Shillong, Khowai, Shella and Civil Enclaves at Agra, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Chandigarh, Gwalior, Jammu, Leh,

Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Bikaner, Srinagar, Kanpur (Chakeri), Bhuj, Jamnagar, Visakhapatnam (Navy), Bagdogra, Portblair, Jorhat, Silchar, Tezpur, Tezu, Zero, Along, and Daparizo.

[English]

Deployment of Trained Staff at Delhi Airport

*56. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Traffic Control Towers (ATCs) installed at Delhi Airport by M/s. Raytheon are not functioning properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the persons to operate the ATCs trained in USA have since been posted at other places instead of Delhi; and

(d) if so, the steps that the Government are taking to post the trained officials back in Delhi immediately to man the Raytheon ATCs at Delhi Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. The Automated Air Traffic Control Systems installed at Delhi Airport Air Traffic Control Tower are functioning properly.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of International Level Airports

*57. DR. SAROJA V. :
SHRI TEJVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether working group for infrastructure have selected cities for construction of international level airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total cost, airport-wise;

(c) whether private/foreign participation will also be allowed for implementation of the above proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these airports are likely to be operational, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The Government has so far approved the corporatisation of existing airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and the proposed new airport at Bangalore so that they are developed as world class international airports. The Airports Authority of India has invited Expressions of Interest from legal and financial consultants for advising on the various aspects of corporatisation including private sector participation.

Issuance of Licences for DTH Transmission Service

*58. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to authorise the Doordarshan to issue licences for Direct to Home Telecast (DTH) transmission service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up a Committee to examine the proposals of issuing licences for DTH transmission;

(d) if so, the details therefor;

(e) whether the issue of DTH is likely to be delinked from the Broadcasting bill;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the benefits to be accrued to the Government by allowing DTH transmission service?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (g) The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers consisting of the Ministers of Home Affairs, Finance, Communications, Defence and Information and Broadcasting to consider issues connected with Direct-to-Home Broadcasting and make recommendations. The Group is likely to commence its deliberations shortly.

Amendments to Press Council Act, 1978

*59. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether several organisations of small and medium newspapers have urged the Government not to consider some amendments to Press Council Act, 1978;

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

(c) the extent to which the Government have accepted the recommendations to amend the Act; and

(d) the concrete steps taken with regard to amending the Act?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken note of the concerns expressed by the small and medium newspaper organisations.

(c) and (d) A proposal for amendment of the Press Council Act, 1978 and related rules has been received recently. As the proposal includes legislative amendments, consultations at various levels including inter-ministerial consultations are essential before taking a view in the matter.

Second National Commission on Labour

*60. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up the Second National Commission on Labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition and terms of reference thereof and how it differs from the previous one;

(d) whether the Union Government have consulted the Central Trade Unions;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the time by which the Commission is likely to submit its report to the Government;

(g) whether the Government propose to set up any Commission at State level also; and

(h) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (h) It has been decided to set up the Second National Commission on Labour comprising of a Chairman and two full time Members. There will be 07 part-time Members to represent Government, Industry and Workers etc. The tenure of the Commission will be 24 months from the date of its Constitution. The Resolution containing the composition and Terms of Reference of the First National Commission on Labour and the Terms of Reference of the Second National Commission on Labour are given in the enclosed Statements I and II respectively.

The proposal for setting up of Second National Commission on Labour was first mooted on the basis of the recommendation of Indian Labour Conference held in September, 1992 which is the apex Tripartite body of the Ministry, Various Central Employers and Trade Union Organisations also wrote to Ministry of Labour suggesting to set up the Second National Commission on Labour and while deciding the question of setting up of the Second Labour Commission, these views were duly taken into consideration.

There is no proposal before the Ministry of Labour to set up any Commission at the State level.

Statement-I

*Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation
Department of Labour and Employment*

Resolution

New Delhi, dated 24th Dec., 1966

No. 36/14/66-I & E—The Government of India have decided to set up a National Commission on Labour consisting following:

CHAIRMAN

Shri P.B. Gajendragadkar.

MEMBERS

1. S/Shri Naval H. Tata.
2. N.K. Jalan.
3. P.R. Ramakrishnan, M.P.
4. G.D. Khandelwal.
5. S.R. Vasavada.
6. S.A. Dange.
7. G. Ramanujam.
8. Manohar Kotwal.
9. R.K. Malviya.
10. Ramananda Das.
11. Raja Ram Shastri.
12. Dr. B.N. Ganguli.

MEMBER-SECRETARY

2. The terms of reference of the Commission will be as follows:—

- (1) To review the changes in conditions of labour since independence and to report on existing conditions of labour.
- (2) To review the existing legislative and other provisions intended to protect the interests of labour to assess their working and to advise how far these provisions serve to implement the Directive Principles of State Policy in the

Constitution on labour matter and the national objectives of establishing a socialist society and achieving planned economic development.

(3) The study and report in particular on:—

- (i) the levels of workers' earnings, the provisions relating to wages, the need for fixation of minimum wages including a national minimum wage, the means of increasing productivity, including the provisions of incentives of workers;
- (ii) the standard of living and the health, efficiency safety, welfare, housing, training and education of workers and the existing arrangements for administration of labour welfare both at the Centre and in the States;
- (iii) the existing arrangements for social security;
- (iv) the state of relations between employers and workers and the role of trade unions and employers' organisations in promoting healthy industrial relations and the interest of the nation;
- (v) the labour laws and voluntary arrangements like the code of Discipline, Joint Management Councils, Voluntary Arbitration and Wage Boards and the machinery at the Centre and in the States for their enforcement;
- (vi) measures for improving conditions of rural labour and other categories of unorganised labour; and
- (vii) existing arrangements for labour intelligence and research; and

(4) To make recommendations on the above matters.

Note: For the purposes of the Commissions work the terms 'Labour and Workers' will include in addition to rural labour all employees covered by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

3. The Commission will make its recommendations as soon as practicable. It may, if it deems fit, submit interim reports on any specific problem(s).

4. The Commission will devise its own procedure. It may call for such information and take such evidence as it may consider necessary. The Ministries/Departments of

the Government of India will furnish such information and documents and render such assistance as may be required by the Commission.

5. The Government of India trust that the State Governments/Administrations of Union Territories, public sector undertakings, organisations of employers and workers and all other concerned organisations will extend to the commission their fullest cooperation and assistance.

Statement II

Terms of Reference of the proposed Second National Commission on Labour

- (i) to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector; and
- (ii) to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the un-organised sectors;

While drafting the framework for the above, the Commission may take into account the following:

- (i) follow up implications of the recommendations made by the Commission set up in May, 1998 for review of various administrative laws governing industry;
- (ii) the emerging economic environment involving rapid technological changes, requiring response in terms of change in methods, timings and conditions of work in industry, trade and services, globalization of economy, liberalisation of trade and industry and emphasis on international competitiveness, and the need for bringing the existing laws in tune with the future labour market needs and demands;
- (iii) the minimum level of labour protection and welfare measures and the basic institutional framework for ensuring the same, in a manner which is conducive to a flexible labour market and adjustments necessary for furthering technological change and economic growth; and
- (iv) improving the effectiveness of measures relating to social security, occupational health and safety, minimum wages and linkages of wages with productivity and in particular the safeguards and facilities required for women and handicapped persons in employment.

Revival of Patriot Newspaper and Link News Magazine

368. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to revive Patriot newspaper and Link news magazine—founded by legendary freedom fighter Aruna Asaf Ali;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to help the suffering employees of these newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the information received from National Capital Territory of Delhi, inspite of efforts by Labour Commissioner's office, the payment of wages to the employees was not made and the management of M/s. United India Periodicals Pvt. Ltd., has been prosecuted on several occasions under Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The employees were also advised to file their dispute of non-payment of wages before the Competent Authority.

Creation of Processed Food Sector Development Fund

369. SHRI K. PARY MOHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering for creation of a Processed Food Sector Development Fund;

(b) if so, the objectives thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to include the food and agro-processing activities within the definition of priority sector for bank lending?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Action has been initiated to explore the possibilities for setting up of a Processed Food Development Fund in collaboration with financial institutions. However, since only preliminary measures have been taken so far, the details have not been worked out.

(b) The objectives of the proposed fund are to make available adequate finance for the thrust areas of food processing sector.

(c) The Government has now included food (and agro-based) processing sector within the definition of priority sector for bank lending.

T-90 Tanks from Russia

370. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
 SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
 SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
 SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :
 SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :
 SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
 PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
 DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
 SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
 SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enter into a deal with Russia for purchase of the same T-90 tanks which were rejected earlier;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the expenditure involved per tank;

(c) the time by which the tanks are likely to be delivered by Russia;

(d) whether the field trials of the tanks have since been carried out;

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

(f) the extent to which this tank is superior to T-80 acquired by Pakistan from Ukrain?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) While it is contemplated to procure these tanks from Russia, it is not true that the same had been rejected, earlier.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (f) These tanks, have already, been evaluated in the first quarter of 1998, in Russia and shall be subjected to summer trials in India in the ensuing summer. T-90S is a letter generation tank. Comparative details are not being disclosed in the interest of security.

[Translation]

Functioning of ESIC

371. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a committee to study the functioning of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the report is expected?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) The Government had constituted on 22nd July, 1998 a four Member Committee to review medical facilities available in ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries.

(c) The Committee has since submitted its report on 14th January, 1999.

Setting up of HPTs and Akashvani Kendras in Bihar

372. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up High Power T.V. Transmitters and Akashvani Kendras in Begusarai, Sheikhpura and Lakhi Sarai in Bihar which are the district headquarters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to upgrade any of the existing Akashvani Kendra in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The following projects relating to upgradation/replacement of radio transmitters are under implementation in the state of Bihar:

S. No.	Location	Existing Transmitters	Transmitters under implementation
1.	Ranchi	2 KW SW	50 KW SW
2.	Ranchi (Vividh Bharati)	1 KW MW	2 X 3 KW FM
3.	Jamshedpur	1 KW MW	2 X 3 KW FM
4.	Patna	3 KW FM (without stereo)	2 X 3 KW FM (with stereo facilities)

*[English]***Amount Spent on Publicity Abroad**

373. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of budget of Tourism Ministry spent in publicity abroad and maintaining offices there; and

(b) the manner in which the remaining percentage of the budget is spent and how it helps the Government in developing tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) During the financial year 1997-98, 53% of the total budget of Ministry of Tourism was spent on Publicity and maintaining offices abroad.

(b) The remaining percentage of the budget is spent on infrastructure development, print and production of the publicity and promotional material, subsidy for fairs and festivals, hospitality to foreign media and trade, interest subsidy to hotels etc. All these activities also help the Government in promoting tourism within the country.

*[Translation]***Child and Women Labourers in Slate and Pencil Industry**

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

(a) whether large number of child labourers and women are working in "Slate and Pencil industry" in Mandsour District of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether persons working in this industry gets affected by "SILICOSIS" disease;

(c) if so, whether the Government has planned or any scheme to save labour from above disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) As per the information received from State Government the "State and Pencil Industry" in Mandsour district of Madhya Pradesh does not have large

number of child labourers. Some women workers are working in the industry. Persons working in this industry get affected by "SILICOSIS" disease.

The State Government has taken a number of steps to protect labour from the above disease. These include:

- (i) Fitting of over 800 cutter machines with anti-dust/pollution devices;
- (ii) Relocating 21 out of 33 workshops outside the city away from residential locations;
- (iii) Insuring every working person of Rs. 1 lakh with the LIC as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court;
- (iv) Setting up of Madhya Pradesh Slate Pencil Workers Welfare Fund under the M.P. Slate Pencil Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1982;
- (v) Workers affected with silicosis disease are given compensation of Rs. 550 per month. Widow workers are given financial aid of Rs. 300 per month.

*[English]***Direct Train from Asansol to North Eastern States**

375. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations for introduction of a direct train from Asansol to North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Introduction of train between Asansol and North Bengal via Andal-Sainthia-Rampurhat is not feasible due to line capacity constraints on Andal-Sainthia section besides resource constraints.

Upgradation of TV Centre at Balasore in Orissa

376. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present T.V. Centres at Balasore and Bhadrak in Orissa are being upgraded to provide more coverage and increased facilities to the viewers; and

(b) if so, the details of the facilities and funds earmarked for their improvement separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Whereas a High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) of 10 KW capacity has already been commissioned at Balasore in replacement of a Low Power TV transmitter, there is no approved scheme, at present, to upgrade the existing LPT functioning at Bhadrak.

Renovation of Railway Stations

377. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to renovate or make any improvements of Railway Stations at Cannanore, Tellichery, Badagara, Calicut and Palghat, in Kerala;

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

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Renovation/improvements to the stations is taken up wherever so warranted considering the condition of stations or need for augmentation of amenities. The station buildings at Cannanore, Tellichery, Badagara, Calicut and Palghat are in good state of maintenance and therefore no renovation is contemplated for the time being. Amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic have already been provided at these stations.

Air Traffic Control System at Mumbai

378. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government constituted a four member Safety Committee to inquire into the Rs. 40 crores Air Traffic Control project at Mumbai;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has recommended that the newly built Mumbai ATC should be demolished as it is a safety hazard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The committee was headed by Air Marshal J.K. Seth (Retd.) and consisted of Capt. J.R.D. Rao, Deputy Managing Director, Indian Airlines Ltd., Capt. M.R. Vadia, Air India Ltd. and Capt. V.K. Sharma, Sahara India Airlines Ltd.

(c) Yes, Sir. This was one of the recommendations of the committee.

(d) Since the subject required more detailed examination, it was decided to request International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to send an expert for carrying out the study. After examination of all information and inspection of airports, the ICAO expert submitted his report in October, 1998. Action on all the recommendations made by the consultant and ICAO has been taken. As per the recommendation of the ICAO expert, the Control Tower at Mumbai airport need not be demolished and can be used, subject to some restrictions to be incorporated in the operating procedures. These restrictions have been incorporated.

[Translation]

New Airport at Mumbai

379. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to build-up some new airport near Mumbai in order to cope with the increasing air traffic there; and

(b) if so, the locations and areas of the land allotted for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a Committee to examine the need for a new airport at Mumbai and also suggest a location for the same. The Government would take a view in the matter after receipt of report of the Committee.

[English]

ITDC Hotels Abroad

380. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of I.T.D.C. hotels in foreign countries alongwith their staff strength;

(b) whether any private sector hotels have also their branches in foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether ITDC has planned to set up some hotels in South East Asia and other countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) ITDC has no hotel in any foreign country.

(b) and (c) As per information supplied by the Federation of Hotel and Restaurants Association of India, the Oberoi Group is the only private sector chain which operate 14 hotels in foreign countries. Out of these 14 hotels, six are located in Egypt, four in Saudi Arabia, two in Indonesia and one each in Sri Lanka and Australia.

(d) Presently there is no plan for setting up of any ITDC hotel abroad.

(e) Does not arise.

Seizure of Arms/Ammunitions by Security Forces

381. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of weapons recovered/seized by the Army and other security forces in J&K after the break out of Pak-sponsored militancy, year-wise and the mode adopted for their use/disposal;

(b) the steps taken to ensure proper control of those weapons and to check their misuse;

(c) whether any investigations have been conducted as to how such weapons are finding their way to the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) During the period from 1990 to January 1999, the following number of weapons were seized from militants by the Security Forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

(a) 1990	2315
(b) 1991	3599
(c) 1992	4735
(d) 1993	3488
(e) 1994	3560
(f) 1995	3271
(g) 1996	3605
(h) 1997	2223
(i) 1998	2770
(j) January 1999	200

2. There are well laid out procedures for the custody and subsequent disposal of recovered/seized weapons. These procedures are strictly adhered to for ensuring the control and for checking misuse of these weapons.

3. Whenever such weapons are recovered/seized by the security forces, reports are lodged with state police authorities concerned who investigate into the cases and take necessary action as per law.

Development of Beaches in Kerala

382. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the tourists potential of Bekal beach and Muzhappillangad (Cannanore) Beach in the North Malabar region of Kerala;

(b) if so, the quantum of financial assistance provided by the Union Government in response to the request of Government of Kerala;

(c) whether there is any package from the Union Government to promote foreign tourists there;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has approached the Union Government to develop these Beaches; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Bekal in Kerala has been identified as special Tourism Area and Ministry of Tourism provided Rs. 1.90 crores to the State Government for surveys and preparation of Master Plan of the area. The State Government has formulated Bekal Tourism Development Authority and Bekal Resort Development Corporation for implementing this project.

In addition, the Central Government has also sanctioned an amount of Rs. 36.49 lakhs for construction of a Yatri Niwas and Rs. 10.28 lakhs for wayside amenities at Cannanore.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Steam Engines

383. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are still manufacturing steam locomotives;

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

(c) the number of steam locomotives still in operation;

(d) whether the Government propose to stop the operation of these locomotives; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) As on date, 39 steam locos are working on Indian Railways. These locos are expected to be replaced before the turn of this century depending upon the availability of diesel locos on Indian Railways except in some sections of tourist importance where such locos will be kept as heritage.

Indian Air Service of International Standard

384. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Services do not conform with the international standards;

(b) whether these air services do not have standard quality of aeroplanes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the maintenance of aeroplanes is extremely of sub-standard; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken/to be taken to bring the air services at par with the international air services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. All aircraft operations in India are carried out in accordance with Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) rules and regulations which meet international standards.

(b) No, Sir. Operators in India are allowed to operate only such aircraft meeting DGCA standards, which conform to international standards laid down by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

(c) No, Sir. Only such aircraft which are fitted with required mechanical instruments/equipment to monitor the operation of aircraft as per Federal Aviation Administration (USA)/Joint Aviation Authorities/Directorate General of Civil Aviation standards are allowed to operate.

(d) No, Sir. India is a signatory of the ICAO convention held at Chicago on 7th December, 1944. Provisions of Indian Aircraft Rules, Civil Aviation Requirements and other circulars meeting international standards are to be complied with by the operators, as applicable, to ensure that the aeroplanes are maintained

in accordance with the laid down standards and procedures.

(e) Does not arise.

Improvement of Facilities at Bairagarh Station

385. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations to improve the facilities and providing halts of some express trains at Bairagarh railway station in Bhopal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government have received requests for bringing Bairagarh railway station under D.R.M. Bhopal; and

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

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

(b) and (c) President Rail Suvidha Sengarsh Samiti, Bairagarh represented for providing halt to train No. 9303/9304 and 9305/9306. Halt is being provided to train No. 9303/9304 at Bairagarh with effect from 1.3.1999 which is adequate for the present level of traffic. Amenities at the station commensurate with the volume of traffic have already been provided.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It has not been found feasible to bring Bairagarh station under Bhopal Division.

[English]

Development of National Airports

386. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to renovate/uplift the national airports at par with advanced and developed countries;

(b) if so, the names of the airports; and

(c) the funds earmarked during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 for this purpose, airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has proposals to upgrade the airports at Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bangalore, Guwahati and Hyderabad.

(c) AAI has earmarked Rs. 38.02 crores and Rs. 45.79 crores for the year 1998-99 1999-2000 respectively, as below:—

(Rs. in crores)

	1998-99	1999-2000
Ahmedabad	06.87	13.52
Amritsar	01.10	06.10
Bangalore	10.12	07.06
Guwahati	09.68	13.60
Hyderabad	10.25	05.51
	38.02	45.79

Linking Raipur to Mumbai and Nagpur

387. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to air link Raipur to Mumbai and Nagpur; and

(b) if so, the time by which flights on Raipur-Mumbai and Raipur-Nagpur sectors are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Raipur is airlinked with Mumbai and Nagpur as below:—

Operator	Route	Frequency
Alliance Air	Raipur-Nagpur	Daily
Alliance Air	Raipur-Mumbai	Thrice a week

[Translation]

Model Airports

388. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the work relating with upgradation of model airports especially Indore, Agra, Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Khajuraho and Raipur is likely to be completed; and

(b) the amount likely to be spent on each on these airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The upgradation work at all these airports has been completed by the Airports Authority of India. The details of expenditure in this regard are as under:—

	(Rs. in crores)
Indore	26.55
Agra	14.54
Bhopal	10.01
Gwalior	06.25
Jabalpur	11.76
Khajuraho	00.30
Raipur	14.46

Ban on Film 'Fire'

389. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to impose ban on the film 'Fire' based on homosexual relations;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the report of the Censor Board has been received by the Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) to (d) The film 'Fire' was certified for public exhibition restricted to adults only. In view of the complaints received regarding the film, after its release, it was referred to the Central Board of Film Certification for re-examination. The Board re-examined the film and reported that the 'A' certificate granted to the film was appropriate. The report of the Board has been accepted by the Government.

Doordarshan Kendras in U.P.

390. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Doordarshan Kendras in Uttar Pradesh operating in rented buildings; and

(b) the time by which the studios and buildings for these Kendras are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Seventy Doordarshan Centres in Uttar Pradesh are operating in rented buildings.

(b) There is no approved scheme, at present, to construct buildings for these Doordarshan centres except Gorakhpur Studio. The studio building at Gorakhpur is expected to be completed within two to three years.

Flights on Bodhgaya-Rajgarih-Vaishalli Sector

391. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start Air Services to Bodhgaya, Rajgarih, Vaishalli, Bhim Dam (Bihar); and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) There are no such proposals at present.

(b) The domestic airlines are free to operate new services to any destination subject to compliance of the Route Dispersal Guidelines and adequate traffic demand.

[English]

National Commission for Safai Karamchari

392. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the SC/ST Employees Welfare Association of Industrial Finance Corporation of India, New Delhi against the engagement of Contract Labour for the purpose of sweeping/cleaning/dusting and watching of its own building:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Linking of District Headquarters with State Capital by Rail

393. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Gujarat which are linked/not linked with the State capital by single/double rail tracks;

(b) whether the Government propose to connect these unconnected districts with the State capital by rail tracks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The following districts in Gujarat are linked with State Capital by single/double rail tracks:—

1. Ahmedabad 2. Amreli 3. Banaskantha (Palanpur) 4. Bharuch 5. Bhavnagar 6. Jamnagar 7. Junagadh 8. Mahesana 9. Kheda (Nadiad HQ) 10. Rajkot 11. Surat 12. Kutch (Bhuj HQ) 13. Surendranagar 14. Vadodara 15. Panch Mahal (Godhra HQ) 16. Porbandar 17. Gandhinagar 18. Anand 19. Dahod 20. Patan 21. Valsad 22. Navsari 23. Narmada (Rajpipla) 24. Sabarkanta (Himmatnagar HQ).

District Dangs (Ahwa Headquarter) is at present not connected with the State Capital by rail tracks.

(b) There is no proposal to connect District Headquarter of Dangs with State Capital at present.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Constraint of resources.

Transfer Policy

394. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the transfer policy being followed by his Ministry in regard to transfer of employees working on the post of Station Master, Parcel Clerk, Account Assistant, etc. in various railway zones;

(b) whether the said policy is also being followed by Zonal Railways; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Railway employees holding sensitive posts and who frequently come into contact with public and/or Contractors/Suppliers are required to be transferred every four years. Where transfer to a different place/station is not possible administratively for reasons like seniority units being localised (For example, Workshops, Hospitals etc.), holders of such posts are to be shifted to a different Desk involving change of duties at the same station/area/office. For this purpose, a comprehensive list of sensitive posts has been drawn up and circulated to the zonal Railways.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Rotational transfers of staff in the sensitive categories are carried out in all railway units, including Zonal Railways. It may not always be possible to transfer all those who complete four years stay at a place or seat in one go. In such cases, staff are transferred in a phased manner as considered administratively feasible.

[English]

Parameters for New Airports

395. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether air services in the country and building of new airports have any parameters such as population, pilgrimage centres, tourist attraction, defence needs, area of the State etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the airports that are proposed to be built during the next ten years;

(d) whether Bodh Gaya qualifies for an airport for Buddhist pilgrims; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Justification for a new airport depends on various factors such as traffic and tourist potential, availability of adequate land, financial resources and economic viability of the project;

(c) Proposals, for developing new airports at Hyderabad, Mumbai, Goa, Chennai, Bangalore and Kannur

are under consideration of the Government. The new International Airport at Cochin is nearing completion.

(d) and (e) There is already an airport at Gaya which is suitable for operation of 50 seater class of aircraft under fair weather conditions. AAI has no plans to build a new airport at Bodhgaya.

Review of Food Processing Units

396. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI NRIPIEN GOSWAMI :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB :
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has commissioned a study to review the progress made by various food processing units sanctioned during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) time by which a final review is likely to come out;

(d) whether the Government also propose to formulate an action plan to strengthen the food processing sector in consultation with the State Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether his Ministry has asked the State Governments to create a special Ministry or department for food processing; and

(g) the response of the State Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has been entrusted to carry out evaluation of projects funded by the Ministry in the country during the Eighth Plan and 1st year of Ninth Plan.

(c) By the end of August, 1999.

(d) and (e) The Government has taken a number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of processed food sector in the country. Some of them are as under:

1. Automatic approval for foreign equity upto 51% is available for most of the processed food items.
2. Food processing industries has been included in the list of priority sector for bank lending.
3. Most of the processed food items have been exempted from the purview of licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.
4. The Government has rationalised the excise and custom duties for food processing items. The Ministry also provides financial assistance under its Plan Schemes for promotion of food processing industries including that for setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing units.

(f) Reference has been made to the State Governments/Union Territories to consider Creation of a separate Ministry/Department for Food Processing Industries.

(g) Response is awaited.

Production of Fruit and Vegetables

397. DR. SUSHIL INDORA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual production of fruit and vegetables in the country is likely to reach around 110 million tonnes;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether 30% to 35% of fruit and vegetables go waste each year due to lack of post-harvest facilities and the absence of linkages with the processors and markets;

(d) if so, whether industry is suffering losses as a less quantity of the produce is processed;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for the export of processed products?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):

(a) and (b) The annual production of fruit and vegetable was already 113.00 million tonnes in 1995-96.

(c) to (e) Although no survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries to assess the loss of fruits and vegetables, it is estimated that quality deterioration and loss in value that take place is about 25 to 30% of some fruits and vegetables due to inadequacy of post harvest infrastructure and perishability of the produce. Such losses do affect the availability of raw materials for processing.

(f) To encourage export of processed foods, Government is providing financial assistance for setting up/modernisation/expansion of food processing plants, for R&D, and for promotional activities like publicity, market promotion, foreign market studies, participation in important trade fair etc. Besides this, in accordance with the general policy of Government for promoting exports, 100% Export Oriented Food Processing Units and the units located in Free Trade Zones, get complete exemption of customs duty on imported capital goods, intermediates, components and raw materials in accordance with the EXIM Policy in force. Such units are also permitted to sell upto 50% of their production in the domestic market.

Arms Dealers Link with Vice-Admiral

398. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Naval Headquarters had conducted enquiries into the alleged links of a senior naval officer with arms dealing companies and enjoying their hospitalities;

(b) if so, the details of those cases alongwith the findings of the enquiries; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A vice Admiral had submitted his statutory representations through normal service channels for redressal of his grievances, *inter alia*, for expunction of certain adverse entries recorded by the

former Chief of the Naval Staff in two of his ACRs. The officer thereafter filed a Writ Petition before the Calcutta High Court. The High Court directed that the Central Government through the Ministry of Defence shall look into the entire matter.

2. On the directions of the Court, the Ministry of Defence considered the representations of the officer after obtaining detailed parawise comments from the Naval Hqrs. After taking into account all aspects of the case, the adverse remarks endorsed by the former Chief of the Naval Staff in two ACRs of the officer were expunged by the Government on 12.8.1998. In the adverse remarks in one of the ACRs, the CNS had stated that the officer, on a private visit abroad had stayed with a retired Naval Officer who was stated to be an agent and accepted his hospitality. The officer, in his explanation, had clarified that the retired Naval Officer with whom he had stayed was a childhood friend, was his coursemate, they were brought up together and have been friends as well as family friends for many years and the entire Navy was aware of it. The officer further explained that he had kept the Naval Attache, Moscow, informed that he was staying with the ex-officer and that he would not have done so if there had been any design on his part.

[*Translation*]

Preservation and Processing of Fisheries in Coastal Region

399. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any schemes to provide grant-in-aid to private entrepreneurs and other agencies for the construction of cold storage for the preservation and processing of fishes in coastal region;

(b) if so, the amount of such grant sanctioned during the last three years for purchasing fish processing machines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, under the scheme for development of infrastructural facilities, there is provision both for grant and loan. Private entrepreneurs are eligible for loan only.

(b) Details of grants/loan sanctioned for infrastructural facilities for preservation and processing of fish during the last 3 years are as follows:—

1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Rs. 446.05 lakhs	Rs. 189.17 lakhs	Rs. 230.02 lakhs

(c) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	159.32	25.00	25.00 (Loan)	209.32
2.	Gujarat	75.00	—	—	75.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Karnataka	—	70.00	30.00	100.00
4.	Kerala	171.26	13.79	—	185.05
5.	Lakshadweep	—	—	22.00	22.00
6.	Maharashtra	15.47	55.75	83.00	154.22
7.	Manipur	—	—	4.34	4.34
8.	Orissa	—	24.63	—	24.63
9.	Tamil Nadu	25.00	—	44.77	69.77
10.	West Bengal	—	—	20.91	20.91
		446.05	189.17	230.02	865.24

Agencies for Employment in Abroad

400. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Agencies, who have been given licences to provide employment to the unemployed abroad as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the details regarding the names residence or office address and telephone number of licence holders, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) So far 3126 agencies have been issued Registration certificates for the purpose of making recruitment of Indian workers for placement with foreign employers against specific demand letters and power of

attorney. The State-wise details of these agencies are as under:

S. No.	Name of State	No. of persons
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	78
2.	Assam	01
3.	Bihar	02
4.	Chandigarh	58

1	2	3
5.	Delhi	566
6.	Goa	32
7.	Gujarat	18
8.	Haryana	10
9.	Himachal Pradesh	05
10.	J & K	03
11.	Karnataka	45
12.	Kerala	270
13.	Madhya Pradesh	12
14.	Orissa	12
15.	Punjab	106
16.	Rajasthan	32
17.	Tamil Nadu	271
18.	U.P.	32
19.	West Bengal	12
20.	Maharashtra	1561
Total		3126

Out of 3126 agencies which have been given/issued Registration certificates, about 1200 agencies are presently actively involved in this business. The number of agencies being large, it is difficult to furnish individual detail about every agency.

Recruitment of SCs/STs in Airport Authority of India

401. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present percentage of representatives of personnels belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in Airports Authority of India;

(b) the percentage of Class I, II, III and IV employees in the reserved posts in international division and national division, separately;

(c) if the present representation is less than the reserved percentage, the efforts made to fill up all the reserved posts during the last three years and the number of posts so far filled; and

(d) the efforts being made to fill up the remaining vacant posts and by when the process of filling up these posts is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The present percentage of SC, ST and OBC personnel in Airports Authority of India is 24.44%, 4.98% and 4.85% respectively.

(b) The percentage of reserved employees in International Airports Division category-wise is 26.30% in Group A; 26.05% in Group B, 36.30% in Group C and 50.56% in Group D while in the National Airports Division it is 15.40% in Group A, 15.72% in Group B, 29.10% in Group C and 44% in Group D.

(c) and (d) All necessary steps have been taken from time to time to fill the reserved vacancies. As a result during the last three years, the number of reserved posts filled in all categories is 263 in 1995-96, 214 in 1996-97 and 235 in 1997-98.

[English]

Safety Rules of Mines

402. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private owner of dolomite mines of Bilaspur area (Madhya Pradesh) are not following the safety rules of mines and giving minimum wages to their employees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the meeting called by Labour Commissioner was not attended by owners to settle the labour dispute cases; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) Provisions of safety rules and regulations are being followed in dolomite mines of Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh. The contraventions of provisions of the safety rules observed during the course of inspection of these mines are being followed up and rectified.

Almost all Dolomite Mines in Bilaspur area have been inspected but cases of payment of less than minimum wages have been detected only in the Associated Mining Company and claim cases have been sanctioned for filing before the authority under the Minimum Wages Act.

(c) and (d) Conciliation meetings are called by the Assistant Labour Commissioner (C) to settle the dispute as per the laid down procedure. During 1997-98, about 40 bi-partite and Tripartite settlements were signed by all the unions. However in eight disputes raised by Lal Zenda Mazdoor Union (CITU), the management did not attend the conciliation proceedings due to alleged threat of violence. Ex-parte failure of conciliation report has been received.

[Translation]

Air Service from New Delhi to State Capitals

403. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State capitals in the country which are not connected with the National Capital by air service; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government of connect these capitals by air service?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The following States capitals have not yet been airlinked with Delhi:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| (i) Kohima | (ii) Itanagar |
| (iii) Shillong | (iv) Gangtok |

(b) Kohima, Gangtok and Itanagar do not have operational airfields. Shillong airport is not fit for operation by aircraft type available in the fleet of Indian Airlines. However, private operators are being encouraged to add more stations in their network including Shillong subject to commercial viability.

[English]

Opening of a Sub-Regional Office of E.P.F. Organisation

404. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for the opening of a sub-regional office of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Organisation;

(b) the number of sub-regional offices are at present in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to open a sub-regional office at Keonjhar district in Orissa;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) The Sub-Regional Offices in the EPF Organisation are opened keeping in view the parameters like number of establishments, number of employees, number of claims received/settled, service to subscribers in the area etc. While considering the proposal, the recommendation of the Regional EPF Committee is also kept in view in this regard.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) to (e) The proposal for opening a Sub-Regional EPF Office at Keonjhar has been examined but the same is not considered feasible due to inadequate coverage of the scheme in the area.

Statement*[Translation]***Number of Sub-Regional Offices, States-wise****Nirvana Sthali of Sant Kabir Das**

Sl. No.	Name of States/ Regions	No. of SROs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5
2.	Bihar	4
3.	Gujarat	4
4.	Haryana	2
5.	Karnataka	4
6.	Kerala	3
7.	Madhya Pradesh	4
8.	Maharashtra	6
9.	North Eastern Region	3
10.	Orissa	1
11.	Punjab	3
12.	Rajasthan	3
13.	Tamil Nadu	6
14.	Uttar Pradesh	8
15.	West Bengal	5
Total		61

405. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to develop Maghar which is 'Nirvana Sthali of Sant Kabir Das', as a tourist spot; and

(b) if so, the funds allocated in this regard during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Development of Tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial Assistance for the specific projects identified in consultation with them based on their merits and availability of funds. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has already taken steps to develop Maghar as a tourist spot. The following works have been completed by the State Government with a total cost of Rs. 16.45 lakhs during the last 5-6 years:—

1. Construction of Ghats.
2. Construction of Yatri Chhadak
3. Construction of Toilets.

Child Labour

406. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD) :
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of child labour force is likely to be trippled by the year 2000, as per an assessment made by the Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) As per information received Planning Commission has made no assessment regarding the number of child labour force in the Ninth Plan.

Construction of Maksi-Godhara Rail Line

407. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of Maksi-Godhara rail line is in progress;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon so far; and

(c) the time by which the above railway line is likely to be completed?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expenditure upto 31-3-1998 is Rs. 12.20 crores.

(c) This work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

[English]

Raising the Retirement Age of Air India

408. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Raise age of retirement and airlines will sink; A-I workers" appearing in *The Indian Express* dated January 2, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) The management of Air India has submitted a proposal to the Government for retaining the retirement age of its below Board Level employees at 58

years and this proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Profitability of Indian Airlines

409. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian Airlines going in for a new look" published in the Delhi edition of *'The Hindu'* dated February 2, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to improve the service and profitability in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The thrust of the news item of 1.2.1999 was on refurbishing of the existing aircraft(s), fleet renewal plan and operation of flights from Hyderabad to Doha, Chennai to Kuala Lumpur and Calcutta to Hong Kong.

(c) Indian Airlines is taking measures to bring about qualitative and quantitative improvement in the service rendered to the passengers and increase in profitability through:— (i) Product upgrade, (ii) Increased utilisation of aircraft, (iii) Increased international operations, (iv) Increased productivity, (v) Creation of Profit centres, (vi) Innovative and aggressive marketing strategies, (vii) Launching of Alliance Air and (viii) Cost control measures.

Recruitment of Sports Persons in Railways

410. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway Employees brought laurel in the recent Asian Games; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to recruit more sportspersons in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) 27.

(b) New Sports recruitment policy has been framed to give thrust to transparency in the field of recruitment

of sportspersons on the Indian Railways, which envisages recruitment of 70% vacancies in Group 'C' and 100% vacancies in Group 'D' through open advertisements and the remaining 30% vacancies in Group 'C' through talent scouting.

[Translation]

Direct Flight on Lucknow-Sharjah Sector

411. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines is contemplating upon direct air flight between Lucknow and Sharjah in view of increasing number of passengers;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines commenced a twice weekly service from Lucknow to Sharjah from 3rd February, 1999.

[English]

Construction of International Airport near Bangalore

412. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether TATA Company has refused to come forward for the construction of international airport on the outskirts of Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to rope in private group's participation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Government has decided to corporatise the proposed new airport at Bangalore. This has been done in view of the traffic and massive investments that are required to make

it world class. Corporatisation will also bring about effective changes in the management and contribute to the overall increase in the productivity and will be able to attract investments to improve the standards of service/facilities. The Airports Authority of India is in the process of appointing Financial and Legal Consultants who will advise on the various aspects of corporatisation, including human resource aspect.

Provision of Time-Slot in Doordarshan's News Coverage and Programmes to Political Parties

413. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) time-slot provided in the Doordarshan's news coverage and other programmes in regard to national political parties and mass organisations, each party-wise and organisation-wise and date-wise for the last six months;

(b) time-slot provided for covering religious functions in the last six months, religion-wise;

(c) time-slot provided for the Union and State Ministers, each separately;

(d) the number of time Shri Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister, West Bengal and Miss Mamta Banerjee, MP had been shown in Doordarshan coverage each, separately date and time duration for the last six months; and

(e) the importance of the events which covered by the Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) to (d) Such information/details are not maintained centrally by Doordarshan.

(e) Prasar Bharati has reported that it covers events according to news value of stories and keeping in view its policy guidelines.

Development of Broadcasting Network

414. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the achievements made in development and expansion of broadcast network in the country

during the Eighth Five Year Plan are far below the targets; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) There has been some shortfall in the targets originally laid down in the VIII Plan proposals of AIR and Doordarshan. Major reasons for this shortfall are given as under:

- (i) The actual availability of resources during the plan period had been much less than the plan outlay;
- (ii) Non availability of staff sanction for some projects;
- (iii) Delay in handing over the sites by some of the State Governments;
- (iv) Lack of infrastructural facilities e.g. approach road, power supply and water supply, etc. which are to be provided by the state authorities;
- (v) Difficult hilly terrain and remoteness of the area;
- (vi) Local law and order problems; and
- (vii) Addition of some new schemes later on in the plan.

Induction of 'Tunguska' Air Defence System

415. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 'Tunguska' Air Defence System has recently been inducted in Armed Forces; and

(b) if so, the specifications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Tunguska Air Defence System was inducted into the Army in 1997.

(b) Tunguska is a highly mobile gun and missile system, suited for providing close range air defence cover to mechanised formations.

Supply of Low Quality of Rails

416. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Khanna tragedy reveal SAIL, supplied low quality rails" appearing in 'The Indian Express' dated December 22, 1998;

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

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry of other rails supplied by SAIL of that lot;

(d) if so, whether Railway authorities approved the rails supplied by SAIL;

(e) if so, the details thereof and reasons for lapses on the part of railway authority in checking the rails; and

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

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

(b) Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) is not able to manufacture the rails as per the specifications and rails are being supplied by BSP, with dispensation. However, Railway is pursuing the SAIL (BSP) to provide the quality control facilities for supply of rails as per specifications.

(c) All Railways have already been directed to conduct ultrasonic testing of rails of this lot, on priority.

(d) The Railway Authorities have approved the rails supplied by SAIL, with dispensation as sought by BSP from time to time.

(e) Since BSP is the only indigenous source for supply of rails to the Railways, the rails being supplied by BSP are being accepted by the Railways, with dispensation, in the larger interest of the nation, to avoid heavy imports.

(f) Railway is pursuing the production of rails as per specifications regularly with SAIL(BSP). SAIL has given the latest revised targets of December, 1999, to commission all the presently recommended quality control equipment at their plant.

Industrial Training to Women

417. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance given to States particularly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for imparting industrial training to women during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints regarding misuse of the financial assistance;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal for setting up of any monitoring group in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) State-wise details of the financial assistance provided for imparting industrial training to women under the vocational training project during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (e) The information is being collected from the concerned States and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Statewise Financial Assistance provided during the last three years for Industrial Training to Women under World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project

(Rupees in lakhs)

S. No.	States	Financial Assistance provided during the last three years		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	812.57	41.643	57.60
2.	Assam	25.80	4.686	17.051
3.	Bihar	13.724	5.956	19.719
4.	Goa			15.00
5.	Gujarat	18.12	20.129	33.933
6.	Haryana	67.88	0.342	100.515

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4.455	1.702	3.407
8.	Kerala	20.235	12.523	15.773
9.	Karnataka	133.63	52.973	116.464
10.	Madhya Pradesh	28.90	55.064	48.774
11.	Maharashtra	85.22	83.789	135.054
12.	Orissa	3.123	31.654	25.583
13.	Punjab	111.94	26.204	10.205
14.	Rajasthan	10.41	12.844	24.107
15.	Tamil Nadu		7.074	41.137
16.	Tripura		1.806	0.107
17.	Uttar Pradesh	103.155	36.909	25.479
18.	West Bengal	49.70	0.885	30.417
19.	Delhi	5.330	1.599	1.741

[Translation]

Decline in Interest towards Doordarshan News

418. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact

that interest towards Doordarshan news has been declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have chalked out any schemes to make Doordarshan news more interesting and attractive; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan is now under the Prasar Bharati, an autonomous Statutory Corporation. Prasar Bharati have intimated that Doordarshan has always been updating its skills to improve the quality of Doordarshan News and it is a continuous process.

[English]

Safety Measures at Delhi and Mumbai Airports

419. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to raise the safety measures at airports in the country particularly Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) the details of flight disruption in the last one year due to ATCs intermittent strike; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against those who hold passengers to ransom/play havoc with the air safety?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The following measures have been taken/proposed to enhance safety of flights over Indian airspace:

1. Modernisation of air traffic services at Delhi and Mumbai airports. At Delhi new ATC system has been made operational w.e.f. 11/1/1999. Automation of data processing and the built-in Collision Avoidance System eliminates system of reliance on the manual operations that was existing earlier.
2. In Delhi FIR the restructuring of ATS routes into uni-directional routes has been completed. ATS route G-452, ATS route segments of A-466, A-460, W19/W20, A-474 N/S, have been made uni-directional.
3. Improved training with the help of ICAO's "Trainair" methodology at Civil Aviation Training College (CATC), Allahabad.

4. Carriage of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) by all aircraft with seating capacity of 30 or more has been made mandatory by DGCA w.e.f. 1.1.1999.

(b) There was no strike by Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) in 1998. In February, 1999, due to 'go slow' agitation by Air Traffic Controllers, there was disruption of flight schedules particularly at Delhi and Mumbai airports.

(c) A contingency plan was prepared by the AAI. A notification under Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) has been issued by the National Capital Territory of Delhi on 16.2.1999 declaring air traffic services as essential services. A notification has also been issued for conferring on certain Central Government officers the power of arrest, investigation and prosecution under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act. Air Traffic Controllers Guild has given an assurance to Delhi High Court on 19.2.1999 that there shall be no disruption of flight schedules. AAI has also taken strict disciplinary action by dismissing six delinquent air traffic controllers. At present flights are operating normally.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment in Print Media

420. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are taking any initiative to attract foreign investment in the field of print media;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the electronic media which have entered in India and the extent to which they have been given the freedom of functioning;

(d) whether the foreign media are given advertisements for foreign countries from the Indian side that fetch more revenue; and

(e) if so, the number and value of advertisements given during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Sir, Government's extant policy prohibits foreign investment in print media.

(c) No foreign electronic media have as of now been permitted to undertake any broadcasting or broadcasting related services from within the country.

(d) and (e) The Government does not maintain any such record.

[English]

Doubling of Solapur-Pakni Railway Line

421. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for doubling of railway line between Solapur and Pakni and creation of an additional terminus to relieve congestion of traffic at Solapur Station;

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

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

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

(a) to (c) A survey for doubling of Bhigwan to Gulbarga section via Pakni and Solapur is presently in progress. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the results of the survey become available.

Creation of additional terminal facilities at Solapur by remodelling of Solapur Yard as a part of gauge conversion of Solapur-Hotgi MG line has been taken up at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 1296.26 lakhs. The scope of the work envisages the following:

(i) Lengthening of lines.

(ii) Additional island platform.

(iii) Extension of washing line.

(iv) Two R & D lines.

(v) One Goods line.

(vi) Two spare stock lines.

(vii) 2 sick lines.

(viii) One goods unloading line.

(ix) Two shunting necks.

The above work is targeted for completion by 31.3.1999.

Free Rail Passes

422. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of free and privilege All India Railway Passes, issued since March 1998 to January 1999, category-wise;

(b) criteria of issuance of such passes which is proving a great load on the Government exchequer;

(c) whether the Government intend to cancel such passes issued on false or untenable grounds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The number of Complimentary All India Railway Passes issued to various categories from March 1998 to

January 1999 are as under:—

Category	No. of Card Passes Issued
1. Freedom Fighters (cost borne by Ministry of Home Affairs)	30,602
2. Ex-Members of Parliament	1534
3. Arjuna Awardees/Olympic Medalists/Asian & Commonwealth Gold Medalists	382
4. Gallantry Awardees (Defence)	735
5. Gallantry Awardees (Police)	674
6. Presidents/Secretaries of National Sports Federation of India	38
7. Non-officials Members of Hindi Salahkar Samiti	35
8. Dronacharya Awardees	2
9. Individuals & Organisations at discretion of Minister of Railways	122
Total	34,124

(b) Complimentary Card Passes are issued at the personal discretion of the Minister of Railways, to eminent persons and organisations engaged in social, cultural, educational, sports and welfare activities and on compassionate/medical ground. Other categories are self explanatory.

(c) and (d) Passes obtained on false and untenable grounds are cancelled on detection.

Accounting Policy of Airlines

423. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of Indian Airlines during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government have made some changes in the accounting policy of the airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The performance of Indian Airlines is monitored periodically by the Government. This review is done on the basis of parameters laid down. The shortcomings, if any, are brought to the notice of the Management.

(c) and (d) The Indian Airlines has made changes in its accounting policy under the Company Law. Similarly changes made are in conformity with the various accounting standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

[Translation]

Amenities at Ahmedabad Airport

424. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of the Government to provide passenger's lodging and rooms facilities at the Ahmedabad Airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Land for New Railway Zone at Jaipur

425. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had a proposal to set up the zonal office of North Western Railway at Ajmer (Rajasthan), which was later shifted to Jaipur;

(b) if so, whether land has been made available for the zonal office at Jaipur along with the year in which it was decided to shift to Jaipur;

(c) the reasons for not making land available in Jaipur so far; and

(d) the reasons for not setting up the zonal office in Ajmer itself where the railways have abundant land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (d) There were demands from various locations of the country including Ajmer. After Project Unigauge, Government had decided to set up Zonal Offices amongst others at Jaipur.

(b) and (c) 69 bighas of land near Gatore-Jagatpura station has been identified and is being acquired by State Government. Further 42 bighas of land near Jawahar Circle has been identified and negotiations for the rate of land are being held with State Government.

[English]

Base for Indian Airlines in Bangalore

426. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to set up a full-fledged base for the Indian Airlines in Bangalore with facilities of night parking, maintenance, overhauling facilities and inspection of aircrafts; and

(b) if so, the amount likely to be invested by the Indian Airlines in this project?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Extra Coaches for Tatkal Reservation

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

(a) whether any coach in which reservation facility available in TVM-Chennai mail under General Quota stands cancelled for providing the Tatkal Reservation facility;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to allot new coaches to the above train for providing Tatkal facility; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) On Train No. 6319/6320 Chennai-Trivandrum Mail, Tatkal reservation scheme have been introduced in one second class sleeper coach. There is no reduction in the general pool accommodation in sleeper class on this account since one extra sleeper class coach has been made a part of normal train composition.

Poor Transmission of TV and AIR Stations

428. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any complaints regarding poor transmission of T.V. and Radio Stations covering the areas of Rajouri, Poonch, Mandar and Swaran Kot, situated along the Indo-Pakistan Border;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to install High Power Transmitters of T.V. and AIR in these districts to counter the anti-national and separatist propaganda of Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) While there are some complaints regarding poor TV reception in the area, no such complaint has been received regarding radio coverage.

(b) and (c) Two High Power TV Transmitters, one each at Naushera in Rajouri District and at Poonch (DD-II) are envisaged to be set up. A LPT at Poonch and two VLPTs at Baffiaz (Poonch district) and Darhal (Rajouri district) are already under implementation.

All India Radio is setting up a 10 KW FM Transmitter and studios at Jammu as also a 6 KW FM Transmitter and MP studios at Bhadarwah. In the IXth Plan, the

existing 1 KW SW transmitter at Jammu is proposed to be replaced by a 50 KW SW transmitter; while at Srinagar, the existing 1 KW SW transmitter is to be replaced by 10 KW FM Transmitter. A stereo studio is also proposed at Srinagar.

In addition to the above, the following schemes have also been proposed by AIR to augment radio coverage in the Border areas to Jammu and Kashmir:

- (i) Replacement of 200 KW MW with 300 KW FM Transmitter at Srinagar.
- (ii) Establishment of relay stations at Kupwara and Naushera (Jammu Region) when 20 KW MW transmitters each.
- (iii) Relay station at Rajouri with 10 KW FM Transmitter.

Train Accident at Khanna

429. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the enquiry on rail accident at Khanna; and

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) On 26.11.1998, 2903 Golden Temple Mail derailed followed by side collision with 3152 Dn Jammu Tawi-Sealdah Express between Khanna and Chawpail Stations of Ambala Division on Northern Railway. As per findings of Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, the accident occurred due to multiple rail fracture on continuously welded rail. Following has been held responsible for the accident:

Primary	Bhilai Steel Plant
Secondary	Office of Chief Engineer (Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors Unit)/Northern Railway/New Delhi.
Blameworthy	Office of the Track Directorate/ Railway Board/New Delhi

However, looking to the gravity of the accident Government has ordered a judicial inquiry by a sitting

judge of High Court to probe into the cause of accident and to suggest safeguards against similar accidents in future.

(b) Following steps have been taken to check recurrence of such type of accident:

1. Intensive inspection of track at various levels is undertaken to ensure round the clock safety.
2. For better and improved track maintenance, mechanised track maintenance is being progressively introduced in place of conventional manual maintenance.
3. For detection of hidden flaws in the rail not visible to the naked eye, Ultrasonic Flaw Detectors (USFD) are being used.
4. The rails are being tested regularly as per a predetermined frequency by the hand held USFD testers as well as by the SPURT (Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing) car.
5. Regular patrolling of the railway track by gangmen is carried out during vulnerable seasons such as summer, monsoon and the winter months.
6. Those found responsible for accidents are sternly taken up including senior officials. Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is being imposed on staff causing serious accidents.
7. Railways is pursuing SAIL/Bhilai Steel Plant vigorously for installation and commissioning the upgrading facilities for improving the quality of rails.

[Translation]

Construction of Airports at Jaisalmer and Bikaner

430. SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Union Government to construct civil airports at Jaisalmer and Bikaner (Rajasthan); and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The airports at Jaisalmer and Bikaner in Rajasthan belong to Ministry of Defence and the Airports Authority of India maintains the civil enclaves at these airports.

[English]

Passenger and Freight Traffic

431. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for falling Railways' share in passenger and freight traffic as compared to roadways; and

(b) the short-term and long-term steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The share of Railways in passenger and freight traffic as compared to roadways has been falling over the years and has come down from about 89% share of the freight traffic in 1951 to about 40% share in 1995 and from 68% share of the passenger traffic in 1951 to about 20% share in 1995.

The main reasons for the declining share of Railways in freight as well as passenger traffic are as below:

(i) *Inadequate capacity*

One of the main reasons for the decline in Railways' share in freight and passenger traffic has been their inability to generate adequate capacity to meet the growth of traffic. The main reason for this is that Railways have been seriously under-funded in recent Plan periods and the budgetary support has been woefully short of their needs.

(ii) *Reduced budgetary support and plan outlay*

The budgetary support provided to the Railways has also been decreasing over the years and has come down to about 25% of the total plan outlay for the IX five-year plan as compared to 75% of the total plan outlay for the

V five-year plan. The reduced budgetary support has resulted in reduced plan outlays for the five year plans and hence has caused imbalance in the model split between the less energy efficient, less ecologically friendly and less safe mode of road transport vis-a-vis the more energy efficient, more eco-friendly and safer rail transport.

(iii) *Tariff policy*

Over the years, Railways have resorted to cross subsidisation in order to offset the losses incurred in passenger and other coaching services through additional revenues from freight movement. The policy of cross subsidisation has resulted in the freight rates on several commodity groups reaching unreasonably high levels resulting in diversion of traffic to road transport.

(iv) *Reduced traffic offerings by the core sector*

The Railways have generally concentrated on the bulk movement of the materials of the core sector in the economy over long distances. This makes the railways vulnerable to cyclical fluctuations in these sectors and to geographical shifts in their operations. A reduction in traffic offerings by the core sector has also taken place in the current year on account of a general economic slowdown.

(b) The Railways are taking a number of steps for correcting the imbalance in the intermodal share of railways and roadways, which are given below:—

(i) *Improvement in productivity of assets*

The Railways are taking a number of steps for improving the productivity of assets such as rolling stock, track etc. by more intensive utilisation of the available assets, and technological upgradation. This has resulted in Railways carrying substantially more traffic with minimal inputs in terms of infrastructural facilities.

(ii) *Setting up of domestic division of Container Corporation of India*

With a view to catering for high rated, non-bulk freight traffic, a domestic division has been set up within Container Corporation of India, whose performance has been very encouraging.

(iii) *Prioritisation of ongoing projects*

Railway projects are being prioritised to ensure that resources are allocated more rationally to bring about quicker completion of projects at a relatively advanced stage. Also, the highest priority is being given to projects

which augment the capacity of the railway system in the high density corridors.

(iv) *Rationalisation of traffic policy*

The Railways intend to take action to reduce the extent of cross subsidization and making the passenger traffic self sustaining except in case of targetted subsidies. The Railways also aim to incorporate sufficient flexibility in the freight rates to deal with the market fluctuations as also recovery of the fully distributed cost from all categories of freight.

(v) *Reviewing freight tariffs*

In the budget for the year 1998-99, Railways have provided for a reduction in the classification of steel, limestone, dolomite and gypsum. Similarly the fares of rates for coal, cement and iron and steel has been made more attractive over middle and long distances. Railways are also examining the scheme of discounts on substantial offer of assured additional traffic.

(vi) *Exploring non tariff avenues*

In order to generate resources for the development plan, Railways are exploring other innovative non tariff avenues like commercial utilization of Railway land and air space, particularly in Metropolitan cities, as also Railways' Right of Way for communications.

(vii) *Improved services*

Steps have been taken to attract customers by providing improved services such as scheduled deliveries to customers on contractual terms with a premium/penalty clause.

(viii) *Setting up of National Transport Strategy Committee*

The Railways have proposed setting up of a National Transport Strategy Committee which could review transport policies and evolve a new strategy for transport development which is economically viable, efficient, environmentally sustainable and socially desirable. Ministry of Railways has already written to Planning Commission approving the terms of reference of the above Committee.

(ix) *Introduction of longer passenger trains*

24 coach length trains are being progressively introduced so as to enable Railways to increase their passenger traffic output. Also, new trains are being introduced besides special trains for taking care of the peak demand.

[Translation]

Cess on Users of Over Bridges

432. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have acute paucity of funds to construct over bridges, level crossings and to man them to make the railway lines safe and convenient for the road-traffic;

(b) if so, whether Railways have required the Government to impose cess on the users of the road in view of the above said fact; and

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

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A note was sent to the Cabinet proposing levy of cess on fuel and vehicles. Certain clarifications have been sought by the Cabinet Secretariat, which are being looked into and the note is being sent again to the Cabinet for consideration.

[English]

Programmes in Assamese Language

433. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of All India Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendras in Assam having the facility of producing original programme in Assamese language, location-wise;

(b) the details of such other projects under consideration in the State;

(c) whether Assamese language is given adequate time for telecast on National network and Doordarshan channels; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) AIR Stations located at Guwahati, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Haflong, Nowgong, Diphu and Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati, Programme Production Centre (PPC) (North East), Guwahati and Doordarshan Kendra, Dibrugarh are having the facility for producing original programme in Assamese.

(b) AIR Stations at Tezpur and Kokrajhar are being set up with the programme production facility. However, no other project of Doordarshan is under consideration in Assam.

(c) and (d) Regional languages are not normally given time-share in the National Network excepting telecast of programmes on special occasions. Assamese language programmes are telecast in DD-I in regional network and Regional Language Satellite Service Channel (RLSS) (DD-13) from Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati.

RLSS (Regional Language Satellite Channel of Assamese) (DD-13) can be viewed all over the country through dish antenna/cable operators.

[Translation]

Direct Train between Rewa-Delhi

434. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received several memorandum regarding introduction of direct train between Rewa and Delhi and extension of Prayagraj Express from Allahabad to Rewa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) to (c) Some representations including from Shri Chandramani Tripathi, MP have been received for introduction of a train between Rewa and Delhi and extension of 2417/2418 New Delhi-Allahabad Prayagraj

Express upto Rewa. The matter has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[*English*]

Demands of Defence Scientists

435. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :
SHRI KANCHI PANNEERSELVAM :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Scientists are 'Unionising' themselves to fight for their demands of pay-parity; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to resolve their problem and settle the matter amicably?

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

(b) Does not arise.

C.B.I. Probes against Defence Personnel

436. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of defence officers facing the CBI probes as on date alongwith the reason therefor;

(b) the present status of all these inquiries;

(c) the details of the findings of the CBI, so far observed, in the inquiries; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Induction of New Aircraft

437. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Russian S.U.-30 aircraft have since been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is likely to be delivered; and

(d) the details of other Aircraft, including French made Mirage-2000, proposed to be inducted in the I.A.F. in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A few SU-30 aircraft have been received. The remaining aircraft will be more advanced version and they are under development in Russia.

(c) The remaining aircraft are now planned to be inducted in a phased manner in the near future. The delay is due to finalisation of procurement of western avionics equipment.

(d) There is a plan to acquire other new aircraft in the near future.

Inclusion of Kolhapur In Konkan Railway Project

438. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for inclusion of Kolhapur in the Konkan Railway Project has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay alongwith the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A survey for linking Kolhapur with Ratnagiri on Konkan Railway has been taken up. Further consideration on the project will be possible after the survey report becomes available.

Vigilance Staff

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) the number of Vigilance Inspectors, Watchers, Sepoys, Havildars in each headquarter of the Indian Railways;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the number of these employees during the last three years and the current year; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) and (b) No. of Vigilance Inspectors, Watchers, Sepoys and Havildars in each Zones of the Indian Railways is as under:

Zonal Railways	Vigilance Inspectors				Watchers				Sepoys				Havildars			
	1996	1997	1998	1999	1996	1997	1998	1999	1996	1997	1998	1999	1996	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Central Railway	30	30	30	30	14	14	14	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern Railway	24	25	25	25	20	20	20	15	11	11	10	7	—	—	—	—
Northern Railway	38	38	31	31	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
N.E. Railway	28	26	24	24	4	4	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
N.F. Railway	24	24	24	24	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southern Railway	24	31	36	36	6	6	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S.C. Railway	19	26	26	26	6	7	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S.E. Railway	25	21	19	19	7	6	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Western Railway	37	31	29	29	—	—	—	—	35	35	35	35	—	—	—	—
Metro Railway	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Production Units	15	15	15	15	12	12	11	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Railway Board	40	48	48	48	—	—	—	1	18	18	18	18	7	7	7	7
Total	306	317	309	309	76	76	75	67	64	64	63	60	7	7	7	7

(c) As indicated above, the changes in these categories are very minor.

[*Translation*]

Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals

441. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Labour Courts and Industrial Courts-cum Industrial Tribunals in the country separately, State-wise;

(b) the total number of sanctioned posts of Judges for these Courts, separately;

(c) the number of posts of judges lying vacant as on December 31, 1998; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) Central Government Industrial Tribunal and Labour Courts are not set up in every State. They have primarily been set up on the basis of concentration of Industries in a region and the number of disputes arising in the region. There are at present 12 such

Tunnel Crossing at Bhubaneshwar Airport

440. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intend to provide a tunnel way from Khandagiri to Siripur at Bhubaneshwar airport as the thoroughfare has been closed to carry out the expansion work of runway of the airport; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal at present.

Tribunals and Labour Courts set up in different parts of the country. The details are as under:—

S. No.	Name of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court	No. of sanctioned posts of judges*	No. of posts of judges* lying vacant as on 31.12.1998
1.	Asansol	1	—
2.	Bangalore	1	—
3.	Calcutta	1	—
4.	Chandigarh	1	—
5.	No. 1 Dhanbad	1	1
6.	No. 2 Dhanbad	1	—
7.	Jabalpur	1	—
8.	Kanpur	1	1
9.	No. 1 Mumbai	1	—
10.	No. 2 Mumbai	1	—
11.	New Delhi	1	—
12.	Jaipur	1	—

*Presiding Officers

(d) Expeditious steps are taken to fill up vacant posts of Presiding Officers in Central Government Industrial Tribunals-cum-Labour Courts, after observing all procedural formalities.

**Requirement of Wagons for Supply
of Coal in M.P.**

442. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sufficient number of wagons are being provided to meet the requirement of the supply of coal to power plants in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and current year;

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

(c) if not, the steps taken to provide the sufficient wagons?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are as under:—

(4 wheeler)

Year	Average Daily Loading
1995-96	370
1996-97	446
1997-98	581
1998-99 (up to January, 1999)	468

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

**Rehabilitation of Child Labourers in
Hazardous Industries**

443. SHRI C.D. GAMIT :
SHRI R.S. GAVAI :
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently in a major initiative aimed at rehabilitating about three lakh children working in hazardous industries the Government has approved the National Child Labour Projects worth Rs. 261 crore;

(b) if so, the scheme of the Government alongwith the participation of the States;

(c) whether the Government propose to seek the cooperation of the voluntary organisations also in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) Government has approved Rs. 261 crores for continuance of the revised scheme of National Child Labour Projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan. There is a Central Monitoring Committee with representatives of the State Government. Financial assistance is released directly to the Child Labour Project Societies at the district level for running special schools for the rehabilitation of child labour. Voluntary organisations are actively associated with the Project Societies.

Dues of P.F., Gratuity and ESI

444. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of dues of Provident Fund, Gratuity and ESI in PSUs in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the backlog of dues?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) A statement indicating details of EPF & ESI dues in respect of PSUs is annexed. Necessary legal and penal action is already being taken to recover the dues from the defaulting PSUs. The concerned administrative Ministries/State Governments are also approached from time to time so as to ensure early

liquidation of PF/ESI dues. As regards gratuity the liability for its payment under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972

vests in the concerned employer. As such, the requisite information about gratuity is not centrally maintained.

Statement

(Rupees in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	E.P.F. Dues	E.S.I. Dues
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.87	14.17
2.	North-East	1.37	1.55
3.	Bihar	8.46	2.83
4.	Delhi	0.33	0.81
5.	Gujarat	10.62	7.08
6.	Haryana	9.68	0.29
7.	Karnataka	0.19	6.30
8.	Kerala	1.61	1.73
9.	Madhya Pradesh	19.34	11.87
10.	Maharashtra & Goa	23.60	38.36
11.	Orissa	13.76	5.28
12.	Punjab	7.08	2.21
13.	Chandigarh	—	0.05
14.	J&K	NA	1.61
15.	Rajasthan	0.47	0.25
16.	Tamil Nadu	6.53	0.27
17.	Uttar Pradesh	31.82	24.09
18.	West Bengal	80.70	24.16

On-going Railway Projects in Goa

445. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going railway projects in Goa and the progress made for their completion by December 31, 1998;

(b) whether the Government propose to take up any new railway project during the Ninth Plan period in Goa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) There are no ongoing Railway projects in Goa.

(b) and (c) Taking up projects is a need based exercise. New projects if required and subject to availability of funds will be taken up in the remaining period of the Ninth Five Year Plan. A Rail Terminal at Shelvona in Goa is proposed to be developed in Goa for handling additional iron ore and export traffic.

Catering and Tourism Corporation

446. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval of the Cabinet has been received to set-up a catering and Tourism Corporation to improve catering services in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) to (c) The proposal for setting up of Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation has been submitted for Cabinet's approval. The Corporation will be set up soon after the approval of the Cabinet is received.

Setting up of HPTs in Kerala

447. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal regarding the Second Channel of the Doordarshan exclusively for the telecast of the programme of the Kerala State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government for setting up of High Power Transmitter at various places of Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations identified for the propose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Requests have been received, from various quarters, including State Government, from time to time. Schemes for setting up HPTs at Calicut (Permanent set up), Cannanore, Cochin (DD-2) and Trivandrum (DD-2) are presently under different stages of implementation.

Development of Gulbarga DD Kendra in Karnataka

448. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of funds and technical staff at Gulbarga Doordarshan Kendra in Karnataka and due to which local artists are not being exposed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the Gulbarga Doordarshan Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) As the resources available for DDK, Gulbarga, are considered to be adequate keeping in view the present level of programme generation/transmission from the Kendra, no specific action is needed to strengthen the Kendra at present.

Amendment of Labour Act

449. SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amendment of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 is under consideration of the Government for a long time;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to bring the amendment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 is administered by the State Governments. It is applicable for tea, coffee, rubber and cinchona plantations. The State Government may apply it to any other plantations also.

Various amendments in the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 are proposed, based on the requirements of the social partners. A cautious policy is adopted to bring about any amendment in the Act after taking into consideration all the relevant factors.

Ghatkopar Railway Station

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

(a) whether the Government have received requests/representations from the various groups to convert the Ghatkopar Suburban Railway Station in Mumbai into a Suburban Railway Terminal and start more local trains from there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereon?

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

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following representations/requests have been received:

(i) Representation dated 3.4.1998 received from Mumbai Eastern Suburban passengers association.

(ii) Representation dated 12.9.1998 received from Shri V.R. Kamath

(iii) Shri Jagdish S. Patil and others dated 2.10.1998

(iv) Shri V.V. Pathania dated 2.10.1998

(c) At present only two originating/terminating services are available from Ghatkopar which have necessarily to be handled on the existing bypassing platforms only. Even these trains have an adverse impact on the headway of suburban services.

If these platforms are used for additional terminal facilities, the service frequency and operational efficiency of the bypassing trains, which are time tabled to move at a predetermined interval of five minutes will be further affected. The suburban corridor is being utilized to 100% of available capacity, and the introduction of additional originating/terminating trains from Ghatkopar is therefore not feasible for the time being.

In order to reduce commuter distress arising out of overcrowding, Central Railway has planned certain capacity augmentation works on the suburban corridors. These include:—

(i) Reduction in headway on Local Corridor—from 5 minutes to 3.5 minutes, by re-signalling works which will result in increase in frequency of services;

(ii) Introduction of 12 Car services in place of 9-Car services on the Through Corridor.

These proposals are being implemented in a phased manner, and will generate additional transport capacity, thus enabling considerable improvement in the comfort level of commuters. The problem of over-crowding, which is being experienced at Ghatkopar is also expected to get alleviated to some extent on account of these measures.

Flights to Rajasthan

451. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the service of the Indian Airlines flights for Rajasthan has been declined contrary to the growing increase in the number of tourists;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the air-strip of Jaipur Airport is proposed to be extended;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government of Rajasthan has proposed for new flights of Indian Airlines for Kota; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The runway at Jaipur is being extended in phases. In the first phase, the length of runway has been extended from 6000 ft. to 7500 ft. In the second phase, it will be extended to 9000 ft.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Sambalpur-Talcher Railway Line

452. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people lost their land on account of construction of Sambalpur-Talcher railway lines in Orissa;

(b) whether such people have been duly compensated;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to provide due compensation and economic rehabilitation to the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Arrest of Former Army Captain for Dubious Arms Deals

453. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation had arrested a former Army Captain on the Charge of defrauding the Defence Ministry of more than Rs. 10 crore, as reported in 'The Times of India' dated July 30, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with all others involved/suspects in the case;

(c) the present status of the matter; and

(d) the number of ex-servicemen found involved in dubious arms deals and frauds during the last three years along with the details of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. A former Army Captain had been arrested by the CBI on the charge of defrauding the Ministry of Defence.

(b) A case was registered against Shri T.P. Venugopalan, Sr. AO, H.L. Gulati, Sr. AO, C.P. Gupta, Sr. AO, R.K. Bajpai, Sr. AO, Ms Madhu Wadhwa, Sr. AO, J.C. Sharma, Asstt. AO, Stephen George, Asstt. AO, J.B. Gupta, Clerk, P.R. Suman, Clerk, N.D. Nautiyal, Clerk, S.B. Sharma, Clerk all civilian officials of Ministry of Defence and Shri Anil Kumar Rane a private person for entering into a criminal conspiracy in the matter of passing bogus and forged bills relating to supply of different office equipments to the Ministry of Defence and thereby causing a pecuniary loss of over Rs. 8 crores to the Government. Investigation in this case has also disclosed the involvement of Capt (Retd.) I.B.S. Uppal. He was arrested.

(c) Investigation is in progress by the CBI.

(d) The number of ex-servicemen found involved in alleged frauds during the last three years by the CBI is two. The CBI has registered cases against Capt (Retd.) I.B.S. Uppal and Lt. Col. (Retd.) P.R.S. Rao alongwith

other civilian officials of the Ministry of Defence and some private contractors.

[Translation]

Starting of Rajkot Express from Jabalpur

454. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations to start Rajkot Express from Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Some requests including from Shri Baburao Paranjpe, MP and Shri Sartaj Singh, MP have been received for extension of 1269/1270 Rajkot-Bhopal Express upto Jabalpur. The matter was examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[English]

Customer Service of Indian Airlines and Air India

455. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the existing poor customer service of Indian Airlines/Air India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government constantly reviews the customer service of the national carriers and no effort is spared in streamlining and strengthening these services. Various measures which include (i) strengthening of passenger grievances redressal machinery; (ii) provision of quality service on the flights; (iii) improvement in the passenger amenities on the ground; and (iv) on time performance are being taken from time to time.

Publicity in Print Media through DAVP

456. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the total amount spent for the publicity in Print Media during the last year through Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, Ministry-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : A Statement showing Ministry/Department-wise expenditure committed during the year 1997-98, through the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, is annexed.

Statement

Ministry/Department-wise Committed Expenditure during the year 1997-98

Sl. No.	Name of Ministry/Department	Committed expenditure (in Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare	38162847
2.	Ministry of Commerce	744122

1	2	3
3.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension	84016441
4.	Ministry of Communications	18117508
5.	Ministry of Home	30737292
6.	Ministry of Environment & Forests	3690826
7.	Ministry of Food	3478484
8.	Ministry of Civil Supplies	18263
9.	Ministry of Mines	79740
10.	Department of Electronics	2016949
11.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	314440
12.	Ministry of Urban Development	11436646
13.	Ministry of Rural Development	3384571
14.	Ministry of Human Resource Development	18000769
15.	Ministry of Industry	5729836
16.	Ministry of Science & Technology	2724037
17.	Ministry of Textiles	1072475
18.	Ministry of Planning & Programme Implementation	2269710
19.	Ministry of Power	181562
20.	Ministry of Coal	35353

1	2	3
21.	Ministry of External Affairs	416394
22.	Ministry of Tourism	79507
23.	Ministry of Ocean Development	499371
24.	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	149152
25.	Department of Space	5757046
26.	Department of Atomic Energy	5982865
27.	Ministry of Water Resources	2768991
28.	Ministry of Labour	5300699
29.	Ministry of Finance	35362425
30.	Ministry of Agriculture	5959176
31.	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting	98815071
32.	Ministry of Defence	61356356
33.	Ministry of Surface Transport	3610774
34.	Ministry of Welfare	4101477
35.	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	201979
36.	Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers	370491
37.	President Secretariat	115107
38.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	10100778
39.	Vice-President's Secretariat	19226
Total		46,71,78,756

Touts in Railway Booking

457. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Touts cash in on Railways computer trip" appearing in 'The Pioneer' dated the January 28, 1999; and

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

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

(b) The computerised reservation system at New Delhi failed at 1520 hrs on 27.1.1999 preceded by some problems of charts preparation resulting in blank printing. The system was set right at about 2130 hrs on the same day. The cause of the failure was combination of hardware and software problems which have since been redressed.

Corporate Office of Indian Airlines at Bangalore

458. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open a Corporate Office of the Indian Airlines at Bangalore Airport; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Over Bridge at Bilaspur

459. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct an overbridge at Main Railway Station of Bilaspur city in Madhya Pradesh keeping in view the increasing traffic and the expansion of the city; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Road Over Bridge at Km. 717.528 in lieu of Chuchiapara level crossing has been sanctioned on cost sharing basis. In view of Revised skew alignment proposed by State Government revised General Arrangement Drawing has been prepared and sent to State Government for approval which is still awaited. Railway will take up the work on bridge proper simultaneously alongwith approach work to be taken up by State Government.

Extension of Runway of Jabalpur Airport

460. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the extension work of runway of Jabalpur Airport has been completed;

(b) if so, whether Boeing Plane can land there;

(c) whether there is a proposal to extend the Indian Airlines flights leading to Nagpur and Khajuraho upto Jabalpur; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The runway of Jabalpur Airport has been extended from 4500 ft. to 6500 ft. and is operational and suitable for B-737 class of aircraft.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Indian Airlines is presently unable to operate flights between Nagpur-Jabalpur and Khajuraho-Jabalpur because of non-availability of sufficient traffic as also aircraft capacity constraints.

[English]

Delay in Manufacturing of Major Weapons System

461. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects involving manufacture of major weapons system which have been delayed for over 20 years, alongwith the main reasons for the delay;

(b) whether the Defence preparedness has been affected as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the remedial action being taken to expedite the projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There is no project involving manufacture of major Weapons systems which has been delayed for over twenty years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Laying of Railway Siding at Cuttack

462. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to lay Railway siding at Cuttack;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposed to link Gopalpur with Talcher via Hindol and Narasingpur;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the above projects are likely to be started and completed?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) A survey for new line from Talcher to Gopalpur has been taken up. Further consideration of the proposal would be possible once the survey report become available.

Indian Dailies

463. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :
SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :

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

(a) whether any Indian dailies with highest circulation has been included in the World Communication Report, 1996 of UNESCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted in selection of such dailies;

(d) whether similar selections has been made during the previous years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) As per UNESCO Authorities there was no World Communication Report published in the year 1996.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The following Indian dailies had been included in the World Communication Report 1989:—

(i) Malayala Manorama

(ii) Ananda Bazar Patrika

(iii) The Hindu

(iv) Jugantar

(v) Hindustan Times

(vi) The Statesman

Upgradation of LPTs into HPTs

464. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to upgrade the Low Power Transmitters into High Power Transmitters in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the latest status of upgradation in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) Besides upgradation of 1 KW HPT at Rajamundry to 10 KW, schemes for setting up an HPT at Warangal in replacement of the existing LPT is presently under implementation in Andhra Pradesh.

Statement

Statewise list of HPTs to be set up in replacement to existing LPTs which are presently at different stages of implementation

State	Location of HPT
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Warangal
Assam	Guwahati (DD 2)
	Silchar (DD 2)
Bihar	Jamshedpur
	Patna (DD 2)
Goa	Panaji (DD 2)
Gujarat	Vadodra
	Surat
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla (DD 2)
J&K	Kathua
	Jammu (DD 2)
	Srinagar (DD 2)
Karnataka	Hassan
	Mangalore
	Mysore
	Raichur
Kerala	Cannanore
	Cochin (DD 2)
	Trivandrum (DD 2)

1	2
Madhya Pradesh	Guna Shahdol Ambikapur Bhopal (DD 2)
Maharashtra	Chandrapur Jalgaon Ratnagiri and Nagpur (DD 2)
Meghalaya	Tura (DD 2)
Orissa	Berhampur Sambalpur (DD II)
Rajasthan	Jodhpur Ajmer Jaipur (DD II)
Tamil Nadu	Kumbakonam
Tripura	Agartala (DD 2)
Uttar Pradesh	Gonda Lakhimpur Lucknow (DD II)
West Bengal	Balurghat Krishnanagar Kharagpur Shantiniketan Murshidabad (DD II)
Pondicherry	Pondicherry

Air Building to Osmanabad

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

465. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(a) whether a newly constructed building of AIR at Osmanabad has collapsed;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir. However, a few cracks have developed in the building due to sinking of its floor.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Joint Study on Food Industry in India

466. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the joint study made by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and McKinsey which projected \$ 70 billion potential of the Food Industry in India;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken a number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of processed food sector in the country. Some of them are as under;

1. Automatic approval for foreign equity upto 51% is available for most of the processed food items.
2. Food processing industries has been included in the list of priority sector for bank lending.
3. Most of the processed food items have been exempted from the purview of licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.
4. The Government has rationalised the excise and custom duties for food processing items.

The Ministry provides financial assistance under its loan schemes, in the form of loan or grants-in-aid to

industry, non-Governmental Organisation, Cooperatives, Research and Development Institutions and Human Resource Development Centres. The thrust areas of the plan assistance are:

1. Establishment of post harvest infrastructure including cold chain infrastructure.
2. Establishment of Food Processing Industrial Estates/Parks.
3. Setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries.
4. Research and Development on food processing.
5. Human Resource Development in the food processing sector.
6. For conducting studies, Seminars, Workshops and exhibitions etc.
7. Establishment of Quality Control facilities.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Scrap Management Group

467. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scrap management group has been set up in the Railway Board to monitor disposal of scrap;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have maximised income by disposing off its scrap material; and

(d) if so, the quantity of scrap sold by the Railways from April, 1998 to December, 1998, Zonal Railways/production unit-wise?

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

(b) The scrap management group comprises of senior administrative officers of Mechanical, Civil, Electrical and Signal Directorates.

(c) Yes, Sir. Continuous efforts are made to maximise the disposal of scrap material and thereby the revenues of Railways.

(d) A Statement is attached.

Statement

The quantities of scrap sold by the Railways from April, 1998 to December, 1998

Railways	Rails & Permanent Way Ferrous Scrap (in MT)	Other Ferrous Scrap (in MTs)	Non- Ferrous Scrap (in MTs)	Wagons (in Nos.)	Coaches (in Nos.)	Locos
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central	56161	24615	635	1325	205	16
Eastern	21922	16148	707	898	130	1
Northern	54146	20027	203	1411	231	1
North Eastern	17629	9643	436	220	135	1
Northeast Frontier	12878	1291	8	265	69	—
Southern	27789	18128	664	394	100	1
South Central	36725	14343	1282	407	63	7
South Eastern	62458	26585	255	1365	72	3
Western	35042	23916	763	872	172	12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	—	601	9	—	—	—
Diesel Com- ponent Works	—	2610	271	—	—	—
Diesel Loco motive Works	—	2173	8	—	—	—
Integral Coach Factory	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rail Coach Factory	—	1862	20	—	—	—
Metro Rly.	—	1153	—	—	—	—
Wheel & Axle Plant	—	10260	3	—	—	—
Total	320360	172355	5264	7193	1177	42

*[English]***Stoppage of Kerala Express at Varkala Station**

468. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been received by his Ministry for providing stoppage of the Kerala Express at Varkala railway station in Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Stoppage of 2625/2626 Kerala Express at Varkala has been examined but not found justified.

*[Translation]***Lakhisarai Railway Station**

469. SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to accord full status of a station to Lakhisarai railway station; and

(h) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Lakhisarai station is a flag station located at a distance of just 1.1 Kms and 5.74 Kms. from the adjacent Kiul and Mankatha Block Stations respectively. Adequate amenities have been provided at this station. Its upgradation to a block station would require provision of signals at this station and the distance between the signals of the adjacent stations would be so close that the speed would be retarded and capacity would be affected which is not considered desirable.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Mysore-Chamarajanagar Rail Line

470. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made for conversion of Mysore-Chamarajanagar railway line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof;

(c) whether the necessary clearance have been obtained for the above conversion work;

(d) if so, the amount, if any, spent thereon during 1998-99; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

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

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir. A composite survey for the gauge conversion of this line with extension upto Mettupalayam has been done.

(b) Rs. 175 crs. for the whole project.

(c) This project is included in the budget with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances. These are yet to be obtained.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The report is under examination; after which it will be sent to Planning Commission for their consideration. Once their appraisal is completed, it will be considered by the Expanded Board and thereafter put up to Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for their clearance. No time frame can be indicated for the same at present.

[Translation]

Metre and Broad Gauge Lines

471. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of narrow/metre/broad gauge railway lines in the country at present separately; State-wise;

(b) the length of above lines which are lying unused or damaged as on date; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to repair the damaged lines and start traffic on unused lines?

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

(a) The length of Narrow, Metre and Broad Gauge railway lines, State-wise, in the country as on 31.03.1998 (latest

available) is given below:

State/Union Territory	Route kilometres			
	Broad Gauge	Metre Gauge	Narrow Gauge	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	4335	686	37	5058
Arunachal Pradesh	0	1	0	1
Assam	903	1471	0	2374
Bihar	3830	1289	69	5188
Delhi	178	22	0	200
Goa	69	0	0	69
Gujarat	1914	2522	876	5312
Haryana	1226	322	3	1551
Himachal Pradesh	23	0	246	269
J & K	84	0	0	84
Karnataka	2447	527	0	2974
Kerala	933	117	0	1050
M.P.	4519	500	900	5919
Maharashtra	4040	509	916	5465

1	2	3	4	5
Manipur	0	1	0	1
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	2	0	2
Nagaland	8	5	0	13
Orissa	2043	0	143	2186
Punjab	2087	0	11	2098
Rajasthan	3006	2815	89	5910
Sikkim	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1575	2477	0	4052
Tripura	0	45	0	45
U.P.	6867	2019	0	8886
West Bengal	2988	463	318	3769
<i>Union Territories</i>				
Chandigarh	8	0	0	8
Pondicherry	0	11	0	11
Total	43083	15804	3608	62495

(b) The following Sections of Railway lines are lying unused at present:

Sl. No.	Section	Total Km. of Length (Gauge)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Makum-Dangri	30.77 (MG)	Due to Gauge Conversion as Broad Gauge on Guwahati-Dibrugarh Town section
2.	Simaluguri-Nagimora	9.37 (MG)	Due to Gauge Conversion as Broad Gauge on Guwahati-Dibrugarh Town section
3.	Amguri-Tuli	14.65 (MG)	Due to Gauge Conversion as Broad Gauge on Guwahati-Dibrugarh Town section
4.	New Maldomohani	36.75 (MG)	Section abandoned.
5.	Tindharia-Kurseong	19.71 (NG)	Due to heavy rains and land slips.
6.	Manihari-Teznarayanpur	1.2 (MG)	Due to floods & washing out of bank
7.	Simaluguri-Nagimora	5.22 (MG)	Due to Gauge conversion
8.	A New B.G. Line Between Telapur Jn.-Patancheru	8.35 (BG)	Due to poor patronage
9.	Earlier M.G. Line Between Gunda Road Jn. Kottur	49.78 (BG)	Not Cleared by CRS due to non availability of catch siding.
10.	Kosamba-Umarpada	61.96 (NG)	Being restored
11.	Ankleshwar-Jhagdia-Rajpipla	62.80 (NG)	Being restored

1	2	3	4
12.	Jhagdia-Natrang	27.21 (NG)	Being restored
13.	Chhota Udaipur-Bodeli	36.15 (NG)	Being restored
14.	Dabhoi-Timba Road	100.38 (NG)	Being restored
15.	Champarner-Pani Mines	49.14 (NG)	Being restored
16.	Godhra-Lunavada	40.63 (NG)	Being restored
17.	Mehesana-Ranuj	26.37 (MG)	Being restored
18.	Bankura-Rainagar (BDR)	96.00 (NG)	Lying unused

(c)

[English]

- Restoration works in Tindharia-Kurseong and Monihari-Teznaryanapur has been taken up to repair the track.
- The work of gauge conversion of Bankura-Rainagar section has been sanctioned in the works programme of 1998-99 at an estimated cost of 100 crores.

The following sections are being restored. Necessary repairs to bridges and some new construction have been taken up on these sections:

- Kosamba-Umarpada
- Ankleshwar-Jhagdia-Rajpipla
- Jhagdia-Natrang
- Chhota Udaipur-Bodeli
- Dabhoi-Timba Road

Raising of Platforms Level

472. SHRI BIKASH CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to raise the level of all platforms and to increase the length of platforms at Asansol Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All the six platforms at Asansol station are high level and are of adequate length.

Setting up of Railway Manufacturing Units in Kerala

473. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway manufacturing units located in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government propose to set-up any more Railway manufacturing unit in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details alongwith the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) There is no Railway manufacturing unit located in Kerala.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of Second Railway Line between Rahama and Paradip

474. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had a proposal to construct the second railway line between Rahama and Paradip in Orissa;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof;

(c) the fund sanctioned by the Government for the purpose; and

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

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

(b) Rs. 3735 lakh.

(c) Rs. 901 lakh have been provided so far.

(d) Tenders for earthwork and minor bridge-works are under finalisation and the work will be started shortly. The work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Accident at Kailash-Mansarovar

475. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilgrims/tourists died due to land-slide on their way to Kailash-Mansarovar last year;

(b) the number of bodies recovered and the number of bodies could not be located;

(c) the compensation paid to the next kith and kin of the pilgrims;

(d) whether the pilgrims were cautioned of the danger before they started their journey;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the details of the relief and compensation provided to the injured persons; and

(g) the steps taken to avoid such incidents in future and specific precautionary plan drawn up for 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) 205 persons died due to land-slide on their way to Kailash-Mansarovar.

(b) Figures provided by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh put the casualties in the Malpa tragedy at 205 including the 60 yatis of the 12th batch. Only 46 bodies were recovered from the debris. of these nine were identified as belonging to yatis of the 12th batch.

(c) and (f) Search and rescue operations were carried out by the district administration, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the Army and the Air Force which provided air support during the operations. An ex-gratia payment of Rs. 50,000 (Rupees fifty thousand) was announced for every victim of the tragedy from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The Uttar Pradesh Government announced ex-gratia payment of Rs. 1.00 lakh. (Rupees one lakh) for every

earning member amongst the victim and Rs. 50,000 for every dependent victim. The District Magistrate of Pithoragarh has been designated as the Disbursement Officer for both the ex-gratia payments. Also, the District Administration of Pithoragarh has been given a sum of Rs. 1,39,20,000 by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh under the Natural Calamities Fund, of which Rs. 24,44,000 have been distributed to the local Malpa victims.

(d) The pilgrims proceeding on the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra were cautioned of the danger involved in the Yatra through :

- (i) the press advertisement inviting applications for enrolment into the yatra which stated;

"Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra is extremely difficult and involved trekking at high altitude upto 19,500 feet under in-hospitable conditions ... the yatra may prove hazardous for those who are not physically or medically fit."

- (ii) yatris were again cautioned on the hazards of yatra during the pre-yatra briefings before the commencement of the yatra.

(e) Does not arise.

(g) The scale of the natural disaster which befell the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra in 1998 was unprecedented. However, arrangements for this year's Yatra takes into account last year's tragedy. Taking into account the growing popularity of the Yatra, the efforts at providing an alternative route for the Yatra are continuing.

Import of ABB Locos

476. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has imported 30 AC 3 phase electric locomotives at Rs. 22 crores each from M/s ABB, Switzerland against the price of Rs. 2.93/Rs. 3.98 crores of the locomotive manufactured indigenously;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether despite defects noticed in the Prototype at the manufacturer premises, the firm was permitted to despatch them subject to the condition that the defects would be rectified within 15 days after their receipts in India;

(d) whether these locomotives failed in trials and several defects were yet to be rectified; and

(e) if so, steps taken so far for rectification of these defects and the reasons for accepting defective locomotives?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways imported 30 AC three phase electric locomotives from M/s. ABB, Switzerland at a cost of Rs. 22 crores along with Transfer of Technology for indigenous manufacture of these locomotives at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works. These locomotives are 'state-of-the-art', energy efficient and have superior features like regenerative braking, nearly maintenance free traction motor and higher adhesion which means higher output by way of hauling heavier loads at higher balancing speeds. The present cost of indigenously manufactured WAP4/WAG7 locomotives is Rs. 3.4/3.6 crores which does not include the elements of profit, excise duty and sales tax. These locomotives are being manufactured with old tap changer technology of 1960 vintage which are energy inefficient, require intensive maintenance besides having lower load hauling capacity.

(c) to (e) Locomotives with observations made during prototype tests were allowed to be despatched to expedite trials. Modifications in respect of all such observations have since been incorporated. These locomotives have been successfully introduced in commercial services and teething problems noticed during commissioning/trials have been resolved.

Expansion of Chandigarh Railway Station

477. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken certain decisions for the expansion or improvement of Chandigarh railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Works of development of coaching terminal, washable apron on platform line Nos 1 & 4 and provision of shelter on platform Nos 2 & 3 have already been taken up at a total cost of Rs. 6.89 crore.

Development of Railway Stations

478. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any memorandum to develop the railway stations at Diphu and Bokajan under Lumding Division of Northeast Frontier Railway;

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

(c) the time by which the said stations are likely to be provided with proper facilities for passengers?

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

(b) Request for raising of platforms could not be accommodated in 1999-2000 works programme due to other priority works.

(c) These stations are provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic. Augmentation of these amenities will be considered in future, subject to availability of funds.

[*Translation*]

Starting of LPT at Sujapur Tehara

479. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LPT set-up at Sujapur Tehara in district Hamirpur of Himachal Pradesh is ready but has not yet been inaugurated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The LPT at Sujapur has already been commissioned on 12.10.1998 without a formal inauguration.

[*English*]

Indian Naval Training Facilities to Singapore

480. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between India and Singapore allowing Singapore to use the Indian Naval Training facilities;

(b) if so, the salient features of the MoU; and

(c) the benefits likely to be gained by India for providing Indian Naval training facilities to Singapore?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Flight on Patna-Guwahati Sector

481. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of flights are insufficient for Patna-Guwahati and other North-Eastern States particularly the State capitals; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the number of flights and introduce the new services there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Operators are free to operate on any route depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject

to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines. Meantime a Task Force has been constituted to examine and make recommendation for improving airport infrastructure and for better air links in the North Eastern region.

Amount Spent in Gujarat by ITDC

482. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the profits earned by the ITDC in Gujarat during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the ITDC has prepared or propose to prepare any scheme for the development of its units in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) ITDC does not have any property in Gujarat. However, it is managing a SEL Show at Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad on behalf of Ministry of Tourism. Year-wise figures of losses incurred on it are given below:

Year	Net loss
1995-96	Rs. 5.80 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 6.25 lakhs
1997-98	Rs. 7.35 lakhs

(b) and (c) ITDC's Annual Plan 1998-99 does not include any specific Plan Scheme/provision for undertaking any new project in the State of Gujarat.

[English]

Rate of Daily Wages for Class III and IV Employees

483. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum daily wages as on date fixed by the Union Government and State Governments for Class-IV and Class-III employees;

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

(c) whether the Union Government are considering to raise minimum daily wages in the light of rise in prices of essential commodities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) The minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act are fixed for only scheduled employments and these rates are applicable to different categories of workers like unskilled, semi-skilled and highly skilled workers. The Union Government have already advised all State Governments to index the minimum wages with the Consumer Price Index so as to protect wages of the workers from the effects of inflation. The minimum wages for all scheduled employments under the Central sphere, are linked to the Consumer Price Index and a Statement giving the details is annexed.

Statement

Scheduled employments for which Central Government has fixed minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948

Sl. No.	Name of Employment	Minimum wage* to the lowest paid worker
1	2	3
1.	Agriculture	Rs. 68.40
2.	Construction or maintenance of roads or building operations.	Rs. 42.02

1	2	3
3.	Stone breaking or stone crushing.	Rs. 42.02
4.	Maintenance of buildings.	Rs. 42.02
5.	Construction and Maintenance of Runways.	Rs. 42.02
6.	Gypsum mines.	-do-
7.	Barytes mines.	-do-
8.	Bauxite mines.	-do-
9.	Manganese mines.	-do-
10.	China Clay mines.	-do-
11.	Kyanite mines.	-do-
12.	Copper mines.	-do-
13.	Clay mines.	-do-
14.	Stone mines.	-do-
15.	White Clay mines.	-do-
16.	Ochre mines.	-do-
17.	Fire Clay mines.	-do-
18.	Steatite (Soapstone and Talc) mines.	-do-

1	2	3
19.	Asbestos mines.	Rs. 42.02
20.	Chromite mines.	-do-
21.	Quartzite mines.	-do-
22.	Quartz mines.	-do-
23.	Silica mines.	-do-
24.	Magnesite mines.	-do-
25.	Graphite mines.	-do-
26.	Felspar mines.	-do-
27.	Redoxide mines.	-do-
28.	Laterite mines.	-do-
29.	Dolomite mines.	-do-
30.	Iron Ore mines.	-do-
31.	Granite mines.	-do-
32.	Wolfram mines.	-do-
33.	Magnetite mines.	-do-
34.	Rockphosphate mines.	-do-
35.	Hematite mines.	-do-

1	2	3
36.	Loading, unloading in Railways' Goods Shed	Rs. 43.31
37.	Ash Pit Cleaning in Railways.	Rs. 43.31
38.	Marble and Calcite mines.	Rs. 42.02
39.	Uranium mines.	-do-
40.	Mica mines.	-do-

*Minimum Wages also include a component of Special Variable Allowance which has last revised on 1.10.1998.

[Translation]

Production of Processed Fruits

484. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of processed fruits and vegetables during the financial year 1998-99 has been less than that of the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of fruits and vegetables processing units functioning in the country and estimated installed capacity thereof State-wise and place-wise;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the production of processed fruits and vegetables in the country;

(e) the number of food processing training centres and the locations thereof;

(f) the criteria adopted for the selection of site for setting up of training centres; and

(g) the number of additional employment opportunities created on account of these training centres?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):
(a) and (b) The production of processed fruits and vegetables during 1996, 1997 and 1998 was 9.6 lac tons, 9.1 lac tons and 9.4 lac tons respectively.

(c) The total number of fruits and vegetables processing industries, licensed under the Fruit Products Order 1995, as on 1.1.1999 was 5112 with an installed capacity of 20.8 lac tons. The details of these units located in various States are given in the enclosed in Statement-I.

(d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its Plan Schemes, provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid and soft loan to Non-Governmental Organisations, Co-operatives, Public Sector Undertakings and Private Industries etc. for establishment of post harvest infrastructure particularly cold chain facilities, establishment of Food Processing Industrial Estates/Parks, setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries, among other things, to increase the production of processed fruits and vegetables.

(e) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(f) No fixed criteria has been adopted by the Ministry for selecting the location for the setting up of training centres as the scheme is not state-specific. It may be

stated that this Ministry does not set up such centres directly. It only extends assistance to various organisations including voluntary organisation and NGOs for setting up of such centres for the benefit of rural people.

(g) A total of 6163 persons are reported to have been trained in these training centres. Out of them, 312 are reported to have already established their own food processing units.

Statement-I

Break-up of number and estimated installed capacity of fruits and vegetables processing units located in various states as on 01.01.1999

Name of the State	Units	Capacity (in Tons)
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar	3	450
Andhra Pradesh	314	305640
Arunachal Pradesh	3	520
Assam	27	1030
Bihar	59	43170
Chandigarh	55	12640
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	7	3120
Delhi	317	35380
Goa, Daman & Diu	164	6120
Gujarat	280	161370
Haryana	159	71720
Himachal Pradesh	99	11140

1	2	3
Jammu & Kashmir	85	8220
Karnataka	265	309200
Kerala	395	78230
Madhya Pradesh	104	39760
Maharashtra	961	366840
Manipur	10	1330
Meghalaya	15	650
Mizoram	3	150
Nagaland	5	810
Orissa	44	2590
Rajasthan	114	6970
Pondicherry	14	350
Punjab	314	71510
Sikkim	3	2380
Tamil Nadu	170	272690
Tripura	4	2240
Uttar Pradesh	513	195990
West Bengal	306	67790
Total	5112	2080000

Statement-II*State-wise details of Food Processing and Training Centres assisted during the period 1992 to 19.2.1999*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of FPTCs Assisted	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	Ralevaram (Krishna Distt), Jadccherla (Mehboobnagar)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	West Siang, Daimukh
3.	Assam	23	Ulubari, Magaon, Jorhat Sibsagar, Tinsukhia, Silchar, Kokrajhar, Mangaldoi, Bonda, Chandrapur Bagicha, Tejpur, Jagi, Tamalpur, Dhing, Rangiya, Dhubri, Howli, Beltola (Guwahati) Majgaon Distt, Topatoli Sonapur, Chamata, Morigaon (MP), Mangoldoi (MP)
4.	Bihar	22	Katihar (Bhojpur) Patna-4, Ranchi, Angara Gumla-2, Gotra, Torpa-2 Dumka, Sahibgunje, Lumbai, Baradwari, Chandil, Bhandara, Chakradharpur, Asansole, Deoghar, Sudhanagar (Muzafarpur), Sutihiar Nawada (Sonerschhapur)
5.	Delhi	6	Delhi Cantt, Burari Vill, Hastsal, Baprola, Patparganj, Kanjhawala.
6.	Goa	1	Goa KVI Board
7.	Gujarat	3	Gandevi, Junagadh, Bardoli
8.	Haryana	9	Kamal-2, Murthal, Amoala, Sirsa, Narnaul Sonipat, Gurgaon-2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	8	Shogi, Katrail, Kalpa, Bhunter, Fag, Chamba, Shimla Hills, Tarad

1	2	3	4
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	Kathua, Kupwara, Sri Nagar-2, Rajouri, Anantnag, Phulwama, Udheywala
11.	Karnataka	11	Belgaon-3, Bidar, Habbal, Julkoti, Arabhavi, Gulbarga, Gonikoppal, Mudigore, Bangalore
12.	Kerala	5	Vellayanai, Vellanikkara, Kannur, Changanecherry, Narikkuni
13.	Maharashtra	6	Dhanu, Nasik, Wardha, Latur, Indira Nagar, Chakan
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5	Bhopal, Satpura, Jabalpur-3
15.	Manipur	3	Porompat, Tamei, Tonsem
16.	Mizoram	7	Aizwal, Sairang, Vairengta, Khawzewl, Chhingchhip, Lunglei, Lawngulai
17.	Meghalaya	1	Shillong
18.	Nagaland	2	Dimapur, Kohima
19.	Orissa	55	Nayagarh-2, Kendrapara Distt, Gajapati, Laxmipur, Ponchada, Tangarpali, Gandhinagar, Tikarpada, Kalahandi, Kashiharpur, Tasqobindpur, Sundergarh, Keonjhar, Toyaput, Panposh, Odiyapenta, Ashrayagada, Bolangir Balasore, Sigmapur, Denkanal, Muninda, Bhubani, Cuttack, Puri-2, Ganjam, Sambalpur, Sanakumari, Devidwar, Mahimagarhi, Deogan (Dhenkanal), Bhadrak, Sanakumari, Kishornagar Cuttack, Jagatsingpur, Jatni, Odagaon, Chandipur, Kuarmienda, Balisahi, Pradhanpolli, Hosinga, Virasat Neelgiri, Aniloli, New Jamposhi, Arutan, Belapadiapatna, Rasulgarh, Sarion, Barida, Dhenkanal
20.	Punjab	2	Chounikalan, Patiala
21.	Rajasthan	2	Jaisamand, Udaipur

1	2	3	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	19	Jawarपुरam, Soorapattu, Nallamanarkotti, Tuticorin, Tiruppattur, Madras, Thiruchengodu, Madurai-2, Samathuvapuram, Trichy, Palaniappa Nagar, Valuthareddy, Wellington, Damachikulam, Chengai, Siva Gangai, Vadaralli, Valayathur
23.	Tripura	2	Agartala-2
24.	Uttar Pradesh	58	Ramnagar, Ramgarh, Deorisa, Illia, Sultanpur, Madhupur, Amethi-2, Haldwani, Gazipur, Hardoi, Allahabad-5, Lucknow-5, Meerut, Sharnpur, Chail, Saharanpur, Faziabad-2, Gorakhpur, Basti, Bareilly, Sitapur, Autarpur, Lansdown, Ranikhet, Fatehgarh, Sonbhadra, Lalgopalganj Vill, Raibareli, Tankuhi Raj, Kalakankar, Arya Nagar, Sirdo, Adarsh Nagar, Kapsethi Kondhiara, Fatehpur, Raebarelli, Mau, Fatehpur, Devkali, Samalpur, Saora-Bharosa Rae Barelli, Vikesh puram, Mehammodpur
25.	West Bengal	12	Baruipur, Malda-2, Howrah, Burdwan, North 24 Parganas, Jhargram, Belpathari, South 24 Parganas, Ichapur, Kalyan, Krishan Nagar
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1	Diglipur
Total		275	

F.P. Training Centres in U.P.

485. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of 'Food Processing Training Centres' set up in Uttar Pradesh by the Union Government for providing employment and their progress;

(b) whether any co-ordination has been set-up between the Food Processing Industry, Ministry and the Village Development Department to ensure training for creating employment opportunities, under various schemes of District Rural Development Agency (DRDA); and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the utility of food processing training centre, under such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Since the inception of the scheme of "Personpower Development in Rural Areas" in 1992-93, a total number of 58 Food Processing and Training Centres have been sanctioned for the State of Uttar Pradesh, of which 26 have become operational, as on date.

This Ministry does not set up such production-cum-training centres directly and instead, extends financial assistance to various State Government organisations,

co-operatives, autonomous bodies, educational institutions, voluntary organisations and non-governmental organisations, for their creation.

In order to co-ordinate implementation and monitoring of FPTCs in various States, the Ministry envisages constitution of a state level monitoring committee by the State Nodal Agency. The Ministry will also be represented in this monitoring committee.

In order to effectively implement the FPTCs and realise their objectives for operating as production and training centres, the Ministry has issued directives to all State Nodal Agencies for early constitution of monitoring committees, and for tie-ups with other rural development agencies and schemes operating in the area, for promotion of marketing of FPTC products and for self employment of FPTC trained personpower.

The scheme for FPTC provides a "Hands On" experience in operating and managing a small processing unit. The trainees participate in various activities such as book keeping, manufacturing, quality testing and marketing of products.

[English]

New Board of Air India and Indian Airlines

486. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
DR. SUSHIL INDORA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have terminated the offices of Board of Directors of Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the respective Boards have taken any decision in this regard and a new Board has been formed for the administration of Air India and Indian Airlines;

(d) the total savings in the expenditure that are likely to be made on this account; and

(e) the details of the new scheme adopted for the better co-ordination of the working of Air India and Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Government has reconstituted the Boards of Indian Airlines Limited and Air India Limited separately as both the airlines have their own distinct organisational, operational and functional ethos and work in different market environments. This step will make the airlines more competitive.

(e) With a view to optimise the utilisation of the resources and to improve operational and financial efficiencies, Government has issued a directive in December, 1998, advising both the airlines to:

- (i) Rationalise schedules; (ii) Establish common rated fares; (iii) Expand code share arrangements; (iv) Maintain common offices/GSAs as far as possible; (v) Explore the possibility of leasing in and leasing out of capacity to/from each other at the going market rates; (vi) Undertake joint advertisement promotion, marketing activities and coordinate ground handling of flights and related activities.

Advertisement of Liquor in Media

487. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent spurt in the number of advertisements on liquor in electronic media and print media;

(b) if so, whether the Government are thinking of regulating such advertisements; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) While All India Radio and Doordarshan do not broadcast any advertisement on liquor, the Government is not aware of spurt of such advertisements in the print media. However, the programmes of foreign satellite channels are uplinked from outside the country and, therefore, do not presently fall within the ambit of the Indian Laws, unless decoders are required for their reception.

(b) and (c) All India Radio and Doordarshan have their code of Commercial Advertisements, which, *inter alia*, prohibit broadcast of advertisements on liquor. Regarding press, the Government pursues a policy of

non-interference in order to uphold its freedom. The Press Council of India, an autonomous Statutory Body set up to preserve the freedom of the press and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India, has, however, laid down norms for journalistic conduct which, *inter alia*, eschew encouragement of social evils.

Government have initiated steps to bring certain amendments to the Cable Law to ensure that cable operators who re-transmit free to air channels also will have to adhere to the programme and advertising codes of the Cable Law.

Expansion of Calcutta Airport

488. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Calcutta Airport is being neglected for its expansion and development;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that are proposed to carry out the expansion and development works there as is being done at Delhi and Mumbai airports?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up the following development works at Calcutta airport?

(i) The work on third Aerobridge and Security Hold for Domestic Terminal is nearing completion.

(ii) Modification/Renovation in the old Terminal Building for converting the area earlier earmarked for domestic operations into International operations. This will enhance the capacity of International Terminal Building.

(iii) Aerobridges are being provided in International Building for easy access of passenger to the aircraft and *vice-versa*.

(iv) Work on reconstruction of bays and taxi track is also at hand.

Extension of Railway Line upto Kashmir Valley

489. SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Udhampur-Baramulla railway line along-with the expenditure incurred and funds allocated therefor so far;

(b) whether there is a Central plan for connecting Qazigund with Baramulla by Rail line;

(c) if so, the progress of work undertaken, allotment of funds and expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(d) whether the Government propose to set-up a consortium on the lines of Konkan Railway Corporation to meet the paucity of funds;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Construction activity in Udhampur-Katra section is in full swing. Final location survey is in progress between Katra-Qazigund. Pegging of the final alignment between Qazigund-Baramulla has been completed. Contract for construction of Srinagar station building has been awarded. Year wise funds allocated and expenditure incurred so far is as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)		
Year	Allocation	Expenditure
1994-95	0.20	0.20
1995-96	1.00	0.99
1996-97	17.50	17.53
1997-98	59.74	59.72
1998-99	75.00 (Outlay)	

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition is in progress. Work will be taken up once land becomes available. Funds allotted for the entire Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla project are indicated above. Funds are not allotted section-wise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The project will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Child Labour

490. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been made by a non-government organisation *i.e.* South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude 'Bachpan Bachao Andolan' to safeguard the interests of the Child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Engine Overhaul Workshop in Mumbai

491. SHRI MADAN PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has commissioned new engine overhaul workshop in Mumbai recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to commission such workshops in other States also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India has commissioned a new Engine Overhaul facility on 14.1.1999 for overhaul and repair of large Turbofan Engines installed on Air India's aircraft. It is capable of handling 10 to 12 such engines at a time.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Study to Check Leakage of Defence Secrets

492. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether communications/defence data transmitted from the defence establishments/laboratories can be easily picked up by the amateur private radio/wireless operators operating in the areas of defence establishments;

(b) if so, whether any study with regard to the radio/wireless stations being operated in the vicinity of defence establishments has been made to check the leakage of defence secrets;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the measures being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) It is technically possible to pick up radio transmissions.

(b) to (d) All precautions are taken to maintain the confidentiality of sensitive communications. It would not be in the interest of national security to disclose those details.

Encouraging Writers for In-House Magazines

493. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'In-house Magazines' of Air India/Indian Airlines are not encouraging writers and photographers from different parts of the country by accepting their material; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage these young entrepreneurs, artists and photographers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) 'In-house' magazines relate basically to the matters pertaining to the organisation, its activities and its employees. The contributions, therefore, are, by and large, from within

the organisation. Occasionally, however, opportunity is given to writers and photographers of repute by accepting their material for publication in these magazines.

Airport Regulatory Authority

494. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set-up an Airport Regulatory Authority; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Policy on Airport Infrastructure recognises the need for regulatory mechanism to look into grievances with regard to fixation of tariff rates, allotment of slots, working of air traffic controllers, allocation of space in the airports and the like. The proposed Airport Regulatory Authority is likely to have among others representatives of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, DGCA, airport and airline operators.

Visit of Defence Minister to France

495. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited France recently to discuss Bilateral Defence issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both the countries are going to enter into a long term Military relationship; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the progress of achievements made in that regard so far?

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

(b) At the invitation of the Defence Minister of France, Raksha Mantri visited France from January 11—14, 1999. The two Ministers held wide ranging discussions on bilateral relations between India and France, particularly in the vital defence and security area as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. Raksha Mantri also had meetings with French Prime Minister, Minister

of Transport and Housing, President of Defence Commission of the National Assembly, Co-President of the Indo-French Forum, President of the Economic Commission of the Senate and senior defence officials, besides visiting the French military establishments.

(c) and (d) Both India and France see bilateral defence cooperation in a long term perspective, covering a strategic dialogue, defence supplies, defence research and production and relations between the armed forces of the two sides. It is anticipated that there will be concurrent progress in all these areas based on the increasing understanding and appreciation of each other's security concerns and priorities.

Launching of Missiles

496. SHRI KAMAL NATH :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheduled test firing of 'Agni', India's Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile and 'Dhanush', the naval variant of the 'Prithvi' missile has been postponed indefinitely;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be test fired?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Does not arise, as no test firing of Agni and Dhanush was scheduled to take place.

(c) It is not in public interest to disclose such details in advance.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi as Official Language

497. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to celebrate the year 1999 as a Golden Jubilee year in a special manner as use of official language Hindi which is entering into the fiftieth year on 14th September, 1999; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No, Sir; there is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Labour.

(b) Does not arise.

Indigenous Production of Jet Aircraft

498. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start the production of 100 seater passenger Jet aircraft in the country shortly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost likely to be incurred on the production of the passenger Jet aircraft;

(d) whether all the parts to be used in passenger aircraft would be indigenous; and

(e) if so, the cost of each aircraft alongwith the number of aircraft proposed to be manufactured in the country, every year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The programme for indigenous manufacture of 100-seater passenger aircraft with jet engines is still in the stage of conceptualization.

[English]

Expansion of Navy

499. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans initiated, finalised and implemented for the expansion of the Indian Navy matching its striking power with the advanced countries;

(b) whether the Indian Navy has been at the lowest priority in the country's defence planning;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any indepth review of the existing requirements and deficiencies in the Indian Naval Force has been made by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the plans formulated to remove the deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Modernisation of fleet and suitable additions to the fleet are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent the fleet from technological obsolescence and numerical reduction and to make them at par with contemporary fleets of advanced countries. It will not be in the interest of national security to divulge further information in this regard.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The Navy regularly reviews state of its forces both, with respect to available numbers as well as current technology. A number of new projects have been approved by the Government to replace existing ships and for induction of new technology to modernise the fleet.

(e) The following measures have been taken to construct new destroyers/frigates at the defence shipyards:—

(i) Two destroyers are under construction at MDL, Mumbai. One destroyer has already been commissioned.

(ii) Three frigates are under construction at GRSE, Calcutta.

(iii) Orders have recently been placed for construction of three frigates at MDL, Mumbai.

The Government has also approved import of three frigates and two submarines to strengthen the existing fleet. One such submarine has since been commissioned.

Minimum Wages

500. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :
 SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :
 SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
 SHRI SUNIL KHAN :
 SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of State Governments have not introduced the system of indexation of wages despite the direction of the Central Government though many State Governments accepted the principles of indexation but not regularly updating the minimum wages; and

(b) if so, the names of such States showing the movement of wages effected since June 1990?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) 18 States/Union Territories have linked minimum wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 with the Consumer Price Index Number. The increased payment made on account of increase in the Consumer Price Index is known as variable Dearness Allowance. A statement showing State-wise position of the states who pay Variable Dearness Allowance along with minimum wages and who do not pay, is enclosed. Information regarding movement of minimum wages since 1990 is not readily available and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Minimum rates of wages for the unskilled workers in different States/Union Territories Admn.

(Compiled on 1.10.1998)

S. No.	Name of State Govt./ U.T. Administration	Range of minimum rates of wages & date of last revision	Remarks
1	2	3	4

I. STATE

1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 16.00 to* Rs. 42.40 p.d. (9.8.1996)	Rates vary from Employment to employment.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Rs. 35.60 to Rs. 37.60 p.d. (1.1.1998)	Rates vary from employment to employment and areas to areas.
3.	Assam	Rs. 32.80 to* Rs. 49.10 p.d. (1.4.1995)	Rates vary from employment to employment.
4.	Bihar	Rs. 38.61 to* Rs. 51.00 p.d. (21.12.1995)	Rates vary from employment to employment.

1	2	3	4
5.	Goa	Rs. 21.00 to Rs. 93.00 p.d. (1.4.1997)	Rates vary from employment to employment.
6.	Gujarat	Rs. 34.00 to* Rs. 77.80 p.d. (25.4.1997)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
7.	Haryana	Rs. 63.51 p.d. to* Rs. 67.51 P.d. (1.1.1995)	Single rate for all employment. Except agriculture.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 26.00 p.d. Rs. 45.75 p.d. (1.3.1996)	For Tea Plantation. For all other employments.
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Rs. 30.00 p.d. (13.3.1995)	Single rate for all employment.
10.	Karnataka	Rs. 26.00 to* Rs. 56.50 p.d. (17.12.1996)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
11.	Kerala	Rs. 19.50 to* Rs. 114.16 p.d. (25.10.1996)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 26.46 p.d.* Rs. 55.19 p.d. (6.2.1997)	Rates vary from employment to employment.
13.	Maharashtra	Rs. 9.25 to* Rs. 85.95 p.d. (6.12.1996)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
14.	Manipur	Rs. 44.65 p.d.* (for plain) Rs. 49.50 p.d. (for Hill areas) (8.7.1995)	Double rates for all employments, one each for hilly areas and plain areas.
15.	Meghalaya	Rs. 35.00 p.d. (1.1.1995)	Single rate for all employment.

1	2	3	4
16.	Mizoram	Rs. 45.00 p.d. (10.7.1997)	Single rate for all employment.
17.	Nagaland	Rs. 25.00 p.d. (6.7.1992)	Single rate for all employment.
18.	Orissa	Rs. 30.00 p.d.* (15.8.1996)	Single rate for all employment.
19.	Punjab	Rs. 58.07 to* Rs. 60.62 p.d. (1.7.1995)	Single rate for all employment, except argiculture.
20.	Rajasthan	Rs. 44.00 p.d. (19.11.1997)	Single rate for all employment.
21.	Sikkim	Nil	Minimum wages Act, 1948 is yet to be extended and enforced.
22.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 22.40 to* Rs. 79.00 p.d. (1.4.1997)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
23.	Tripura	Rs. 17.70 to* Rs. 36.00 p.d. (29.8.1996)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 42.02 to* Rs. 64.21 p.d. (31.10.1996)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
25.	West Bengal	Rs. 25.47 to* Rs. 72.00 p.d. (1.1.1997)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	Rs. 37.00 to Rs. 40.00 p.d. (15.8.1994)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)

1	2	3	4
27.	Chandigarh	Rs. 58.06 p.d. to* Rs. 60.15 p.d. (4.11.1995)	Single rate for all employment. Except Agriculture
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Rs. 35.00 to Rs. 40.00 p.d. (18.5.1995)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
29.	Daman & Diu	Rs. 40.00 p.d. (24.8.1998)	Single rate for all employment.
30.	Delhi	Rs. 74.50 p.d.* (15.2.1994)	Single rate for all employment.
31.	Lakshdweep	Rs. 41.46 p.d. (1.1.1996)	Single rate for all employment.
32.	Pondicherry	Rs. 19.25 to Rs. 40.20 p.d. (24.7.1995)	Rates for agricultural workers.
II.	CENTRAL GOVERNMENT	Rs. 42.02 to* Rs. 75.40 p.d. (12.7.1994)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to areas) Except agriculture.

Note : 1. *Indicates the provision of Variable Dearness Allowance alongwith minimum rates of wages, for some of the scheduled employment in the State.

2. Figure in bracket under column (3) indicate the date of revision for the last revised scheduled employment.

[Translation]

**Doordarshan Relay Centres in Dhar and Badwani
Distts. of M.P.**

501. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of relay centres of Doordarshan exists in Dhar and Badwani districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have any plan for setting up of any new relay centres in these districts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) to (c) As per 1991 census, Badwani, lies in the erstwhile West Nimar district of Madhya Pradesh where Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) at Khargaon is already functioning. With a view to further augment TV service in the hitherto uncovered areas, two more LPTs, one each at Badwani and Sindhwa, in the West Nimar district and one LPT at Kukshi in Dhar district are presently under implementation.

*[English]***Visit of Foreign Tourists**

502. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
 SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE :
 SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
 SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA :
 SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited various States in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the amount of revenue/foreign exchange earned

by the Government due to visit of these tourists, separately, month-wise, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the percentage of foreign tourists from all over the world that visit India;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to boost tourism in the country;

(e) whether the Government have drawn up an Integrated Tourism Development Plan for certain States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) As per the information available from the State Governments, the estimated number of visits of foreign tourists in different States during the last three years were as given below:—

States	Foreign Tourist Arrivals		
	1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	63652	94384	79720
Arunachal Pradesh	72	54	34
Assam	1000	723	754
Bihar	119147	130375	130723
Goa	237216	261673	272028
Gujarat	6581	7994	9252
Haryana	1763	1660	1316
Himachal Pradesh	51360	62527	62952

1	2	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	22628	22372	23137
Karnataka	59009	246862	249836
Kerala	176855	182427	184227
Madhya Pradesh	99012	101982	102800
Maharashtra	949215	977691	980850
Manipur	241	215	274
Meghalaya	1512	1071	1055
Mizoram	93	90	126
Nagaland	64	184	210
Orissa	34303	35082	35090
Punjab	12196	12684	12690
Rajasthan	560946	605060	607000
Sikkim	8642	9952	9960
Tamil Nadu	613982	636640	645580
Tripura	2	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	680000	712000	719000

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	183330	193611	194011
Andaman & Nicobar	5796	6028	6030
Chandigarh	9017	9691	8603
Daman & Diu	5789	7482	7600
Delhi	1113803	1158355	1162400
Lakshdweep	998	776	807
Pondicherry	12118	20774	20900
Total	5030342	5500419	5528965

(b) Month-wise estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the last three years are as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

Month	Estimated Foreign Exchange Earnings		
	1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4
January	952.49	1080.81	1187.60
February	927.57	1034.56	1090.85
March	860.77	993.08	1042.45
April	694.02	704.18	858.70
May	557.55	617.31	657.08
June	576.54	656.26	689.33

1	2	3	4
July	772.85	865.55	876.51
August	746.51	831.71	864.13
September	708.84	748.75	797.08
October	915.33	997.67	1043.89
November	1099.11	1221.23	1256.21
December	1238.37	1300.32	1381.11
Total	10049.95	11051.43	11744.94

The estimates of foreign exchange earnings are not available state-wise.

(c) The percentage share of India in the world tourist arrivals during 1998 was 0.38.

(d) Steps taken to boost tourism in the country include improvement of infrastructural facilities for tourism, development of tourist attractions, strengthening of publicity and promotional efforts, human resource development and encouraging private investment, special events like Baudha Mahotasav, Visit India Year, etc.

(e) and (f) The tourism development plans for each State is drawn by the concerned State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government provide technical and financial assistance on the basis of specific requests received and the resources available.

Disinvestment Plan of Air-India

503. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Foreign airlines unwilling to buy Government stake in Air-India" appearing in the 'Business Standards' of January 1, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yea, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Disinvestment Commission has made recommendations regarding disinvestment/restructuring of Air India and these recommendations are under consideration of the Government. The financial and organizational restructuring of Air India will make it more competitive. It is also proposed to allow the employees of Air India to purchase shares under the Employees Share Ownership Plan.

[Translation]

Child Labour

504. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether under special directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, child labour eradication campaign is to be launched every year in Kanpur (U.P.) but during the year 1998 the campaign could not be launched;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether under the campaign, if any case of child labour is detected, Rs. 20 thousand per child labour would be recovered from the employer; and

(d) if so, the recovery made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Launching of Private Satellites

505. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :

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

(a) whether the Government have recently granted permission to private sector companies for launching of satellite on the Indian orbital slot;

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

(c) the terms and conditions of the policy of the Government for granting permission to such private companies; and

(d) the number of requests to grant permission for launching private satellites pending till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, these do not exist.

(d) Does not arise.

Control Over Broadcast Network

506. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign channels have established control over broadcast network of the country to a large

extent and the standard of Doordarshan has been found very low;

(b) whether the Government have made any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to set the things right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Doordarshan constantly reviews its programming policy for providing quality programmes and also to ensure higher viewership.

Rescheduling/Cancellation of Goods Trains

507. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reschedule or cancel the goods trains throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these changes will affect the transportation of Essential Commodities including the foodgrains especially to the State of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome the situation?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Purchase of Defective Wheels

508. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'After defective rails it is now rickety wheels' appearing in the *Indian Express* dated January 27, 1999;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the purchases made by Indian Railways from Romania; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) It has been reported that Indian Railways have been buying defective wheels and nearly half of the last consignment of 30,000 locomotive discs imported from Romania were defective. The contents of the reported news item are incorrect and are not supported by facts.

Romanian firms have been supplying wheels since 1992 and have so far supplied as many as 1,00,000 wheels. It was only for the first time in September, 1997 that defects were noticed in four MG wheels during assembly. Immediately thereafter all the wheels supplied by Romanian firms were got individually checked once again in the Indian Railway Workshops. During these checks, a small percentage of wheels (about 3% of the

supplies received against the contracts of 1996 and 1997) did not clear one of the prescribed tests. These wheels have NOT been put in service and a Joint Inspection with the suppliers is being undertaken. The wheels are covered under warranty and sufficient Bank guarantee is available to cover the total landed cost of suspected wheels. Further action would be taken after the joint inspection is completed.

(c) No, Sir. The need for enquiry is not considered necessary as the correct procedure has been followed.

(d) Does not arise.

Pending Cases in Labour Courts

509. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI AJIT JOGI :
SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending for a long time in the various labour courts in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases pending in the industrial courts also as on December 31, 1998, State-wise; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government for the expeditious disposal of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) Central Government Industrial Tribunal and Labour Courts are not set up in every State. They have primarily been set up on the basis of concentration of Industries in a region and the number of disputes arising in the region. There are at present 12 such Tribunals and Labour Courts set up in different parts of the country. The details are as under:—

S. No.	Name of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court	No. of cases pending as on 31.12.1998
1	2	3
1.	Asansol	167
2.	Bangalore	587

1	2	3
3.	Calcutta	231
4.	Chandigarh	1237 (as on 30.9.1998)
5.	No. 1 Dhanbad	1112
6.	No. 2 Dhanbad	980
7.	Jabalpur	1598 (as on 31.8.1997)
8.	Kanpur	331
9.	No. 1 Mumbai	204
10.	No. 2 Mumbai	190
11.	New Delhi	846 ⁴
12.	Jaipur*	
Total		7483

*Started functioning from 1.1.1998

(c) Government does not interfere in the settlement of cases pending with Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts, which are Quasi-judicial bodies. However, from time to time, the need to ensure quick disposal of cases is emphasised and brought to the notice of the Presiding Officers.

International Conference on Child Labour

510. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
DR. RAVI MALLU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Conference on child labour was held in Oslo on October 27 and 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) The International Conference on Child Labour was held in Oslo on 27-30 October, 1997.

(b) The Oslo Conference adopted an Agenda for Action. The main goal of the Agenda is the effective

elimination of child labour. Priority is to be given to the worst forms of child labour.

(c) Government is already committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms, in a progressive, gradual and sequential manner.

[*Translation*]

H.R. Khanna Commission on Train Accidents

511. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. SUSHIL INDORA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted Justice H.R. Khanna Commission to suggest ways and means regarding safety arrangements to check the increasing number of rail accidents;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the suggestions made by the Commission; and

(d) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) Yes, Sir. A Railway Safety Review Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of a retired judge of the Supreme Court Justice H.R. Khanna.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The tenure of the Committee is upto 3.2.2000. However, interim report is proposed to be submitted in August, 1999.

Agreement between India and Japan

512. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Japan have agreed upon mutual cooperation in eight areas of Railways specially the Railway safety area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the two countries have agreed to send their experts to each other; and

(d) if so, the terms and conditions and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) and (d) No, Sir. However, discussions on bilateral co-operation including exchange of experts for developmental purposes and Railway safety are being held.

[*English*]

TV Serial Chandrakanta

513. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the serial "Chandrakanta" has been brought back again for exhibition at prime time every week;

(b) if so, whether it conforms to the programme code laid down for serials; and

(c) if not, the reasons for bringing such horror-filled thriller serial back on TV screen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The serial 'Chandrakanta' has been rescheduled from 7.12.1998 on DD-1 as per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(b) Doordarshan previews all its programmes, including the serial 'Chandrakanta', before telecast to ensure that they conform to the Programme Code.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of Kannur Airport (Kerala)*[Translation]*

514. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the request of Kerala Government to make available the services of Senior Technicians from the Airport Authority of India for the development of 'Kannur Airport' as the acquisition of land and other related steps are progressing fast;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) At present, the AAI is not in a position to spare the services of Senior Technicians for the development of Kannur airport in Kerala.

Petitions of Military Officers on Service Matters

515. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers of the rank of Major and above who have filed cases against the Government in various Courts during 1998;

(b) whether these large number of cases reflects the mismanagement and discontentment within the Services;

(c) whether there is any proposal to have a Court of Military Appeals like the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) for civil Officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) 150.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) and (d) Government had earlier agreed in principle to set up an Armed Forces Administrative and Court Martial Tribunal in respect of the Armed Forces personnel. Thereafter, certain legal and administrative issues have been posed while processing the matter further. A detailed consideration of these issues is going on, after which a final view will be taken.

Construction of Over Bridges

516. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far regarding construction of road over bridge at Habibganj at Km. 829/4 and on Bhopal-Ujjain Chord line at level crossing No. 252-A;

(b) the funds earmarked therefor; and

(c) the time by which the above road over bridges are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Road Over Bridge at Kms. 829/4 in Habibganj formerly proposed by State Government on deposit terms is now being processed on BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) basis by State Government. Railway has already given no objection in this regard. Further action is to be taken by State Government.

Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 252/A on Nishatpura-Ujjain Chord is justified for replacement with Road Over Bridge on cost sharing basis. However, State Government has not yet sponsored any proposal fulfilling preliminary pre-requisites required under extent rules.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Construction of Over Bridge at Thekeraguri**

517. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 3329 on July 9, 1998 regarding Construction of over-bridge at Thekeraguri and state:

(a) whether the proposal to construct a railway over-bridge at Thekeraguri has been technically examined;

(b) if so, whether the Plan and estimates have been prepared;

(c) if so, the time by which the execution of this project is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

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

(b) to (d) General Arrangement Drawing had to be changed due to conversion of Thekeraguri Railway station from 'D' Class to 'B' Class in connection with Indian Oil Corporation installation requiring re-location of Road Over Bridge. New Alignment avoiding encroachment of Railway land and Railway quarters had to be modified and was sent to PWD for acceptance. As per State FWD, Ministry of Surface Transport (MOST) is not agreeable to this changed alignment. Joint meeting with MOST, Railways and PWD to decide the issue is being convened. Further, State Government has also not included the work in their Annual plan of 1998-99.

[*Translation*]

Millennium Year Festival of Khajuraho Temples

518. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to attract the international tourists to visit world famous Khajuraho temples in its Millennium years festival;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken for upgrading the Varanasi-Khajuraho route to the international level to provide attractive facilities for the said festival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India is making efforts to attract international tourists to visit during the Millennium Year festival.

(b) (1) This even is being widely publicised by the Government of India Tourist Offices, overseas.

(2) The theme of India Pavillion at ITB'99, Berlin, March 6-10, 1999 one of the most important tourism fairs, is focused on Khajuraho temples.

(3) A curtain raiser was organised in Khajuraho on 27.9.1998.

(4) A web site has been launched by the Madhya Pradesh State Government with a special section on Khajuraho.

(5) Central financial assistance is being provided to the Madhya Pradesh Government to promote Khajuraho during the Millennium celebrations, as follows:

— Sound and Light show at Khajuraho—Rs. 80 lakhs

— Production of DC ROMs/posters and other publicity material—Rs. 20 lakhs.

— Inaugural ceremony of Khajuraho Millennium celebration—Rs. 7 lakhs.

(6) Audio guide on Khajuraho has also been launched by the state Government.

(c) Varanasi/Khajuraho route has been taken up for repairs and upgradation.

[*English*]

Nexus between Arms Dealers, Politicians and Bureaucrats

519. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a nexus between arms dealers, politicians and bureaucrats has been detected recently after the dismissal of the Chief of Naval Staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted a full-fledged inquiry into this nexus and especially against the companies involved therein;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) whether many armed forces retired officers are running these black listed companies; and

(f) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such episodes?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Companies dealing with MoD can be black-listed for a variety of reasons ranging from corrupt practices to failure to perform contractual obligations. As per existing guidelines, defence service officers of the rank of Colonel and above who retire with pension, gratuity or any other benefits are barred from accepting commercial employment only for a period of two years after retirement. It is possible therefore, that retired armed force officers, just as other persons could be associated with defence related companies.

Defence Secret Radio Signals Intercepted by Foreign Power

520. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attempts by a foreign power to intercept the secret radio signals of Indian Defence and intelligence agencies have been reported recently;

(b) if so, whether identity of the interceptor has been established; and

(c) the precautions being taken to maintain secrecy of the sensitive communications?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Government is aware that attempts are made by outside powers to intercept Defence and other Government communications.

(c) All precautions are taken to maintain the confidentiality of sensitive communications. It would not be in the interest of national security to disclose those details.

Late Arrival of Planes

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

(a) the specific reasons for the delay in arrivals/departures of all the flights at Bhubaneshwar Airport during the month of January 1999, especially in the later part of the month when there was no foggy weather;

(b) whether there have been frequent changes in the time table and resultantly the flights used to arrive even after the mid-night at Bhubaneshwar and in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) During the month of January, 1999, there were delays in some flights to and from Bhubaneshwar. These delays were mainly on account of adverse weather conditions, restrictions at airport and technical reasons.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Voluntary Retirement by Naval Officers

522. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of naval officers who sought premature retirement during the last ten years and how many of them got employment with foreign/Indian private companies and arms dealers; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The number of officers who sought premature retirement during the last ten years is as under:—

1989	55
1990	166
1991	109
1992	161
1993	173
1994	153
1995	95
1996	105
1997	134
1998	192

2. As per Government instructions, only officers of the rank of Captain/Commodore and above are required to seek permission of the Government for accepting post retirement commercial employment within two years of their retirement. From 1990 onwards, 121 officers of the Navy have been granted such permission. None of the officers had requested for permission to engage in Arms business.

3. The issue of granting permission to retired Services Officers to take up private employment is reviewed from time to time. The existing Government orders were issued in 1993.

[*Translation*]

Air Alliance

523. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of establishment and structure of the Air alliance;

(b) the number of aeroplanes and employees in Air Alliance;

(c) whether the service conditions of Air Alliance are different from the Indian Airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of performance including financial performance of Air Alliance?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Airlines Allied Services Limited (AASL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines. The Company has a paid up capital of Rs. 2.25 crores.

(b) AASL operates a fleet of 12 Boeing 737 with 76 Indian Airlines Limited Employees on deputation and 578 contract employees.

(c) and (d) The employees in Alliance Air are appointed on limited period individual service agreements and are governed by the terms and conditions spelt out therein and by circulars/instructions issued from time to time. Indian Airlines employees are governed by the service Rules framed for different categories and circulars/instructions issued from time to time.

(e) The highlights of performance of Alliance Air during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and upto the month of December, 1998 in the current financial year are as follows:—

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Upto Dec., 1998)
Net profit/(Loss) (Rs. in lakhs) (after tax)	163.99	299.44	(572.42)
No. of Passenger carried (000) (Million)	1.73	2.015	1.478
Seat Factor	72%	68.9%	66.3%

[*English*]

Registered Unemployed Youth

524. SHRI ADITYANATH :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD) :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed youth registered with employment exchanges at present, State-wise; and

(b) the number of unemployed youth who got employment through the Employment Exchanges during 1998, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) The number of educated (10th class and above) job-seekers, all of whom are not

necessarily unemployed, who were on the Live Register of employment exchanges as on 31.12.1995 and their

number placed in employment during 1995 (latest available) is furnished in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

*Educated job-seekers on Live Register as on 31st December 1995
and their No. placed in Employment during 1995*

(In thousands)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Live Register (Waiting for emp- loyment as on 31.12.1995)	Placement during 1995
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1826.6	6.1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.3	@
3.	Assam	760.2	0.5
4.	Bihar	2482.1	0.7
5.	Goa	80.4	0.2
6.	Gujarat	670.3	21.0
7.	Haryana	451.0	2.9
8.	Himachal Pradesh	403.2	4.1
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	62.4	@
10.	Karnataka	1204.7	6.3
11.	Kerala	2245.2	13.2

1	2	3	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1645.6	6.5
13.	Maharashtra	2906.5	12.2
14.	Manipur	174.1	0.1
15.	Meghalaya	15.5	0.1
16.	Mizoram	20.9	0.1
17.	Nagaland	13.4	0.1
18.	Orissa	660.1	1.5
19.	Punjab	335.6	1.3
20.	Rajasthan	520.3	6.8
21.	Sikkim*	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	2214.7	6.9
23.	Tripura	65.6	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1908.9	4.6
25.	West Bengal	3119.9	3.7
26.	A. & N. Islands	8.6	—

1	2	3	4
27.	Chandigarh	83.0	0.3
28.	D. & N. Haveli	1.2	—
29.	Delhi	819.0	4.0
30.	Daman and Diu	2.5	⊙
31.	Lakshadweep	1.7	—
32.	Pondicherry	90.6	0.3
Total		24795.0	103.6

Note:—

1. * No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.
2. ⊙ Figures less than fifty.
3. Figures may not add to total.

Extensions of Serials

525. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of current serials on Doordarshan which have been granted extensions alongwith the period for which extension granted to each of them;

(b) whether there is any policy/guidelines in the matter of extending serials;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether all the extensions granted are in conformity with the laid down policy/guidelines;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any proposal to modify the above policy/guidelines; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (e) As per guidelines prescribed for sponsored serials telecast on Doordarshan, the Selection Committee in the event of according its approval to a proposal specifies the number of episodes. The number of episodes normally does not exceed 13 but where the Selection Committee is of the view that a larger number of episodes would be required in the interest of the proper treatment of the storyline, prior approval of the competent authority as may be prescribed from time to time is obtained. As per present policy, extension is considered keeping in view the various factors like quality of production,

commercial earnings, TRP ratings, viewership popularity,
spot buy generation potential and subject requirement
etc.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Statement

List of current sponsored serials on extension on Doordarshan

S. No.	Name of Serial	Episodes originally sanctioned	Episodes/Period extended
1.	Daya Sagar	52	148
2.	Aparajita	1 Year	1 Year
3.	Aurat	1 Year	1 Year
4.	Itihaas	1 Year	1 Year
5.	Waqt Ki Raftar	1 Year	1 Year
6.	Yug	262	194
7.	Zindagi Navrang Hai	26	39
8.	Om Namah Shivay	91	65
9.	Jai Hanuman	52	56
10.	Roop Suhana	13	13
11.	Samay Ke Shakshi	26	26
12.	Sea Hawks	26	130
13.	Hindustani	26	130
14.	Shriman Shrimati	26	78
15.	All the Best	26	130
16.	Raja Aur Rancho	26	130

[Translation]

Installation of TV Transmitters

526. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the cities/areas where the Government are contemplating to install T.V. transmitters during 1999;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to install T.V. transmitter at Panhala in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the time by which this transmitter is likely to be installed; and

(d) is not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) 276 transmitters of varying power located in different parts of the country, presently under implementation, are expected to be completed, in phases, during two to three years. The details of transmitters are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) Setting up of TV transmitters is a continuous process depending on the suitability of location, extent of resultant coverage, availability of funds and relative priorities. There is no approved scheme, at present, for setting up of a TV transmitter at Panhala as it is located in the coverage range of LPT Kolhapur, though reception of TV signals is subject to local terrain conditions.

Statement**TV Transmitters under implementation***as on 15.02.1999*

State/U.T.	Location
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	HPT Rajamundry (Pmt.) Warangal Vijaywada (DD II)
	LPT Pasra Tekkali

1	2
---	---

Sirpur
Devarkonda
Bobbili
Pedapalli
Kandukur
Vinukonda
Veldanda
Madugula
Pulamaner
Punganur
Vemalvada
Sirisilla
Machilipatanam
Zahirabad

VLPT

Kanigiri
Duttalur
Madiparadu

Arunachal Pradesh

VLPT

Tait/Tuting
Pipu Dipu/Nyapin
Longding
Hawai
Kronli
Mukto

Xser

Sankhi View

Assam

HPT

Guwahati (DD II)
Silchar (DD II)

LPT

Bokakhat

Xser

Guwahati

Bihar

HPT

Jamshedpur
Muzaffarpur (DD II)
Patna (DD II)
Ranchi (DD II)

LPT

Ramnagar
Chatra
Barharwa
Rosera

VLPT

Garhwa

1	2	1	2
Goa	HPT Panaji (DD II)		Turtok Batalik Tral
Gujarat	HPT Bhuji (Pmt.) Vadodara Surat LPT Rajula Khambhalia Umargaon Modasa Lunawada Jamjodhpur Rajpipla Vyara	Karnataka	HPT Hassan Mangalore Mysore Raichur LPT Jamkhandi Dandell Mudhol Talikota Indi Hiriyur Hosdurg Koppa Belthangadi Mundargi Sindhur VLPT Badami Huvin Hippargi Kudligi
Haryana	LPT Mahendragarh Firozpur Jhirka Tohana Kamal Yamunanagar		
Himachal Pradesh	HPT Shimla (DD II) LPT Mandi (DD II) VLPT Bijli Mahadev Dalhausi Tissa Chauri Khas Jhatingpi Kaja Awah Devi Nehri Ashapuri	Kerala	HPT Calicut (Pmt.) Cannanore Cochin (DD II) Trivandrum (DD II) LPT Pala Manjeri Kottarakkara VLPT Erattupetta Mundakayam
Jammu & Kashmir	HPT Kathua Jammu (DD II) Srinagar (DD II) LPT Poonch Udhampur VLPT Darhal Bafliaz Ringdom Gompa	Madhya Pradesh	HPT Guna Shahdol Ambikapur Jabalpur (DD II) Bhopal (DD II) Indore (DD II) Raipur (DD II) LPT Pendra Road Kharod

1	2	1	2
	Multai Karaira Bareli Lakhnadon Badwani Kukshi Pandaria Sindhwa Konta Champa VLPT Pathal Gaon	Meghalaya Mizoram Nagaland	HPT Tura (DD II) Xser Shillong LPT Lawngtlai Xser Aizwal LPT Mokokchung (DD II) VLPT Satakha Shamtorr Xser Bara Basti
Maharashtra	HPT Chandrapur Jalgaon Ratnagiri Nagpur (DD II) LPT Raver Pandharkawada Khanapur Mangalwedha Akalkot Daryapur Dhadgaon Phaltan Patan (Satara) Bhandara Dharmabad Bhamragao Pulgaon VLPT Wai Chimur Sakoli Arjuni Kurkhera Sindewahi Karanja (Wardha) Tivsa Pimpalner-Sakri Ashti Ambet	Orissa	HPT Sambalpur # Berhampur Sambalpur (DD II) LPT Nayagarh Tushara/Saintala Karanjia Rajgangpur Birmittapur Khariar Jalpara Gondiya (Kapilas) Kulad Chikiti VLPT Machhkund Kashipur Lanjigarh Jayapatna Simlipalgarh Sukinda Paikamal Sabdega Xser Dhenkanal Chandipara
Manipur	HPT Churachandpur VLPT Jiribam	Punjab	HPT Fazilka (Pmt.)

1	2
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Rajasthan

HPT

Ajmer
 Barmer (Pmt.)
 Jodhpur
 Jaipur (DD II)
 Jodhpur (DD II)

LPT

Makrana
 Navalgarh
 Sagwara
 Kushalgarh
 Pirawa
 Nagar
 Kishangarh Vas (Alwar)
 Nasirabad
 Bhimmal
 Sojat
 Bali
 Sanchor
 Bharatpur
 Kishangarh (Ajmer)
 Taranagar
 Vijaynagar

VLPT

Laxmangarh
 Viratnagar
 Sikrai
 Kotra
 Tibi

Sikkim

VLPT

Zorethang

Tamil Nadu

HPT

Kumbakonam
 LPT
 Erode
 Chidambaram
 Nattam
 Palani
 Ambasamudram
 Denkanikotta
 Vandavasi
 Kallakuruchi
 Peranampet
 Ambur
 Pollachi

VLPT

Gingee
 Mettupalayam

1	2
---	---

Tripura

HPT

Agartala (DD II)

LPT

Jolaibari
 Amarpur
 Ambassa

Uttar

Pradesh

HPT

Banda
 Lakhimpur
 Agra (DD II)
 Allahabad (DD II)
 Gorakhpur (DD II)
 Lucknow (DD II)
 Mussoorie (DD II)
 Varanasi (DD II)

LPT

Almora
 Dhunaghat
 Narora
 Taleehat
 Karwi
 Dudhinagar
 Kosi
 Khetikhan
 Gopeshwar
 Kalagarh
 Bidhuna
 Dak Pathar

VLPT

Chamoli
 Sirakota/Vaikunthdham
 Maneshwar
 Manila
 Rudraprayag
 Naugaonkhal
 Kedarnath
 Badrinath
 Dugadda
 Pokhri

Xser

Mussoorie (DD II)

West

Bengal

HPT

Balurghat
 Krishnanagar
 Kharagpur
 Shantiniketan

1

2

Asansol (DD II)
Murshidabad (DD II)
LPT
Balrampur
Cooch Bihar
Garhbeta

Pondicherry HPT
Pondicherry

[English]

Clearance for Gauge Conversion of Naupada-Gunupur Railway Line

527. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to get the clearance of gauge conversion of Naupada-Gunupur railway line from Planning Commission so far, although the work has been included in the budget for the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Naupada-Gunupur Gauge Conversion project was included in the Railway Budget, 1997-98, with the proviso that the actual work would be taken up only after obtaining the requisite clearances. Survey for this line was conducted in August-September, 1997, but the Report was required to be updated, which has done in June-July, 1998. While the updated Survey Report was being examined by the Railway Ministry, a proposal was received from the State Government of Orissa for re-assessment of the traffic projection on this line in view of a major port being built at Gopalpur. Accordingly, the Survey Report had to be updated further. Once the revised traffic potential is finalised and the modified Survey Report examined, the proposal will be sent to the Planning Commission for appraisal and, thereafter, it will be processed for clearance of the Expanded Board/Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

[Translation]

Train between Habibganj-Nizamuddin

528. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that in 1998-99 budget, provision was made to start 'Hazarat Nizamuddin Bhopal Express' and published in Railway Time Table;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting the said train so far; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The train has not been introduced due to non-clearance of the encroachments at Habibganj and cannot be introduced till the encroachments are removed.

[English]

Rail/Expressway Corridor Project

529. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to stop the infrastructure rail/expressway corridor project between Bangalore and Mysore;

(b) if so, whether some organisations and experts have also opposed the said project in its totality; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shortage of Running Stocks

530. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken to meet the situation arising out of railway lines capacity constraints, saturation in important routes and shortages of wagons, passenger bogies and locomotive etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Steps are taken on a continual basis for meeting the situation arising out of line capacity constraints and saturation in important routes. The sections which are identified as saturated are taken up for improving their line capacity. The important methods of improving the line capacity of a section (defined in terms of the number of trains that can be run on a section) are as below:—

(i) *Reducing lengthy block sections*

Line capacity of a lengthy block section can be improved by provision of an intermediate block hut/station in the block section between two stations as this enables to increase the frequency of the trains that can be run.

(ii) *Improved signalling*

Line capacity of section can also be improved by better signalling such as provision of automatic signalling etc. Automatic signalling is generally undertaken in suburban areas.

(iii) *Multiplexing of Lines*

Beyond a stage, only having a double line or even a third or a fourth line can increase the line capacity of a section. This is done in sections having a high traffic density or in suburban sections.

(iv) *New Lines and Gauge Conversion Works*

Works pertaining to New Lines and Gauge Conversion help in reducing the congestion on saturated routes by opening up alternative routes.

Availability of wagons and locomotives is adequate for the current level of freight loading. As regards the availability of coaches, in view of the increasing demand

of passenger traffic, there is a perennial shortage that is, however, sought to be made good by fully utilizing the capacities of the two Railway production units, ICF and RCF. Adequate capacity for production of locomotives, as well as wagons have also been built up in the Railways' production units as well as in wagon manufacturing units in the public and private sector to ensure that the requirements of Railways are fully met with.

It may, however, be mentioned that heavy investments are required for undertaking projects for improving line capacity as also acquisition of rolling stock. Railways have been facing a perennial shortage of resources on account of underfunding of Railways' successive five year plans.

The budgetary support provided by the Central Government has been reducing over the years and has come down from 75% in the V five year plan to only 25% in the IX five year plan. The reduced budgetary support as well as the need to restrict market borrowing within manageable limits has severely restricted Railways' ability to build up capacity.

Bonded Workers in MTNL

531. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that several bonded worker are engaged by MTNL, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for engaging such workers and violating the human rights by MTNL; and

(d) the action taken by the Government under Contract Labour Act, 1970 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) Government are aware of a report alleging the engagement of bonded workers by MTNL, New Delhi. This allegation was investigated into. It was found that these workers who are engaged by MTNL, New Delhi through contractors for doing construction work of a temporary nature, were being paid the prescribed minimum wage in the presence of the officers of MTNL as required under the provisions of the C.L. (R&A) Act, 1970. As such, they are not bonded labourers.

Restrictions on Broadcasting Licences

532. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to drop restrictions on holding broadcasting licences within a particular category; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Restrictions on holding broadcasting licences within a particular category were part of a Broadcast Bill introduced in the Eleventh Lok Sabha which lapsed due to dissolution of the House.

Gauge Conversion

533. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the gauge conversion of Solapur-Hubli railway line is likely to be started and completed;

(b) whether the gauge conversion of Bijapur-Gadag railway line into broad-gauge has been completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The details are as follows:—Solapur-Hobli is expected to be completed by 31.3.1999. Hotgi-Bijapur section has already been completed. Work on Bijapur-Gadag section has been taken up and will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. Gadag-Hubli section has already been completed.

(c) Constraint of resources.

Infrastructure for Tourist Places in Rajasthan

534. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for providing financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure for the places of importance from the point of view of natural resources, history, culture and tourism, from the State of Rajasthan, particularly in Haduti, Jaipur, Swai Madhopur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (c) Development of Tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Ministry of Tourism provides financial Assistance for the specific projects identified in consultation with them based on their merits and availability of funds. This Ministry has prioritised 25 projects for Rajasthan for 1998-99 for an amount of Rs. 431 lakhs. The prioritised projects include Light and Sound Show at Amer, Jaipur, Upgradation of Hotel at Gangaur, Jaipur and Paryatan Bhawan at Jaipur (under Equity Scheme).

In 1997-98, the Ministry sanctioned an amount of Rs. 23.35 lakhs for the upgradation of castle Jhoomer Baori at Sawai Madhopur.

Balance Sheet of Doordarshan

535. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Mahajan demands DD ledgers" appearing in the "Pioneer", dated January 30, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the provisions in the Prasar Bharati statute itself, seeking data/information from Prasar Bharati regarding revenue collections and other matters is a routine exercise undertaken by the Government, from time to time, so as to keep itself apprised of the financial health of the organisation, to draw future budgetary estimates and to update information data bank.

[Translation]

International Airports

536. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports proposed to be upgraded to the level of international airports by the Airports Authority of India;

(b) whether the airports declared as international airports are below the standard of the international airports; and

(c) if so, the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government has so far approved the corporatisation of existing airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and the proposed new airport at Bangalore so that they are developed as world class international airports.

(c) The Airports Authority of India has invited Expressions of Interest from legal and financial consultants for advising on the various aspects of corporatisation.

Loss due to Strike in AIR, Jabalpur

537. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recording, dubbing and programme production in All India Radio, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh was stalled due to strike in the last days of the previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons of this strike;

(c) the amount of loss suffered by the Government due to strike; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Some Associations of AIR and Doordarshan

employees served a token strike Notice of 72 hours between 10 to 13 December, 1998 in connection with their demands relating to pay parity and holding of DPC meetings for effecting promotions. In view of this notice, adequate preparations had been made and no recording, editing was scheduled accordingly. The broadcast at AIR, Jabalpur went smoothly on air as scheduled.

(c) Since all the scheduled commercial programmes were broadcast as scheduled, no loss of revenue in that respect occurred.

(d) The issue relating to pay parity between Programme and Engineering staff has been resolved and large number of promotions given to Programme staff on adhoc basis. The strike by Programme and Engineering Staff of AIR and Doordarshan had been called off. An agreement has also been reached with these Associations to maintain industrial peace for a period of 5 years.

[English]

Development of Thiruvananthapuram Airport

538. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government has submitted any proposal for expanding the runway of the Thiruvananthapuram Airport (Kerala); and

(b) if so, the action that has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No such proposal has been submitted in the recent past. However the Airports Authority of India (AAI) had extended the main runway at Thiruvananthapuram by 350 meters taking it to 3333 meters and which work was completed in August, 1997. The runway is suitable for 747 aircraft.

Acquiring Land for Koraput-Rayagada Railway Line

539. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total land acquired and amount of compensation paid on Koraput-Rayagada railway line under South-Eastern Railway so far;

(b) whether any dispute is still pending with regards to providing employment to the land losers;

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

(d) the steps taken by Railways to fill up the vacancies of gang-man for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBC, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) The total private land acquired is 1130 hectares and amount of compensation paid therefor is Rs. 162.91 lakhs.

(b) and (c) The Collector/Special Land Acquisition Officer, Koraput District had recommended about 1400 names for consideration of employment on account of land required by Railways in connection with the laying of broad gauge railway line from Koraput to Rayagada. In a meeting with the Chief Minister of Orissa, it was agreed to provide employment to 200 land losers only. Accordingly, a Committee consisting of the Sub-Collector, Government of Orissa and two Railway Officers was formed for screening of land losers for consideration of employment. The Committee recommended 203 land losers for being provided employment (64 Unreserved + 36 Scheduled Castes + 103 Scheduled Tribes), out of which only 188 turned up and joined the Railways.

The main dispute is to provide employment to all the land losers of Koraput-Rayagada line. However, the Railway has fulfilled its commitment to provide employment to 203 eligible land losers. The Railway is not in a position to provide employment to all the 1400 land losers.

(d) The total number of posts for Gangman (Track Man) are 551 which include the vacancies for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBC categories. The selection is under process and the same is expected to be finalised by 30.6.1999.

Welfare Scheme for Mine Workers

540. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any welfare scheme for mine workers in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement Group Insurance Scheme and to cover them under ESI Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government provide compensations to the Kith and Kin of the mine workers killed in mine accidents and to the mine workers injured therein; and

(f) if so, the details of the compensation given during the year 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) Government have formulated a number of welfare schemes for the benefit of workers engaged in Limestone and Dolomite mines, Iron Ore/ Manganese Ore/Chrome Ore mines and their family members in the sphere of health, education, housing, recreation and water supply. A list of such schemes is given in the Statement enclosed. These schemes are under operation throughout the country including Madhya Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) For employment related injuries resulting in death/disablement, the workers/dependants are eligible for compensation as provided under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. As the provisions of the Act are being implemented by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations, the amount of compensation paid is not centrally maintained. Besides, the Government are also implementing a scheme which provides for grant of a lump sum amount of Rs. 500 alongwith a monthly allowance of Rs. 100 to 150 p.m. to the worker/widow and a monthly scholarship of Rs. 30 to their children in cases where mine workers meet with fatal accidents or are totally and permanently incapacitated due to accidents in Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore and Limestone and Dolomite mines.

Statement

List of Welfare Schemes for Mine (Iron Ore, Manganese Ore Chrome Ore Mines, Limestone and Dolomite Mines Workers

A. HEALTH:

1. Scheme for reservation of beds in T.B. Hospitals.
2. Scheme for treatment of Mine Workers suffering from Mental diseases.
3. Scheme for treatment of Mine Workers suffering from Leprosy.
4. Scheme for Domiciliary treatment of mine Workers suffering from T.B.
5. Maternity benefit scheme for female mine workers.
6. Re-imbursement of actual cost of treatment to mine workers suffering from Cancer.
7. Grant of financial Assistance to mine workers for purchase of Spectacles.
8. Scheme for payment of extra Monetary Compensation for Sterilisation to mine workers.
9. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to mine workers in respect of Heart Diseases.
10. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to mine workers in respect of Kidney Transplantation.
11. Scheme for payment of Compensation in case of Fatal and Serious Accident to mine workers.
12. Scheme for providing artificial limbs to mine workers.
13. Grant-in-aid to Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mines and Limestone and Dolomite Mines Managements for purchase of Ambulance Vans.

B. HOUSING:

1. Financial assistance to mines management for construction of low cost type-I and type-II houses for mine workers near work site.
2. Build Your Own House Scheme; Interest free loan and subsidy to mine workers for construction of their own houses.

C. EDUCATION:

1. Award of Scholarship of School/College going children of mine workers.
2. Composite Scheme for Financial Assistance to the School going children of mine workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books.
3. Assistance to mine owners for running Central Library.
4. Assistance for purchase of School buses to the mine managements.
5. Assistance to the mine managements for mainenance of Libraries.
6. Grant-in-aid for recognised schools in the Iron Ore mining areas for purchase of furniture and equipment.
7. Mid-day meals scheme.
8. Payment of incentives on passing final University/Board examinations from High School onwards.
9. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Re. 1 to female children of mine workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

D. RECREATION:

1. Organising Sports, Social Cultural activities for mine workers.
2. Scheme to provide buses for transportation of mine workers.

3. Establishment of Audio Visual sets/Cinema Vans/Exhibition of films.
4. Excursion-cum-study tours.
5. Supply of T.V. Sets.
6. Setting up of Multipurpose Institutes/Developed Multipurpose Institutes.
7. Setting up of Welfare Centres.
8. Grants of M.P.Is/D.M.Is/Welfare Centres.
9. Sports Grounds.
10. Holiday Homes.

E. WATER SUPPLY:

1. Financial assistance to small mine owners for sinking of wells.
2. Financial assistance to small mine owners for execution of water supply schemes.
3. Financial assistance to big mines management for execution of water supply scheme.

Officers Cadre Posts in Defence Headquarters

541. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in Defence Head Quarters, a large number of administrative/non-technical posts in Officers Cadre are held by Service Officers which could be suitably manned by 'Armed Forces Head Quarters Civil Service' Officers thereby reducing the overall defence expenditures; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to decommatise these posts for Armed Forces Head Quarters Civil Service officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Fifth Central Pay Commission has suggested the setting up of a committee to review the manning pattern in different wings of the Armed Forces and Inter Service Organisations and identify posts for civilianisation. The issue is under examination of the Government.

Setting up of Units of DFP

542. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of existing Directorate of Field Publicity Units, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to set-up more new units in the country;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) The details of locations of the existing Field Publicity Units of Directorate of Field Publicity state-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement I.

(b) to (d) Ten new Field Publicity Units are envisaged to be set up in various parts of the country during the remaining period of Ninth Plan. The state-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement II.

Statement-I*State-wise locations of the existing field publicity units of Directorate of Field Publicity*

State/Union Territory	Locations	
1	2	
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad Warangal Kakinada Srikakulam Guntur Medak	Nizamabad Cuddapah Kumool Nellore Nalgonda Visakhapatnam
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar Pasighat Along Khonsa Ziro Nampong Yingkiong	Daporijo Tezu Anini Seppa Bomdila Tanwang
Assam	Guwahati Nagaon Silchar Tezpur Diphu Nalbari Dhemaji	Jorhat Barpeta Dibrugarh Hatlong Dhubri North Lakhimpur
Bihar	Patna Sitamarhi Bhagalpur Chapra Motihari Begusarai Hazaribagh Jamshedpur Gaya Dhanbad	Monghyr Kishanganj Muzaffarpur Forbesganj Darbhanga Ranchi Daitongganj Gumla Dumka Chaibasa
Gujarat	Ahmedabad Rajkot Palanpur Himatnagar Godhra Bhuj	Junagadh Badodra Ahwa Bhavnagar Surat

1	2	
Goa	Panaji	
Himachal Pradesh	Dharamsala Reckong Peo Nahan Chamba	Hamirpur Mandi Shimla
Haryana	Ambala Narnaul	Hissar Rohtak
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu Udhampur Rajouri Kupwara Kargil Chadoora Doda Leh	Kangan Srinagar Anantnag Kathua Baramulla Shopian Poonch
Karnataka	Bangalore Mangalore Mysore Belgaum Shimoga Hassan	Bellary Bijapur Chitradurga Gulbarga Dharwad
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram Quilon Kottayam Kalpetta (Wynad) Kozhikode Alleppey	Trichur Malappuram Cannanore Cochin Palghat
Madhya Pradesh	Raipur Kanker Jabalpur Sidhi Jagdalpur Bilaspur Bhopal Sagar Hoshangabad Jhabua Mandsaur Indore	Durg Shahdol Ambikapur Balaghat Rewa Bastar Ujjain Gwalior Chhindwara Guna Chhatarpur

1	2	
Maharashtra	Pune Nasik Wardha Ahmednagar Chandrapur Solapur Aurangabad Nagpur	Satara Amravati Ratnagiri Nanded Mumbai Kolhapur Jalgaon
Meghalaya	Shillong Tura Nongstoin	Jowai Williamnagar
Mizoram	Aizawl Saiha	Lunglei
Tripura	Udaipur Kailasahar	Agartala
Nagaland	Kohima Mon	Mokokchung Tuensang
Manipur	Imphal Churachandpur Tamenglong	Ukhrul Chandel Senapati
Punjab	Amritsar Jalandhar Pathankot	Ferozpur Ludhiana
Orissa	Bhubaneswar Keonjhar Balasore Phulbani Dhenkanal Berhampur	Bhawaniapatna Puri Cuttack Sambalpur Jaypore Baripada
Rajasthan	Jaipur Sikar Barmer Jaisalmer Ajmer Dungarpur Sawai Madhopur	Jodhpur Udaipur Bikaner Sriganganagar Ahwar Kota Sirohi

1	2	
Tamil Nadu	Chennai Salem Vellore Thanjavur Madurai	Tirunelveli Ramanathapuram Tiruchirappalli Coimbatore Dharmapuri
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow Jhansi Varanasi Kanpur Allahabad Gorakhpur Sultanpur Aligarh Pauri Gopeshwar Pithoragarh Bareilly Nainital	Banda Mainpuri Gonda Rae Bareilly Azamgarh Lakhimpur Kheri Dehradun Moradabad Uttarkashi Muzaffarnagar Agra Meerut Ranikhet
West Bengal	Siliguri Cooch-Behar Ratganj Gangtok Calcutta-I Bankura Ranaghat Berhampore Barrackpore	Malda Jalpaiguri Kalimpong Jorethang Calcutta (F) Midnapore Burdwan Chindpur
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Port Blair	Car Nicobar
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	
Delhi	Delhi-I	Delhi-II
Lakshadweep	Kavaratti	
Pondicherry	Pondicherry	

Statement-II

State-wise locations of the field publicity units of Directorate of Field Publicity envisaged to be set up during the remaining period of Ninth Plan

S. No.	State	Location
1.	Nagaland	Wokhas
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Roing
3.	Assam	Kokrajhar
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Hardwar
5.	Orissa	Bolangir
6.	Tamil Nadu	Nilgiri
7.	Maharashtra	Dhule
8.	Haryana	Kurukshetra
9.	Madhya Pradesh (W)	Ghargone
10.	Madhya Pradesh (E)	Raigarh

Acquisition of SSK Submarines

543. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :
SHRI C.D. GAMIT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the German Government has refused to supply two more SSK class submarines despite an agreement with that country in this regard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) its likely impacts on the Navy's Plan to have a fleet of six such submarines; and

(d) the alternative plan proposed to meet the country's Naval requirement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Government of India have not asked the German Government to supply two more SSK class submarines and so the question of that Government refusing to supply them does not arise.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

(d) Plans have been drawn up for indigenous construction of submarines to meet the country's naval requirements.

Multinational Companies for Setting up of Warehouses

544. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of proposal by the Anglo Dutch Multinational, Unilever to join Indian companies for setting up of warehouses, cold chains and other infrastructural facilities in India to minimise post-harvest losses in fruits and vegetables; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):

(a) and (b) Chairman of Unilever was quoted in a News Items as having shown interest in collaborating with the Government, financial institutions and private sector companies in India for setting up of warehouses/cold chain facilities in the country to minimise postharvest losses in fruits and vegetables. However, no specific proposal or concrete plan has been prepared by Unilever or submitted to the Government so far.

Extension of Angamalli-Sabarimala Rail Line upto Kanyakumari

545. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to extend the proposed Angamalli-Sabarimala rail line upto Kanyakumari via Punalur, Nedumangad and Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received from some Hon'ble MPs from Kerala for extension of Angamali-Sabarimala line to Trivandrum.

(c) The presentation of the budget later today may please be awaited.

[Translation]

Opening of more Computerised Reservation Centres

546. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any demands for opening of more computerised reservation centres in the Eastern region, particularly at the Begusarai, Barauni, Keol, Lakhisarai, Shekhpura, Navada stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) Passenger Reservation System facilities at Barauni has already been provided with effect from 31.3.1995. Only demand for opening of Computerised Reservation Centre at Kiul has been received.

(b) There are many other stations/locations where reservation workload is higher than Kiul, but these facilities are yet to be provided. Kiul will be considered for computerised PRS at appropriate time.

[English]

Air Space Museum

547. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Air Space Museum in the country;

(b) if so, the location selected therefor; and

(c) the progress made in that regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. However, Air HQ has two Air Force Museums—one at Air Force Station Palam, New Delhi and the second at Air Force Academy Dundigal, Hyderabad.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Austerity Measures

548. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to take austerity measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount to be saved during the year 1998-99 by these measures?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Instructions on austerity measures are issued by the Government from time to time and are strictly followed by this Ministry also. This is a continuous process. While finalising revised budget estimates of Ministry of Civil Aviation for 1998-99, the likely savings arising out of austerity measures have already been kept in view. However, the exact amount of savings during the current financial year will be known at the end of the year.

[*English*]

Procurement of Wireless Equipments by Defence Ministry

549. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of wireless equipments/trunked radio systems purchased by various organisations under the Ministry of Defence during the last three years, Organisation-wise and the criteria adopted for their procurement;

(b) whether such equipments were procured only from Multi-national Companies of the USA;

(c) if so, the name of Multi-national companies and cost of equipments;

(d) whether the equipments procured have the clearance from Intelligence Bureau and RAW; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) It is not in the interest of national security to disclose details such as the total number of wireless/trunked radio systems purchased by various organisations under the Ministry of Defence. While efforts are always made to procure the equipment from indigenous sources, however, from time to time, import is resorted to in the absence of indigenous availability. Such equipment has been procured from various sources including foreign multi-national companies following prescribed procedure in order to meet the urgent operational requirements of the armed forces.

Tariff Rates for Tourists

550. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approached the hoteliers in the country to offer reduced rate of tariff for this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of hotelier in this regard; and

(d) the details of the other steps being taken by the Government to give more incentives to the tourists visiting India this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Some hoteliers have agreed to indicate reduced rates in the off season April-October, 1999, during the visit India Year.

(d) The Government of India have decided to launch a "Visit India Year" from April 1999 to March 2000. During the year Special packages/facilities would be provided by the industry to the tourists visiting India. However, no direct incentives would be provided by the Government.

*[Translation]***Publication of Railway Magazine in Hindi**

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out the special issue of the Railway magazine on Tourism in Official language in the Golden Jubilee year of Hindi which is commencing from September 14, 1999; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coinciding with the Year 1999 being observed as "Visit India Year" and the Golden Jubilee Year of the Official language-Hindi commencing from September, 1999, Ministry of Railways propose to bring out the special issues on Tourism through their Hindi magazines "Bharatiya Rail" and "Rail Rajbhasha" during the year.

*[English]***Competitive Attitude of Air India**

552. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is incapable to compete in the international field;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government in this direction and progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Air India has been competing successfully with Foreign Carriers ever since its inception. The Government has been continuously monitoring the working of Air India and necessary steps are taken from time to time so that the airline remains competitive. Recently the Disinvestment Commission has also made some recommendations in this regard.

Terms and Conditions of CEO

553. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati Selection Committee has sought clarifications regarding C.E.O's terms and conditions for completing the process of giving autonomy to it; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in resolving their queries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) The Selection Committee has, *inter-alia*, desired to know the service conditions of the Whole-time Members of the Prasar Bharati Board for the purpose of finalisation of selection. Inter-Departmental consultations are in progress to finalise the same.

*[Translation]***Renovation and Upgradation of Ayodhya and Rudauli Railway Stations**

554. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal for renovation and upgradation of Ayodhya and Rudauli Railway stations under Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Improvement works are proposed to be taken up at Rudauli after the Budget is passed. At Ayodhya works of provision of overhead water tank and additional facilities in the yard have already been taken up.

*[English]***Tripartite Labour Dialogue System**

555. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Panel to discuss tripartite labour dialogue system' appearing in Delhi edition of the 'Hindu' dated February 1, 1999;

(b) whether some States have not shown willingness to adopt a tripartite mechanism aimed at amending labour laws and evolving labour programmes;

(c) if so, the names of such States and the reasons given by them for their unwillingness; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) The question of revival of tripartite consultative mechanism in States/Union Territories has been a subject of discussion in the 31st, 32nd, 33rd and 34th Sessions of Indian Labour Conference. The matter had been pursued from time to time at the highest level in State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Four states/U.T. namely Sikkim, Adnaman and Nicobar Island, Mizoram and Lakshdweep have not set up Tripartite Committees for want of necessity in the absence of industrial establishments in their States/U.Ts. No response has so far been received from Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Pondicherry and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Tripartite Consultation mechanism is existing in rest of the States/Union Territories.

Demands of Programme Staff Association of AIR and Doordarshan

556. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Programme Staff Association of All India Radio and Doordarshan held protest march recently demanding pay parity with the engineering staff and filling up of vacancies; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demand of the Association for pay parity has since been approved. The demand for filling up the vacancies has also been met to the extent possible by granting ad-hoc promotions in different grades of IB(P)S and that of the Programme Executives. The Association has since called off the agitation.

*[Translation]***Rehabilitation of Workers of Textile Mills**

557. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers rendered jobless due to the closure of cloth mills in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have chalked out any plan for providing employment to the workers rendered jobless;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to release funds under the N.R.F. Scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Upgradation of PGF Jammu**

558. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/proposed for upgradation of Programme Generation Facility Jammu to full-fledged station; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed for telecast of Dogri news from there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Doordarshan Jammu is a full-fledged kendra having studio centre and High Power TV transmitter which relays programmes produced on its own.

(b) Due to constraints of manpower, hardware, transmission time and other infrastructural facilities, a Dogri news bulletin from DDK, Jammu are not being telecast at present. However, efforts are afoot to telecast Dogri news from Jammu during the Ninth Plan period.

Cancellation of Operation 'Good Samaritan' in North East

559. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press report appeared in the 'Indian Express', dated January 28, 1999 regarding the cancellation of Operation 'Good Samaritan' in the North East;

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

(c) the steps, if any, taken to put the project back on track;

(d) whether the Army has proposed to begin some development projects under its newly formed Army Development Group in Kashmir; and

(e) if so, the details of the Group and the projects along with the quantum of funds sanctioned therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The 'Operation Good Samaritan' was conceived as a one time intensive programme limited to Rs. 10 crores. Small development projects were implemented through the Army under this programme. The operation terminated on utilisation of the funds. However, as part of its overall programme, the Army has been undertaking Civic Action Programmes, in the North Eastern region, which are continuing.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A sum of Rs. 4 crores has been sanctioned in the current year for undertaking development projects in Jammu and Kashmir, such as, organisation of medical camps, sports and cultural activities, distribution of study materials to poor and needy school children, improvement of roads, renovation of school buildings and water supply and sanitation facilities.

Discontinuation of Doordarshan Programmes

560. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of scheduled programmes telecast on several Doordarshan Kendras of Uttar Pradesh have been cancelled or stopped during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that no scheduled programmes as per fixed point chart of the Kendras in U.P. have been cancelled or stopped during the last three years except when important National or International events were relayed live by the National Network of Doordarshan or by the Metro service. However, such programmes were scheduled for telecast subsequently.

Introduction of Bill to Amend Cable Laws

561. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI C.D. GAMIT :
SHRI M. BAGA REDDY :
SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce a Bill to amend Cable Laws to regulate and monitor programming content at the ground distribution level;

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

(c) the time by which the Bill in this regard is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) to (c) The Government propose to introduce a Bill, during the current session of Parliament, to amend certain provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the details of which are still at a formative stage.

[*Translation*]

Telecast Code for Television Channels

562. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to frame a telecast code for Television in order to ban the telecast of those programmes which are full of violence and have ill effects on the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) to (c) A Doordarshan Broadcast Code already exists and the programmes telecast on Doordarshan are governed by it. The Code *inter-alia* ensure that the programmes telecast on Doordarshan do not contain any excessive violence or vulgarity which may have adverse effect on the viewers/ society. Private Channels now uplinking from within the country are also required to adhere to this Code applicable to Doordarshan. The programmes of foreign satellite channels are uplinked from outside the country and therefore, do not fall under the ambit of Indian laws, as of now unless decoders are required for their reception. However, Government are contemplating to suitably amend the Cable Law to ensure that all free-to-air

channels also conform to the prescribed codes under the Cable Law. Efforts are afoot to bring the requisite amendment during the current session of the Parliament.

[*English*]

Strike by A.T.Cs.

563. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Traffic Controllers had threatened to go on strike on Christmas eve last year to press their demand for hike in salaries/emoluments;

(b) if so, the rates demanded by them alongwith the present monthly salary/emoluments and those recommended by the Julka Committee; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) The demands of the air traffic controllers are:— 1. Pay parity with the pilots 2. Duty hours to be reduced from 42 hours a week to 36 hours a week 3. Payment of Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) Duty Allowance 4. Creation of more posts 5. Increased human Resource Development Allowance 6. Training in neighbouring countries once in two years and in a western country once in a period of 4 years 7. Payment of higher Conveyance Allowance to Air Traffic Controllers 8. Payment of higher Children Education Allowance. 9. Free air passage to Air Traffic Controllers on domestic sectors. The recommendations of the Julka Committee relating to Rating Allowance, Light Data Processing Allowance, on the Job Training Allowance and Civil Aviation Training Centre Allowance have been accepted and implemented by AAI from November, 1997. The remaining recommendations of Julka Committee have not been accepted by AAI. A Statement showing the emoluments of Air Traffic Controllers as on 1.12.1998 is attached. The officials of the Airports Authority of India and the representatives of the ATC Guild have been meeting from time to time to amicably resolve these issues.

Statement

	Senior Manager	Manager	Assistant Manager
Basic Pay	7962	6700	6287
Dearness Allowance	4043	4043	3910
City Compensatory Allowance	100	100	100
House Rent Allowance @30%	2388	2010	1886
Washing Allowance	75	75	75
Canteen Subsidy	300	300	300
Conveyance Reimbursement	1915	1436	835
HRD Allowance	331	279	262
Children Education Allowance	300	300	300
Sub Total	17414	15243	13955
Admissible Rating Allowance (at the maximum)	13500	13500	6000
Productivity Linked Incentive (9% of the Basic Pay plus Dearness Allowance)*	717	603	566
Total	31631	29346	20521

*PLI is paid annually.

**Functioning of TV Relay Centre at
Kanhangad in Kerala**

564. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the TV relay centre completed two years ago at Kanhangad in Kasaragod district in Kerala is still not functioning; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) A Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) is functioning at Kanhangad in Kasargod district of Kerala since December, 1995. However, due to shortage of staff, only part-time transmission is being currently provided by the LPT. Efforts are afoot to provide adequate staff.

(b) Does not arise.

Gauge Conversion of Makum-Dangori Section

565. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the execution of the gauge conversion of Makum-Dangori railway line in Tinsukia district of Assam has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The work would be completed within the 9th Plan period subject to availability of resources.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction Airstrip at Rewa

566. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the steps being taken to expand the Rewa airstrip and to provide a halt of Khajuraho-Varanasi airlift at Rewa with a view to enable the tourists to visit the famous Bandhavgarh sanctuary during Khajuraho sanctuary celebrations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : The Airports Authority of India has no proposal to develop Rewa airport which belongs to Government of Madhya Pradesh. Indian Airlines has no plans to operate services to Rewa because of capacity constraints.

[English]

Opening of FM Radio Stations

567. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more FM Radio stations in the country;

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

(c) whether any proposal is pending with the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the revenue earned by the Government from the existing F.M. service during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Prasar Bharati had proposed setting up of more FM Stations as per Statement-II

enclosed. However, these schemes had to be deferred for want of adequate financial resources during 9th Plan.

1995-96 — Rs. 4,10,21,034

1996-97 — Rs. 4,18,85,250

(e) The details of revenue earned from FM service during the last three years are as under:

1997-98 — Rs. 4,21,96,850

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of the Place	State	Power
1	2	3	4

A. NEW SCHEMES

1.	Kakinada	Andhra Pradesh	10 KW FM Tr.
2.	Mehboobnagar	-do-	-do-
3.	Kasargod	Kerala	-do-
4.	Amravati	Maharashtra	-do-
5.	Dharmapuri	Tamilnadu	-do-
6.	Purulia	West Bengal	-do-
7.	Darjeeling	-do-	-do-
8.	Junagarh	Gujarat	5 KW FM Tr.
9.	Imphal	Manipur	10 KW FM Tr.
10.	Agartala	Tripura	10 KW FM Tr.

B. REPLACEMENT SCHEMES

1.	Rajkot	Gujarat	10 KW FM Tr.
2.	Vadodara	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4
3.	Srinagar	J & K	-do-
4.	Dharwad	Karnataka	-do-
5.	Bangalore	-do-	-do-
6.	Mysore	-do-	-do-
7.	Mangalore	-do-	-do-
8.	Calicut	Kerala	-do-
9.	Tiruchirapalli	Tamilnadu	-do-

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of the Place	State	Power
1	2	3	4

A. NEW SCHEMES

1.	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh	10 KW FM Tr.
2.	Dumka	Bihar	-do-
3.	Sitamarhi	-do-	-do-
4.	Katihar	-do-	-do-
5.	Dhanbad	-do-	5 KW FM Tr.
6.	Deogarh	Orissa	10 KW FM Tr.
7.	Salem	Tamilnadu	-do-

1	2	3	4
8.	Medinipur	West Bengal	10 KW FM Tr.
9.	Amritsar	Punjab	-do-
10.	Ganganagar	Rajasthan	-do-
11.	Alipurduar	West Bengal	-do-
12.	Dalhausi	Himachal Pradesh	-do-
13.	Rajouri	J & K	-do-
14.	Fazilka	Punjab	-do-
15.	Sindhanur	Karnataka	-do-
16.	Lalitpur	U.P.	-do-
17.	Kohima	Nagaland	-do-
18.	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh	-do-
19.	Gangtok	Sikkim	-do-
20.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	-do-
21.	Kanpur	U.P.	-do-
22.	Pondicherry	Union Territory	-do-
23.	Port Blair	-do-	-do-
24.	Kausani	U.P.	-do-
25.	Sitamarhi	Bihar	-do-
26.	Katihar	Bihar	-do-
27.	Dhanbad	-do-	5 KW FM Tr.

1	2	3	4
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B. REPLACEMENT SCHEMES

1.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	10 KW FM Tr.
2.	Cuttack	Orissa	-do-
3.	Jalandhar	Punjab	-do-

Infrastructure Facilities at Bhubaneswar

568. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the required funds have been provided for the infrastructure facilities for East Coast Railway Zone at Bhubaneswar in Orissa;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the infrastructure facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) Funds to the tune of Rs. 4.5 crores were provided during 1998-99, which are adequate for the level of activities being carried out at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Zones have been planned to be set up in a phased manner over a period of sixty months.

Coverage of Doordarshan/AIR

569. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of AIR and Doordarshan stations at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to extend the coverage of AIR and Doordarshan;

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

(d) the percentage of area not covered by Doordarshan and AIR network, separately; and

(e) the year by which 100% AIR and Doordarshan coverage is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) At present, 196 Radio Stations, 46 TV Studio Centres and 1034 TV Transmitters of varying capacity are functioning in the country. The State-wise details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The state-wise details of AIR/DDN projects under implementation are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(d) and (e) Whereas Doordarshan programmes are available throughout the country via satellite mode and could be received by using appropriate dish antennae system, terrestrially, programmes are not available to an estimated 23.1% and 10% of area in respect of Doordarshan and All India Radio respectively. Though, it is the constant endeavour of the Government to provide Radio and TV coverage to the maximum area and population of the country, for which expansion plans are made and implemented in a phased manner, the year by which 100% Radio and TV coverage would be provided, can not be specified.

Statement-I

S. No.	State/U.Ts.	All India Radio	Doordarshan	
			Transmitters	Studios
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	7	27	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	12	77	2
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	40	1
4.	Bihar	10	52	4
5.	Goa	1	2	1
6.	Gujarat	7	60	2
7.	Haryana	3	10	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6	42	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	46	2
10.	Kerala	7	27	1
11.	Karnataka	13	50	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19	86	2
13.	Meghalaya	3	8	2
14.	Maharashtra	20	85	2
15.	Manipur	1	7	1

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Mizoram	2	6	1
17.	Nagaland	2	10	1
18.	Orissa	11	79	2
19.	Punjab	3	11	1
20.	Rajasthan	17	79	1
21.	Sikkim	1	7	—
22.	Tamilnadu	8	45	1
23.	Tripura	3	7	1
24.	Uttar Pradesh	18	106	6
25.	West Bengal	5	28	3
26.	Delhi	1	4	1
27.	A. & N. Islands	1	13	1
28.	Daman & Diu	1	2	—
29.	Pondicherry	2	5	1
30.	L'Dweep Islands	1	10	—
31.	Chandigarh	1	2	—
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	1	—
Total		196	1034	46

Statement-II

S. No.	State/U.Ts.	All India Radio	Doordarshan	
			Transmitters	Studios
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	4	4	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	22	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	9	—
4.	Bihar	—	9	1
5.	Goa	—	1	—
6.	Gujarat	—	11	1
7.	Haryana	—	5	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	11	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	11	—
10.	Kerala	—	9	2
11.	Karnataka	—	18	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2	20	3
13.	Meghalaya	—	2	—
14.	Maharashtra	1	28	3
15.	Manipur	1	2	—

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Mizoram	—	2	—
17.	Nagaland	1	4	—
18.	Orissa	1	23	2
19.	Punjab	—	1	1
20.	Rajasthan	1	26	1
21.	Sikkim	—	1	1
22.	Tamilnadu	—	14	2
23.	Tripura	—	4	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2	31	1
25.	West Bengal	—	9	—
26.	Delhi	—	—	1
27.	A. & N. Islands	1	—	—
28.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
29.	Pondicherry	—	1	—
30.	L'Dweep Islands	—	—	—
31.	Chandigarh	—	—	1
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
Total		15	278	22

**Rationalisation of Air India and
Indian Airlines Operations**

570. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines has decided to synchronise their operations in areas relating to information technology, ground transfer, scheduling of routes, fare rationalisation, engineering, space accommodation, appointment of common sales agents, advertising, marketing promotion and the ground handling of flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons behind this move?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to optimise utilisation of the resources and to improve operational and financial efficiencies, the Government has issued a directive in December, 1998, advising both the airlines as below:—

(i) Rationalise schedules; (ii) Establish common rated fares; (iii) Expand code share arrangements; (iv) Maintain common offices/GSAs as far as possible; (v) Explore the possibility of leasing in and leasing out of capacity to/from each other at the going market rates; (vi) Undertake joint advertisement promotion, marketing activities; and (vii) coordinate ground handling of flights and related activities.

Stoppage of Hussain Sagar at Seram

571. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Sedam have agitated for demanding the stoppage of Hussain-Sagar train at Seram;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for providing stoppage of Hussain-Sagar at Seram to fulfill the demand of local people?

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

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The agitation was held during January-February 1995.

(c) Stoppage of 7001/7002 Mumbai-Hyderabad Hussain-Sagar Express has been provided at Seram from 15.3.1995.

[Translation]

Opening of Akashwani Kendra at Neemuch in M.P.

572. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long-standing demand for opening of a Akashwani Kendra at Neemuch district of Madhya Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The project could not be included in the 8th plan due to constraint of resources. However, the project is proposed to be taken up in the 9th Plan subject to availability of resources and infrastructural facilities.

**Skilled Workers for Army Vehicles Factory,
Jabalpur**

573. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a requisition for 200 skilled workers duly approved by the Ordnance Factory Board for manufacturing modern Army vehicles in the Army Vehicle factory, Jabalpur is pending for clearance; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]***Prasar Bharati Corporation**

574. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to reconsider the structure, functioning and other features of the Prasar Bharati Corporation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Appointment of Security Personnel through Contractors**

575. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the appointments of security personnel in the Ministries and limited companies are made through the contractors on a large scale;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to stop this procedure;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has already prohibited, by notification dated 9.12.1976, the employment of contract labour, among others, for watching of buildings owned or occupied by the establishments in respect of which the appropriate Government is the Central Government. The information about the contract workers employed for security purposes by the Ministries and limited companies, if any, is however, not maintained centrally.

(d) The provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the rules made thereunder are strictly enforced and action is taken as per the provisions of law in cases of violation.

*[English]***Monitoring of Expenditure on R and D**

576. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of expenditure incurred on R & D from the defence budget during 1996, 1997 and 1998;

(b) whether the Government have any monitoring system on the expenditure and evaluating the technical and scientific researches made by DRDO during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The year wise expenditure incurred on R and D as percentage of Defence Budget are as follows:

Year(s)	Expenditure
1996-97	4.90
1997-98	5.42
1998-99	5.99

(b) and (c) Monitoring and review mechanisms have been instituted for assessment of expenditure incurred and evaluation of technical and scientific progress made in the various R and D projects. These mechanisms include R and D panels in various disciplines, multi-tier management boards and steering committees, having representations from user services, production and quality assurance agencies. In addition, each R and D project is reviewed twice each year by DRDO Council chaired by Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri.

Shortage of Mining Inspectors

577. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of Mining Inspectors;

(b) if so, the number of Mining Inspectors in the year 1980 and in the year 1998;

(c) whether due to shortage of Mining Inspectors, the Mines are not being inspected regularly which leads to fatal accidents;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry has taken any decision to increase the strength of the Mining Inspectors in view of the growing number of Mines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) The sanctioned strength of Mining Inspectors was 127 in the year 1980 whereas it was 167 in the year 1998.

(c) to (e) It is not correct to say that there has been increase in the number of fatal accidents due to shortage of Mining Inspectors. The need for increasing the number of Mining Inspectors has been stressed by various committees and the Court of Inquiries set up to enquire into the accidents in the mines. Accordingly, new Plan Schemes have been prepared for inclusion in the 9th Five Year Plan for increasing the strength of Mining Inspectors.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Gorakhpur-Narkatiaganj Rail Line

578. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gauge conversion of Gorakhpur-Narkatiaganj rail line has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The work has been completed and the line will be commissioned by 31.3.1999.

Clearance for Dahod-Indore Railway Line

579. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey was conducted some years back by the Government to lay railway line from Dahod (Gujarat) to Indore (Madhya Pradesh) via Jhabua/Dhaar;

(b) if so, whether after survey any action has been taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Construction of new line between Dahod and Indore via Jhabua/Dhar has already been taken up under Godhra-Dahod-Indore and Dewas-Maksi project.

(c) Does not arise.

V.I.P. Lounge at Patna Airport

580. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared any scheme for the construction of V.I.P. lounge at Patna Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India is expanding the existing terminal building in a phased manner at a cost of Rs. 10.30 crores. The work is likely to be completed by May, 1999.

[English]

On-going Doordarshan Projects in Orissa

581. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing Doordarshan Projects in Orissa;

(b) the progress of these projects at present and the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(c) the plan formulated by the Government for the expansion of Doordarshan in Orissa during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) These projects are expected to be completed during IX Plan period in phases subject to availability of site, adequate resources, infrastructural facilities, requisite manpower and *Inter-se* priorities.

Statement

States of Doordarshan projects under implementation in Orissa

Project	States
1	2
Studios	
Sambalpur (Pmt. set up)	Commissioned
Bhawanipatna	Installation works in progress expected to be completed in 1999.
HPTs	
Berhampur	Civil Works awarded and expected to be completed in 1999-2000.
Sambalpur (DD-I)	Transmitter on 10 Kw power tested on dummy load.
Sambalpur (DD-II)	Equipment ordered project expected to be completed during 1999-2000.
LPTs	
Birmitrapur	Site identified, equipment supplied, expected March, 1999
Chikti	Site identified equipment ordered
Gondiya (Kapilas)	Technically ready
Jalpara	Site to be identified, equipment ordered
Karanjia	Site available, equipment ordered

1	2
Khariar	Site available, installation being started
Kulad	Site to be identified, equipment supplied
Nayagarh	Site to be identified, equipment ordered
Rajgangpur	Site to be identified, transmitter equipment diverted to Patnagarh
Tushara/Saintala	Site to be identified, transmitter equipment diverted to Kendrapara.
VLPTs	
Jayapatna	Site to be identified, equipment ordered
Kashipur	Site identified, equipment ordered
Lanjigarh	Site identified, equipment ordered
Machhkund	Site identified, equipment ordered
Paikamal	Site to be identified, equipment ordered
Sabdega	Site to be identified
Simlipalgarh	Site identified, equipment supplied Installation being started.
Sukinda	Site to be identified, equipment supplied.
Transposers	
Chandipara	Site to be identified.
Dhenkanal	Site to be identified.

Scheme for Tourism Dependent States

582. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEO RAO MOHOL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme for the development of tourism in the States which are dependent on tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of States which have been included in the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (c) Development of Tourism in the States is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Governments for the development of tourism infrastructure such as Tourist Complexes, Tourist Bungalows, Tourist Reception Centres, Wayside Amenities, Yatri Niwas, Fairs and Festivals, Development of Adventure Tourism etc. The financial assistance is also extended for the integrated

infrastructure development of identified pilgrim/tourist centres.

Central financial assistance is also provided for promotional and publicity activities including holding of fairs and festivals. All State Governments are included in the schemes.

[Translation]

Use of Official Language in Defence

583. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence is lagging behind in the use of official language Hindi as a result of which it has been unable to implement the Annual Programme regarding progressive use of Hindi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the logic behind publishing annual or half-yearly edition of Hindi magazines by the department whereas it has to be published on monthly or quarterly basis; and

(d) whether the Government propose to bring out a special edition on the occasion of Golden Jubilee year of official language to depict a true picture of our Armed forces before the readers in the Hindi language?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government have not issued any instructions to publish any in-house journals or magazines on monthly or quarterly basis. These are published by different organisations of the Ministry of Defence on fortnightly, monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly basis.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

[English]

Promotion of Tourism in Rajasthan

584. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government to Rajasthan during the current financial year to promote tourism in the State, scheme-wise; and

(b) the number of foreign tourists visited various tourist spots of Rajasthan, during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for selected projects identified in consultation with them based on their merits and availability of funds. This Ministry has prioritised 25 projects for Rajasthan for 1998-99 with financial assistance of Rs. 431 lakhs.

(b) The number of foreign tourists who visited various tourist spots of Rajasthan during 1996 and 1997, is given below:—

Year	Number of Foreign Tourists
1996	5,60,946
1997	5,83,384

Losses of Indian Airlines

585. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned 'The great Indian Airlines rope trick, Losses turn profits on paper' appearing in 'Indian Express' dated January 20, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) The accounting practices are Legal and allowed under Accounting Standards (AS) issued by the

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. The accounts of Indian Airlines are prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. Audit verification of the accounts is carried out by a full fledged Internal Audit Department through-out the year. The accounts of the Company are also audited by the Statutory Auditors, appointed by Comptroller General of Accounts, and the Government Audit. These are outside agencies which submit their reports to the shareholders and CAG's Office.

Reconstruction of Railway Lines

586. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that 2000 metres railway line between Bhulan and Barares and over 1000 metres near Lodna in Bihar are under immediate threat of collapse and requires immediate reconstruction; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed for reconstruction of above railway lines to avoid any accident due to subsidence of railway line in near future?

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

(b) The following precautionary measures have been taken:—

- (i) Provision of water ponds at appropriate locations.
- (ii) Periodical measurement of temperature at nominated points.
- (iii) Filling of inert materials viz sand etc.

M/s Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., who have mining operations in this area have been asked to take above measures, in consultation with the Railway, to control the fire. Reconstruction of the above line, is not being planned at the present as diversion of present alignment is likely to be resisted by the local residents of Jharia, Lodna etc., in view of prevalent socio-economic conditions.

As an additional precautionary measure, stationary patrolmen have also been posted at affected area and trains are being run cautiously at restricted speeds.

[Translation]

Sea-Bird Naval Base

587. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since taken a decision on the proposal of setting up of a 'Sea-Bird Naval Base' in Western India;

(b) whether the Government have also received detailed proposals in this regard from the State Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon alongwith the location where the base is proposed to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Government have approved and is in the process of setting up of a Naval Base "Seabird" at Karwar region of Karnataka state, on the Western coast of India.

[English]

Recruitments in Railway Protection Force

588. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recruitment in Railway Protection Force was done in January, 1997 in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether selected candidates in this recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir are still awaiting for training, whereas the candidates belonging to other States have been sent for training.

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which these candidates will be provided training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) Yes, Sir. A recruitment was conducted in Jammu and Kashmir for appointment to the post of constables in

Railway Protection Special Force during January to October, 1997.

(b) and (c) The selected candidates are sent for training only after receipt of satisfactory Medical Reports and Police Verification Reports and antecedents in their favour subject to availability of capacity in training school. In this case, Police verification reports have been received in parts. These reports in respect of majority of the selected candidates have now been received and accordingly, Call letters have been issued for their initial training. Police Verification Reports for the remaining selected candidates are being got on priority from Police department.

(d) The initial training of the candidates selected from Jammu and Kashmir is scheduled to commence in the first week of May, 1999.

Accident of Boeing 747-400 at Frankfurt Airport

589. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Air India Boeing 747-400 was involved in an accident at the Frankfurt airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely loss to the Air India;

(d) whether it will be recovered from the insurance company; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Air India Boeing 747-400 aircraft VT-EVA was involved in an incident on 20.1.1999 while landing at Frankfurt Airport.

(b) The incident is under investigation.

(c) The likely loss to Air India is Rs. 127.82 lakh as repair cost and Rs. 14.21 lakh as costs for movement of manpower and material.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

FOG Bound Tracks

590. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI K.L. SHARMA :
SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Union of Railways has decided to instal special device on Indian trains and Cab Signalling System to enable it to run with ease even in foggy weather;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in December, 1998 Railways signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Railways under which they would install the equipment on trail basis on selected routes; and

(d) if so, by what time the special device on Indian trains will be installed and the total expenditure to be incurred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) It is proposed to undertake a pilot project of radio based European Train Control System (ETCS)-Level 2 on Delhi-Mathura section in coordination with UIC (International Union of Railways, Paris). There is no proposal to install CAB Signalling System on Indian Railways at present.

(b) From the station interlocking, the conditions about signal aspects are acquired and then processed for its transmission *via* radio to locomotive. Signal aspect conditions of auto signals, intermediate block signals and interlocked gates can be brought to a central place in a station on signalling cable allowing scanning of signal aspects. Where more than one cabin is used for interlocking at station, signal aspects can also be brought to one cabin by cable and then further transmitted *via* radio. Aspects of signals of adjacent stations can also be made available.

(c) No Memorandum of Understanding has been signed in this regard.

(d) Timeframe for the trial ETCS level 2 is being worked out in consultation with UIC, Paris. It is estimated to cost about Rs. 49 Crore.

Merger of I.A. and A.I.

591. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to merge the Indian Airlines with Air India, with a view to optimising use of the available infrastructure, air fleet, equipment and resources of the two national air carriers, and obtaining better coordination between the two; and

(b) if so, the decision that has since been taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Tourism as a Source of Employment

592. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to attract more tourists in the country to make the tourism industry a major source of employment;

(b) whether the Government propose any long term investment by the entrepreneurs in the tourism industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) The Ministry of Tourism has taken the following steps to attract more tourists in the country to make tourism industry a major source of employment:—

Given assistance to the State Governments for development of tourism infrastructure.

By organising Familiarization tours for foreign media and trade.

Organising special events from time to time like India Tourism Week, Khajuraho Millennium, Bauddha Mahotsav, Visit India Year and other events.

Providing Central financial assistance to the State Governments to organise identified fairs and festivals and craft melas in their region.

Provide interest subsidy for new hotel projects.

To train the personnel related with the Hotel Management and Catering.

(b) and (c) The Foreign investment upto 74% and NRI investment upto 100% alongwith foreign collaboration in respect of technical consultancy services, franchising, management fee etc. are under the automatic approval which is cleared by RBI itself. Foreign Investment Promotion Board and Project Approval Board are set up in order to clear other proposals of foreign investment.

Incomplete HPTs/LPTs/Transposers in Assam

593. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of HPTs/LPTs/Transposers taken for construction in different districts of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the status of each of these projects as on date; and

(c) the total amount estimated at the beginning of the projects and cost escalation thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Seven transmitters including two HPTs (DD-2) at Guwahati and Silchar, four LPTs at Bokakhat, Silchar (DD-2), Dibrugarh (DD-2), Gohpur and transposer at Guwahati were taken up for installation in Assam during last three years. Out of these, the three LPTs at Silchar (DD-2), Dibrugarh, (DD-2) and Gohpur has since been commissioned and remaining four are expected to be completed during 1999-2000.

(c) The above seven transmitter were sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 1396.75 lakhs and there has been no cost escalation till date.

Holding of IFF at Hyderabad

594. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints regarding poor screening facilities at International Film Festival recently held at Hyderabad have been received;

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

(c) the Central grants provided to Directorate of Film Festivals during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No specific complaints have been received by the Government. There have, however, been some informal feedback and media reports in this regard.

(b) These have been taken note of by the Directorate of Film Festivals for the future.

(c) The details of budgetary allocation to the Directorate of Film Festivals for the last 5 years are as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Year	Plan	Non-Plan
1994-95	249.16	217.06
1995-96	453.58	224.84
1996-97	251.52	239.75
1997-98	267.38	302.13
1998-99	326.00	332.13

[Translation]

Recruitment through Unfair Means

595. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some people have got their jobs through unfair means in 506, Army Base workshop, Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh);

(b) if so, whether the Government have got the matter probed;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the efforts being made to ensure that such malpractices do not occur again in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (d) Recruitment in the Workshop is being done, strictly in accordance with the "Recruitment Rules for Industrial Personnel of EME 1989" and all precautions are taken to ensure that unfair means are not used during the recruitment and at subsequent stages. Nevertheless, caste certificates submitted by the candidates in two cases were found false, on verification by the civil authorities. The services of these candidates were, therefore, terminated. Meticulous adherence to the laid-down procedure and strict verification of cast certificates are followed to prevent such occurrences.

[English]

Priced Publications

596. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the priced publications brought out by the Publication Division of the Ministry during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the agents/book sellers identified for selling out all the publications;

(c) the names of the schools, colleges and universities which are subscribers of these publications;

(d) whether the Publication Division has conducted any book exhibitions or participated in any book fairs during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) A list showing priced books brought out by the Publications Division during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) There are 943 agents/book sellers identified for selling the publications brought out by Publication Division.

(c) Schools/Colleges/Universities, *inter alia* subscribe to DPD publications directly from books sellers/agents for which information is not compiled.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. During the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 Publications Division has organized/ participated in 242 book exhibitions/fairs as per details given below:—

- | | | | |
|-------|---------|---|-----------------------------------|
| (i) | 1996-97 | = | 62 exhibitions |
| (ii) | 1997-98 | = | 75 exhibitions |
| (iii) | 1998-99 | = | 105 exhibitions (upto 27.12.1998) |

Statement

Books produced during 1997-98 and 1998-99

Sl. No	Name of the Book
1	2

ENGLISH

1. Indian Press since 1955
2. Cities of India—Bangalore
3. History of Indian Journalism (Rep.)
4. 2500 years of Buddhism (Rep.)
5. 1857 A Pictorial Presentation (Rep.)
6. Quotable Quotes : Aurobindo
7. Meghnad Saha
8. India 96—A reference annual
9. Common Man's guide to Rights and facilities
10. Communication, Technology and Development

1	2
11.	Citizens and the Constitution
12.	Science: Nature's Copycat
13.	India in Orbit
14.	States of our Union : Mizoram
15.	States of our Union : Orissa
16.	Adventures of a Space Craft (Rep.)
17.	Children's History of India (Rep.)
18.	Freedom Fighters Remember
19.	Press in India : 1996
20.	Freedom Fighters Remember (Del)
21.	The Gazeteer of India-Vol. II (Rep.) (Del)
22.	States of our Union : Maharashtra (Del)
23.	Gospel of Buddha (Rep.)
24.	Cities of India: Hyderabad (Del)
25.	States of our Union: Himachal Pradesh
26.	India 96 a A reference annual (Additional Copies)
27.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 96 (Rep.) (Del)
28.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 94 (Rep.) (Del)
29.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 91 (Rep.) (Del)
30.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 95 (Rep.) (Del)
31.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 97 (Rep.) (Del)
32.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 100 (Rep.) (Del)
33.	Common Man's Guide to Rights and Facilities (Rep.)

1	2
34.	Publications Division—Diary 1998 (Del)
35.	A New Approach to Iqbal (Rep.)
36.	Life and Environment : A Photo Album (Del)
37.	Nagendra Singh—A Many Splendoured Life
38.	India 1998—A Reference Annual
HINDI	
1.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 28 (Rep.)
2.	Acharya Vinoba Bhave (BMI)
3.	Mazhrul Haq (BMI) (Rep.)
4.	Shantidool Gandhi
5.	Amar Shaheed Ramprasad Bismil
6.	Kaun Hansa
7.	Sikkim Sanskriti Aur Janjivan
8.	Boudh Dharm Ke 2500 Varsh (Rep.)
9.	Bhartiya Swatantrata Andolan Ka Itihars (Part III) (Rep.)
10.	Ek Din Ka Mehman (Rep.)
11.	Bhartiya Janjatiyan Atit ke Jharoke Se
12.	Awadh Ki Lok Kathain (Rep.)
13.	Vipin Chandra Pal (BMI)
14.	C.W.M.G. Vol. II (Rep.)
15.	Bhartiya Swatantrata Andolan Ka Itihars—Vol. 4 (Rep.)
16.	Bhartiya Chitrakala Mein Sangeet Tatva (Del)

1	2
17.	Sadhumat Aur Lokmat
18.	Chittaranjan Dass (Rep.)
19.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 84 (Rep.)
20.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 85 (Rep.)
21.	Bharat ka Sankshipt Itihas
22.	Bal Gangadhar Tilak (Rep.)
23.	Uttar Madhya Ksetra Ki Lok Sanskriti
24.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 71 (Rep.)
25.	Bacchon Ke Liye Bharat Ka Itihas (Rep.)
26.	Swatantrata Senaniyon Ki Yadon Ke Jharoke
27.	Yaad Kar Lena Kabhi (Shaheedon Ke Khat)
28.	Bharat 1996
29.	Lok Geeton Mein Krantikari Chetna
30.	Sarojini Naidu (BMI) (Rep.)
31.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya—Vol. 6
32.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya—Vol. 1 (Rep.)
33.	Uttar Pradesh Ki Lok Kathain (Rep.)
34.	Hindi Rastrabhasha Se Rajbhasha Tak
35.	Indira Gandhi (BMI)
36.	Jawaharlal Nehru Ke Bhashan—Vol. 1 (Rep.)
37.	Swatantrata Senaniyon Ki Yadon Ke Jharoke (Del.)
38.	Jawaharlal Nehru Ke Bhashan—Vol. 2 (Rep.)

1	2
39.	Swami Vivekanand (BMI) (Rep.)
40.	Bharat Ke Samachar Patra 1996
41.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya Vol. 2 (Rep.)
42.	Kabbu Rani (Rep.)
43.	Rajasthan Ke Nari Ratna (Rep.)
44.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya—Vol. 3 (Rep.)
45.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 13 (Rep.)
46.	Hansne Wala Kutta (Del.)
47.	Pamu Ka Ghar
48.	Bagh Ki Talash (Del.)
49.	Bharat 1996 (Additional Copies)
50.	Abhyaranya (Rep.)
51.	Videshi Yatriyon ki Nazar Mein Bharat (Rep.)
52.	Vishwa Ke Shreshth Lok Kathain—Part 4 (Rep.)
53.	Hamare Scout Guide (Rep.)
54.	Bharat Ke Prachin Smarak (Rep.)
55.	Bharat Ke Mahan Shiksha Shastri (Rep.)
56.	Jhalkari Bai (Rep.)
57.	Pouranik Bal Kathain (Rep.)
58.	Betal Kathain (Rep.)
59.	Carbon Copiyon Ki Karamat (Rep.)
60.	Ginatilal Ke Chhink (Rep.)

1	2
61.	Krantikariyon Ka Bachpan (Rep.)
62.	Hamare Bahadur Bacche (Rep.)
63.	Hamare Paramvir (Rep.)
64.	Computer Sabke Liye (Rep.)
65.	Paigambaron Ki Kathain (Rep.)
66.	Rochak Etahasik Katanain (Part I) (Rep.)
67.	Bas Panch Minute (Rep.)
68.	Sanskritik Ekta ka Guldasta (Rep.)
69.	Lakshdweep Ki Samudri Kathain (Rep.)
70.	Rochak Etahasik Kahania (Part I) (Rep.)
71.	Bas Panch Minute (Rep.)
72.	Shradh Ki Dakshin Tatha Anya Hasya Kathain (Rep.)
73.	Bharat Ke Lokgatha Geet—Part 2 (Rep.)
74.	Bhartiya Sanskriti Ki Jhank (Rep.)
75.	Bhartiya Jhajrani
76.	Bagwani Kaise Karen
77.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya—Vol. 4 (Rep.)
78.	Vishwa Ki Shrestha Lok Kathain—Vol. 2 (Rep.)
79.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya Vol. 8
80.	Hamari Jheelen Aur Nadian
81.	GWMG Vol. 2 (Rep.)

REGIONAL LANGUAGES

Sl. No.	Name of the Book	
1	2	
1.	Badruddin Tyabji (BMI)	(Urdu)
2.	Mazhrul Haq (BMI)	(Urdu)
3.	Quotable Quotes : Subramaniam Bharti	(Tamil)
4.	Social Philosophers	Gujarati
5.	Great Classics	Telugu
6.	Ek Din Ka Mehman	Gujarati
7.	An Outline History of Indian People	Bengali
8.	Dhanua Raja	Gujarati
9.	An Outline History of Indian People	Tamil
10.	Great Classics Retold	Marathi
11.	An Outline History of Indian People	Marathi
12.	Stories of Tagore (Bal Kahanian)	Marathi
13.	An Outline History of Indian People	Gujarati
14.	R.N. Tagore (BMI)	Marathi
15.	Dr. N.S. Hardikar (BMI)	Gujarati
16.	Great Classics	Gujarati
17.	Jawaharlal Nehru (BMI)	Urdu
18.	Madam Bhikaji Rustam Cama (BMI)	Gujarati
19.	Devotional Poets of Mystic Pt. II (Santo Kavi)	Gujarati
20.	Swami Dayanand Saraswati (BMI)	Gujarati
21.	Safina-E-Ghalib	Urdu

1	2	
22.	Biography of Thakkar Bapa (BMI)	Gujarati
23.	Mukhtar Ahmed Ansari	Urdu
24.	A Guide to Home Gardening (Anganbari Margdarshika)	Gujarati
25.	Kalidas Ni Kahani	Gujarati
26.	Bhamasho No Bijō Fero	Gujarati
27.	Muthi Bhulni Puja	Gujarati
28.	Akkal No Ejaro	Gujarati
29.	Muthi Uchhera Balako	Gujarati
30.	Megh Dhanush	Gujarati
31.	Pruthvi ni Parakamma	Gujarati

Total No. of titles released during the year 1997-98:

The following books were produced during 1998-99:—

English	--	38
Hindi	—	81
Regional Language	—	31
Total	—	150

Language Break-up:—

Gujarati	—	17
Marathi	—	5
Urdu	—	5
Tamil	—	2
Telugu	—	1
Bengali	—	1

S. No.	Name of the Book
1	2
ENGLISH	
1.	Indian Classical Dance (Rep.)
2.	Sri Aurobindi (Rep.)
3.	Children in Quotes
4.	Indian Calendric System
5.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 1 (Rep.)
6.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 14 (Rep.)

1	2
7.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 15 (Rep.)
8.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 16 (Rep.)
9.	Shaheedon Ke Khat
10.	Children's Panchtantra (Rep.)
11.	Children's Ramayana (Rep.)
12.	Children's Mahabharata (Rep.)
13.	Once Upon a Time (Folk Tales of Punjabi)
14.	Folk Tales of India (Rep.)
15.	Sardar Panikkar—His Life & Times (BMI)
16.	Indian Cinema : A Visual Voyage
17.	Folk Tales of India (Rep.)
18.	Story of Eight Saint Reformers (Rep.)
19.	India 1999 : A Reference Annual
20.	Indo-Islamic Architecture (Rep.)
21.	States of our Union : Himachal Pradesh (Rep.)

HINDI

1. Amar Shahid Bhagat Singh (Rep.)
2. Hamare Tyohar (Rep.)
3. Asali Jimakade (Rep.)
4. Yug Pravartak Avishkar
5. Amir Kushrao (Rep.)
6. Tendua Aur Cheetah (Rep.)
7. Bharat Ki Vaigyanik Vibhutan

1	2
8.	Trekking
9.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya (Vol. 5)
10.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya (Vol. 7)
11.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya (Vol. 9)
12.	1857 ka Swatantrata Sangram
13.	Pahelian (Rep.)
14.	Lo Gubbare
15.	Bharat 1998
16.	Anjanee Mein Huye Awishkar (Rep.)
17.	Kokkas ka Udan Khatola (Rep.)
18.	Sarvadharna Sambhav
19.	Azadi Ki Ladai Ke Zaptshuda Tarane
20.	Dhanua Raja
21.	Aatpat Nagar Ki Kahaniyan
22.	Bihari Satsai
23.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 15 (Rep.)
24.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 16 (Rep.)
25.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 17 (Rep.)
26.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 27 (Rep.)
27.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 29 (Rep.)
28.	Rajbhasha Hindi
29.	Hasrat Mohani
30.	Hamara Raeshtriya Dhwaj

1	2
31.	Hakim Ajmal Khan (BMI)
32.	Krantikari Mahilayen
33.	Bharat Mein Sharirik Shiksha
34.	Rauf Chacha Ke Gadha
35.	Sampurna Gandhi Vangmaya (Vol. 90)
36.	Bharat Ke Nari Ratna (Rep.)
37.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 12 (Rep.)
38.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 88 (Rep.)
39.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya (Vol. VI) (Rep.)
40.	C.W.M.G. Vol. 89
41.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya (Vol. V) (Rep.)
42.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya (Vol. VII) (Rep.)
43.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya (Vol. III) (Rep.)
44.	Trekking (Rep.)
45.	Bharat Ke Pakshi (Rep.)
46.	Simha
47.	Bharat 1999
48.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya (Vol. IX) (Rep.)
49.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya (Vol. VIII) (Rep.)
50.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya (Vol. IV) (Rep.)

1	2
51.	Netaji Sampurna Vangmaya (Vol. II) (Rep.)
52.	Hamare Tyohar (Rep.)
53.	Rabindranath Tagore (BMI) (Rep.)
54.	Hini: Rashtrabhasha Se Rajbhasha Tak (Rep.)
55.	Acharya Vinobha Bhave (BMI) (Rep.)
56.	Swami Vivekananda (BMI) (Rep.)
57.	Hanse Wala Kutta (Rep.)
58.	Bachchon Ke Liye Bharat Ke Itihas (Rep.)
59.	Hamare Bahadur Bachche (Rep.)

REGIONAL LANGUAGES

1.	Together We Marched (Tamil)
2.	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Urdu)
3.	Smit Nu Mulya (Gujarati) (Rep.)
4.	Rang Aur Sugandh (Gujarati) (Rep.)
5.	Varta Mamnu Nagar (Gujarati) (Rep.)
6.	Khagol Yatri (Gujarati) (Rep.)
7.	Virat Vibutyo (Gujarati) (Rep.)
8.	Mot No Mukablo (Gujarati) (Rep.)
9.	Prema Na Plyush (Gujarati) (Rep.)
10.	Sukh No Suraj (Gujarati) (Rep.)
11.	Vaddada Ni Vate (Gujarati) (Rep.)
12.	Kalana Jyotirdharo (Gujarati) (Rep.)

1	2
13.	Jungle Mein Mor Nachayo (Gujarati) (Rep.)
14.	Ramayana, Mahabharata & Bhagwata Writers (Gujarati) (Rep.)
15.	Santo bhakto Kavi Part I (Gujarati)
16.	Indian Tribes Through Ages (Gujarati)
17.	Mohd. Quli Qutab Shah (Urdu)
18.	Hakim Ajmal Khan (Urdu)
19.	Shaheedon Ke Khat (Assamese)
20.	Shaheedon Ke Khat (Gujarati)
21.	Shaheedon Ke Khat (Marathi)
22.	Shaheedon Ke Khat (Urdu)
23.	Shaheedon Ke Khat (Punjabi)
24.	Shaheedon Ke Khat (Telugu)
25.	Our National Flag (Kannada)
26.	Our National Flag (Bengali)
27.	Our National Flag (Assamese)
28.	Our National Flag (Malayalam)
29.	Our National Flag (Marathi)
30.	Our National Flag (Telugu)
31.	Our National Flag (Punjabi)
32.	Our National Flag (Gujarati)
33.	Our National Flag (Urdu)
34.	Our National Flag (Tamil)
35.	Quit India Movement (Tamil)
36.	Story of Kalidas (Tamil)
37.	Saudarya Meemansako (Gujarati), (Aesthithicians)

1	2
38.	Shilpa Shiksha (Bengali)
39.	Shaheedon Ke Khat (Tamil)
40.	Shaheedon Ke Khat (Malayalam)
41.	Indian Folk Tales (Tamil)
42.	Founders of Philosophy
43.	Sarojini Naidu (Urdu)
44.	Indian Folk Tales (Tamil)
45.	Mahatma Buddha Ke Hekayten (Urdu)
46.	Madan Mohan Malviya (Kannada)
Total No. of titles released during the year 1998-99	
English	— 21
Hindi	— 59
Regional Languages	— 46
Total	— 126
Language Breakup:	
Assamese	— 2
Bengali	— 2
Gujarati	— 18
Kannada	— 2
Malayalam	— 2
Marathi	— 2
Punjabi	— 3
Tamil	— 6
Telugu	— 2
Urdu	— 7
Total	— 46

Common Fleet for AI and IA

597. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to have a common fleet for Air India and Indian Airlines for domestic and international flights; and

(b) if so, the date by which the new proposition of common fleet is likely to be started?

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

(b) Does not arise.

12.07 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS**Eighth Report**

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : I beg to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications on Doordarshan—Production of Programmes in-house and by outside Producers relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

12.07¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE**Fourth Report**

[English]

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY (Hoshiarpur) : I beg to present the Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'The Advanced Jet Trainer'.

12.08 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS**Fiftieth, Fifty-first and Fifty-second Reports**

[English]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee

on Home Affairs:—

- (1) Fiftieth Report on the Lokpal Bill, 1998;
- (2) Fifty-first Report on the Central Vigilance Commission, Bill, 1998; and
- (3) Fifty-second Report on the Notaries (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

12.08¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS**Evidence**

[English]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of Evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the (i) Lokpal Bill, 1998; (ii) Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1998 and (iii) Notaries (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

12.09 hrs.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**Sixty Third Report**

[Translation]

PROF. RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK : Sir, I beg to lay the Sixty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on aspects related to Food Preservation and safety measures of the Ministry of Science and Technology (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research).

12.09¹/₂ hrs.

MOTION RE : NINTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R.

KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 24th February, 1999."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 24th February, 1999."

The motion was adopted.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1999-2000

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to present the Budget Estimates for 1999-2000 for the Indian Railways.

Introduction

This Government is about to complete one year in office. During this period, a "Status Paper" and "White Paper", have been placed before the Parliament, to help appreciate the financial position, shortage of resources and the various challenges and difficulties faced by Indian Railways. I am happy to report that on some of these issues, we have taken concrete steps as I shall presently explain in the speech.

The year 1998-99 has been a difficult one, not only for the Railways, but perhaps for the whole country. Our industrial and financial growth have been affected by the global financial crisis and various other difficulties, impacting the Railway system also. Freight loading has not been as per our expectations. On the other hand, expenditure has gone up considerably as a result of the Fifth Central Pay Commission's recommendations. Mr. Speaker, Sir, such circumstances would have discouraged any other organisation but I am happy to say that without being disheartened by such adverse situations, we succeeded in achieving many of our objectives. Notwithstanding the constraint of resources, we have enhanced passenger carrying capacity of trains by attaching two or more coaches in 100 popular trains. Thus, by adding 440 additional coaches, we generated carrying capacity of more than 29,000 passengers per day. Apart from this, 124 new trains were introduced, the run of 32 trains was extended and the frequency of 32 trains increased. I am happy to state that all announcements made regarding passenger trains in 1998-99 with the exception of one, have been fulfilled.

"1999-2000—Passenger Year"

Sir, the progress made in passenger services during this year has not made us complacent. I propose to declare the year 1999-2000 as the "Passenger Year" and take still greater strides in this direction. It will be our earnest effort to not only provide reliable and better services but it will also be our endeavour that our staff behave more courteously and the passengers get reservation easily. We will make efforts to make at least one station in each Division as model station where higher level of passenger facilities will be provided and to upgrade some selected passenger terminals. I would like that improved amenities are provided on all passenger trains but, in the first phase, special emphasis will be given to the maintenance of 30 Mail and Express trains, apart from Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains, so as to ensure that there are no complaints in this respect.

Sir, during the "Passenger Year", our efforts to control the activities of the touts will be greatly intensified. To begin with, in the first phase, our effort will be to make Calcutta, Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai free of touts. We are aware that this is a very difficult task but all the necessary steps will be taken to achieve this.

Passenger Amenities

One of our most important goals has been to continuously improve passenger amenities. In the current year also, we have taken a number of steps which I would like to mention:—

- (i) A "Customer Care Institute" is shortly being opened in Delhi with a view to improve politeness and courtesy in the behaviour of the staff like ticket collectors, booking clerks etc., who come in direct contact with the public.
- (ii) Delhi, Secunderabad, Calcutta and Mumbai Passenger Reservation System (PRS) have been linked with the network, and Chennai will also get connected to this network by 31.3.1999. With this, facility will now be available to get reservation by any train from any of the PRS terminals in the country.
- (iii) In the last Budget, the norm for setting up a PRS centre was reduced from 300 to 200 reservations per day. As a result, 75 additional PRS centres have been set up, raising the total number of centres to more than 400.

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

- (iv) With the establishment of "Rail Net" and the computers provided at 150 stations, it will be possible to monitor passenger complaints at the Divisional, Zonal and Railway Board's levels. This will enable expeditious disposal of complaints.
- (v) Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) has been extended to 44 stations to provide real-time information to the public regarding availability of reservations and arrival/departure of important trains.
- (vi) Passengers are always keen to learn about the factual position of the running of trains. For this, a successful trial has been carried out on Western and Northern Railway and based on the experience gained a "National Train Enquiry System" is expected to be established next year to provide real-time information regarding running of any train from any location.
- (vii) A pilot project for providing "Tele Booking" reservation facility at New Delhi Reservation Complex has been launched.
- (viii) Indian Railways has launched its 'Web Page' on the Internet which will permit access from anywhere in the world, to information regarding train schedules and connections, including tourist trains.
- (ix) 'Tatkal Scheme' has been introduced successfully for more than 100 important long distance trains. This has enabled passengers to get reservation at short notice. This facility will be further extended.
- (x) It was announced in 1998-99, that in eight trains pantry cars will be introduced. This work has almost been completed. We plan to introduce pantry car services in eight more trains in 1999-2000.
- (xi) We plan to introduce a 'Rail Yatri Magazine' during the year. This will be available in the trains for reading by the passengers. Apart from providing information about railways, this will also provide information about tourist spots, special tourist programmes, articles on health and interesting topics for the entertainment and knowledge of the passengers.

Safety

Sir, whenever we talk about passenger services on Indian Railways, the safety of passengers is our foremost concern. The disastrous and unprecedented accident at Khanna is still deeply etched in my mind and continues to move and unnerve me. This tragedy has raised questions regarding several aspects of railway safety. It is imperative that we find early solutions to them. This matter has been given serious thought by the Railway Ministry and a plan has been drawn up for improving safety. I would also like to inform this august House that a one-man Commission of enquiry under the chairmanship of a sitting judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice G.C. Garg, is being constituted to enquire into the Khanna accident.

There is no doubt that, inspite of a significant increase in passenger and goods traffic in the last 50 years, statistically the number of accidents have come down. However, we cannot afford to be complacent, and in view of the increasing pressure on existing assets, we are taking special steps. I would now like to mention some of the important ones.

- (i) This year, the drivers and guards of trains running on all "A" and "B" routes have been given 'walkie talkie' sets for making emergency contacts. Since this effort has proved to be very successful and useful, it has been decided that this facility will be made available in all passenger trains by 31st March 1999. It will be provided in the goods trains in the second phase, next year.
- (ii) To prevent accidents due to human failure, track circuiting is being provided carried out every year in a planned manner, and almost 600 stations are getting covered every year. Track circuiting will be completed from 'Fouling Mark' to 'Fouling Mark' on 'A', 'B' and 'C' routes by 31st March, 1999.
- (iii) To prevent overshooting of signal by the driver by mistake, a pilot project of a Radio-based Automatic Train Control System in Delhi-Mathura section has been included in the Budget. After a successful trial, this will be further extended.
- (iv) Several accidents have occurred due to rail fractures and weld failures. In order to reduce this, intensive checking is being done with the help of Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors (USFD). It has also been decided to purchase two high

speed Self-propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing (SPURT) cars. Further, pressure is being exerted on the rail manufacturers to ensure quality in steel and correct manufacturing process.

- (v) Two professorial chairs have been set up at the University of Roorkee to provide a new direction to safety and to carry out independent studies.
- (vi) A "Railway Safety Review Committee" under the Chairmanship of Shri H.R. Khanna, retired Justice of Supreme Court is already functioning to conduct a detailed review of the existing safety measures and to suggest ways for making them more effective.

Accidents at Level Crossings

In the last decade, there has been no significant reduction in the number of accidents taking place at level crossings. Most of these accidents are due to the carelessness of the road users. This problem can be solved only by providing road overbridges/underbridges. However, the situation can also be improved if unmanned level crossings are converted into manned level crossings. Out of a total of 40,517 level crossings, 24,359 are unmanned. Rs. 2,200 cr. are required to convert all these level crossing to manned level crossings. Although it is essential to have road overbridges/underbridges at busy level crossings, this would involve enormous resources, as generally Rs. 8 cr. to Rs. 10 cr. are required for constructing one road-overbridge and more than 1,000 such bridges would be required as per the norms. State Governments are also required to share the cost of these works. However, resources of this magnitude are neither available with the Indian Railways nor with the State Governments. Hon'ble Members will surely appreciate the enormity of the problem. Railway Ministry have decided to create a Fund for converting unmanned level crossings to manned level crossings and for construction of road overbridges/underbridges at busy level crossings. A separate Plan Head will also be created in order to focus attention on the funding for such works and monitoring their progress. Adequate funds will be contributed so that maximum number of level crossings can be converted in a planned manner in future.

To strengthen safety in this area, I also seek the assistance of Hon'ble Members. They can now recommend conversion of unmanned level crossings to manned level crossings under "Member of Parliament

Local Area Development Scheme". This has been approved by the Ministry of Programme Implementation. Railways have decided that they will convert as many unmanned level crossings to manned level crossings as are done through funds provided by the Hon'ble Members in their constituencies.

Railway Recruitment Board

Action has already been taken on all the announcements made regarding Railway Recruitment Boards in the last Budget. The recruitment process has been made transparent and the possibility of corrupt practices has been eliminated. Experience shows that in the selection procedure, there was possibility of favouritism during interviews. In order to eliminate even the slightest possibility of favouritism, I have decided that for most of the categories, the system of interviews after the written examination will be done away with. Based on the results of this change, we will continue with our endeavour to further improve the process of selection so that selection of meritorious candidates for the Indian Railways is ensured.

Group 'D' Recruitment in Railways

After the success of our efforts made in the selection procedure of Group 'C', we will now endeavour to improve the Group 'D' selection procedure. Presently, the direct recruitment of Group 'D' staff in Railways is done only through interviews. To streamline the recruitment procedure and make it more transparent, I have decided that selection of Group 'D' (unskilled) category should be through an objective written test of appropriate standard. In this procedure there will be no interviews and selection will be done on the basis of marks obtained in the written examination, subject to candidates being physically fit. It has also been decided that this recruitment will be done by a unit of the Railway Recruitment Board, which will be headed by a senior railway official. I am confident that with this modified procedure, direct recruitment of Group 'D' will become fully impartial and provide suitable and capable employees to the railways.

Upgradation of Technology

It has been the endeavour of Indian Railways to constantly upgrade its technology. Recently a state-of-the art 3-phase 6000 HP electric locomotive has been manufactured at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, which is an unprecedented achievement amongst the developing countries.

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Contribution to improvement in Environment

Railways are alive to environmental issues and to show our commitment in this direction, it has been decided that the sale of cigarettes/bidis in railway platforms and passenger trains will be banned from 5th June, 1999, the "Environment Day".

Afforestation drive on railway land will be started with zeal. This will ensure proper utilisation of available land and also prevent encroachment. It will apart from meeting the need of wooden sleepers, also benefit Railways financially in future.

Commercial utilisation of Land

Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation has got the necessary approvals for commercial utilisation of land and air space for mobilising resources. We are hopeful that through such efforts we will be able to mop up sufficient resources for developmental works in other parts of the country.

Operating and Financial Performance in 1997-98

Now I would like to briefly describe the operating performance of Indian Railways in the last financial year, 1997-98. The Railways have moved 429.30 million tonnes of originating revenue earning traffic which is almost equal to the target of 430 million tonnes. In 1997-98, Railways financial performance was also satisfactory. Gross Traffic Receipts of the Railways recorded a growth of 17.6%, from Rs. 24,319 cr. in 1996-97 to Rs. 28,589 cr. in 1997-98. Total Working Expenses increased from Rs. 21,001 cr. to Rs. 25,876 cr. mainly due to the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. After accounting for some reliefs relating to the previous years, based on the recommendation of the Railway Convention Committee, Railways paid a dividend of Rs. 1,489 cr. to the General Revenues. Railway's Operating Ratio also improved from the revised estimate target of 91% to 90.9%. Fund balances of the Railways increased by Rs. 194.67 cr. and became Rs. 3,565 cr. Along with market borrowings, Plan outlay was Rs. 8,239 cr., which was marginally short of the Revised Estimate of Rs. 8,403 cr.

Revised Estimates, 1998-99

Sir, unlike 1997-98, the current financial year has not been very favourable. While the loading of Petroleum products, Fertilisers and "Other Goods" is higher than the budgetary target as well as the actuals of last year for the first nine months, the reduced demand of core sector

commodities such as Coal, Food-grains, Iron and Steel, Cement and Iron Ore etc. has affected the railways' freight traffic. Against the budgetary forecast of 450 million tonnes, it is expected that Railways will achieve a loading of around 424 million tonnes. However, our efforts to increase loading in the remaining part of the year will continue. With the drop in freight traffic, it is expected that there will be a shortfall of Rs. 1,056 cr. in the earning as compared to the target for the year, despite increase in Passenger, Other Coaching and Sundry earnings. The budgeted target of clearing Rs. 260 cr. from Traffic Suspense has been maintained in the Revised Estimates. Gross Traffic Receipts have been scaled down from the Budget Estimates of Rs. 31,472 cr. to Rs. 30,416 cr.

At the same time, as a result of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, an increase of Rs. 1,530 cr. is expected in the payment of pensionary dues, which has now increased to Rs. 3,830 cr. from Rs. 2,300 cr. To meet the shortfall in earnings, a saving of Rs. 345 cr. has been effected in non-plan expenditure. Plan expenditure has also been re-assessed and kept at Rs. 8,755 cr. as against the budgeted outlay of Rs. 9,500 cr. It is proposed to withdraw Rs. 1,313 cr. from the Railway Fund balances to meet the additional pensionary liabilities. With this, the Fund balances are estimated to be Rs. 2,252 cr. A provision of Rs. 1,752 cr. has been made for payment of dividend.

I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members that the Plan expenditure has been regulated in such a manner as to ensure that the progress of safety and other targeted works is not allowed to suffer. However, to achieve this, additional market borrowing of Rs. 180 cr. by the Indian Railway Finance Corporation would be necessary. With this the total market borrowings will increase from Rs. 2,900 cr. to Rs. 3,080 cr.

Steps taken by Railways to increase Revenues

Sir, the freight loading in the current year has been a matter of concern despite various efforts made. Only recently some signs of recovery have been noticed and we hope that the coming year will be more favourable. Innovative marketing efforts are being made to increase loading on the railways and we hope to increase loading of 'Other Goods' traffic rather than depend only on core traffic like Coal, Iron and Steel, raw material for steel plants etc. Now I would like to elaborate the various steps taken by Railways to increase revenue:—

- (i) Ministry of Railways have reduced the classification of some commodities and have also given 'Volume Discount', so that we

become more competitive. In addition, the facility of two-point rake loading has been provided at some stations and supply of rakes is being made in less than 48 hours.

- (ii) A special package has been prepared for the Steel sector to attract traffic to railways.
- (iii) Container Corporation is running trains at 100 kmph with wagons of new and advanced technology between Delhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Mumbai. This has reduced the transit time between Delhi and Mumbai from 95 hours to 48 hours. CONCOR also plans to run 40 CONTRACK trains per month to provide guaranteed transit services for expensive goods such as television, refrigerators, air-conditioners etc.
- (iv) Full powers have been given to the General Managers to quote station-to-station rates so as to provide requisite impetus to the marketing efforts.

Sir, along with steps taken to increase freight loading, we have also decided to initiate certain other new measures to increase revenues in 1999-2000:—

- (i) Leasing of front brakevan in all passenger trains for parcel traffic
- (ii) Recommence manufacture of parcel vans with a view to increasing parcel traffic
- (iii) Running of special parcel trains between important stations and trading centres in which some space will be available on lease
- (iv) To bring transparency and competitiveness in catering contracts for Pantry Cars and Refreshment Rooms, two-packet system is being introduced. Provision for minimum licence fee is being made more than double the existing licence fees. Further, the security deposit by the contractors is being sufficiently increased to contain the tendency of malpractices.
- (v) It is proposed to increase minimum penalty for ticketless travel from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 250/-. While increasing revenues, this will reduce inconvenience to the genuine passengers.

(vi) The rates for commercial advertisements at railway stations, which are presently quite low, will be increased.

- (vii) A separate Directorate is being created by RITES to offer consultancy services as well as provide implementation packages to our major freight customers. Making available a single window interface with the railways will enable our customers to reduce their total logistic cost in using the rail mode of transportation.

Passenger Services

Sir, people's representatives and the public often make requests to either start new trains, increase the frequency of trains, extend the run of trains or provide additional halts. Much as I would like to, it is not always possible to fulfill such demands due to limitation of resources and other technical reasons. However, within the available resources, it is proposed to provide the following 14 new train services:—

- Chennai-Tirupati Shatabdi Express
- Shalimar-Haldia Intercity Express
- Secunderabad-Machhilipatnam Express
- Mumbai-Sawantwadi-Madgaon Intercity Express
- Kurla-Patna Superfast Express (Biweekly)
- Amritsar-Dharbanga Express via Narkatiaganj (Biweekly)
- Jaipur-Bangalore Express via Secunderabad (Biweekly)
- Guwahati-Chennai Express (Biweekly)
- Delhi-Gandhidham Express (Biweekly)
- Delhi-Coimbatore Express (Weekly)
- Pune-Emakulam Express (Weekly)
- Raichur-Gulbarga Intercity Service
- Kamakhya-New Bongaigaon Passenger
- Patna-Mughalsarai Passenger via Gaya

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

The frequency of the following trains will be increased:—

- 8017/8018 Howrah-Purulia Express from 6 days a week to daily
- 8463/8464 Bangalore-Visakhapatnam Express from 2 days a week to 4 days a week
- 1095/1096 Pune-Ahmedabad Ahimsa Express from 3 days a week to 4 days a week
- 2101/2102 Kurla-Howrah Super Deluxe Express from weekly to 3 days a week

The run of the following trains will be extended:—

- 4047/4048 Delhi-Gorakhpur Express to Raxaul via Narkatiaganj
- 5207/5208 Amritsar-Barauni Express to Katihar
- 4737/4738 Bikaner-Jaipur Express to Ajmer (M.G.)
- 5741/7542 Alipurduar-Siliguri Intercity Express to New Jalpaiguri (M.G.)
- 471/472 Vijayawada-Vizianagaram passenger to Rayagada
- 1555/1556 Guna-Khajuri service to Gwalior
- 1143/1144 Gwalior-Chhapra Mail to Barauni
- 8301/8302 Sambalpur-Nizamuddin Hirakud Triweekly Express to Bhubaneswar via Talcher Road
- 2407/2408 Nizamuddin-Nagpur Gondwana Express on 2 days a week to Bhusaval
- 6343/6344 Ernakulam-Nizamuddin Swarnajayanti weekly Express to Tiruvananthapuram

2307/2308 Jodhpur-Howrah Express (daily) running via Grand Chord will run via Main Line one day in a week.

On completion of gauge conversion, the following improved broad gauge services shall be provided:—

- Four pairs of passenger services on Narkatiaganj-Gorakhpur section

— Three pairs of passenger services on Indara-Phephna section

— Three pairs of passenger services on Lalkuan-Kashipur section

MEMU, DMU and Rail Bus services shall be introduced on the following sections:—

MEMU Services

- Jhajha-Kiul section
- Vijayawada-Kakinada section
- Kakinada-Visakhapatnam section
- Durg-Raipur-Bilaspur section

DMU Services

- Anand-Khambhat (B.G.)
- Vijayawada-Bhimavaram-Narsapur (B.G.)
- Delhi-Shamli (B.G.)
- Mehasana-Tarangahill (M.G.)

Rail Bus Services

- Bangarapet-Kolar (B.G.)
- Tiruturaipundi-Agastampalli (M.G.)
- Banmankhi-Bihariganj (M.G.)

Security

Security on Railways has been a matter of concern and Hon'ble Members have also been expressing their dissatisfaction in this regard. Although the subject of law and order on the railways falls under the purview of the State Governments, we have been constantly striving to improve the coordination between the Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF). In this regard, I had also convened a high level meeting of Home Secretaries of State Governments, Heads of GRP and the officers of the RPF in August 1998. With these coordination efforts, the situation is likely to improve.

Improvements are also being made in the functioning of the RPF and necessary action has been initiated to

give more investigative powers to the officers of RPF. Approval has already been given for setting up two additional battalions for the Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) and it is proposed to add another two battalions in future.

Association of Railway Protection Force

Hon'ble Members may recall that the Railway Protection Force, for quite some time, has been requesting recognition of their association. This issue has also been raised in this House. I am glad to inform that recognition to Railway Protection Force Association has been restored.

Annual Plan 1999-2000

The Plan outlay for 1999-2000 has been kept at Rs. 9,700 cr. This implies an increase of Rs. 945 cr. over the Revised Estimate of last year. This increase in plan outlay has been possible due to increase in Capital from the General Exchequer to the level of Rs. 2,540 cr. as against Rs. 2,200 cr. in the previous year. In percentage terms, this is 26% of Plan outlay which is the highest since 1993-94. I would like to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Planning Commission for this increase in Capital Support from the General Exchequer. However, I would earnestly request the Finance Minister to increase this support by another Rs. 200 cr. so that, in this "Passenger Year", we are in a position to serve the passengers in still better ways. I do hope that the Finance Minister will accede to my request. I am sure the passengers will also join me in thanking the Finance Minister.

As far as internal resource generation by the Railways is concerned, I mentioned earlier that the working expenses of Railways have increased after acceptance of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. The working expenses in 1999-2000 cannot remain unaffected by this. Moreover, the trend of growth of freight traffic has also slowed down. This has resulted in reduced generation of internal resources which are not sufficient to meet the plan requirement. I therefore propose to withdraw Rs. 1,000 cr. from the Railways' Fund balances. As in previous years, extra budgetary resources, mainly through market borrowings by the Indian Railway Finance Corporation, will provide the balance requirements for the Plan.

Sir, the thrust of this Annual Plan is on Safety. The outlay on Track Renewal Plan Head has been increased to Rs. 1500 cr. which is 19% over Revised Estimates, 1998-99. Maintaining the trend of last year to expedite track circuiting and other safety related works, allocation

under Signal and Telecommunication Plan Head has been increased from previous year's Revised Estimate of Rs. 325 cr. to Rs. 375 cr. In view of the importance of doubling of track for increasing line capacity, the allocation for this Plan Head has been raised from Rs. 472 cr. to Rs. 625 cr. which is an increase of 32%. To improve passenger amenities, the allocation under Passenger Amenities Plan Head has been increased by 45% as compared to the Revised Estimates. For speedier progress of metropolitan transport projects in Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai, allocation of Rs. 300 cr. has been made, representing an increase of 52% over the previous year.

To extend rail network to new areas of the country, Rs. 600 cr. have been allocated under the Plan Head New Lines, representing an increase of 59% over the Revised Estimates. In the beginning of the current decade, project 'Unigauge' was launched. Under this scheme, 8,363 km. track has been converted to broad gauge till 1998-99. A provision of Rs. 645 cr. has been made for gauge conversion in the next year.

New Projects

As you are aware, at present Indian Railways have pending projects involving outlay of about Rs. 34,000 cr. out of which new line projects and gauge conversion projects are about Rs. 20,000 cr. and Rs. 9,000 cr. respectively. Keeping this in view, recently Railway Ministry has, after the approval of Cabinet, determined the priorities of projects. The allocation of funds for various projects has been made not only on the basis of operational requirement but also keeping in view the development of backward areas. As far as possible, regional balance has also been kept in view.

Last year, when I took charge of the Railway Ministry, the Railways had a large number of projects which did not have necessary approvals. I am happy to inform the House that during the year, necessary clearances have been received for many projects. These are as follows:—

New Lines

- Koderma to Gindih
- Macherla to Nalgonda
- Angamali to Sabarmati via Erumeli
- Lalitpur to Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Khajuraho-Mahoba
- Diphu to Karong

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- Ranchi to Koderma via Hazaribagh
- Dharmavaram to Penukonda via Puttaparthi
- Chandigarh to Ludhiana
- Taran Taran to Goindwal
- Kalka to Parvanoo
- Bishrampur to Ambikapur
- Baramati to Lonand
- Bangalore to Satyamangalam
- Bidar to Gulbarga
- Gadwal to Raichur
- Dumka to Baidyanathdham

Gauge Conversion

- Jaynagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj
- Madurai-Rameswaram
- Quilon-Tirunelveli-Trichendur-Tenkasi-Virudunagar
- Katakhal-Bhairabi
- New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon
- Bankura-Damodar Railway Line

Doubling

- Yeshwantpur-Tumkur

Railway Electrification

- Lucknow-Kanpur
- Kusunda-Jamunia Tand
- Ludhiana-Amritsar

they should consolidate the rail infrastructure and give greater priority to safety and modernisation was discussed. A policy level decision on this subject has now become essential. In the "Status Paper" and "White Paper" also, it has been brought out that even now we have a large number of old pending projects. Possibly, there cannot be an easy solution for this dilemma because the development of backward areas is necessary and new demands keep coming. However, in this Budget we are making an effort that first we strengthen our existing railway system so that safety is improved, railway operation becomes effective and we are able to technologically upgrade and modernise the railways. Despite this, wherever possible we have tried to meet new demands also.

New Lines

I am happy to state that the Railways, despite limited resources, have completed construction of the 174 km Talcher-Sambalpur line. Alongwith this, we have completed the Panihar-Khajuri section of Guna-Etawah line completing the line between Gwalior and Guna.

However, the work on the Goalpara-Guwahati line which was targeted for completion in this financial year has been affected by the adverse law and order situation and will now be completed in the coming financial year.

New line projects, included in the 1999-2000 Budget are:—

- New Line project from Agra to Etawah via Fatehabad and Bah
- Kakinada to Pithapuram new line, to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances.

During the year 1999-2000, the railways expect to complete the following sections of new line projects:—

Section	Km
Kashinagar-Kakdweep	3
Bongaon-Petrapole	8
Goalpara-Kamakhya	124
Peddapally-Karimnagar	35
Jaruri-Banspani	11
Kapadvanj-Modasa	60
Total	241

Hon'ble Members would recall that during the Budget discussions last year, the dilemma faced by Railways, whether in view of shortage of resources the railways should continue to satisfy the demands for new works or

In order to expedite progress on the Quazigund-Baramulla line in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, it has been decided, with the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), to get the work executed through M/s. IRCON International.

Gauge Conversion

In 1998-99, the Railways have completed the gauge conversion of the following sections:—

- Tambaram-Tiruchchirappalli
- Tiruchchirappalli-Dindigul
- Shivsagar-Moranhat
- Mariani-Jorhat

Further, during the remaining part of the financial year, we hope to complete the gauge conversion of following sections:

- Narkatiaganj-Gorakhpur
- Babupet-Balarshah
- Solapur-Hotgi
- Indara-Phephana

During the year 1999-2000, the railways expect to complete 541 km. of gauge conversion projects as detailed below:—

Section	Km
Pandharpur-Kurduwadi	52
Nonera-Seoni	27
Kashipur-Lalkuan	60
Mudkhed-Adilabad	162
Arakkonam-Chengalpattu	63
Yellahanka-Yeshwantpur	17
Lakshman Tirtha bridge diversion on Mysore-Hassan line	1
Morbi to Maliya-Miyana and Dahisara to Navlakhi	68
Dharangdhara-Kuda	33
Gandhidham-Bhuj	58
Total	541

Sir, it is proposed to take up the gauge conversion of the following sections, the work on which would be started after obtaining the requisite clearances:—

- Kaptanganj-Thave-Sivan-Chapra
- Salem-Vidhachalam-Cuddalore

Doubling

In 1998-99, the Railways will complete about 280 km. of doubling projects. In 1999-2000, another 290 km. on various sections of on-going works are likely to be doubled.

Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that in order to improve the flow of the growing traffic and to generate additional capacity on some saturated sections, the following new doubling works have been included in the Budget:—

- Mathura-Bhuteswar (Third line)
- Punpun to Taregana
- Amroha-Moradabad
- Dayabasti, Grade Separator
- Chapra-Hajipur
- Karpurigram-Siho
- Emakulam Jn-Emakulam marshalling yard
- Rajatgarh to Barang
- Diva-Kalyan (Fifth and Sixth line)
- Attipattu-Korukkupettai (Third line)

Suburban Transport Projects

I am happy to inform the House, that our efforts with regard to Mumbai Metropolitan Transport Project have succeeded and we have received the approval of the Cabinet for setting up of the Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation (MRVC).

As far as the on-going projects are concerned, in New Mumbai the doubling of Belapur-Panvel line and construction of Thane-Turbhe-Nerul-Vashi Suburban corridor are progressing satisfactorily. In Mumbai, the work of Santacruz-Borivali fifth line is also progressing well. The work of second phase of the fifth and sixth lines

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between Kurla-Thane will be started as soon as necessary clearances are received.

It gives me pleasure to inform the House, that in the metropolitan city of Calcutta, we have decided to extend the construction of Metro Rail from Tolleyganj to Garia. In addition, we have included in this Budget the single line connection of Princep Ghat to Majerhat, thus completing the full ring of Calcutta Circular Railway. A survey has also been undertaken for doubling and electrification of this route. The work of electrification of Dum Dum to Tala is already in progress.

As regards Chennai, the work of Mass Rapid Transit System, Phase II, between Thirumailai and Velacheri is progressing satisfactorily. In the metropolitan city of Delhi, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has started work on Phase I of Mass Rapid Transit System.

Railway Electrification

In the 9th Five Year Plan, the Railways have planned Electrification of 2300 route km. out of which 445 route km. have been completed in 1997-98 and we hope to complete another 500 route km. in the current financial year. In the year 1999-2000, an outlay of Rs. 350 cr. has been provided for Railway Electrification and a target of electrifying 500 route km. has been kept.

Sir, I am happy to inform the House that the following sections have been included in the Budget for taking up Electrification. The work on these projects would be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances.

- Ernakulam-Tiruvananthapuram
- Mughalsarai-Zafrabad (as the first phase of Mughalsarai-Lucknow via Sultanpur)
- Patna-Gaya
- Tambaram-Chengalpattu-Villupuram
- Chengalpattu-Arakkonam

Surveys

On the basis of the requests received from the Hon'ble Members and State Governments, I have decided to take up several surveys in the Budget for 1999-2000.

The following surveys for New Lines are being taken up:—

- To bring Talcher station on Cuttack-Talcher-Sambalpur line
- Agartala to Akhaura
- Almatti to Yadgir
- Anupgarh to Bikaner
- Badlaghat-Alamnagar-Bhawanipur-Purnea-Dalkhola
- Bakreshwar to Siuri
- Bisrampur to Jabalpur
- Chatra to Tori
- Dahanu road to Nasik
- Gaya to Daltanganj via Guraru, Gurva, Sherghat and Imamganj
- Jabalpur to Panna via Damoh
- Jaisalmer to Kandla
- Punalur to Erumeli
- Khandwa to Nardana via Khargone, Sendhwa
- Murishdabad to Kandi via Khagraghat and Behrampur
- Nagapattinam to Velankani
- Ramganj Mandi to Bhopal via Jhalawar, Aklara, Khilchipur, Rajgarh, Biavra, Narsingarh
- Rohtak to Hissar via Mehram and Hansi
- Tindivanam to Cuddalore via Pondicherry
- Patna By-pass line
- Kovvur-Bhadrachalam Road
- Parli Vajinath to Ghatandur (for regrading)
- Umrer to Nagpur via Khaperkeda and Koradi
- Makum to Saikhova Ghat

Surveys for gauge conversion of the following lines are being taken up:—

- Bardhaman-Katwa
- Aunrihar-Jaunpur
- Mehasana-Taranga Hill
- Pilibhit-Sahajanpur
- Wansjalja-Jetalsar
- Tiruchirapalli-Karaikudi-Manamadurai

Surveys for doubling the following lines are being taken up:—

- Lalgola-Krishnanagar with electrification
- Renigunta to Tirupati
- Baraipur-Lakshmikanthpur
- Daund-Manmad with electrification
- Seoraphuli-Tarakeswar

Konkan Railway Corporation

Konkan Railway Corporation (KRC) is operating seven pairs of passenger trains including the Kurla-Mangalore Express and the Trivandrum Rajdhani Express. Freight operations, however, have been on a somewhat lower level than what the KRC can handle. The overall depression in freight movement on the Indian Railways has affected Konkan Railway also. Consequently, the financial results forecast of Konkan Railway for the current year are less than expected. KRC is, however, exploring every means of augmenting its services and revenues. In this context they have planned to introduce "Konkan Star Service" with modern facilities for passengers and "Roll-on-Roll-off" freight services, under which loaded goods trucks are carried to destinations.

Any new line project has to take a reasonable time for realising its full potential. In the case of new lines funded by the General Exchequer, the payment of dividend is deferred for a period up to five years after opening. Konkan Railway Corporation has been built mostly with funds borrowed from the market and has to discharge its debt service obligations from the beginning. The organisation, therefore, definitely needs help. I would like to assure the House that the Ministry of Railways would provide adequate assistance to Konkan Railway,

operationally and financially, so that it can grow as a strong limb of the Railway network.

Production Units

During 1997-98 all production units have achieved their targets. Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, manufactured 165 electric and 164 diesel locomotives respectively. Integral Coach Factory, Perambur manufactured 1,010 coaches. Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, manufactured 1,031 coaches. Diesel Component Works, Patiala, rebuilt 74 locomotives and Wheel and Axle Plant, Bangalore, manufactured 92,015 wheels and 52,249 axles, which is an all time record.

During 1998-99, the work is going on smoothly in all Production Units and it is expected that they would be able to achieve their targets.

Public Sector Undertakings

Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that the performance of the Public Sector Undertakings had been satisfactory during the year 1997-98. IRCON International Ltd. (IRCON), earned a profit of Rs. 50.30 cr. alongwith foreign exchange earnings of Rs. 43.40 cr. The company has completed projects in Malaysia, Bangladesh and Nepal. Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) had a turnover of Rs. 627 cr. and earned a net profit of Rs. 115 cr. In November, 1998, Government of India earned Rs. 225 cr. by selling 90 lakh shares of CONCOR. Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. (IRFC) earned a net profit of Rs. 167 cr. It mobilised a total Rs. 2,558 cr. in domestic and international markets in 1997-98 to supplement the plan resources of Indian Railways. Rail India Technical and Economics Services Ltd. (RITES) achieved a turnover of Rs. 133 cr. with a net profit of Rs. 14.55 cr. Indian Railways received a total dividend of around Rs. 60 cr. in 1997-98 from all its Public Sector Undertakings.

Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO)

RDSO is the research and designs wing of the Indian Railways. It functions as the consultant to the Indian Railways in technical matters. RDSO have developed the cost effective "Universal Emergency Communication System (UECS)" to enhance safety, which will provide instant communication between the driver, guard and the nearest station. Apart from this, they have developed a dual voltage three-phase drive EMU design to maintain uninterrupted EMU services in Mumbai area, during conversion of traction system from 1500 volt DC to 25 KV AC.

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Medical facilities

The health of Railway employees and their families, who are a part of the world's largest industrial organisation, is being looked after by the Medical Department of Indian Railways. They have made special contribution towards Pulse Polio Vaccine, AIDS Control and family welfare. It is worth mentioning that the birth rate in the families of railwaymen is 14 per thousand whereas, the national average is 18 per thousand.

Industrial Relations

Permanent Negotiating Machinery (PNM), Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM), and Participation of Railway Employees in Management (PREM) are working satisfactorily and the industrial relations on the Indian Railways are cordial and peaceful.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes

As per statutory provisions, adequate protection and reservation are being provided to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes as well as other backward classes. Under this, reservation cells are working at every level so that their complaints can be disposed of quickly.

Sports

I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that the Railway Sports Control Board has been renamed as Rail Sports Promotion Board to reflect the new orientation of its purpose. In last Budget, I had mentioned that to bring about greater transparency, the recruitment against sports quota would be made through open advertisements of promising sportspersons. Procedure for recruitment has since been modified and 70% of the vacancies in the Sports quota are being filled through open advertisements.

As in the past, Railways have maintained their position in the forefront this year also in the sphere of sports. In the recently concluded Asian Games in Bangkok, Railways have given outstanding performance. I take pride in mentioning that out of seven gold medals won by India, five Gold Medals were bagged by Railway athletes. I am confident that with the measures being taken to promote sports in Railways our sportspersons would continue to give outstanding performance in the future also and bring laurels for the country.

Special Announcements

Concessions for Handicapped Persons

The Orthopaedically handicapped and paraplegic persons with their escorts presently get a concession of 75% in First Class, Second Class, and Sleeper Class. I have decided that in future this concession will also be available in Air-Conditioned 3 tier and Air-Conditioned Chair Car. In addition 50% concession will be given in other Air-Conditioned classes.

Concessions to Press Correspondents

Press correspondents accredited to the headquarters of Government of India and State Government/Union Territories and District headquarters are issued coupon books at 25% concession in First Class fares and 50% concession in Second/Sleeper Class fares for journeys up to 2,500 km. per month. I am happy to inform the House that with these coupon books they can themselves avail of 50% concession in all classes for journeys up to 30,000 km in a year.

Concessions to the Winners of President's Police Medal

As our recognition of the contribution made by the recipients of President's Police Medal for distinguished service, it is proposed to provide them the facility of 30% concession for travel in all classes and by all trains, including Shatabdi and Rajdhani services, after they attain the age of 60 years.

Concession for licensed porters

Acknowledging the significance of the service of licensed porters in making the journey of rail passengers comfortable, they have already been given the facility of one second class pass for self from their place of work to any station in India once a year. It has been decided that in future the licensed porters will also be extended the facility of one set of Privilege Ticket Order in second class every year for self and spouse for travel from the station of working to any station in India. With this facility, he/she will be able to travel with spouse by paying one-third fare.

Passenger Reservation Terminals

It is now proposed to provide PRS terminals on an experimental basis to travel agents authorised under the Rail Tourist Agents Scheme and Rail Travellers Service Agents Scheme of the Railways at their cost and with

suitable safeguards, etc. in order to facilities rail reservation for common man.

Budget Estimates 1999-2000

Sir, I shall now deal with the Budget Estimates for 1999-2000.

I think there are reasons to believe that the growth of the economy, which has been below our expectations in the current year, will accelerate next year. Relying upon that assumption, the freight traffic projection for 1999-2000 has been made at the level of 450 million tonnes. As regards passenger traffic, I expect a somewhat faster growth than in previous years. This forecast is based on the proposed augmentation of load of popular trains and other improvements in the pattern of train services. A growth of 8.5% over the current year is being taken. Other Coaching and Sundry Other earnings are expected to increase by 5% over the current year. On this basis, Gross Traffic Receipts are estimated at Rs. 32,411 cr. including realisation of Rs. 200 cr. of outstanding dues.

Ordinary Working Expenses of the Railways have been estimated at Rs. 25,740 cr. which is higher than the Revised Estimates of the current year, of Rs. 23,375 cr., by 10.1%. This increase of Rs. 2,365 cr. provides for higher levels of expenditure on materials and contractual payments required for maintenance purposes with due regard to safety. Expenditure on Security has also been enhanced. The estimates also provide for normal increases such as for staff increments, dearness allowance, lease charges on account of market borrowings, fuel etc.

The pensionary liability in 1999-2000 is estimated at Rs. 3,300 cr. It has reached a higher level after the year 1996-97 consequent upon liberalisation of benefits to more than ten lakh Railway pensioners following the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. Appropriation to the Pension Fund from Revenue is proposed to be made to the extent of Rs. 2,954 cr. as compared to Rs. 3,425 cr. in Revised Estimates of 1998-99. It is also necessary to withdraw an amount of Rs. 200 cr. from the balance in the Fund.

The Appropriation to the Depreciation Reserve Fund from Revenue is proposed to be made to the extent of Rs. 1,589 cr. as compared to Rs. 1,600 cr. in the current year's Revised Estimates. In this case also a drawdown from the Fund balance is required, to the extent of Rs. 600 cr.

The Total Working Expenses will thus amount to Rs. 30,283 cr. leading to Net Traffic Receipts of Rs. 2,128 cr. Net Miscellaneous Receipts are estimated at Rs. 430 cr. and thus a Net Revenue of Rs. 2,558 cr. is reached. Payment of dividend to the General Revenues has been computed at Rs. 1,914 cr. as compared to Rs. 1,752 cr. in the Revised Estimate of the current year based upon recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee (1996) in their Report relating to the year 1997-98. Necessary adjustment, if any required, will be made on receipt of the recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee (1998) to whom an interim memorandum is being submitted in respect of the year 1999-2000. The 'Excess' in the financial results works out only to Rs. 644 cr. which falls very much short of the segments of Plan expenditure to be met from the Development Fund and the Capital Fund together totalling Rs. 1765 cr.

There is thus an additional requirement of Rs. 1,121 cr. for financing the works chargeable to these two Funds. A part of this requirement is proposed to be met by drawdown from the balance in the Capital Fund to the extent of Rs. 200 cr. and the interest on the Fund amounting to Rs. 21 cr. Thus an amount of Rs. 900 cr. is to be mobilised additionally.

There was generally no increase in the freight rates in the last Railway Budget. But the cost of operations is increasing and they have to be met. Keeping this in view, I propose to make a minor increase of 4% uniformly on the freight rates of all commodities. The increase is less than the general inflation in prices. Minor adjustments in the classification for charge are also proposed to be made for Washed Coal and Caustic Soda Liquor. The increase in each case is by one step only.

I have been receiving representations from the trade to reduce the burden of idle freight on short lead traffic, which is charged for minimum 100 km. I have, therefore, decided to allow a concession of 25% in the freight rate for traffic hauled for distances up to 50 km.

Sir, there is a growing demand for improvement in passenger services. As I mentioned earlier in my speech, Railways have brought about improvements in the current year and have plans for strengthening it still further. The results have been gratifying and our esteemed customers have responded by providing buoyancy in passenger revenue. In deference to this, we have decided to give a respite to a bulk of rail passengers. In this "Passenger Year", as a special gift to about 90% of the passengers, who travel by second class, no increase is being effected in Second Class fares, both of Mail/Express and ordinary trains. Second Class Season ticket fare will also remain

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unchanged. While in the "Passenger Year" we are giving better facilities to the bonafide passengers, we shall intensify our campaign against ticketless travel.

Those who take the Sleeper Class and the upper classes, however, are provided with much higher level of comfort and I think it would be reasonable to expect them to pay a little more for their journeys. I propose to introduce a rationalisation that takes into account the difference in the levels of comfort as between sleeping accommodation and sitting accommodation, as also the superior comfort of travel in air-conditioned classes. Thus keeping the fares of Second class Mail/Express as the base, the fares of other classes on Mail/Express trains are proposed to be rationalised as:—

- Sleeper Class—1.55 times;
- AC Chair Car—3 times;
- AC 3-tier Sleeper—4.5 times;
- First Class—5.25 times;
- AC-2 tier Sleeper—7.2 times; and
- AC First Class—14.4 times.

Likewise, in the ordinary passenger trains, the fares for Sleeper Class and First Class will be respectively 1.55 times and 5.25 times of the Second Class (Ordinary) fare.

However, the existing fares of higher classes happen to be more than the fares that would be determined by this approach in some distance ranges. These are not being changed.

The fares of Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains are also proposed to be revised by making suitable adjustments in the existing fare structure.

The minimum distance for charge for travel in upper classes of mail and express trains is proposed to be revised to a uniform figure of 100 km. for all the upper classes.

The minimum distance for charge in the Sleeper Class, which is 200 km, will not hereafter apply to travel in certain sections where Railways have declared sleeper coaches to be unreserved on certain trains; normal Sleeper Class fares only will be levied in such cases.

As in the case of freight rates, an increase of 4% is proposed to be applied on all parcel and luggage scales.

These proposals will come into effect from 1.4.1999. They are expected to yield an additional revenue of Rs. 900 cr. during the full year. This is made up of Rs. 700 cr. from freight traffic and Rs. 200 cr. from Coaching Traffic which includes Passengers, Parcel and Luggage.

The year 1998-99 has been a year of struggle in respect of operating and financial performance. However, that has not discouraged us and we have continued to contribute to the industrial and economic development of the nation. We have been able to achieve this with the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. He has encouraged us during moments of difficulty and has provided constructive help. The entire railway family is obliged to him for his constructive help.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat) : Haryana has been totally neglected. Injustice has been done against Haryana. Last year also this issue was raised. 10 lakhs of people commute daily from Haryana yet no new train or rail line is there in the budget for Haryana. Last year, an assurance was given for Haryana. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : What have you done for Lucknow. You have deceived the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : You have done injustice against Haryana, you have deceived Haryana.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I would like to thank all the railwaymen for their hard work and dedication to duty which has helped railways in achieving their task successfully. Our thanks are due to passengers and users of the railways whose cooperation we have always been getting and I am confident that this cooperation will be forthcoming in future too.

Sir, with these words I commend the Railway Budget 1999-2000 to the House.

[English]

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members who are not satisfied with the Minister's speech can go to the Minister and settle with him.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up matters under Rule 377.

14.30½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to Provide Funds to State Government of Uttar Pradesh for Construction of Lift Canal on River Ganges between Villages Kakin and Kalyanpur in Kanpur**

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHYAN BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : Hundreds of villages in Bilhaur, Shivrajpur, Chobeypur and Kalyanpur development blocks in Kanpur (U.P.) are on the bank of the Ganga river. There are no irrigation facilities in these villages. The tail of misery of the canal falls here wherein water does not flow. Due to salted water, the tubewells are not functioning.

Therefor, I urge the Union Water Resources Minister to construct lift canal in the Ganga river from Kakin to Kalyanpur village and in Bilhaur development block in Kanpur and provide irrigation facilities to the farmers. The State Government should be made available necessary funds at the earliest.

- (ii) **Need to declare Bansgaon Parliamentary Constituency in Gorakhpur District of U.P. as Industrially backward**

SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI (Bansgaon) : My Parliamentary constituency which falls under Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh is an very backward area. There is no private or Government industry in this area. The

people of this area are solely dependent on agriculture but every year the entire crop of this area gets damaged either by devastating floods or drought as a result of which the poor people of this area face starvation and no development work can be taken up here.

The all round development of this area is possible only if the Bansgaon is declared as a National Backward Area and an industry, either in public sector or private sector is set up here on priority basis and a scheme is formulated to check flood which ravage this area every year and an agriculture university is set up here.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to formulate above mentioned schemes urgently on priority basis for the development of Bansgaon Parliamentary constituency.

- (iii) **Need to constitute a committee consisting of experts and people's representatives to look into the working of Central Coal Fields Limited**

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : The financial condition of Central Coal Fields Ltd. is in doldrums. Even the arrears are not being paid to the officers and staff. The production of the company is going down and there is no quality control. The Sale of Coal has been affected due to the inefficiency of the company's marketing department. The company is involved in disputes with its clients for non-payment of their dues. The officers and the staff have been working on the same place for years together due to which the management has become inefficient, ineffective and unpragmatic.

The stock of slurry and rejected coal is accumulating in the washeries as it is not being sold and lacs of rupees are being misappropriated in the name of local purchases due to which the financial condition of the company is becoming precarious day-by-day.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to constitute a committee comprising experts from the company and people's representatives to look into this matter and resolve all these problems within a period of one month.

- (iv) **Need to formulate an action plan to check elephants' depredation in Assam**

[*English*]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : People in Assam, particularly living in villages and tea estates near forests,

[Shri Bijoy Handique]

have been living in great danger caused by elephants' depredation leaving a trail of injury and loss of human lives, damages to crops and houses. The situation poses a grave concern to all the conservationists who are committed to protecting wild life and promoting the concept of co-existence and understanding between men and animals. Such a situation will lead to a confrontation between humans and wild lives, which will be a loser in the long run.

There is no doubt that humans have encroached upon the elephants' habitats and have scared them out of forests. But it is not enough to argue that since humans have intruded into the forests, the elephants have no other way but to come out and stray into human habitation.

Since the phenomenon of elephants' depredation has been a common occurrence in Assam, it is imperative for Government to formulate an action plan by allowing trapping of at least a hundred elephants a year and selling them to zoos and parks and forest departments in the country as well as abroad, evolving a way out with Insurance companies for providing insurance cover against death, injury and damages to crop and property in the depredation prone areas and finally driving them back to the forests. Our approach to the problem needs to be pragmatic, realistic and at the same time eco-friendly.

(v) Need for creation of a new Railway Division at Bitragunta or Nellore or Gudur in Andhra Pradesh on South-Central Railway

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (Nellore) : Sir, I had been repeatedly representing to the Government regarding creation of a new Railway Division at Bitragunta or Nellore or Gudur in Andhra Pradesh on South Central Railway, but no action has so far been taken by the Government on this issue.

There is every justification for the creation of a new Railway Division at Bitragunta or Nellore or Gudur, since these places are centrally-located on Vijayawada-Chennai main line and also convenient operationally and from administrative point of view. Necessary infrastructure and more than 1,000 acres of Railway land are available at Bitragunta area. Nellore is a District Headquarters and centrally-located on the main railway line. Similarly, Gudur is an important Railway Junction connecting Tirupathi and Chennai railway lines.

Apart from the above, a major Urea plant by IFFCO and major port is coming up under international consortium in Nellore area.

It is strange to note that Railways have proposed to create a Railway Division at Guntur as Headquarters which is just 30 kms. away from Vijayawada and Vijayawada is a Divisional Headquarters. Both Vijayawada and Guntur are like twin cities and only Krishna Bridge is in between.

I request your goodself to kindly intervene in the matter and consider creating a new Railway Division at Bitragunta or Nellore or Gudur on South-Central Railway instead of Guntur.

(vi) Need to declare Berhampur-Raipur State road as National Highway

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Berhampur) (Orissa): The State Government of Orissa has submitted a proposal to the Central Government for declaration of Gopalpur-Raipur Road in Khariar-Nawapura as a new National Highway. The State Government has been making this demand every year since 1983. Even a Resolution was adopted in 1982. All India Road Congress was held in Bhubaneswar to declare this particular State Road as National Highway. During those days there was a convention to declare a State Road as National Highway where the All India Road Congress was held. Accordingly, the State Government has been making this demand every year. This road will pass through tribal areas of the State and will promote inter-State communication and trade with Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and will work as a link between National Highway No. 43 at Raipur and National Highway No. 5 at Berhampur. This will provide hinterland to Gopalpur port. Apart from the three KBK districts, a drought-prone and backward district, Phulbani can be joined with the mainstream of communication. So, in the interest of these backward districts in Orissa, the Berhampur-Raipur State road be declared as National Highway without any further delay.

(vii) Need to sanction more funds for repair of the National Highways in Kerala

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Surface Transport to the pathetic condition of the National Highways in Kerala.

The entire 1015 km. long National Highways of Kerala have been totally destroyed due to natural calamities. The condition of the roads results in regular traffic accidents. For carrying out the urgent repair works Kerala needs at least Rs. 225 crore. The meagre amount sanctioned is not sufficient to carry out repair works. It will be little to carry out patch-work on the road only, for

the year 1998-99. Because of this situation traffic accidents have considerably increased.

In the circumstances, I urge the Government to urgently sanction at least Rs. 200 crore to undertake all necessary repairs of the National Highways in Kerala.

- (viii) Need to ensure payment of dues to sugarcane growers and labourers of sugar mills under British India Company, U.P.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Mr. Dy. Speaker Sir, the sugar mills functioning in Gouri Bazar, Padrona and Kathkuina in Uttar Pradesh and Mandhora in Bihar being run under the British India Company, an undertaking of the Government of India, Ministry of Textile have been sold to a single person at a throwaway price. Even their headquarters have also been sold. These mills owe an arrear of about Rs. 19 crore to the sugarcane growers. Instead of making immediate payment of the above amount an agreement has been made to make the payment after 6 years which is not justifiable. During the period even the banks pay double of the money deposited with them but no such guarantee has been given to the farmers. Similarly no agreement has been made to continue the services of the workers of these mills.

I request the Central Government to intervene in the matter and ensure payment of arrears to the farmers and also safeguard the interests of the farmers and the workers.

- (ix) Need to run Delhi-Bhubaneshwar Rajdhani Express daily**

[*English*]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal) : Ten new trains including two superfast and one biweekly Rajdhani Express have been introduced by Railway Ministry during this year. The frequency of five trains has also been increased by the Government. But Orissa has been ignored in this matter particularly on increasing the frequencies of New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express.

Demand for this train has been increasing. The State Government of Orissa has submitted several memoranda to increase the frequencies of this train. Right from the beginning it has been a very popular train with progressively increasing demand from passengers. So, demand for increasing the frequency from twice a week to daily is very much justified.

In view of this, I request the Government that the frequency of New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express be increased from two days to daily without any further delay.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Satpathy, you have to read only the approved text.

- (x) Need to amend Motor Vehicles Act to increase loading Capacity of Trucks**

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Everyday we read in newspapers many incidents of looting of truck owners and truck drivers in many States. No action has been taken against the culprits. The transporters are under threat. The Government of India should arrange mobile security guards on the National Highways. Everybody knows that transport is not profitable now-a-days due to the rise in the prices of the spare parts, the cost of fuel and the slump in the industry, etc. The second reason is that there is a limit of 10 tonnes to carry on a truck. It is not viable in any case. When everyone knows that a truck can carry more than 15 tonnes easily, it is advisable that the loading capacity of trucks be increased.

I would like the Government to bring an amendment in the All India Motor Vehicles Act to increase the limit to 15 tonnes. Similarly, arrangements may be made to deposit road tax once at an early stage and any State Government should not have a right to recover the taxes on roads.

- (xi) Need to direct SSC to withdraw cancellation of appointment orders issued to Nineteen persons from Tamil Nadu for appointment in Accountant General's Office in Karnataka**

SHRI K. PARY MOHAN (Dharmapuri) : Nineteen persons from Tamil Nadu had qualified the competitive examination conducted by the Staff Selection Board Commission and were appointed in the Accountant General's Office in Karnataka on merit in the Group 'C' category. The Staff Selection Commission recruits candidates for appointment in various Central Government offices, including Central Excise, Customs and Accountant General's offices in the country. There is no stipulation by the Commission that the candidates must be qualified or even studied the language of the States in which they are posted. However, the Staff Selection Commission later on cancelled the appointment letters issued to these 19 Tamils.

[Shri K. Pary Mohan]

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to direct the Staff Selection Commission to withdraw the cancellation of the appointment orders forthwith as the matter is very sensitive.

**(xii) Need to complete the construction of
132 K.V.A. Sub-Station at Dumariyaganj**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Dumariyaganj) : Sir, there is an acute shortage of power in my parliamentary constituency, Siddharth Nagar, U.P. due to which industrial development in this district has come to a standstill. A power sub-station of 132 KVA is under consideration since 1989 at Dumariyaganj in this district, which was approved by the Power Financial Corporation at the Centre and the foundation stone was laid by the then Minister of Power. The Government have already spent approximately Rs. 3 crore on it and almost 70 per cent of the work relating to the construction of the sub-station and 30 per cent work of the line has been completed. Due to paucity of funds the construction work has been stopped for the last 5-6 years. I have raised questions many a time, but the work is still lying suspended.

I request the Central Government that it should be completed at the earliest and another power sub-station of 132 KVA should be constructed in the District headquarter Siddharth Nagar so that industrial development could be made in this District.

14.49 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF
PROCLAMATION OF PRESIDENT IN RELATION
TO THE STATE OF BIHAR**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The next item is the Statutory Resolution.

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, with your kind permission, before you call the Minister of Home Affairs to move the Resolution, I wish to state that originally, as decided in the Business Advisory Committee, as per the Report now adopted by the House, we were supposed to have the reply and voting tomorrow before taking up the Private Members' Business. But we have allotted only five hours.

Actually, we have taken a decision that we would try and complete the debate today and have the reply and the voting tomorrow before the Private Members' Business starts. But the calculation, after looking at the number of speaker and the allotted time shows that it does not seem to be possible, even if we sat late.

So, I have a proposal which I have put to the leaders of all parties and the Members, which I would like to submit, that tomorrow's Private Members' Business time may be shifted to—it has been done in the past—or postponed to the 4th March, in the next week.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khammam) : Fourth March is a holiday in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him speak.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : That being the position, if that alone can happen, it would go on.

Otherwise the disadvantage is that the next week is the Holi week, in the sense that 1st, 2nd and 3rd of March are holidays. 5th is also a Private Members' day and attendance would be a difficulty for all of us put together because of various problems. Therefore, if I may suggest that either my proposal be accepted or we go on in the normal way whereupon we would not be able to close the debate tomorrow, and, we will close the debate the week after, maybe, 8th or 9th.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : We can sit late tonight.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : No.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : We can sit tomorrow also. Tomorrow, the reply can be roundabout 4 O' clock or 4.30 or 5 O' clock.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Private Members' Business starts at 3.30 p.m. Statutorily, we do not postpone it.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : You can shift it to the next Friday.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : That is what I suggested.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Agreed.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : It is shifted to 4th of March. I cannot shift to the next Friday. You cannot do anything with the Private Members' Business except shift it to a day which is a full working day.

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS : Let it be on 4th of March.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : All right.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : That is what I proposed.

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS : Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now it seems to consensus is that the Private Members' Business will be shifted to 4th of March and then this matter will be finished tomorrow itself.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I move the resolution.

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 12th February, 1999 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Bihar."

Sir, yesterday I had said that this Government agrees that Article 356 should be used whenever it is compulsory to use it. It should not be used generally and when it is used, it should be used, keeping in mind the intentions of the makers of Constitution, it should not be used for party-politics. Yesterday during the debate on the ordinance in relation to the state of Goa, it became clear that there were no differences and no dispute with regard to Goa. There were no differences among the parties with regard to the proclamation issued by the President and there were no difference among the public with regard to Goa or any other issue. I accept that there is a big difference between yesterday's proclamation and the proclamation on which I am starting the debate. The difference is that there are many differences among the parties with regard to this proclamation, but there is not much differences among the public. ... (Interruptions) There were no differences among the parties and the public with regard to yesterday's proclamation, but I agree that there are difference among, the parties with regard to today's proclamation and there is not much difference among the public. I will not say that there are no differences.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Have you got conducted any survey in the regard?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Yes, ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : You have lost the election.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No running commentary please. Let him speak, then, you can have your own chance.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Yesterday I came across a survey called 'Opinion Poll' is some Hindi and English news papers.

A question was asked to the public. Whether it is proper to impose President's Rule in Bihar or not. The 67 percent people were of the opinion that it was proper and perhaps 24-25 percent people said that it was improper. I am not telling it as an ultimate fact but as someone had asked me whether a survey was conducted, I had to reply and I believe that the same situation will be prevailing in Bihar as well. If we conduct such survey in Bihar, we will find that perhaps the large number of people will say that it was a right step and there was no other possible step except it. ... (Interruptions) I will request the member of my party that they should listen them and they should listen to us as well. There would be two days debate on it. All should express their views. Therefore I would like to request you to let the debate go on peacefully.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not think that the situation prevailing in Bihar has been created recently. The people are concerned about Bihar for a long time. The State of Bihar is second largest populated state in India. Not only that, there is so much resources available, whether it be human resources or material resources, that so much resources are not available is any largest state. The old administrators say that in 1953 a committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Paul Apale. This committee had submitted a report to the Cabinet Secretariat with regard to the functioning of State Governments in India. In the said report, all the states were appreciated for their administration but Bihar was the only state which was most appreciated. Just now Shrimati Sushma Swaraj pointed out that it is stated in the report that Bihar is the best administered state in the country. I did not find it. I tried to find but could not find. Therefore I will not confirm it. But the information has been received that Bihar has been regarded a good administered state. This was a situation in 1953. But that situation has undergone a sea-change.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the above context an hon'ble justice of the High Court has made certain observations relating to the case of Bihar state. Perhaps, his name was Shri B.P. Singh, but he is not the man who is the Home Secretary of India.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : His name was Shri B.P. Sinha.

SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI : You know better about the judge.

[English]

I stand corrected.

[Translation]

Relating to the case of Bihar he had observed that after seeing the present state of affairs in Bihar any sensible person would either commit suicide or he would leave Bihar.

[English]

These are observations from the Bench in an open court reported in the Press.

[Translation]

This much I can quote. You may go through the 1998 judgment which I had read in the newspaper. It was very categorically mentioned in this judgment that the condition in the state were such that it seems as if animals are living there.

[English]

as if animals are living there. That is the language that has been used in that particular judgment.

[Translation]

How serious is this observation made by the hon'ble Judge while delivering the formal judgment? We should contemplate over the state of affairs in Bihar.

15.00 hrs.

This situation or this entire debate or this decision is neither in favour not against any party. I feel that this

decision has been taken by the Government in the larger interests and development of the state and to bring about improve. it in the law and order situation of the state and there is absolutely no other consideration and motivation except the larger interests of Bihar.

This situation has not arisen all of a sudden and certainly not in 1998. In fact, the first ever massacre took place in 1997. So many massacres have occurred but the major one happened in 1997 in which 50 or 60 Dalits were killed. Thereafter I alongwith the then Minister of State for Home Affairs had visited the place. The then Home Secretary had also gone there. I have gone through the entire record of interaction taken place between any predecessors in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the officials of the State Government. I have also gone through the reports submitted by the then Governor wherein a serious concern had been expressed saying that such incidents should be checked and whatever assistance is required the Central Government is ready to give that to check such incidents and in fact the Central assistance was also provided to the State, yet the law and order situation kept on deteriorating and the massacres went on. We must recognise the fact that the root cause of this problem is improper implementation of land reforms in the State and every one agrees on this count as I have gone through the reports and discussions held by the previous Governments. A minimum wage of Rs. 39.00 or 40 has been fixed agricultural workers but most of the landlords do not pay them even a single penny but give only 3 Kg. of rice, the price of which is even less than half of the minimum wage. So anyone can well imagine the situation prevailing there. Since the majority of agricultural workers are dalits, therefore, they are the victims in most of the massacres. This problem should be viewed in the light of those facts as to why the land reforms have not been implemented and action taken in this direction.

When discussion was held in the other House on this issue then the name of Ranbir Sena was mentioned during the question hour. So many things were said about the Ranbir Sena and its affiliation to a particular political party. I was astonished to learn as the name of my political party was mentioned. I stated that I have ascertained the facts and the Ranber Sena is a banned organisation which has been declared illegal and even earlier also such allegations were levelled after declaring it as an illegal organisation that it is affiliated to a particular political party. In 1997, the Government of Bihar Constituted a Commission headed by a retired High Court Judge, Justice Amirdas and he was asked to submit the report within six months probing the allegations regarding political affiliations of Ranbir Sena and the persons associated with it owing to which massacres are being

committed killing so many Dalits. However, on inquiring, it was learnt that not a single meeting of the Commission has been held ever since its constitution one and a half years ago. Even this commission did not start functioning as it was not provided with necessary facilities and office etc. It is not the fate of the Amirdas Commission alone. When an M.L.A. was murdered, a Commission was constituted to inquire into the murder. His wife is an Hon'ble member of the House and when two M.L.A.s were murdered, a commission under the Chairmanship of a High Court Judge was constituted, which also met the same fate. No progress was made and the case did not move forward. It was not provided office, facilities and staff. It has been same in all the cases. It is mandatory to constitute a Tribal Welfare Council. Not a single meeting has been held since its constitution three years before.

Yesterday, an issue was raised about Bihar by several Hon'ble Members although the discussion was on Goa. They made two points. One, that the Government of Goa was not in majority. Therefore, it was appropriate to impose the President's Rule in Goa. But when the Government of Bihar was in majority then why was it dismissed?

Secondly, what is the basis to invoke Article 356 in a state. Whether it is on the basis of deteriorating law and order situation, spurt in the crimes, murders, violence and if it is so, a Member suggested, then how many States will be left out in the country where this Article 356 will not be required to be invoked. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am not yielding.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Somebody talked about Assam, somebody made a mention of Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)* I am repeating the arguments that were made yesterday in the context of Bihar that Article 356 was imposed without considering the fact that the Government was in majority there. The Government in Goa did not enjoy majority, which the Bihar Government did, you did keep in mind the fact that Bihar is the only state where law and order situation is crumbling, the number of murders and violent incidents were soaring, there are other State also. I am not denying the fact, that the State Government of Bihar, undoubtedly enjoyed the majority.

But I would like to submit this much only that sometimes whenever the same is said with regard to the article 356 that this Government has majority, if that was not a majority Government then what was the need of invoking article 356. If there is no majority then there is no need at all of Article 356 and that Government could have gone at its own. Therefore, it is not proper to raise the issue of majority since it has not been mentioned in the article 356 that this article should be invoked when the Government loses majority. It has not been said in article 356. It says that when the Government of a State is not carried on in accordance with provisions of the Constitution ...*(Interruptions)* Likewise I feel that wherever the law and order condition deteriorates, it is the only ground on which article 356 can be invoked I agree.

[English]

"That deterioration in the law and order condition or increasing crime or increasing violence cannot be by itself any justification for invoking Article 356".

We are clear in our mind, absolutely clear.

[Translation]

There are no two opinions, I have mentioned some facts and I would like to submit that the makers were not merely confined to enact article 356 but the makers of the Constitution also enacted article 355 besides that and they have not given the right to anyone including we people. We have been given right under article 356 but under article 355 we have been given the responsibility. Article 355 says.

[English]

"It shall be the duty of the Union to ensure that the Government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution."

[Translation]

We felt that we should not be the silent spectators to the situation in Bihar and we must fulfill our duty and responsibility and take action ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : You have given adverse speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No running commentary please.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : These comments have not been made by the Government only. The same comments have been made twice or thrice by the Hon'ble High Court, Patna also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : There is a judgment of the Hon'ble High Court of Uttar Pradesh also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Show me any such decision then we would take notice of that certainly ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : The Hon'ble High Court of Uttar Pradesh has made remarks that there is Jungle Raj.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh, you are a senior Member. Do not interrupt like this.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Recently when Ajit Sarkar and Brij Bihari ji were murdered, a team of Central officers was sent. It has been mentioned in it's report that it is a matter of concern that:

[English]

In Bihar, it is the state that harbours and patronises criminals instead of protecting people from them.

[Translation]

We are not worried that the crimes or the criminals have increased but the issue of serious concern is that the State Government patronises the criminals. This situation is not in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. That is why we came to this conclusion. The court has said as how we can run the administration since we are unable to run the Government ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please stop these commentaries.

15.14 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, encroachment issue was raised earlier. The hon'ble Patna High Court has remarked in this regard:

[English]

"We have passed orders from time to time regarding the removal of encroachments, apart from the capital city of Patna in other cities, as there is large scale encroachment of public land, public roads, etc. Apart from impeding free flow of traffic, such encroachments generate a very large quantity of filth which makes life unhygienic and the people living in the localities, who are also respected citizens of the State, are compelled to lead a life of animals. If the authorities who are required to implement the orders of this court refuse or fail to implement the same, it would certainly amount to failure of the Constitutional scheme and to breakdown of the administration."

[Translation]

Not only this, it has also remarked that:—

[English]

"There is a designed effort on the part of the State authorities..."

[Translation]

This is a charge. When they saw that more than 3,300 contempt cases are lying pending against the Government or the Government officers then it made the remarks.

[English]

"There is a designed effort on the part of the State authorities to defy the orders of the Court."

[Translation]

Designed efforts, that the Government is doing contempt of the judiciary in a planned manner and neglecting the judiciary. They have said that they do not have powers to run the Government.

[English]

They said:

"We are not equipped for that. We are not expected to do that. The Constitution does not expect us to do that."

[Translation]

In these circumstances the Government have reached the conclusion that the Centre should intervene.

Yesterday, I had read out the views of Sarkaria Commission with reference to Goa which has defined what is political crisis. What has been said by the Sarkaria Commission with regard to such a situation, I would like to mention here, since they call it internal subversion. It is a case of Constitutional breakdown of machinery but the internal subversion has been explained by the Sarkaria Commission:

[English]

"Where the Government of a State, although carried on by a Ministry, enjoys majority support in the Assembly, has been deliberately conducted for a period of time in disregard of the Constitution and the law."

[Translation]

It is confirmed from the judgment which I have read out just now in which it is stated that if these contempt cases are pending till date when

[English]

"This is a deliberate design by the State Government to see that we are disregarded, the courts are disregarded, the Constitution is disregarded and the law is disregarded."

This is a judgement on the case of Arun Kumar Mukherjee Vs. State of Bihar.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Which portion does it contain?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Contempt cases are not mentioned here. They are of a separate knowledge.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Have they not referred to it?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : No.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : It is mentioned in the Governor's letter

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Is it so, that case is lying pending.

[English]

But otherwise, he would not say 'design'. Normally encroachments have not been removed but because he is fully aware of the whole position, therefore, he used the word 'design'. And, I regard this an important judgement.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is a hopeless judgement.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : According to the report of the Governor, total 500 incidents of extraneous violence took place during the year 1998 in which 600 people have been killed. There were 50 police personnel among them and most of them are Dalit's. Land reforms, Landlords and Agricultural Labourers are the reasons behind these killings. Mostly 'Dalits' are victims of such clashes. Even few months back the Government of India tried to intervene in the matter taking this fact into account but the Hon'ble President advised us to reconsider the matter and he added one more sentence that the Central Government should advise the State Government or warn at first we were proceeding on the matter accordingly. Although we informed the Hon'ble President, even at that time, that our decision is a well thought decision. The case of Bihar is such,

[English]

which deserve intervention by the Centre. It is a fit case for article 356.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

[Translation]

But honouring your decision we are not urging upon you to consider it again, we had returned it with these remarks. This time we sent it again. Some people ask that why did you send it again? I told them that we had stated at that time that the Government there was not functioning as per the Constitution in our opinion, therefore we are sending our recommendation again. Honouring your decision we are not taking action now. When we recommended again we thought that the President would accept our recommendation as it is obligatory for him as per the Constitution and normally when the cabinet recommends second time then he simply accepts it. He not only signed but added his opinion also that he agreed with the decision and it was also mentioned that the Central Government advised as well as warned the State Government what to do and what not to do. Even though the State Government keep on following the same path. Therefore, he said that he agreed with the decision that the President rule should be imposed there, as such a situation has arisen that the Government is not being run as per the provisions of the Constitution.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Can we have that endorsement? You are referring to something which we do not know.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not quoting from it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You are referring to what the hon'ble Rashtrapathiji has said in a file. Either you are mentioning it or quoting it. But we do not know the facts. Not that I am questioning it, but if you are relying on the Hon'ble Rashtrapathiji's endorsement, then we should have it. Otherwise, don't refer to that thing.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I have no difficulty. I know that if I were to quote anything then I would have an obligation. I have not quoted anything. I have simply given the substance. I am paraphrasing because I am conscious that the rule bind me, the moment I quote. But as it is, the rules do not bind me.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Please do not bring Rashtrapathiji.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : All right. But there is a background. Here is a case.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Has he returned it?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Yes. He returned it.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : The Home Minister wanted to convey what Rashtrapathiji has said. That is also not acceptable.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxer) : The President made a statement on 26th January. He said the same thing, which was published in the newspaper. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : When we took this decision, we were aware of the fact that the Government had the majority in the Lok Sabha but not in the Rajya Sabha and as per the provisions of the Constitution, it was obligatory to get it passed in both the Houses. We thought that we should fulfill our duties under article 355 of the Constitution and we expected that the remaining parties, which were concerned about the situation in Bihar, would support us. I can understand the RJD as they were in power there and their Government was dismissed then political reaction of that Government was quite natural, but what's about the rest of the parties. Therefore, at the outset when the General Secretary of the Congress party, welcomed our decision, we were very happy. He is sitting here. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur) : We never welcomed that decision, we talked about the 'Dalits' ... (Interruptions) Sir, I have a point of order. Not only this, even I went to the office of your Home Minister at that night at around 7.30 p.m. and explained the way, the atrocities were committed on Dalits. I explained it too but when you take a political view of it, then it means something a different ... (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : What were the contents of the your talk held with the Home-Minister, I am not going to mention that, but I would thank you for your first reaction that came immediately in regard to the decision taken by the Central Government and that was the proper reaction. I don't want to go by words. Even in that you assured us that we are confident as to when the issue would come for discussion in the House, no-one would see this issue from the party-angle, and the interest of Bihar would be taken into consideration. Everyone would see it from the angle to prevent the constant killings of the 'Dalits'. I hope from the statement made by the president of the major opposition party that this issue would be discussed on a non-political angle. If same is not done, they will suffer the loss and if I think from the party angle then we will gain and not going to suffer any loss ... (Interruptions)

I believe, had the Congress Party not taken that decision in Shahbano case then, the history would have been different. I feel that the place the Congress Party has reached in the political history of India and the place where. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, please do not give any running commentary.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not yielding.

...*(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMED (Madhubani) : The Congress Party had done the very right thing in the Shahbano case. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : You leave it please.

I stated that every political party takes decision keeping in view its entire history and my colleagues are making me recall that it is the first time in 50 years history that Congress would oppose the proclamation of article 356 then, in Bihar and it would have its own implications as its proclamation has been made after the genocide of large number of dalits in Jahanabad. Therefore, now I am introducing this proclamation in the House for ratification. I strongly believe that there are number of issues in the country which should be considered at a non partisan level and this one is a specific issue that way ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri E. Ahamed, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT (Udaipur) : You must not quote wrongly.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Is that to be done with your RSS Governor?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The question of RSS Governor has come up only now. That way, most of us are RSS-men. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : We opposed the use of Article 356 in 1977 also. This is not the first time.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : That was when it was used against you.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Naturally, we would oppose it only when we are in the Opposition.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I stand corrected to that extent. ...*(Interruptions)*

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

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I stand corrected on this.

[Translation]

I would again request that this issue should be viewed cutting across party lines and if the Congress Party plays politics on it then it would not be disadvantageous to us rather it would be beneficial for us, but it would certainly cause a great damage to Bihar. There has been virtually no development in Bihar in the last few years as such genocide are happening in Bihar frequently and the people belonging to the weaker sections are facing the brunt of it and all this is causing a great damage to the delicate social fabric of Indian society.

With these words, I would earnestly request the House to support this proposal.

SHRI SHARD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the proposal for proclamation of the Article 356 in Bihar.

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

Yesterday, the issue before the House was relating to Goa. My party as well as the entire opposition had supported it as there was altogether different situation in Goa. It was my party Government there which had lost majority in the House. Those who brought down that Government and those in the opposition were not prepared to form a Government there. The other contending party was the B.J.P. which had only four members in the assembly. They as well as others were also in favour of dissolution of the assembly. The decision taken by the Union Government was also not wrong therefore, we all had supported it. The situation in Bihar is altogether different. ...*(Interruptions)* Had it been the issue of dalits, we would have perhaps taken a different decision. I am well aware our colleagues in Bihar will have to pay a heavy price for the steps we propose to take, I have risen to oppose it knowing full well its repercussions. It was an elected Government in Bihar with majority.

When four-five months back there was a move to topple the Government, the Government there had proved its majority in the assembly. It was well before the whole nation. Still this Government was dismissed on the recommendation of the hon'ble Governor. In fact, it was not at all necessary to dismiss the Government when it was in majority. If at all it was necessary, the Government could have been informed invoking the article 355, however, the Government used the article 356. This was a circumstantial decision, I do not agree when the general elections were held for this Lok Sabha, an ally of B.J.P. which is in the Government also, had promised in its manifesto that if they came into power and had majority, they would dismiss the Rabri Government.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanji) : It was not mentioned in the manifesto, however, it was promised in the election meeting.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : You have agreed that you had said it, it is O.K.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : It was said in an election meeting.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : You people had stated in the election meetings there and from the day one after coming into power you had started hatching a conspiracy to topple that Government.

A lot many things have been said about Bihar including the law and order situation there as well as the Constitutional crisis there. At times the Sarkaria Commission was also mentioned. I agree that if a certain State has to forge ahead it is pertinent that it should

maintain a satisfactory level of law and order situation. The responsibility lies on those who are in the Government to instill confidence in the common man by assuring them that they are there to protect their life and property. But, I do not agree that the deteriorating law and order situation could be the reason for invoking Article 356 in the State. I have gone through the report submitted by the Hon'ble Governor.

Several things have been stated in the report such as violence, killing of police officials, I.S.I. activities, financial losses and the constitutional breakdown in the State from where the concept of the Panchayat institutions originated. I have with me the crime information reports detailing the crimes in each state and I have tried to analyse the position of Bihar and rest of the States. I do not want to give the figures of all the States and do not want to take much time of the House, a copy of the Monthly Crime Statistics, Government of India can be obtained from the Parliament library.

[English]

Monthly crime statistics of Government of India. Incidents of crimes in States during 1997: Maharashtra—1,85,000 and above; Rajasthan—1,65,469; Uttar Pradesh—1,48,917; Gujarat—1,00,990; and Bihar—94,752.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Crimes are never registered in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Only crimes take place in Bihar, but they are never registered. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : I have seen the figures of the year 1998. The figures relating to Bihar are not available, that is why I do not want to quote them.

[English]

Incidents of crimes against children : Bihar—459; Uttar Pradesh—590; and Maharashtra—1002. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Incidents of crimes against women in 1995. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : Crimes are committed there but they are never registered. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, there is a convention in the House that whenever the Leader of the House or the Leader of the Opposition speaks, nobody interrupts them. ...(Interruptions) We can also interrupt the speech of the Leader of the House. Please do not interrupt. We never obstruct when the Prime Minister speaks. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Incidents of crime against women: Bihar—2172; Rajasthan—6422; Uttar Pradesh—11,975; Maharashtra—16,300. The Crime Bureau Report 1995, incidents of Crime against the Scheduled Tribes: Bihar—232, Gujarat—486, Maharashtra—505, Rajasthan—1,784. The Crime Bureau Report 1995, incidents of crime against the Scheduled Castes during 1995: Bihar—747, Gujarat—1724, Maharashtra—1,622, Rajasthan—5,197, Uttar Pradesh—14,205. •

[Translation]

The B.J.P. and its allies have quoted the figures from the Government of India's reports relating to the law and order situation in the States and I don't think anything more is required to be said. It was said in the House that the State Governments will not be dismissed misusing Article 356. Recourse to Article will be taken only in exceptional cases. But it seems that the country will lose faith in this Article. As I stated earlier that the party in power the Samata Party and its allies demanded from the very first day that the Rabri Devi Government should be dismissed, since they had promised it in the elections hence this election promise should be fulfilled. They might not even have the majority, not even the support of the common people, but they must take steps to dismiss the Government. I want to say that the Union-State relations are required to be cordial. The duty of the Union Government, whatever party is in power, is to see what kind of treatment is to be given to the states, how their problems are to be solved and how they should speak in the public. I have read in a newspaper and that has been stated by the person in the ruling party that

there is *Jungle Raj* in Bihar. I am afraid that it is proper. If people in power start talking like this about the states then it will widen the gap between the Union and the States and will endanger the unity of country. Therefore, I feel that everybody should speak in a responsible manner.

Sir, it has been written in the election manifesto of the Bhartiya Janata Party that the sanctity of the Constitution of our country has been lost due to the misuse of articles like 356 and the Rajbhawns by the Centre. The B.J.P. would strengthen this institution of the Republic through improvement programmes honestly. The difference between their saying and deeds has come to light through it. Prior to it, as the Hon'ble Home Minister has stated that some days back the hon'ble Governor of Bihar had sent a proposal to the Union Government to impose President's Rule there and the Union Government had recommended it but at that time the Hon'ble President had refused to approve it and the matter came to a standstill then and there. Even after it the pressure and tension remained to dismiss the Government of Bihar since they had promised the people for the same. There is a need to do so in our political interest. As long as the Lalu Prasad ji's Government remain there they will not be able to get success in spreading their political power, therefore, there is a need to dismiss this Government. They paid attention towards this thinking in their minds. I would like to show just one statements in this regard which has appeared in the *Times of India*, Delhi edition, dated 4th July. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the statement given by the hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari at that time. I am reading out his statement ...(Interruptions) When it was asked whether there was any pressure on him from the Samata Party or the other, he replied:

[English]

"On pressure from the Bihar Units of the Samata Party and Bharatiya Janata Party for the President's rule, Mr. Bhandari says: pressure is not on me, it is on the Centre."

[Translation]

He said so in the interview to the *Times of India*. Therefore, the pressure was from the very first day. There is no need at all to mention about the situation here. For the last two days all eyes are on Hyderabad as to what would be the attitude of Chandra Babu Naidu. ...(Interruptions) If the circumstances of the Government are so then what could be done. When six or seven members of Samata Party put some pressure then this

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

Government does not have the power to ignore it. Vajpayee ji may want to adopt that way or not but the circumstances might have compelled him and perhaps he had not take such a steps due to it.

The hon'ble Governor has enumerated some reasons for imposing article 356. I have put forth the law and order situation, the other states and the financial mismanagement before the House. I am surprised to see the statement of the hon'ble Governor circulated to us. He has given his opinion on many issues, how the same has been given. ...*(Interruptions)*

In the latest report of the Reserve Bank of India the financial position of the States has been mentioned. It has been written in it that the economic situation of Bihar is better than Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. This is the latest report of the Governor of the R.B.I. I do not know whether the hon'ble Governor has received its copy or not that is why he said something else in this regard. The strictures of the Hon'ble High Court has also been mentioned.

I would like to urge upon the Hon'ble Home Minister through you to ask for a report of contempt cases lying pending with all the three benches, Aurangabad, Nagpur and Bombay of the Mumbai High Court ...*(Interruptions)* After going through it you would not find the poor situation in Bihar. The issue of contempt petitions was raised here. The Hon'ble Minister had sought the information with regard to the number of contempt of court petitions against the State Government in all the three benches of the State which I have mentioned. The recommendation of the Hon'ble Governor there shows that he might have thought something else in this regard. I have mentioned here the official miss-management and contempt of court. There is a very interesting report as to how the Constitutional break-down took place. On 11th February, 1999 Bhandari ji had written to Advani ji, item 11 is with regard to the Panchayati Raj:

(English)

"Panchayat Institution: The last election of the Gram Panchayat took place in the year 1978 under the Panchayati Raj Act, 1947. In the year 1992, by the 73rd amendment of the Constitution, the three-tier Gram Panchayat system at the panchayat, block and district levels had to be made functional. To my information, in this country, in all other States, the 73rd amendment of the Constitution has been made effective by constituting the three-tier system of panchayat."

This is also not correct. There are some States even today where it is not there. You may find it if you go to Assam and some other places.

(Translation)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : The reply has been given in this Lok Sabha.

(English)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : It means that the Governor himself is ill-informed. That is the reason why he is making this observation. He further says:

"In Bihar, there is no panchayat at all, what to talk of three-tier system. The BDOs are discharging the development functions of the panchayats without any aid or constitutional consultation with the villagers. The entire amount given by the Government of India for different projects are being spent by officers according to their own sweet will and decision. Thus, on this account also, there has been complete constitutional breakdown."

This is the statement of the Governor. I cannot understand as to how can the Governor give this type of a statement. •

(Translation)

I ascertained the position. After 73rd amendment the Government of Bihar changed its law, adopted the reservation policy and implemented the separate Panchayati Raj law in the State.

Some of people approached the High Court in regard to the reservation mentioned therein but the High Court gave its verdict against the reservation, I am not a student of Law but I feel that the way Patna High Court give decisions, it needs to take interest. There are so many things, which I don't want to discuss. After the decision of High Court, the Government of Bihar approached the Supreme Court. They pleaded for two things there. One was to continue the reservation and another was to let the elected Mukhiya handle the functions of the village as long as there was no reservation. The Supreme Court issued the following order on 24th February, 1997.

(English)

The last operational part is this.

"Considering the facts and circumstances and submissions of the learned counsel for the parties, we direct that with immediate effect, the administration of all Gram Panchayats, Zila Parishads and Block Panchayat Samitis in the State of Bihar will be under the overall charge of the District Collector. Such authority will administer the duties and functions of the said bodies in the district under jurisdiction through Block Development Officer under his control as he may deem expedient and proper. The elected members of all such bodies will cease to function and be held to have vacated their respective office as early as possible. Liberty is given to take further directions from the court, if necessary."

[Translation]

Whether the Government of Bihar has done it. Hon'ble Governor has given a report that there was a constitutional break down and it was because the administrative powers of the village was handed over to the B.D.O.

The funds allocated by the Union Government were kept at the disposal of B.D.Os. and they spend it as they wish. They have made this complaint, but whether they were not aware of this fact that the Government had enacted this law and the matter against this law was lying pending in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court issued directions to the Government that the entire panchayat might be under the B.D.O through Governor. Even after that the Governor lodged such type of serious complaint with the Central Government against the elected Government, which was not true. It has no base at all. I feel that after the decision of the Supreme Court, this point is sufficient for recall the Governor. I do not need to say more in this regard. It is totally false. I have not examined the other issues deeply, which have been mentioned in it but I have examined one issue, rather I should say that this decision has been taken on the basis of the facts far from the truth.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That is why, he wanted to recall him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : I want to know the latest situation in this regard from the Home Minister. A wrong report would have submitted to him and what action the Central Government would like to take against the Person who has submitted this false report. It should also be stated because the entire House as well as country want to know the truth.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Home Minister have said a few things about the administrative set-up of some States. This is true. I had heard at that time that three or four states were known for good administration, which included Madras. Mumbai and Bihar. There are not two opinions in this regard. But if there is slackness or deterioration in the administration, then is there any need to invoke Article 356? A detailed discussion was already held in the Constituent Assembly in this regard. Pt. Hridaya Nath Kunjru had raised the following point in the Constituent Assembly about the United Province, which was being presided over by Baba Saheb Ambedkar:—

[English]

"PUNDIT HRIDAY NATH KUNJRU : May I ask my hon. friend to make one point clear? Is it purpose of the article 278 and 278 (A)—in those days instead of 356, that was a draft—to enable the Central Government to intervene in provincial affairs for the sake of the good governance of the Provinces?

DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR : No, no. Centre is not given that authority.

PUNDIT HRIDAY NATH KUNJRU : Or only when there is such mis-governance in the Province as endanger of the public peace?

DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR : Only when the Government is not carried on in consonance with the provisions laid down for the Constitutional Government of the Provinces. Whether there is good Government or not in the Province, is not for the Centre to determine. I am quite clear on the point."

[Translation]

Therefore, the issue of safeguarding the Constitution is always there. However, it has been repeatedly said that the present Government does not seem prepared to follow the provisions of the Constitution as this is altogether a different issue. This Government can not be run without support of Samata Party. Therefore, even if Dr. Ambedkar had made suggestions and whatever be the circumstances, the place and seat from where I am speaking from, things might have been said against us regarding the article 356 but this Government have taken this step out of compulsion. I can not say anything more than that, yet I would like to underline the fact. The Union Home Minister said that the Congress Party had taken such steps. Our Party's General Secretary had given a statement and stated certain things. I admit that these

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

things were stated. The massacre of dalits has taken place not once but twice. In 1977 also such a situation had arisen when dalits were slain in Ballachehi. Smt. Indira Gandhi had visited the place at that time and tried to console the family members of those killed.

16.00 hrs.

This time the Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi herself visited Narayan Pur. Met the family of those Killed, made an assessment of the situation there then said the circumstances were not proper. No Government can get away from the responsibility of protecting the interest of Dalits. The moral right aspect was also raised by the Congress Party. However, we did not speak about the constitutional right. Such circumstance were there in Orissa as well and we stated of moral right and changed the Chief Minister. When we have the power, we effected the change. I do not understand also why the ruling party misinterpreted some of one Statements and took this extreme step.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : They got entrapped in that.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : They got embroiled in it because they were advised by Shri George Sahib saying:

[English]

"This is an golden opportunity"

[Translation]

Act now as the Congress can not decide other way at this juncture. They have little experience of Shri George sahib, but these people know him well, that is why they got entrapped. It has been reported in today's newspapers that a very senior Minister had advised not to take that step. But, all this affair must have been managed by Shri George and party and you people got ensnared in this very complex situation. How can we bail you people out? The whole state will be in the hands of one individual and the person as Governor there says:

[English]

"I am proud that I am R.S.S; I am R.S.S. and I will be R.S.S."

[Translation]

Before being appointed as Governor of the State, he has got every right to hold any views and be associated

with any organisation to which, we do not have any objection. However, after swearing in as Governor, he is not entitled to declare himself as a R.S.S. supporter ...*(Interruptions)*

An individual who is not objective in his approach after becoming Governor of a State, it would be disastrous to give him the responsibility of the entire State and it would be injustice to the weaker sections and minorities of the State. We can not support it. The issue of Ranvir Sena and Shankar Bigaha was also raised. The attacks on dalits are condemnable. I think that atrocities being inflicted on dalits in Bihar and other places is a national issue and all the political parties should try to solve it cutting across party lines. An atmosphere needs to be created so as to instill a sense of confidence and security in the weaker sections of the society.

I agree with the hon'ble Union Home Minister that due to land reforms these cases are taking place in Bihar again and again. By the Government there I also agree on it My party has also been in power there. I don't say that no body should be held responsible for it. The steps need to be taken as have been taken in other States. However, the steps taken there and the way the records have been put forth, these are altogether, different than those taken in other States. In the process, a section of the land owners is not ready to think that the poor section of the society has now risen to safeguard his interest.

A class of land-owners is not ready to accept that the poverty-stricken class of the society has awakened and is asking for their rights and it is preparing itself for struggle. The people who do not like the resurgence of this class, have started attacking it for many years by helping the forces, like Ranvir Sena. We have seen such massacres there many times. The massacre of Dalits in Narayanpur where the Congress President had visited on 11th February, is one of the series of such massacres.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go into the details as to who is holding the command of Ranvir Sena? Whom it supported and helped. But there is a need to go into such details and there is a need for those in power to go into such details so that the people may come to know the reality. After seeing the situation prevailing there and the massacres of Dalits, I feel that the allegations that the Government of Bihar could not protect them and Ranvir Sena is also having some relation with R.J.D. are not true and it is not only me who thinks so but the

speeches of the leaders supporting this party also suggest the same. I read out:

[English]

"President of Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) Gurcharan Singh Tohra and the SAD chief whip in Lok Sabha, Prem Singh Chandumajra, while vehemently opposing the imposition of President's Rule in Bihar, have said that the killings done by the Ranvir Sena was an "unjustified and baseless" excuse to take such a drastic action.

In a rather paradoxical situation prevailing in Bihar, where the Ranvir Sena, the private army of landlords, which opposes land reforms and the ousted Rashtriya Janata Dal being a strong supporter of the Dalits and Backward Classes, the dismissal of the Rabri Devi Government on the Dalit killings did not sound convincing, Mr. Tohra said."

This has come in the *Hindustan Times* dated 16th February, 1999.

[Translation]

These are the leaders who are supporting this Government. Even the members of the Parties who are supporting the Government have also accepted that the Government want to do something to solve the problems of Dalits. Those who do not like it have conducted these attacks to push this Government into a crisis and stop the voice of the Dalits who have awakened. Therefore, I do not find your proposal to dismiss this Government upto the mark.

The politics differ from person to person, but we should stop using Dalits for the sake of our politics. The question is : What would be the fate of this motion which has been moved in this House. I do not have any information about it, because I have not received any information from Hyderabad and the speciality of Hyderabad is that they do not let others know what they are going to do till the last moment.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad) : We will not save our Government by making petrol bomb.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : As the Home Minister has just pointed out that he as well as the whole country is aware that after two-three days when this motion would be moved in the Rajya Sabha, it is going to be disapproved there. After the disapproval of the motion, the Government of R.J.D. will be formed. The minister

who presided over the Cabinet meeting would be responsible for all this because the Prime Minister had gone abroad. ...(Interruptions)

Whenever he goes abroad, such incidents take place. ...(Interruptions) You should stay here for long time. ...(Interruptions) I do not know that the responsibility falls on his shoulders. I do not know what is going to happen to the Hon'ble Governor who had made recommendation on the basis of untruth, but one thing is clear that assembly will have to be convened after the rejection of this motion. There are no two opinions that one who is having majority will have to be called there and that person will come forward to take over the office of Chief Minister after taking oath. I want to tell one thing who is going to hold this responsibility that the Congress had assured to give you support against the conspiracy of forming R.S.S. state on the basis of Article 356 for political gains. But we expect from you that you will have to take responsibility to protect the Dalits there after the Government comes into power. You will have to implement the land reforms like division and distribution of land and land lease. I want to say only this much that it would not do to say that ours is the only party which protects the interests of the backwards and Dalits. You will have to pay attention to protect them in true manner. I believe those who talk about safeguarding the interests of the backward sections of the society and would provide an effective and a responsible administration. Whosoever succeeds in inculcating sense of confidence among the common poor people of Bihar will get our support.

I oppose the motion brought out by you and conclude.

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now we were very attentively listening the speech of hon'ble Sharad Pawar ji. A very senior leader like Shri Sharad Pawar who would have been the Prime Minister had the Congress got the chance to form the Government. Even such a senior leader had said that a Article 356 was invoked despite the fact that the State Government enjoyed majority. It is obvious that the State Government would have gone, had it not been in majority. You are repeating the same fact time and again. However, we would like to state that it was a Constitutional breakdown there and we are not the only one holding this view. I would appeal to Sharad Pawarji to ponder over it. ...(Interruptions)

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ensure order in the House. ...(Interruptions) Sharad Pawar ji was reiterating the fact that when the State Government had the majority then there was no justification in dismissing it.

[Prof. Rita Verma]

When a learned, senior leader like Shri Sharad Pawari says it repeatedly that the Article 356 should not be invoked when the State Government had proved its majority. However, a junior member like me would like to remind him that the Article 356 is proclaimed only when the constitutional machinery of a State fails and majority has nothing to do in such circumstances. When I talk about the Constitutional breakdown I would like to quote from the "Outlook"—a magazine believing in your ideology, and I am certainly not quoting from the 'Panchjanya'. The Outlook had conducted a survey two-three months back and I would like to put that before you. A question was asked—whether the Rabri Devi Government should be dismissed and 74 per cent people of Bihar had responded in affirmation and 82 per cent people of Bihar had responded in affirmation to the question, whether the law and order situation in Bihar is bad. Again 72 per cent respondents had replied in affirmation to the question, whether the President Rule should be imposed in Bihar and yet again 70 per cent participants had replied in affirmation to the question whether Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav is personally corrupt? This is not my opinion nor that of our magazine 'Panchjanya'. In fact these are the results of the survey conducted by your Magazine. Therefore, there cannot be any manipulations therein ...*(Interruptions)*

16.16 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

Do you think that the emergency should be declared in the State due to financial crisis? And 76 per cent people said, yes. Will the situation improve in Bihar by imposing the President's rule or by an alternative Government? And in response to it 64 per cent people said, yes. The people of Bihar are now having peaceful time and peace is prevailing over there since the Government of criminals was tumbled down. Since the imposition of the President's rule people got rid of the Government of criminals and the people there then heaved a sigh of relief. These people were indulging in big talks like that there would be widespread carnage in Bihar if the President's rule was imposed there. Laluji made a statement that if there would be violence his men would also take recourse to it. But they would have certainly ruled the day. His workers changed their dresses of Khaki-Kurta and pyjama and over night they started wearing trousers and shirts due to fear since the president's rule was imposed there as if they had nothing to do with politics. ...*(Interruptions)* They changed their tone and began to say that they had nothing to do with the State politics. At one time they used to talk of widespread violence and after shedding of so much of blood they have changed their tone altogether. Just now

Sharad ji was giving so many figures. Listening to these figures I cannot help but to laugh. Sharad ji, the figures which you were giving just now perhaps include my name also. An allegation was also levelled against me. And that makes it clear as how the cases are registered in Bihar. The real culprits are holding the power and the gentlemen are facing numerous allegations. An allegation was levelled against me that I had kidnapped the S.D.O. of my area. I want to know from the House that can they believe on this that I might have kidnapped the S.D.O. ...*(Interruptions)* I was charged with this allegation that I called the name "Sala adivasi". I do not know his family background but my family background is such that I cannot use such abusive language but I will also say this thing that even a small politician who is from a tribal area, he might be very dull, he also cannot commit such a mistake as openly using abusive language "Sala adivasi" my tribal friends have expressed their faith in me and they got me elected with a huge margin of votes than ever and their case against me had no bearing on my election. In 1996, I won with a margin of 22 thousand votes and this time I have won with a margin of one lakh votes. Therefore, I can say that the people whom you are instigating that Rita ji abused as "Sala adivasi" they voted cent per cent in my favour. This shows what your credibility in your state is. Sharadji have just read out the figures you had never been in Bihar. You just visit a police station in Bihar and see the things with your own eyes. I tell you one thing that my husband was a police officer there. He was a famous and valiant police officer who laid down his life in the service of mother India while fighting against extremists. The Government of India awarded him the 'Ashok Chakra' posthumously. Wherever my husband was posted, the crime graph of that area used to go up because more number of cases used to be registered there. And at the remaining places cases are not registered. You can just see the state of affairs prevailing in the police stations in Bihar where the voice of a lady like me is not heard and false allegation is levelled, who can get his case registered there.

These people recently kidnapped a 16 years old helpless girl on the Dussehra. She was going to see the Dussehra mela alongwith her parents and the grand mother. They kidnapped her in broad day light and raped her in their own house in a broad day light. But her case was not registered despite much hue and cry. ...*(Interruptions)* Rightly so, Sharadji, which figures are you talking about? I am asking Mr. Speaker, don't go on by these figures in relation to Bihar. I have been living in Bihar and I know that cases are not registered in Bihar but at the same time false cases are framed there. The list which you have read out that might be the list of cases fabricated, the real cases of crimes might have find their place in the least number. The figures could be

manipulated to suit one's interest but I can also give the figures for the last one year, 8,992 murders, 1840 rapes and almost 2,500 kidnappings took place there. And I can level this charge openly that many a time but rather in most of the cases these criminals find protection in the Chief Minister's residence and I can say this thing with firm belief. I am saying this thing before him. A dacoity took place in the Vijaya Bank two-three years back. One, a human being may be afraid of telling about the culprits but a dog does not. A sniffer dog was brought at the above bank and that sniffer dog led them to the Chief Minister's residence right away from the Vijaya Bank.

Criminals are there in power. Do you want a better example of it than this one?

You can shut my mouth. You can terrorise the people and put them behind the bars but do the sniffer dogs of police can afraid of you. This is the proof of it. I would not like to mention the name of the former Chief Minister, both of her brothers are the leaders of criminals. They used to take part in kidnappings and she knows it
...(Interruptions)

16.23 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ (Lalgani) : You can not mention the name of the person who is not present in the House.

PROF. RITA VERMA : No, no. I have not mentioned the name of anyone. What is the point of order? A renowned Member from their party* Who does not know him. He is our colleague in the House. He is not present here. He opened fire on the police superintendent. When the police superintendent chased him with regard to smuggling, he opened fire at the S.P. since the S.P.
...(Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : It is the convention that the name of the person who is not present is the House is not mentioned.

PROF. RITA VERMA : There is no such convention. Whatever I am speaking is going on the record. You sue me. I am categorically saying all these things. When the police superintendent registered a case against him then the S.P. was transferred. Our Marxist friend Shri Chandrashekhar is silent, his worker was also murdered. He knows, who killed him....(Interruptions)*

If I am saying anything wrong then you may ask him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Charges can not be levelled against any hon'ble member.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Whatever I am speaking is based on the facts. Now the time has come to tell the truth.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are rules for that. There should be proof and the permission of the Chair is also to be sought. Without the permission of the Chair charges against any hon'ble member can not be levelled?

PROF. RITA VERMA : I will bring the proof. Agreeing with you, I would like to put forth my views in a different way. A renowned hon'ble member from his party who is still an hon'ble member of this House, opened fire on the Police Superintendent, some days after the election, with regard to smuggling, when the later chased him. The police superintendent lodged a case against him.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAHABUDDIN (Siwan) : The matter is *sub-judice*.

PROF. RITA VERMA : I have not mentioned the name of anyone. He did not stop here. Recently he attacked an hon'ble member of Legislative Assembly in the office of the Collector, alongwith his armed force and snatched the rifle of a head-constable on duty. Sharad ji please listen to me, only then you would come to know that the Constitutional machinery has failed in Bihar or not. This hon'ble member manhandled the hon'ble member of Legislative Assembly in the office of the Collector and snatched the rifle of the head constable and no case was registered since he belongs to the ruling party. He was allowed to leave Bihar in the service aircraft.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAHABUDDIN (Siwan) : I had got the bail(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : Sharad ji, please pay attention towards me. Just now you were saying that the cases of graph in Bihar is low. The incident which took place in the office of the Collector was not registered. When the entire union of the constables in Bihar put pressure, the case was registered. It is very difficult to get a case registered there. Murder cases against workers of the ruling party are not registered easily.

There is one more hon'ble member from their party. He is in the list of Dawood Ibrahim men and the I.S.I. men. One day, the police got the information that the

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Prof. Rita Verma]

people of Dawood Ibrahim group were hidden in his house. The Superintendent of police was a lady and she was brave like me. When she reached his house to conduct the raid, she was stopped to do so.

She was not only obstructed by the M.P. from conducting raid but attempts were also made to kill her. The police superintendent in question came to Delhi to save her life. When the life of a Police Superintendent is not safe in Bihar then how would the life of dalits and weaker section's of society be safe in the State? Do you believe Shri Sharad ji? I would like to ask my colleagues of the Congress Party as to whether a landless dalit who is being subjected to atrocities can get an F.I.R. registered?

There is one more hon'ble member of his party. In his times, he was so notorious that girls had stopped going to colleges. It was five six years back. Most of the hon'ble Members sitting in this House might not be knowing so many things. It happened five six years back I heard a news that car of a Russian diplomat was stolen in Aurangabad. I thought whether it was your Aurangabad or ours but later on I came to know that it was our Aurangabad.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : When did it happen?

PROF. RITA VERMA : This happened five years back. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Then it must not have been our Aurangabad.

PROF. RITA VERMA : No, no. It was our Aurangabad. I said that so and so person who was M.L.A. should have been involved. After two three days the stolen car was found abandoned on the same spot as he was made to understand that it was O.K. If he stole other's car but why he had stolen the car of a Russian diplomat. ... (Interruptions) As it would create a controversy. After two-three days, the car was stationed on the same spot where from it was stolen. The M.L.A. involved in this act of stealing belonged to the ruling party. ... (Interruptions) What is constitutional machinery? ... (Interruptions) When the protector turns out to be a destroyer and vice-versa. ... (Interruptions) When the custodian of Law become breakers of Law and when they share power, what the people can do? To whom they should approach? Where the masses should go... (Interruptions) Yes, I am a very big goonda element. You may go to Bihar and enquire. ... (Interruptions) You fight election from Bihar and what should I say about the election process in Bihar. Today everyone is crying out that R.S.S. persons are being

sent in districts. On the appointed of a police officer who has been proved innocent by the Supreme Court, it is being alleged that R.S.S. agenda is being implemented so on and so forth. You people might be knowing how the transfers and postings were made in Bihar Government headed by Lalu-Rabari duo.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : When I and Rabari Devi are on the roads, you people are still after as and why are you quoting our name frequently? If you have any aversion, please let us know, we shall try to remove that. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : There is no point of overversion ... (Interruptions) These people would be astonished to learn that the postings and transfers were made by giving a definite brief that he was being posted to ensure the defeat of so and so person. I would say that in 1996 elections, I did not fight any election against any contestant rather I contested against the then district collector and that D.E. committed all sort of electronic malpractices. I am sure that at least one to one lakh twenty five thousand bogus votes were got cast against me but one who enjoys mass support, no body can do any harm to him or her? and I still won the election by 22000 votes. One who contest election against one. Collector, and if he or she wins election, I think it is credit worthy achievement. Such a person has also been posted in the parliamentary Constituency of Shri Yashwantji with a definite brief to ensure his defeat in the next elections. But who can defeat him? Who cares for you people in our Vananchal areas. You may do anything if you had grit and power, you would have ensured our defeat. Our strength and number rises as much as you criticise us. You would have defeated us in the election of 1996 when one lakh to one lakh and twenty five thousand bogus votes were polled against us. Selective officers were posted. I would like to ask whether standards of a Chief Minister have gone down so low that transfers and postings of a police inspector are done by him in Bihar, the superintendent of police could not do transfers and postings of even a police inspector, even that list used to come from the Chief Minister's residence with clear instructions that so and so person should be posted at so and so places.

But they are making a complaint that R.S.S. is ruling and R.S.S. men are being sent to the field. You just ask the people from Bihar, who are saying that honest and able person could not get the important responsibilities under the rule of Lalu ji and his wife and those persons were posted who were involved in the scams. Whosoever disclosed the scams, were used to be transferred, whether they... *

Those who disclosed the fodder scam, they were transferred. This is the only reward, which we get here for ability and dedication.

The issue of Dalits has been raised. I want to tell the House that an MLA from their party had raped a Dalit women, five years back. Perhaps he was an MLA from Katihar or Purnia. I think his name was ... When he was trapped, you expelled him from the party, but he was your MLA. At first even the FIR was not registered. The girl was bleeding badly and she had to be taken to the hospital. In spite of it her report was not registered. When we are talking about the 'Dalits', it is essential to say something about their love for the 'Dalits'. I want to tell about the love of Lalu ji and Rabri Devi ji for the 'Dalits'. There is an organisation, named Scheduled Castes Cooperative Development Corporation, for which the Union Government had given Rs. 100 crore for the welfare of Scheduled castes. You are quite affectionate to the Dalits and you are assuring to love 'Dalits' and you are saying, "No, no, Rabri ji, don't do so, don't let so much people be massacred. A few may die but those should not be massacred." The shares have been purchased for Rs. 40 crore, out of the total amount given by the Union Government to this Corporation and it has been told that the Development work for the Scheduled Castes is in progress and remaining Rs. 60 crore have not been returned to the Union Government. The salaries have been given with this amount. The reason was that the ex-chequer was empty due to all these scams. In this way the allocation are got reduced. This is a C&AG report that Rs. 100 crore was taken by the state for the Development of Dalits, which has not been done.

I want to say one more thing. No other are more downtrodden than the scavengers. Even after the fifty years of Independence, the practice of carrying night soil on heads is confining. Scavenger welfare scheme was started by the Government of India and Rs. 4 crore was released under this Scheme, but even a single rupee was not spent on this programme. ... (Interruptions) This is a fact I do not tell a lie and I am here because of my honesty. ... (Interruptions) The entire amount has been spent here and there as in the salaries and scams. A similar kind of special ancillary scheme is formulated for the welfare of these people, under which no work has been done for the last five years.

Even a single programme has not been taken for the last five years under this scheme. We talk about the Dalits, there was a centrally sponsored Deen Bandhu scheme for the orphans and they had zero performance

in that scheme also. Now they are the protectors of the interests of the minorities, now they are great seculars, they talk a lot about them, what is the record of the organisations such as Minorities Finance Corporation and Backward class Finance Corporation in Bihar. I won't tell you just ask your congressmen as to how much welfare they have been doing of the minorities and Backward classes. They had introduced 'Dhoti' 'Saree' scheme under which every one was to get Dhoti and Saree, who were living below the poverty line.

Sir, as you know, even in this Dhoti-Saree Scheme, a scam of Rupees 200 crore took place. They call themselves Secular and you are also supporting them in the name of opposing the RSS and communalism. You are looking for their votes. You just ask some record from them. I'll tell you an incident ... (Interruptions) Please listen to me carefully. I want to tell this thing to my brothers belonging to the minorities groups. ... (Interruptions) They say that they love the minorities a lot. I am telling you an incident of a District Magistrate. Three four years ago an incident took place in his district and there was a possibility of riots. Riots could not take place due to the efficiency and alertness of this district officer. When he went to Patna. ... (Interruptions) He is still a District Magistrate. When he reached there, the Chief Minister shouted on him and said that he has spoiled his entire politics. I don't want to tell those words which he used there. There was a derogatory word for 10-12 Mohammedons, I'll not use that words.

"If a riot break out, people are killed they would come to us for protection. But as long as the people like you remain to be a District Magistrate we would not be able to play politics." ... (Interruptions) They are the lovers of minorities. You are advocating them. ... (Interruptions) Now, the time has come that the minorities, should also know who are their true friends and who want to get their support by intimidation.

Sir, they always talk of the problems of minorities and console them. ... (Interruptions) Once upon a time a riot was intentionally run in Bhagalpur to intimidate the minorities and even today the same politics is being played in Bihar as how to get their support through intimidation. They have assured you. ... (Interruptions) Why are you so disturbed? We listened to you for very long time. They have assured that they would protect Dalits and implement land reforms programmes. Even today, I have read in the newspaper that these people have assured that they would implement land reforms.

I am reminded of a couplet. "Gazab Kiya, Tere vayed pe etbaar kiya" you did not implement land

[Prof. Rita Verma]

reforms during forty or fifty years. They have also not implemented land reforms although they are in power there for the last nine years. Both of you go on making promises with each other for implementing. Had there been a will to implement, the land reforms would have been implemented long back. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha can tell how much one can rely on Lalu Prasad ji. When he was in minority, he was openly supported by both groups of J.M.M. He had got a resolution passed in Bihar Assembly with regard to creation of a separate state. You must remember the fate of his promises and you also must keep in mind that he has always disintegrated that party who has joined hands with him. It is the quality of both Shri Lalu ji and Mulayam ji that they always take away one hand of the person who shakes hands with them. Therefore brothers, take care of your hand while shaking hands lest your right hand should not be pulled off. ...*(Interruptions)* As far as the matter of carnage of Dalits is concerned, I would like to say that when our seniormost Comrade Shri Indrajeet Gupta who is sitting here, had gone to Lakshman Baghe when he was the Home Minister he had some feelings in his heart and he expressed those feelings in this House. It is right that the power has its own compulsions but the feelings cannot be stopped and true person expresses them slowly and slowly, no matter it was undone later on. You just ask him what he saw in Lakshmanpur Bhage. They played politics there also. They assured the people that they would provide job to a person of every family, Compensation and pucca house etc. to them. But they never fulfilled their promises. Even the victims of past massacres have not been provided jobs so far. He never visited the adjoining village not even bothered what was happening there. A good Government always tries to create harmony between the people of two neighbouring villages, but he started playing politics there. They had made promises to provide compensation of Rs. One lac, job and pucca house to the people. But I am confident that 90 percent people would have got nothing so far. He did not visit Rampur chawraha where the massacre had taken place. He has created permanent hostility in the minds of the people in different villages. Now these villages can never come together. As far as Aamir Das Commission is concerned as our Hon'ble Home Minister just mentioned, almost one year has elapsed not a single peon or a room have been provided, not to talk of providing Steno-typist to the Commission. They do not want to appoint Advocate General. Since they want to make all court cases complicated and do not believe in disposing them, they have kept the appointment of Advocate General and Additional Advocate General pending for a long time. That is why the court has said that there is lawlessness in Bihar and has gone to the extent that it seems there is no honest officer in Bihar.

The Government of Bihar is deliberately making contempt of Court. Many members have spoken on court matters, but I want to remind you how much he respects the Court. Just remember the day when Shri Lalu had to go to jail. An uproar was created in the court room of the helpless Judge who gave the orders of his arrest he was intimidated and threatened. Whether the rule of law can be established there? Some anti-social elements manhandled the judge by entering in his court room what kind of justice can be respected there? Sharad ji, you first go to see Bihar closely. Only then speak. ...*(Interruptions)* A case was filed in Madhya Pradesh in 1997...."

Several Ministers and MPs of Bihar were involved in sale purchase of arms. ...*(Interruptions)* This matter was unearthed in Madhya Pradesh and a police officer was involved therein.

Even two-three persons were arrested in this case. They were weapon traders from Bihar..." in this..."

Besides others, one of their Ministers' name was also there. I do not want to mention his name. There were many Ministers from his Cabinet. It was said that the weapons were purchased and sold on bogus documents. A D.I.G.'s name was also figured in that deal. I will not name him. He told that 85 rifles and 65 thousand bogus bullets were illegally sold from Gwalior during the last two and a half years. ...*(Interruptions)* It was their Government, not ours. You can ask them whether there is such a case or not? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Illegal weapons were being sold from the Prime Minister's home district, Gwalior ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : Who were the people involved in the deal you might be knowing. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to say only one thing in the end. At the present moment they are supporting such a corrupt and criminal Government due to political compulsion but they must remember "Mari Khal ki swas son Lauh Bhasm ho jaye", however mighty you be, the Cry of the downtrodden is so powerful that it can reduce anything to ashes. It was even stated by Kabir Das ji. Today, in your self conceit and manoeuvring power you might ignore the cry of the downtrodden but the time will show you what will be it's result? What should I say to the Congress, I am happy that Congress is divided in Bihar. You go

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

there and see. It is in the today's newspaper that 40 office bearers of the Congress have resigned.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Nobody has resigned.

PROF. RITA VERMA : You go there and listen to their views. Congress cannot come to power for 50 years. You have done such blunders.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. Your time is over. Please take your seat.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Honouring your words I will conclude in two lines. The Congress is committing blunders because our Prime Minister visited Lahore recently. It's results are outstanding. The minorities are very happy which is the cause of their anxiety.

Secondly, when your leader can boast of being a proud member of the Nehru Gandhi family then what is the harm if Bhandarji claims to be a proud member of the R.S.S. when she can brag about it why can't he? ...*(Interruptions)* He said R.S.S. not B.J.P....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Chairman Sir, people from that side are disturbing. Ramdas ji you are our friend, you are standing for the downtrodden. Please, let me conclude.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I conclude by quoting the National Poet, Shri Dinkar ji for the benefit of our Congressmen friends and for you:

"Samar shesh hai, nahin pap ka bhagi kewal vyadh,
Jo tathast hai, samai likhega unka bhi itihās".

[The battle is still going on, the offender is not the only accused the History will also hold the mute spectator responsible.]

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we expected that realising the fate of this Proclamation, the Government will in good grace would have admitted the impropriety committed by them and would have withdrawn the Proclamation. Since that good sense has not prevailed in them, I have to stand up to

oppose this Proclamation. The Hon'ble Home Minister spoke of the popular support that this decision of the Government supposed to have got. He referred to some newspaper reports and Prof. Rita Verma also referred to some opinion poll. Four years of the life of the Assembly have gone by and elections are to be held in March, 2000.

I thought the Hon'ble Home Minister is strong votary of the Parliamentary democracy because in this House and outside he had been championing against the imposition of President's rule. The Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee, came with us to meet the then President of India when the NTR's Government was dismissed.

How does one determine the extent of popular support or the popular opinion in a Parliamentary democracy, except through the exercise of the franchise? After the fiasco of October, 1998 to impose the President's rule, the BJP and its cohorts have lost the elections. There is some expression of public opinion there. How this Government is functioning can be seen from the fate of my dear sister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj. Where is their Government in Delhi? Even in the by-elections they have lost.

I appreciate the sentiments expressed by Prof. Rita Verma. I respect her sentiments. But I was wondering whether I was sitting in the Bihar Assembly or in Lok Sabha. Which is the place where these matters should be brought up? Four or five years ago, somebody tried to kidnap somebody and somebody tried to rape somebody else; so today the Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani, recommended to the President of India to impose President's rule. What is happening in this country? I would like to make it very clear at the inception itself that we are greatly concerned with what has happened in Bihar.

17.00 hrs.

We had earlier condemned, in no certain terms, the merciless killings that had taken place and we still reiterate our condemnation. Nothing like this should happen anywhere in India. But today, we are getting into a competitive exercise to find out which state is more crime infested. Today, the position is, statistics have become more important than good governance because one has to justify or not justify the action taken under the name of the Constitution. I am saying it with a great sense of feeling because 97 plus 4, that is 101 times or perhaps 102 times, probably this is 103rd occasion when Article 356 has been applied in this country. It is not me alone, Justice Sarkaria has also said that it has more been

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

misused than it has been properly used. It has been misused 90 times. We have seen yesterday the response of the House when the case of Goa came up for discussion. We have seen the attitude of the Members. Comrade Kurup, our Party Member, had taken part in that debate and he had said that we are against it on principle and, therefore, we do not support it.

Certainly no Government would have been happy. I would have been happy if in Goa the Governor had dissolved the Assembly and directed for elections. Mr. Prime Minister, the President's Rule was not necessary. I am sure you would have advised that or probably that was done in your absence. Unfortunately, again we find—in a sense we are not surprised—this rickety Government, which has to keep motley crowd satisfied, doing this. If somebody frowns in Chennai, two Ministers at the Centre go. If somebody says something in Calcutta, another three Ministers go. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is more concerned with the frowns of his allies and not with the tears of the common man of this country. That is why he is more concerned to save his Government. It seems to me that if any Government in this country has to be dismissed for non-performance or mis-performance, it is the Central Government. But I do not ask for it. Not because we do not have the power but because I do not believe in that procedure. In a year's time the people of Bihar would have given their verdict and then it would have been made known. On the basis of the Outlook opinion poll or on the basis of the opinion of some un-disclosed person, today the Home Minister of India, Shri L.K. Advani is justifying his action. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel that it is another grotesque example of the most *mala fide* use of a draconian provision of this Constitution and sooner it is obliterated from our Constitution the better it is.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people are wondering about the credibility of this Government to have taken such a decision. As I said, it is a motley combination masquerading as a Government in this country. What is its credibility and what is its ethics? Sir, it is a Government of give and take which says, 'give me seven votes, I will give you 20 railway projects or give me five votes, I will give you three other projects'. Can a Government run in this fashion? Therefore, I thought Shri Vajpayee would have said, 'enough is enough'. Today, we all appreciate his efforts to improve relations with our neighbour Pakistan. But what is happening in this country? Where is the Government? What is the economic situation of this country? What is happening in the industrial sector? What is its performance? It is the lowest.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum) : What is happening in West Bengal? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I do not envy Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I think, he knows my personal regard for him. I have had the privilege of working with him in so many committees, etc. and I am seeing his performance here. He is suffering and groaning under the weight of packages of his allies. He is concerned with packages. What can he do? As has been already pointed out by Shri Sharad Pawar, he has deferred to the demand for President's Rule in Bihar. During the elections—Shri Digvijay Singh was here and he had admitted it—his two stalwarts—the great troubleshooter, Shri George Fernandes and Shri Nitish Kumar have throughout their campaign said: "Within seven days we shall get rid of Lalu-Rabri. Put BJP into power at the Centre". Now nearly one year has gone by. They thought before the anniversary let us do it. There is a demand—including from Dr. Subramanian Swamy—for imposition of President's Rule in Tamil Nadu also. Even a ludicrous demand is made of imposition of President's Rule in West Bengal. He has to carry on with these allies.

Sir, why do we oppose this? Kindly allow me a little time, not much, because they stand self-condemned. What was the genesis of Article 356? The genesis was the infamous Government of India Act, 1930 as Justice Sarkaria himself has noted. He said that from the very first time when it was used in 1951, I believe, it had been misused. Everybody knows Dr. Ambedkar's views. He was the architect of the Constitution. Lest I make a mistake, may I quote him? He said:

"I hope such Articles will never be called into operation and they would remain a dead-letter."

Why? No other federal Constitution contains any such provision. One could understand if some sort of armed-rebellion or armed-insurrection would take place. This provision was made as it was a new fledgling republic of ours. On both sides Pakistan was there which was not very friendly at that time and something may happen to the State. They may be unable to look after or protect themselves. Therefore, that was thought with a great hope and expression of desire that it will never be used and will remain a dead-letter. It was specifically said that maladministration, lawlessness or law and order question can never be the subject matter of Article 356. Justice Sawant in Bommai case said:

"A proclamation cannot be issued under Article 356 unless the internal disturbance give rise to a situation in which the Government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Mere internal disturbance short of armed-rebellion cannot justify a proclamation or emergency

under Article 352 nor such disturbance can justify issuance of proclamation under article 356(1) unless there is a break down of the Constitutional machinery."

Now, nobody had indicated which Constitutional machinery had broken down.

How could this provision be taken recourse to?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : What sort of armed rebellion was there in Gujarat? You should explain that also here. When Suresh Mehta Government was dismissed, you supported it; your party supported it. Kindly explain it if you are a senior leader. Why did you support the dismissal of the Suresh Mehta Government? What sort of armed rebellion was there in Gujarat? You yourself insisted on it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I do not wish to take up the time of the House.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : You will not do it because you may not have a reply to this question ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We have a very knowledgeable Mover of the Motion, a very well known student of history and constitutional law. I need not trouble him with quotations. He knows them very well. Therefore, there are well established provisions and well established observations of the judiciary, by Justice Sarkaria and by Dr. Ambedkar that this cannot be utilised for mere breakdown of law and order machinery or even for misgovernance. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Home Minister one question. Even after the imposition of President's rule, there were some few more killings which had taken place and supposing there is what is being called another *narsanhar* under Mr. Bhandari's dispensation, then what would you do? What would you do? How can that be a test?

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : That was got done ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, very rightly, some references have been made by the Leader of the Opposition regarding the Governor's Report. I thought that at least Advaniji would not rely much on that. He has justified the action of the Governor because a court of

law had said that the Government could not carry on according to the Constitution or administration. Why? This is a judgment which has been annexed and which we have got. It is in a matter of removal of encroachments from the roads. It is a matter of removal of Khatalas. It is with regard to use of red lights on the cars and regarding traffic lights or cleaning the drains in the city of Patna.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : When the court has to take care of the traffic lights then what for the Government is there?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have said that you have spoken very well but you should go and become a Member in the Bihar Assembly, if you can.

With all respect to the learned judges, it is unfortunate that the judiciary will make such observations in a case of removal of encroachments and cleaning of drains and a Government can be directed to be removed saying that there is failure of constitutional machinery. Is there any city or town in this country where there are no encroachments? I do not know if you are going beyond Lutyens Delhi these days. You may find what is happening everywhere. What are you doing? In that case, how can this Government remain? It is a misfortune in this country that people are staying in *jhuggis* and *jhonprns*. In Delhi also, there are so many places. We should feel ashamed as a nation. Recently, I had been to Mumbai, Bangalore and Pune. Are there no *jhuggis* and *jhonpris* there? We are not happy about it. Are we happy as a nation? Are we proud if it is happening in some other State and not in my State? Shall I be happy, enjoying and appreciating it?

Now, will that be taken as a ground for dismissal of Governments in those States? The respected Governor utilises this, annexes this and Shri Lal Krishna Advani falls into the trap. I am very sorry about it.

Sir, this Proclamation is *mala fide* in its intent, in its content and in the procedure that has been adopted. Of course, it is a legal *mala fide* so far as the last part is concerned.

The hon'ble Governor's first Report was of 18th September, 1998. The Rashtrapatiji rejected it. No case had been made out. Then, the next Report is dated the 11th of February, 1999—four or five months later. Under the Constitution of India, if an advice is sent back upon

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reconsideration, then the President is obliged to accept it. I do not know what is the note given to the respected Rashtrapati. What was the advice tendered? Was it sent to him as a reconsidered view of the Cabinet? If it was so, then, he is bound to accept it.

I have all respect for the President. We are proud of the fact that we have a President of such a calibre. If he was given that advice, he was misled. He was misadvised because it cannot be the reconsidered opinion. It cannot so after five months. There must be some proximity, some nexus to time. After five months, something is sent.

I was going through the latest Report of the Governor. He says that it should be supplementary to the earlier Report. From that I guess, I apprehend that, as stated, the same Report was being sent. It is not a fresh Report. If you go through the subsequent Report of February, 1999, you will come to know that except one issue, though very serious issue of law and order, no new material was mentioned, as Shri Sharad Pawar had disclosed about the wrong Report given to the President about the panchayati Institutions.

This is the danger of appointing active politicians as Governors. What was intended to have, through this Proclamation, in Bihar was to substitute an opposition Government by their own hatchet man. He was proud to say to the world through the television like this: "I am an RSS man. I am proud to be an RSS man."

Mr. Chairman, the Sarkaria Commission has said one thing. There is an elaborate description about the role of Governor, about the appointment of Governor. I believe Shri Advani has one in front of him. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's speech in the Constituent Assembly has been quoted at page 121. He said:

"But on the whole it probably would be desirable to have people from outside—eminent people, sometimes people who have not taken too great a part in politics. Politicians would probably like a more active domain for their activities."

Then, what Justice Sarkaria says? In his clearest recommendation, he says:

"The Governor should be eminent in some walk of life. He should be a person from outside State. He should be a detached figure and not too intimately connected with the local politics of the State; and he should be a person who has not taken too great a

part in politics generally and particularly in the recent past. It is desirable that a politician from the ruling party at the Union is not appointed as a Governor of a State which is run by some other party or a combination of other parties."

He was appointed exactly in violation of this recommendation. Then, the Home Minister, in his wisdom and vast experience, decide that at least our objective has been achieved now, the Government of Bihar has been dismissed, let somebody else come, otherwise these types of comments will be made. So, he wanted an apolitical person to become the Governor of Bihar. Therefore, he has admitted that he is an active politician belonging to the Ruling Party at the Centre and also belonging to a particularly set up which is even not allowing the Prime Minister to function. But he could not achieve that. Shri Advani has to swallow many of his pride and judgment. He is no longer a free man also. Probably, he is now thinking that the Presidentship of the Bharatiya Janata Party was a much better proposition than sitting on that side.

Therefore, on the basis of the report of the Governor of these credentials, the Government of India posthaste decides to impose President's Rule in Bihar. The Cabinet sat in the night for that purpose. That is what we read in the newspapers. We used to criticise that the Congress people could think only during the midnight. Now they are following all the vices of the Congress Party, while in Government, faithfully with greater zealousness, but with much lesser capacity.

Sir, I humbly congratulate the President for having returned the earlier recommendation of the Cabinet. He had also returned the recommendation in regard to Uttar Pradesh when Shri Indrajit Gupta was the Home Minister; again he had exercised his judgment in regard to Bihar and I am sure, that on the basis of the legal advice given, if they are bound to send it under Article 74 of the Constitution, he had no choice, but to sign it. I do not know whether something was added again or not. If it was a new report, there was nothing new in it and if it was the old report, then there is no case at all, whatsoever, for imposing President's Rule in Bihar.

Sir, kindly see the partisan views. They wanted to impose President's Rule in Bihar quickly, because there is going to be an election within a year. But they cannot annoy the Government of our friend Shri Sirpotdar's party. What has happened to Sri Krishna Commission's Report? If something like that had happened in Bihar, what would Shri Advani have done? In Maharashtra, that report was not only rejected unceremoniously, even the judge has not been spared. He has been abused filthily by the then Chief Minister there.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : He is creating misunderstanding. The Chief Minister has criticised the Srikrishna Commission, he has not criticised Mr. Srikrishna individually ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, probably he is talking about the new Chief Minister there.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : No, I am talking about the same.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I would not have supported the imposition of President's Rule even in Maharashtra. But did they consider that? Did they consider that in regard to Gujarat? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of information, I would like to humbly request Shri Somnath Chatterjee to point out as to in which State, any Commission's report was implemented. Even the Report of the Jain Commission was not implemented and because of that the Government supported by his party was thrown out of power.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They were thrown out of power because they have not implemented that report and that will happen to his party also. He himself had said that they were thrown out because of that. It will happen to them also.

Sir, as far as Gujarat is concerned, if lawlessness and acting contrary to the Constitution will amount to not implementing the provisions of the Constitution or breakdown of the constitution machinery, is there any other State which is more grotesque and more unseemly than Gujarat?

Sir, secularism, is the basic feature of our Constitution now. It has been said repeatedly. Here how did they deal with that State? The Hon'ble Prime Minister goes and only expresses about the desirability of a fresh debate. In Orissa, one Minister's team went. In Bihar another team went. Of course, the Ministers who went there were all Cabinet Ministers. Within half an hour they found out everything and came back. Here, in the case

of Bihar, they had stated that there was a failure of the Constitutional machinery. All these things have been done within half an hour or one hour. I think Shri Jathiya also went to Bihar only to keep their company. This shows how a provision of the Constitution which has to be used in rarest of rare occasions and which has to be used very sparingly, is being used selectively, in a discriminatory manner for their partisan purposes.

Therefore, Sir, from all points of view, this is one of the cases of gross misuse of this Constitutional provision. I am sorry to say that this Prime Minister is in bondage. He is not a free man with his 18 desperate allies who are supporting him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : That is not your headache.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Certainly, it is your headache. You are trembling, you are shivering.

SHRI TAPAN SIKADAR : You need not advise us again and again.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am not advising you. I do not want to waste my energy in advising you. You are beyond redemption. People will decide about you. They have made one mistake. They will not make this mistake every time. I am just saying that he is in bondage. How can they decide about a functioning Government here? It appears there is probably a hotline which is operating between Delhi and Hyderabad.

A trouble is brewing in Kashmir. Already three Members have said this. Shri Chautala's friends have already deserted. Akalis are uncertain. The fate of this matter is known very much in Rajya Sabha.

Sir, when I started my speech, I have said why this matter is being pressed by the Government knowing its fate at least in Rajya Sabha. They are only trying to utilise this opportunity for propaganda purposes. Our very good friend, Shri Pramod Mahajan is utilising the TV and the AIR very well although he washes his hands from any so-called interference with Prasar Bharati. He gives his sermons about the editorial policy etc. Therefore, all along the country, the people know that he is utilising the media for publicity purposes. Then, he goes on publishing things. Unfortunately a section of the media also feels that he somehow goes on abusing somebody. I am not holding any brief for Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav. I am only holding a brief for the Constitution of India.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Therefore, I thought, realising the fate of this Resolution, the Government will not try to divide this House and the Government. I would have accepted in good grace the inevitability of this Proclamation, and at least we would have tried to dispose of or dealt with some of the important issues before us.

So, Sir, it seems not only this Government is doomed but our misfortune is that along with this Government, this country is doomed. Therefore, to save this country, to save the Constitution, sooner they go out, it would be better, and as I said earlier, not a tear will be shed.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir. I have just heard speeches of the leader of opposition and CPM leader Shri Somnath Chatterjee. What I felt is that perhaps due to some political compulsions they are opposing the imposition of the President Rule in Bihar, but on the basis of logic being given here, they can not prove even a single matter. As all of you know the President Rule has been imposed more than hundred times in this country and today I want to say here that out of these President's Rules if any one can be justified and can be claimed as based on facts, then it is the one imposed in Bihar. If we listen to them at length, at present Mr. Somnath is opposing the article 356, it appears very strange. The President Rule was imposed in the four BJP governed states on 15 December, 1992 and it was imposed by the Congress and all friendly parties had supported it was not it 356? Did not we enjoy the majority? Was not there the two third majority? Why had you supported Article 356 and why you are opposing it today? You will have to answer this. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You have read my speech that day.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Yes, I know that.

[Translation]

But with that I want to say other thing also that we are in power for one year and in this one year there is only one state where the Article 356 has been invoked, we are under pressure of our allies in several states but the Centre has taken this action in regard to one state only. When once the President had returned that proposal it was not sent to him again for a long time. It was sent again only when two incidents of massacre of Dalits took

place in succession and another carnage also took place and there was too much blood sheding in the state then we felt that it will amount to evade responsibility for us and our Government if we do not send this then we felt that this is the duty of the Government to send it. The President Rule has been imposed in Bihar six times previously and nobody has objected it but this time objections are being raised.

I want to say that several strange incidents have taken place. In 1984, the President had imposed the President Rule in Andhra Pradesh on recommendation of the Congress's Council of Ministers then after one month long campaign they were told to show there strength on the floor of the legislative assembly and that Government was restored again. Can you give any such example with regard to us.

I can say that President Rule was imposed in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, similarly. The President Rule was imposed in Gujarat after proving majority and nobody opposed it. Nobody referred it. In Uttar Pradesh the President Rule was imposed just after the elections were held without holding session of assembly for even a day. Proclamation of President Rule is a characteristic of Congress regime and those Congressmen who had supported the imposition of President Rule in states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan etc. start talking about principle today then who would believe them.

You are telling us that we have erred by imposing President's Rule in Bihar you are trying to convince us that the popular opinion is not in favour of it I would urge upon Lalu ji not to get upset and go ahead with the elections in Bihar by raising the issue of the President's Rule, everything will crystal clear and you will come to the know the reality about mandate. I would like to tell the Congressmen that they have opposed the proclamation of the President's Rule in Bihar when the corruption was prevailing there. Besides, there are two more reasons atrocities on the downtrodden and women. Atrocities have been inflicted on women and they have been raped in Bihar. Despite this the Congress is opposing the President's Rule in the state. The General Secretary and spokesman of the Congress is present in the House. They stated on the 11th that this Government has no moral right to be in power. All of a sudden they now feel that although they do not have a moral right but they have constitutional right. I would like to ask the Congress for having double standards. When two-three people died in Orissa you changed your leader. You owed moral responsibility there but in Bihar you opposed the President's Rule despite such major incidents. I would

like to warn the Congress and other parties the topic of Bihar would not be an ordinary one, it would go to the public and the BJP and its alliance will come to power with 2/3rd majority. You may try it. Don't be under any misunderstanding. You are not doing a right thing by supporting the wrong principles in this way. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : The Christians have been attacked in Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : You just give me an example that anyone has been killed there, then I would accept it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : The Christians have been attacked there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : No one has received any injury. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : You have raised the issue of Gujarat. I am pleased to tell you that there is peace in Gujarat. A peace committee has been formed by the Christians and non-Christians jointly there, which is working in the state. No new incident has occurred in Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)* You please take care of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : There is peace in Bihar. The elected Government is ruling there.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Whatever we are saying you and Lalu ji are expressing their concern about the Bihar, it shows that other people are more concerned about it.

Sharad ji is saying that the 73rd amendment was made and if the Panchayati Raj has not been implemented there then we think that they are giving the examples of the Court. There is no other state than Bihar where the Panchayati Raj rule is not being seen in accordance with the 73rd amendment. Why the Bihar is the only exception. Why is this exception?

Has the court given any stay? Are you trying to discontinue the Panchayat rule by deriving the benefits from these things. There is financial crisis and violence in the state, rapes have taken place, injustice has been done to the Dalits. How many times the occasions of President rule have come, it would come in future too. I want to give you a suggestion. I want to ask Mr. Somnath Babu and Mr. Sharad Pawar that they should bring an

amendment in the Constitution that article 356 can be invoked in the states, where Bhartiya Janta Party is ruling and in rest of the states President's Rule can't be imposed ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You please bring it for the repeal ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : You please ask for repeal you will not find any example in the history that Article 356 has been invoked in four states due to an incident, which took place in one state. The details of Lalu ji's ten years rule is before you. I am giving the details based on the data and on the basis of data I am telling you that 58,565 murders, 18,485 Kidnapping, 8377 incidents of rape, 495 political killings (murders), 390 big massacre and 48 big incidents took place in Bihar. Only in Jahanabad 20 incidents took place, in which Government failed to control the situation. Apart from this big scams also took place. Do you know that the animal husbandry scam was of Rs. one thousand crore and other such type of scams also took place. I can say that the scam of Muster Roll was of Rs. 2500 crore, if you would have demanded for the enquiry into such scams then we would have thought that you people are talking of public interest. Congress or Mr. Somnath have not raised even a single point of Bihar, which is of public interest. What step has been taken by this Government in public interest during the last ten years, except this that you have worked for yourself and for your family.

I am happy with this thing that Lalu ji met Sonia ji and he said that, she has handed over Bihar to him and he has handed over the entire country to her. This agreement had been reached between them.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Sharma you are a senior person and we appreciate you because in anger you go on fast. I don't know where from you have brought this information that I requested Sonia ji to hand over Bihar to me and in return the entire nation would be given to her by me. It is certain that the days of your Government are numbered since your bad days have started.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : I listened this statement on T.V. You said that it was worthy of being welcomed.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : We have promptly welcomed the decision of the Congress, even now we are welcoming and will do so in future as well.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : At least Uttar Pradesh should have been left for Shri Mulayam Singh ji and it could have been said that the whole country have been given except Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Is it a policy of divide and rule by creating a rift between Shri Mulayam Singh and me?

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : What was the hesitation in taking Shri Mulyam Singh alongwith you.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR (Gopalganj) : The people of India and the whole world know about Lalu Prasad Yadav that he is a king-maker. ...*(Interruptions)* He belongs to my district. He has not done any thing wrong if he has talked with Shrimati Sonia ji. He has also talked with Shri Shekhawat ji of your party. He can go anywhere and talk to anybody.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : It is good that you have told that he can talk with anybody. I just want to make it clear by giving an example. I want to tell about the kind of development that is being done there. Once a Japanese delegation visited Bihar. The delegation hold talks with the officials and the Chief Minister and asked why Bihar was so backward inspite of having so much natural resources and minerals. The delegation told them that the former would make Bihar a prosperous state if the latter hand over Bihar to them for three months. The officials replied to the delegation that the latter were slow in doing such work and told them that if the latter hand over Japan to the former for three months they would change it into Bihar. It seems to me that by meeting Shrimati Sonia ji, he wants to say that Bihar should be left to them as it is, and that he would support her so that she could convert the whole country into a Bihar like situation and he would support her fully in this cause. Of course the people of the country would give their verdict about the pact between the two. But Shri Lalu ji must answer the question as to why the development work is at a stand still? Why the Judicial Commission could not function? Why, did the tribal council not work? Why the report was not submitted? Why the financial lapses are being occurred? For what purpose Rs. one thousand crore for the curtailed money was allotted under the Central aid was spent? For what purpose did you spend Rs. twenty five crore under the plan expenditure? You will have to answer all these questions. You must reply as to what type of administration is being run in Bihar and what sort of problems are being faced. Therefore if the Congress feels that the Government of Bihar has done something good and not playing any bad role and based on that the Congress has supported Shri Lalu ji and joined hands with him. So the over-all situation has become clear now.

The Government headed by the Bhartiya Janta Party has completed one year at the Centre. It has so many

achievements to its credit during the span of one year. I can say with proof that no previous Governments have such a record of governance as this Government has during the past one year of its governance. If you call us cummunal can you quote a single roit, major incident of that has broken out during the last one year. There has not been any case of consupation and scam during the last one year. Please quote if there has been any incident. We have made our country a super-power in the world during the last one year. You are criticising it and not able to digest it. You would have liked if Shri Advani ji would have not gone to meet Shri Bala Saheb Thackeray ji. Had he not gone to meet him, the tension would have continued and the cricket-match would not have been played. Nobody has appreciated it. Shri Advani ji went there and talked to Bala Baheb Thackeray. Today, I would like to congratulate Shri Bala Baheb Thackeray in the House that he withdrew its protest after Shri Advani ji met him. He took such a big step in the interest of the country but no body is ready to appreciate it. When the cricket and hockey matches have been played peacefully, you are feeling uncomfortable. When the Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan has successfully been completed, you are feeling uncomfortable. You are uncomfortable by seeing this Government's achievement during a single year. You must have realised that America and other countries have started respecting India. Now, the time is not far when the sanction will be withdrawn and we will make the country strong again by empowering its economic condition. But the parties which have adopted negative stance at this time, must understand that the Government of Bharatiya Janata Party is being led by Shri Vajpayeeji and all his allies are united with him and this Government will complete full five years, no matter how much you protest. You do not have any alternative. You are already separated by committing breach of trust. Shri Atal Ji and Advani Ji have given such a good Government that you must appreciate them. The condition of Jammu and Kashmir has improved as compared to previous years.

The law and order situation has improved in the entire country with the sole exception of Bihar and there is wide scope for improvement in the law and order situation in Bihar also after the President's rule in the state. It is time for everyone to have self introspection. If we have been supporting the President's rule on very insignificant issues then, history would never forgive us in case we oppcae it despite occurance of so many incidents. They would be put in the docks branding anti dalits and anti women, in any case, the ultimate decision would be made by the people and then you people would learn it in a better way.

As far as the leadership of Shri Vajpayee Ji and our Government are concerned, we have given the kind of

administration which is not comparable to any of the previous Governments. Shri Vajpayee Ji had put forth his heart. He wants to run the Government with consensus, he wants to seek everyone's cooperation so as to put India in place of pride in the community of nations. If you people extend your kind cooperation than it is well and good and if you do not, then we along with our allies make sincere endeavour to run the administration smoothly. There is no need of mentioning again the incidents taken place in Bihar. I would like to say that support the President's rule in Bihar and would appeal to you all to follow suit because if they do not support the President's rule in Bihar then they would be wiped out in the coming elections in the State. Underlining the points that the law and order situation should not be allowed to deteriorate and crime and atrocities should not be allowed to be inflicted on dalits and women.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would conclude my speech with one point to be made. As far as Shri Vajpayeeji is concerned, he has set several examples before us. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav has alleged that the Ranvir Sena has links with the BJP and the Samta Party. If it happened to be true then it is more necessary to dismiss their government because if they are aware of any links between the Ranvir Sena and the BJP-Samta Party combine then government is not taking any action against them, nor are any arrests being made then it amounts to the failure, inefficiency of the Government. Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav must not make any allegations against others if he cannot substantiate them.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Can a Government be dismissed on the basis of inefficiency?

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: This is no secret as to who is giving patronage to the Ranvir Sena. They are following anti dalit policy. After Shankarpur Bathe massacre, a commission was constituted but it has not been provided with the office and other assistance not to speak of submitting the Report. Had this commission submitted its report, then real culprits would have been known. I think that if at all it is an issue of principle then also Bihar is a fit case for use of Article 356. Had appropriate action been taken then, so many big incidents of massacres would not have taken place. First, 60 dalits were massacred then 21 and 11 dalits were slain. Can you name any other state where three sitting MLAs have been murdered. One MLA was killed in hospital under police custody and the accused have not been arrested till today. ...*(Interruptions)* Do you take these three murders seriously or not? If you do so then, what action was taken? What action was taken and against whom? Shri Somnath Babu is sitting here in the House, one MLA belonged to his party. One MLA belonging to

his party was killed yet he is supporting this Government. We have nothing to do with it. But what is their confusion. Should they behave this way?

18.00 hrs.

I would like to say one thing. ...*(Interruptions)* As far as Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari is concerned, so many derogatory and insulting remarks were made against him in the assembly. Such nasty expressions were made in Bihar as well as here in Delhi. I denounce it. It is highly improper and wrong to use insulting language against the Governor. I would like to ask my friends from the Congress Party that if Shri Bhandari said "I am proud of an RSS man". You have objection to it. But what would you say about Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru who had included RSS people in a parade on Rajpath on 26th January, 1963. This is an historical event and we are very much sure that RSS people were called. And therefore no body can point finger at their patriotism. He took part in all the movements in the country. Chandra Shekherji is sitting here. He knows that thousands of people were sent to jails during the movement launched by Jai Prakashji. He never did any work in any manner in the country at which finger could be raised. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it is 6.00 p.m. And if this House agrees, the time of the proceedings could be extended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : It should be extended by an hour.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir, since we are attempting to complete voting tomorrow and we have taken a very, if I may say so, strong step in the sense that all of us have collectively agreed to postpone Private Members' Business, I think we should try and achieve that target. So I request the House and make a proposal for consideration of the House that we may sit till about 8.00 p.m. and if not up to 8.00 p.m., at least upto 7.30 p.m. because the number of speakers is very large. Only then, we can complete it. With your permission, it may be put to the House.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is the House agreed that the time of the proceedings of the House may be extended till 8.00 p.m. .

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : We agree to extend the House upto 8.00 p.m.

[Translation]

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS : Alright.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House has agreed, therefore the House will sit up to 8.00 p.m. Shri Krishna Lal Sharma may continue his speech.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have put across all my arguments in support of the President's rule in Bihar till now. I think the House would ponder over it seriously. I have also mentioned the task done by the Vajpayee ji's Government during its one year regime. Finally, I would like to say that on the one hand the R.L.M. has launched its campaign, I don't know why they have named it R.L.M.? They have named it the Rashtriya Loktantrik Morcha. According to me all the three words have been chosen very carefully. 'R' perhaps stands for Rabri, Similarly 'L' for Lalu ji and 'M' for Mulayam Singh. And that R.L.M. has become the party of Rabri Devi, Laluji and Mulayam Singh. And it has not got any recognition anywhere. They have already lost their credibility in this country by their style of governance. I want to say this only that the examples and ideals which Vajpayee ji have set before us, the examples which our Government and allies have set, I want to sum it all in a couplet—

"Aab jis ke ji mein aye oh hi paye roshani,
"Hamne to dil jalakar Sare aam rakh diya"

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr Chairman, Sir, I have listened to the speeches of hon'ble leader of the opposition, Hon'ble Somnath Babu and elderly leaders of the BJP. I also listened to the speech of Hon'ble member Rita Verma ji and I will continue to do so. We are not at all your enemies. You might remember that when you were not a member of Parliament, you came to my room and you were in distress at that time: your late husband was our staunch supporter, he was a sports person in the Patna University, I was General Secretary at that time and I used to hold him in high esteem. I was also present during his funeral. And at this point of time there is no need to count and recall those things. You are a woman from Bihar and belong to a elite class and at the moment you are in distress. The party which you belong to, you know it well that what honour it has been given and what honour it would set in future, I don't want to go in all these things.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble leader of the opposition and Somnath Babu dealt in detail on the points on the basis of which the Article 356 was invoked in Bihar and 18 months old Rabri Devi Government was dismissed. Allegations were levelled against me, cases were filed against me and I tendered my resignation. The same section was applied to me as was applicable to Advaniji. You just see through the conspiracy, the C.R.P.C. Act or whatever it is, we honour the judiciary. We talk about the poor, dalits and backward people. We have inherited the ideas of mass leaders like Karpuri Thakur, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain and Lohia ji and we entered in politics under their influence. Our grandfather and parents were never in politics. We established our identity in Bihar. People say that Lalu is full of histrionics. I say that I have grazed cows, goats, buffaloes and I have worked as a labourer also without wearing any shoes, chappals and without any meals—people say that how a cowboy has entered politics. We have presented poor turning extremists in Bihar. After the manalisse movement in Bangladesh since 1970 they turned towards Bihar. Advaniji you might know that Bihar is a feudal state. That is the mentality there and feudalism is the order of the day there. It is not a question of land only but it is a question of our prestige. Be it Holi or any other festival. The gazetteer which the Britishers have left in regard to castes and feudalism, you must study that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the description of Bihar given by him and the titles conferred on the people such as Raibahadur, Lalbahadur, Sir bahadur, Khanbahadur, I do not talk of all of these but who had conferred these titles and for what and where do these people stand today, this is known to all. I had formed a minority Government and you might be knowing that before my Government in 1990 when the entire country was celebrating the festivals like Id, Bakarid (Id-ul-Zuha), Dussehra, Bihar witnessed a series of riots. Bihar is a land of deities, saints, karmabhumi of the Bapu and the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain, yet we were too embarrassed to show our face. We took a pledge before Jai Prakash Narain's statue that how so ever mighty a person or a party may be, if they indulged in rioting in our state we will not spare them. We organised rallies of the poor masses.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at that time Advaniji had set out on a 'Rath Yatra' in the entire country. It was a big problem for me. I had gone to you and pleaded to spare Bihar. But you did not agree. Had I wished I would not even have allowed you to enter Bihar. You intended to go to Dhanbad and from there to come back to North Bihar. I decided to stop Advaniji there. Besides, there was one more reason, which I do not want to reveal. Otherwise I would not have let you enter. I have that file with me and to what extent you people want to malign

me? I along with Mulayamji had raised the issue of back benches. Shri Jai Prakash Narainji had given a call for total revolution to ameliorate the conditions of the down-trodden and the weaker sections of society. Yesterday, I had raised this issue but your colleagues could not understand it. Even Tripathiji could not get it. The movement launched by Shri J.P. had people from all castes and religions and they had given the call to build a new country and society. He had asked the people to shed off the labels of caste (the Janaeue) as it perpetuated casteism and people had started throwing Janaeue we all had participated in that movement. Emergency was imposed afterwards. However, the people belonging to the upper castes had tried to create troubles and block the movement.

Mr. Chairman Sir, as far as other backward castes are concerned, I would say that some of the Brahmins and Rajputs of Mithila are unimaginatively poor. We talked about Social Justice and uplifting the down-trodden and the weaker sections of the society. If I start reading out the incidents of genocides then it will have no end nor do I want to waste the precious time of the House. Today, you people are blaming Lalu, Rabri and Shri Mulayam Singh for creating vicious atmosphere of casteism. You may recall that you people were also indicted in the case of Bhagalpur riots when we had initiated action? When we initiated action, the High Court ... (Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. He is stating wrong. ... (Interruptions) Name of Shri Advaniji is not there. Shri K.S. Diwedi has been exonerated by the Supreme Court. ... (Interruptions) He is telling a lie. It is the Supreme Court's judgment that those people are not guilty ... (Interruptions) This is wrong statement. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Ritaji, Shri Advaniji was asked by the Court not to take any action. Shri Advani ji is not a political party. They are others. You may go through the report of the Commission. Shri K.S. Diwedi was directed by the High Court of Patna that he could not initiate any action without serving the notice. He was not exonerated rather it happened due to delay caused by our officers.

PROF. RITA VERMA : I have read it. He has been exonerated by the Supreme Court ... (Interruptions) I am very much sure about it. ... (Interruptions) Why should I not follow? ... (Interruptions) Do you follow the judgement given by the Supreme Court or not?

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I have not spoken even a single word. You please sit down. ... (Interruptions) Do

you want to further add to the identity of your Bihar. People like Lalu ji and Rita Verma have been born in Bihar. ... (Interruptions) You please sit down. Being a Bihari, at least you should have some understanding. I wanted to tell that when in 1990 we were in minority so many incidents of massacres and scams like land scam, Medicine scam, fodder scam etc. took place. How these scams took place. That I want to read for you and hon'ble members of the House which we have also submitted to the President. I want to tell you the instances when such carnages took place in Bihar. Late Indira Gandhi ji had visited at that time. This is not a matter of caste only. It is a matter of pride and prestige. If a son of poor person sits at front seat in a bus, if he is a Dalit, a Backward then his ears are boxed and are slapped and are addressed as a rogue and asked as to how he dared to sit there, he should have taken the back seat. When Lalu Yadav took over he awakened them. Regarding our way of life Baba Saheb Ambedkar. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajgang) : He is not giving correct statement. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Do you want to speak?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Yes, I do.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : We have been victim of this. Don't you know as to what happened in Phulwaria Village. ... (Interruptions) You please sit down. I have awakened the poor people of Bihar. I and Rabari Devi have ruled for nine years jointly. About which you have said that Lalu ji had not gone to the jail, he was ruling from the Jail, he was running the Government through remote. When I became the Chief Minister, some people became jealous of me because we do not belong to elite family. We don't reside in a ten by ten room. We spent our life in veterinary college and we kept our children also there. Four months later from that very place I became the Chief Minister.

14 tribals were killed on 21 November 1971 in Purnia, Rupakpur, Chandwa. Four Dalits were killed in 1977 at Bhojpur, Dharmapura. 14 Dalits were butchered in Belchhi, Patna in 1977 these Dalits were massacred by Bhumi Sena, Nitishji is not present here. He will have to reply. Shri Arun Chaudhari M.L.A. from his Samta Party might have been acquitted by the court later on. Mrs. Indira Gandhi and other people had visited that place. Four Dalits were killed in Bhojpur, Dharampura. In 1979, four Dalits were killed in Rohtas, 11 Dalits were killed in Patana Pipara by Private army and 14 Dalits were killed in Pipara and 11 Dalits were killed in Jahanabad Parasabigha in the year 1981.

In 1984, 5 Dalits were killed in Parasabigha of Rohtas District, 12 people belonging to the most backward classes

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

18.25 hrs.

were killed in Munger Laxmipur in 1986, in Aurangabad ...*(Interruptions)* I am telling the facts ...*(Interruptions)* 17 persons belonging to the most backward classes were killed. 11 upper caste persons were killed in Darminyan, Aurangabad. 7 persons belonging to the most backward classes were killed in chhechhani, Aurangabad, while in 1987, 56 Rajputs were massacred in Dalhaichah, Baghoura of Aurangabad. ...*(Interruptions)* You will have to understand as to who have killed them ...*(Interruptions)* 19 Dalits in Nounh Magwa, 11 Dalits in Khagri Dambua and 4 Dalits in Golokpur of Jahanabad were killed in 1988, 4 most backward people were killed in Narhi, Jahanabad, 7 Dalits were killed in Uodariya, Jahanabad in 1988, 6 upper caste people were killed in Tijorpur of Rohtas in 1989. 5 people of most backward classes were killed in Malibigha of Jahanabad in 1989, 10 Dalits were killed in Kesari of Rohtas in 1990, 5 Dalits in Lakwara Jahanabad, 4 Dalits in Dariyapur of Patna in 1990, 14 Dalits in Thora, Patna, 11 Dalits in Jabariya Palamu, 14 Dalits in Dowasiya Bhojpur were killed. Three people were killed in Sawan bigha Jahanabad on its way village Narayanpur is located. 9 Dalits in Man Barsina, Jahanabad, 4 Dalits in Kagarbigha were killed ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it would have been better if Mr. Pawar were present in the House to listen it all. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I would like to tell the House that in thousands of years. ...*(Interruptions)* I do talk about everyone's rule ...*(Interruptions)* In the one hand there is the question of respect, dignity and land of poor. People have made parallel codes. The trainers do not come from Bihar, they come from Andhra People's Group. When I was the Chief Minister, Hon'ble Home Minister had called me. It was decided that the Government of India should monitor the activities of extremists. The Government have distributed lacs of acres of land to the people who did not get justice, honour, prestige, farms etc. for thousands of years. Lalu Yadav had said that if even a poor is evicted, he will consider it the failure of his Government. On the one hand extremists say that the backward mass is with Lalu Yadav because he himself belongs to a backward class. Extremists are not progressing. I am not talking of all castes, Lalu is not a Yadav he is a book. Whatever has happened in Bihar that was under a conspiracy. What the leader of opposition has said, the entire nation knows about it. You have said that Samata and BJP will come in power in Bihar.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU in the Chair]

Not only Samata Party, the votes of Congress have shifted. Earlier the votes of BJP were confined to the cities only and now votes of Congress party have been shifted to your Party, which you yourself have said, Shri Ram Nagina Misra, an MP from Padrauna, is not present right now. He had said yesterday that Lalu Yadav had said that the "Bhura bal saf karo". I had not said it. It is injustice to us. We were being separated from the people of the upper caste and an atmosphere of hatredness was created.

It is a question of massacre and land. Arvani ji is sitting here and this fight has become chronic. You can see it in Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere in the country. Therefore, I had said in the N.D.C. meeting that untill and unless it is decided honestly that the tiller should be the owner of the land, only then the caste system and land lordism would abolish. This law should be enacted and forcefully implemented and all points will give their support in the passage of this law and this will also reveal that who are those people who are with the poor and downtrodden. We had said in the N.D.C. meeting that in the case of land of landlords state becomes helpless. There should not be jurisdiction of writ in this matter. In courts it takes a long time before the case is finally disposed. Thousands of acres of land is involved in litigation therefore land reforms should be included in the Ninth schedule of the constitution and land should be given to the tiller.

The Government officials are going abroad to request America to lift the economic sanctions. You sent Shri Jawswant Singh to America to negotiate in this regard and make cordial relations between the two countries. But I have also come to know that the funds provided by the world bank for development purposes have also been discontinued. This conspiracy is being hatched against us. The public and Shrimati Rabani Devi are not suffering due to the imprisonment of Shri Lalu Yadav. I went to the prison again but my party still won four seats. Shri Ajit Sarkar was there. We supported C.P.M. I was in prison when our Cabinet Minister Braj Bihari was murdered and his brother won the election. Shri Raghunath Jha was the president of Samata Party. Who had lost the election in Shivahara? You are talking of Vananchal. Shri Jaswant ji is not present here. You challenged us in Koderma, southern Bihar and asked the public there that it was a testing time for them to support B.J.P. as Bihar is going to be divided. But the public of Koderma and Vananchal made R.J.D. win the election in

my absence by not electing you. We won the election there by a margin of 22 thousand votes.

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Then why did you reject the demand for conducting an enquiry into the murder of Shri Braj Bihari ji?

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You sit down. It is a conspiracy hatched by you people. You have committed a wrong which is more dangerous than the water gate scandal and you can not escape responsibility. Samata Party put a condition that the then Government should be dismissed otherwise they would withdraw their support. You sent a governor there with a mission and a brief from the B.J.P. Shrimati Rabri Devi was never consulted in this regard. I was sitting beside you and said that I would not talk to you and therefore you should talk to Shri Advaniji on phone. Even today, Shri Bhandari is there in Bihar who ruined Shri Karpuri Thakur Ji. We told that we did not want Shri Bhandari as Governor. Instead, we requested a panel of four or five names so that we could exercise our opinion. We talked to Shri Vajpayee who told us that Shri Bhandari was a very good person and would not harm any one. In this way you promised us that he would be a friend of us but he acted against us. There is a well settled Judgement of the Supreme Court in this regard. I will not read. You read that. The B.J.P. Government was dismissed as it had demolished the mosque. It was justified.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Shri Lal ji, you just listen, I want to tell you one thing. If you prove that the structure that was demolished in Ayodhya, was actually a mosque, I will renounce politics or you are renounce it. First you prove that there was a mosque you use this word just to tarnish the image of our country throughout the world. The temples might have been demolished in the past, but mosques have never been demolished. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA : Even if it was a structure as per your statement, why was it demolished then?

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : We did not demolish it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sharma, you are a senior member. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Let them prove first that it was a mosque.

SHRI INDRAJEET GUPTA (Midanpore) : Shri Sharma, just listen. If it was not a mosque, nor a religious place nor a holy place, why did you demolish it?

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : We didnot demolish it.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I was telling that you had told the floating voters in your election manifesto that you would get them rid of me. What was my fault? Was it a fault that I had announced that the reservation would be implemented in Polytechnics, Engineering and Medical Colleges and in Panchayats? Yes it was my fault as the leader of the opposition has also pointed out that when 73rd Amendment was brought it was said that legal reservation would be provided to backward classes, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and O.B.C., in the Panchayats based on the caste population. De-limitation was done in Delhi. There was centralisation of power structure and the judicial personnel and administration was intrusted certain powers. If a labourer or teacher does not attend his duty, the Panchayat Sabha has a right to dismiss him. You need not approach to the highest authority. You can go through the law. We empowered the Chairman of the block samiti at block level to suspend and dismiss even a B.D.O.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : He did not allow even to conduct the elections.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Members, please hear what he has to say. I will give you a chance to speak. You please say whatever you want to say when you get the opportunity.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lal, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, I am watching as to how you are controlling the House!...*(Interruptions)*

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

[Translation]

This delimitation was approved by the High Court. All the preparations for the elections had been completed, ballot boxes had been procured, ballot papers printed, yet the B.J.P. people moved the High Court accusing Lalu Prasad for not allowing the backwards, poor and Dalits to participate in the Panchayat elections. The High Court issued a stay order. Now, we have moved the Supreme Court. It has served a notice to the Government which is committed to social justice. We kept pleading to restore the old Mukhiyas. We do not know whether the Supreme Court directed that Collectors and B.D.Os would continue functioning. And such a prejudiced and vindictive recommendation was sent to the President without going deeper into the facts and made it a case of Constitutional breakdown of machinery. There is one very honest and sincere Judge in Bihar whose name is Justice V.P. Singh. A public litigation case has been pending in his court for years together which has been filed by some Mukherji Sahib and he wants that Patna should be made Singapore. Patna is not a city. It is a village. Patna is not a Metropolitan city. There is a street within a street and a hut within a hut. Only the areas where Ministers, Governor etc. live, the new constructions have come up otherwise the rest of the city gives the look of a typical village. He has cited several instances. The places stink of cow dung. We had a heated altercates with Shri C.P. Thakur on this issue and he has been losing elections due to it because he had stated that dengue mosquito breeds in the cowdung. But this cowdung has great religious value is Hinduism and it is used even on the occasion of marriages? You elite people can never understand the significance of cowdung which has got vital importance in our life. Even several diseases can be cured by consuming cow's urine. The people are even consuming their own urine these days yet you ask to remove cows and buffaloes from here. ...*(Interruptions)*

Eighty five truckload of fish and eggs are transported from Andhra to Bihar everyday. Shri Mukherji Sahib wanted that these trucks should not be stationed there. I was in jail at that time. Then where would these trucks be stationed? Will they be stationed in Danapur? Such a large number of trucks were stationed around the bypass that it caused traffic jam. At that the Hon'ble judge directed that trucks would not be stationed during a certain period and stated that it was Jungle-Raj there. It is not Jungle Raj there but it is Mangal Raj there. Whosoever has interfered in Bihar, it has resulted in the change of Government at the centre and this change would come

very soon. What sort of things you people utter during your tour of Bihar. Several Jain saints belong to Bihar. And Lord Buddha ultimately found solace in Bihar under a tree when he did not find any place to go. You people term that Bihar as a 'Jungle Raj'. Shri Sharmaji you are a very senior leader, you also said that Bihar is rich in minerals. Bihar is rich but Biharis are poor.

This is an insult to us. Do you realise it? There are abundant natural resources of minerals and metals such as iron, coal, lignite etc. in South Bihar and we are the masters of Bihar. Where does Shri Yashwant Babu stand? You people find only mismanagement and poverty there. My friend Shri Digvijay Singh from Samata Party stated that as many as four crores of workers have fled from Bihar. A state which has a long belt of minerals and metals alongwith the Mines and Minerals Regulation Act but Delhi has become it's master. The Department of Coal has fined the royalty on coal at Rs. 800. We have been fighting to revise it and go on fighting. We want that it should be fixed *ad valorem*. You have made Bihar a consumer. No money has been spent in Bihar for the development of infrastructure. The coal, iron and minerals belong to us but we have been made consumers of their products like bucket, clothes and medicine you have converted entire Bihar into a market and the blame is being put on Lalu-Rabri.

We are not guilty. During Narsimha Rao Government, we had asked for abolition of freight equalization policy on steel. You people abuse me saying, "Mahuva Chalo, Noida chalo". Cycles are manufactured in Chandigarh from our iron and I would like to tell Badal ji that birth place of Guru Govind Singh ji is in Bihar. We are the large market for Cycles and lanterns the nature had blessed us with mines. North Bihar is the best fertile land. The holy Ganga is one national river which divide Bihar into two parts. There is heavy erosion and waterlogging every year. Bihar has international rivers. The Burhi Gandak flowing from Nepal which is also called Bagmati causes devastation every year destroying bridge, culverts etc. We keep crying. Has Smt. Rabri Devi never requested you, Prime Minister ji for seeking assistance for flood hit north Bihar. You go on making announcements in Uttar Pradesh, Bengal and Bihar for providing financial assistance of 60-70 crores of rupees however, no money is received. Gujarat too did not get any money. ...*(Interruptions)*

How can you dare to ask me to clear off the accounts? No incident took place in Ropani, Korani Dhankatani or Pitani and Central Bihar, we had declared red alert there. There was no untoward incident anywhere.

We settled several land disputes. I admit that three political murders took place in the state but at that time I was in Jail. A lot of incidents took place at that time. Efforts were made to cause total disruption in Bihar. We had taken action and wo'nt spare anyone. This is a fight for domination. You people cannot appreciate a move to call a all party meeting on this issue.

I have with me a report containing the recommendation of the hon'ble Governor. This booklet was released from the B.S.P. office in Delhi containing a statement, "Bhurabal Saaf Karo". Annihilate people belonging to all four upper castes (Bhumihar, Rajput, Brahmin and Kayastha) I do not want to name him as I have high regards for him. He was with me during the days of the movement. I do not want to go into the details of the crimes. The leader of the opposition says that he has documents with him. This booklet was released on 20.10.1998 and price is Rs. 5/-. You know the B.J.P. publication No H-1098, Central office, New Delhi alongwith phone numbers. The name of publisher is not legible. However it says, "End Lalu-Rabari rule". What language they are using? The extremists speak in this sort of language. You people call for ending Lalu-Rabari rule. It has been explained in details with reference of a newspaper. You may see that this is the same recommendation. This report is vindictive and is an attack on the social justice and minorities. Bihar which has been the citadel of social justice has been targeted. I would provide the photocopies of this report to all the hon'ble members. *The new time* had carried an editorial to impose the Central rule in Bihar and this is Hindi translation of that editorial. They had also added that the Bhumihars have suppressed the dalits and have become Naxalites. The private armies of the landlords like the Ranvir Sena commit massacres of the landless labourers. I have great respect for Bhumihars. Shri C.P. Thakur, the Home Secretary, Shri Pandey ji, his wife are all Bhumihars and Bhumihars is an upper caste. Shri Tarakant Jha, Shri Yashodanand Singh and Shri Kameshwar Paswan who talk about dalits were your strong hold and Shri Kailash Pati Mishra has been accommodated in the Centre to appease the Bhumihars. When the President returned the recommendation, Shri Pramod Mahajan said that people changed in no time and if the proposal is exerted then they would say that we make passing references. I shall read out what they have stated. We shall take necessary measures after a fortnight. What happens in the *pitrapaksha* all the gods-deities, forefathers and souls of our parents live in Gaya in the Vishanupad. Pind (circular shape of cooked rice) are offered during the *pitrapaksha*. I am telling all this to those who do not understand about all these things.

And when the Hon'ble President returned that Bill, what Pramod Mahajan spoke is as follows:

[English]

"The BJP has been involved in this for the last six months. Once the *pitrapaksha* is over, we will begin the sacred task for sacking the Rabri Government—Mahajan said cheerfully at a meeting."

[Translation]

Sacking of the Lalu-Rabri Government is their only sacred task. We are the only people living there? They said the President noticed theft committed by ms. You just listen what the Ranvir Sena is all about. They said that the voice of revolt against the atrocities of the anti farmer Government and castist officers should be made more loud. We had imposed a ban on them. But they again formed an organisation and they also rebuked us and our Government. They say about me that Lalu relishes only in speeches. Therefore, they should commit murders and loot so as to embarrass the Government. And they call themselves as the brothers of farmers. I have said in the assembly that the Amir Das Commission is normally right and a circular has also been issued to this effect. They have challenged that. Amir Das ji should investigate. Of course there has been delay in that. But who have made the delay, action would be taken against them, I had said that. But before we could take action, our Government was dismissed.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Their leader was arrested but he was released by your Government.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not intervene.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Jaiswal ji you are the guru of kidnapping from Bettiah. It all started from Bettiah and you are the leader.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : You had said to me that one day you would also kidnap me.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I had said that join my party after leaving your party otherwise you would be kidnapped. But you are not fit for that also. I am just reading it out and if anybody needs it I shall give it to him later on. Who is the God father of the Ranvir Sena. If anybody is

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

in army. He is supplying arms to it and if any body is in business, he is giving funds to it and if anybody is in service, he is funding the Ranvir Sena and all sorts of help is being provided to it. They have written to all their friends in regard to the ensuing general election on 16 February, 1998 that in view of their organisation Rastravadi Kisan Mahasabha and the country, they have decided to vote in favour of the BJP-Samata in the Arah Parliamentary constituency. You all are requested that forgetting about all past acrimony all our colleagues will cast their votes tomorrow on 16 February, 1998 in minimum number. With folded hands all of you are requested to cast your vote judiciously and compulsorily. And vote for the BJP-Samata combine. And those are their views. It is all written in these papers.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : These papers should be laid on the Table of the House. The hon'ble member is telling a lie, where is it written? He himself have cooked this story.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : The facts presented by the Governor are far from the truth. Its a bundle of lies. ...*(Interruptions)* You just get it examined. ...*(Interruptions)* It has been signed. ...*(Interruptions)* I am presenting that paper which has been seized by the special branch of the Government in Bihar. Those who tell a lie assume that everybody is telling a lie. ...*(Interruptions)*

To say that financial management has been totally paralysed is false and small of *mala fide* intention. The ground reality is just its opposite. Financial management has been toned up to a great extent. Treasures are being computerised. About half of the treasures have been computerised. Withdrawal of salaries are based on allocation leaving no scope for cover up in case of over withdrawal. The Department of Finance had taken a decision to create accounts service with a view to effectively controlling accounts. Targets have been set in maintaining accounts. All the treasures send accounts of each month to the Accountant General in the following months. And the Chief Accountant General heaped praises on the State Government after meeting the Finance Minister in January, 1999.

Talks of misappropriation of funds are baseless. In case of any complaint strict action is taken. And the Union Government is fully responsible to reduce the plan allocation in the current year. The Planning Commission has categorically said that there would be a reduction of Rs. 800 crore in the Central assistance during the current financial year.

In addition to that a sum of 183 crores was to be earned through the hiked royalty rates on coal. The royalty is revised after every three years. The centre had constituted a study group prior to the revision of royalty rates for coal. The Ministry of Coal had received it's report in year 1997 but till today the Centre has not revised the royalty rates for coal due to which the State Government have incurred a loss of about 500 crores so far. Apart from that the State Government had to take 109 crores from contingency fund as on advance during this financial year to counter the unexpected flood situation effectively. The Centre did not provide any grant in this regard. The State Government faced this unprecedented flood by it's own resources. Apart from that, the State Government had to made interim relief of Rs. 250 crores to it's employees because the report of Fitment Committee was delayed. Owing to all this the fall in the size of state plan is but natural.

Pay scale revision has pushed the states to the brink of bankruptcy. Employees are going on strikes. Strikes are taking place everywhere. The age for retirement has been raised by two years. Due to this unemployed persons are getting no more jobs. Despite of these things Government of Bihar are not involved in over draft. We are self-reliant in the field of food grains. We do not demand food grains from any one. It is said that labourers are migrating to Punjab. When the farmers of Punjab turned to business, we asked the Bihari labourers to go and work in Punjab, make it your own home. We have reached upto Punjab. He says that labourers have migrated to Punjab. Bihari people have made Mauritius and Surinam their own country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka) : We have raised this issue with due seriousness. They went to Mauritius due to poverty and they are turning towards Punjab and Haryana owing to the same. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You don't know about it. They are going to America. Today, the people from Bihar are spreaded all over the world. The Government of Maharashtra want to drive away the Bihari labourers from there. ...*(Interruptions)* The party of Thackeray in Maharashtra wants to drive out all Biharis and Muslims. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, he should not make statements without proof. He should come out with proof. ...*(Interruptions)*

19.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, those who don't get food in their own states, those who are starving, they will migrate from villages. A starving labourer will go out in search of food. This is the current situation in Bihar. They leave in search of food, you should provide them food not mere speeches.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, he has already taken an hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am asking him to conclude. Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, you have already taken one hour. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was saying...

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA TIWARI (Bhagalpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. Till 1990 when Congress was in power in Bihar 42 per cent of the population was below the poverty line and after their coming in the power the percentage has gone upto 56.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No point of order. I will hear you later. He is concluding. There is no point of order. I will give you a chance later. You can clarify later.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : The extremism of the poor, Dalits and Backwards should stop. We have provided pucca houses and 20,000 Rs. to Dalits on large scale. We have worked for immunization, sanitation and education. We have given an incentive of one rupee daily to children of downtrodden people for coming to school, who were not going to school otherwise. When Rabri Devi came into power she announced one rupee incentive for the children of poor irrespective of their castes and asked them to attend schools and be literate. Leave your weapon, leave violence, be educated or die. This is our commitment. We are Gandhian but you are fascists and communal. Your mind is pre occupied with such thoughts.

You want to destroy the whole nation. You want to disintegrate the nation. You have attacked the Government of poor and by doing this you have dared to put your finger in kitten's kennel. You say that Bihar should be divided, destructed, remove this Government. You have brought disgrace to Bihar. Hon'ble Shri Advani ji, we did not expect it from you. Mere allegation does not make any body corrupt. You are the Minister-in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir. Massacres are taking place there but you did not resign. These people say that cordial atmosphere has been restored there. Shri Vajpayee ji went to Pakistan which he should not have done, you should have gone first. Had you gone first, things would have been different today. It is not that the B.J.P. is not bereft of courageous people. People like Khurana ji are available in the party. I do not know where he has been sent? The person who contributed a lot towards development of Delhi, who made Akalis to join you people, is being ignored. What else can be expected from you? Shri K.L. Sharma ji is sitting here. Sometimes he gives up eating and goes on hunger strike.

I do not know, what are his demands? What he wants? Therefore, I would suggest you not to encourage autocracy in the country. Today you are there, tomorrow you will come here. We people will soon go there. We have met Smt. Sonia ji. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Even now you are welcome to come on this side.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : We were together in 1977, but we get separated from you on the issue of dual membership of the R.S.S. and the Janata Party. We left it. We joined Raj Narain ji and Chaudhary Sahib. Still you people sent the Governour in Bihar. I do not want to utter any word with regard to him. I have high regards for him. ...*(Interruptions)* What have I said? I did not say anything. I simply said that it was very difficult to govern Bihar. I merely stated that we will not oppose the imposition of the President's Rule if the Governor could climb the 'Gol Ghar'. I am not at all abusing. This 'Gol Ghar' got built by the East India Company. Even a youth cannot climb it. You had rightly said 'your work was complete in Bihar, you could come back'. However, I know that the strong group—The Saugh Parivar creates a lot of trouble for you. It became your compulsion. Then you said that he should have not gone. He left with bag and baggage and without informing us, otherwise we would have given him a warmoff. You people are very nice and upholder of moral values but at the same time you are very greedy. All of a sudden their humiliation went off and he was asked to remain there. You are accusing me of being a member of the R.S.S. You belong to R.S.S. and better continue, to be with them. We know that from R.S.S. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : How long will you take?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Even ten minutes back
you were saying that you will conclude very soon. Will
you continue till tomorrow? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

19.09 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Laluji, will you please wind
up?

[Translation]

You have taken an hour. Please conclude now.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I know that when you are in
the chair, we become alert. We will talk little, please take
care of the rest.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari
ji prosecuted wrong facts before the nation. And those
documents were forwarded to the President by Shri
Advani ji, Shri George Fernandes and Shri Nitish ji. You
do not know Shri Nitish ji so far. I know him through and
through your friendship is very recent.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Through and
through?

SHRI LALU PRASAD : It means inside out. The
Samata Party is on the verge of breaking into pieces. If
you expand the Cabinet today you will find it merging
with some other party tomorrow. They are in the waiting.
...(Interruptions) The Communal riots have slit the throat
of the popular Government, the poor, the backward and
the downtrodden people. I would like to make an appeal
to the House especially to the secular parties to
vehemently oppose the proposal of the imposition of the
President's Rule. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Those members who want
to go to the Lobby may go quietly. They should not
create any noise here, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker,
Sir, the assembly has been kept in animated suspension

in Bihar under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Those members who want
to go the lobby may please go out quietly. Please do not
create any noise here.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker
Sir, under Article 356, the Bihar assembly has been kept
in animated suspension, the hon'ble Home Minister has
moved a motion in this House, for its approval, I am on
my legs to support this motion. When the leader of
opposition Shri Sharad Pawar was speaking. I was
listening to him carefully. I thought that Sharad Pawar ji
is a Maratha Sardar and the soul of Shivaji must be
present somewhere in his heart and he would understand
the agony of people in Bihar, he would understand the
pain of Bihar, and would realise the suffering of people
in Bihar as Shivaji might had felt the feelings of his
state. But perhaps he has not felt all those and instead
he has given a political speech. When Somnath ji was
making his speech. I wasn't surprised because after the
battle of Buxar in 1764 when Bihar, Orissa and Bengal
were amalgamated the as one state, at that time too the
people of Bengal had exploited the people of Bihar and
Orissa. The people of Bengal were holding the high posts
in the field of education which caused decline of education
in Bihar. Slackness in administration was caused due to
on big ...* and today Somnath Babu is advocating without
taking care of the pain of Bihar. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I strongly refute
it. This should not go on record. ...* What is being talked
in the House?

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : History bears
testimony of it. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this should not go
on record. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we believe in Indian unity. I am sure that Shri Advaniji will not approve of these things. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, so many Biharis are living in Bengal in peace. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Sir, we do not have any problem. There are so many Bengalis in Bihar. We are having very good relations with them. What is he talking about? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we do not decide people by their language or by their religion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in 1893 Orissa and Bihar were separated from Bengal and Bihar was formed as a separate state as a demand was made by Dr. Sachidanand Singh. I want to tell that Bihar had a glorious history. Lalu ji was saying very rightly that Bihar has a long glorious history. Bihar has been a centre of power for thousand years. Lord Shiva live at Deoghar in Bihar and Goddess Jagdamba stays at Aami. Lord Vishnu came Himself to Sonapur to save the 'Gaja' (elephant) from 'Grah' (crocodile). Lord Rama came to the 'Ashram' (hermitage) of Rishi Gautam for solution of Ahilya. Emperor like Bimbsar. Chandra-Gupta and Ashoka ruled Bihar. Lord Mahavir and Lord Buddha attained enlightenment here. Father of politics and diplomacy and author of Arth Shastra 'Chanakya', great scholar Mandan Mishra, Charak and Vidyapati all were from Bihar. Propocender of hypothesis Shersha and Guru Govinda Singh were also from Bihar. The first Satyagrah of Mahatma Gandhi was launched in Bihar Tribals still remember the story of Birsa Munda.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to tell you that nobody can forget the story of 80 years old Babu Kunwar Singh of Aarah who was fore runner of freedom struggle. He fought against Britishers with his sword and made them to lick the dust. Jai Prakash Narayan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Anugraha Narayan Singh, Babu Jagjiwan Ram were in the forefront deriving the freedom movement. Khudi Ram Bose of Bihar embraced death without any fear. Actually the democracy has its roots in Vaishali in Bihar from where Aamrapali hailed. Whereas the land in the Southern Bihar is rich and fertile, the land in the Southern Bihar is rich in mineral resources. It was yesterday's Bihar but not today's Bihar.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when we talk about today's Bihar, we would like to submit that the Congress remained in power since independence and Lalu ji and Rabri Devi ji ruled for about 10 years. The condition of Bihar during this period has deteriorated. As Somnath Babu was saying that whenever the Constitution is violated, the President's rule can be imposed. What sort of Constitution is it? At least one should know the pains and pangs of the people of Bihar. The Hon'ble High Court had remarked that the jungle raj was there in Bihar.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when Lalu ji was speaking, I was listening. He was enumerating the massacres in Bihar during Congress regime but he did not say anything about his own regime. He gave the details of the Congress regime. ...*(Interruptions)* He will give the details as to why these massacres are taking place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prabhunath Singh ji, please address me. Do not look at that side it will reduce the confrontation.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to put forth the situation of Bihar during these 10 years, be that related to development, state affairs, the exchequer, the administration, the law and order situation, complying the orders of the High Court, the arrangement of medical facilities and the power supply, take up any issue, they have failed in every spheres. Leave aside the law and order situation, we live in Bihar at God's mercy. Whenever we travel in bus or train in Bihar, we start reciting *Hanuman Chalisa* because only God knows what may happen anytime. This is the situation created by Lalu ji in Bihar.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Lalu ji had said in the Lok Sabha that he has come there as Krishna. For some time I went on thinking but later on I came to the conclusion that he has asserted rightly. Certainly he has come as Krishna but he is not the Krishna of 'Dwapar' but of Kalyuga. Whenever the Krishna of Dwapar used to steal butter and his mother asked him he used to say "Maya Mori Mein Nahi Makhan Khayo". Now the Krishna of Kalyuga, Lalu ji thought that butter would be there only when the cows give milk. He ate up the fodder. When there would be no fodder, the cow will not eat anything and it will not give milk and in this way there would be no butter. When the CBI and the court asked Lalu ji he replied "CBI Walo Main Nahi Chara Khayo". In this way Lalu ji is truly the Krishna of Kalyuga.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when you enter Bihar you would come to know about the miserable condition of

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

roads. When Lalu ji became the Chief Minister, he used to say that the roads of Bihar would be smooth like the cheeks of Hema Malini, but when you go you would see the roads of Bihar are not like the cheeks of Hema Malini but have become like the cheeks of Ompuri. The roads are like fisheries centres. There is water and water everywhere on road. This is the development there. I had raised the issue so many times in this House as to how the funds sent by the Centre for the development of Bihar are being looted. The Hon'ble Minister Shri Ram Naik ji had visited Bihar. I had raised the issue in the meeting with him that the funds which come from the Centre should be examined. Whether there funds are utilised properly in Bihar. They used to say that they were constructing houses for the Harizans under the Indira Awas Yojana. Please go and see the residential accommodations of the Harijans on Bihar. Thirty percent of the funds are being deducted by the Legislatures, the agents and the influential people of the R.J.D. and the Harijans are forcibly asked to put their signatures. They are the well wishers of the Harijans. Their miserable condition is due to these people. They talk about the massacre. It is true that once upon a time they had imposed a ban on the Ranbir Sena but they shook hands with Ranbir Sena when they were not in good terms with Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji. All the Harijans of Bihar went towards Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. They have an old way that they rule on those who desert them by suppression or they are implicated in fake cases or they are murdered.

The conflict between Ramvilas Paswan and Lalu Prasad led to the friendship of Lalu Prasad with Ranvir Sena and the massacre of 'Harijans' started in Bihar. This is the situation in Bihar and they simply cry over Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMED ALI ASHRAF FATMI : How many 'Harijans' like Ram Vilas Paswan.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Fatmi Sahab is crying hoarse. I want to tell you during the Congress regime thousands of Muslims were massacred in Bhagalpur. Who was the main culprit behind it ...* that person who had been a friend of Lalu ji, you just tell me what action has been taken against him. You always talk of Muslims. During the regime of Lalu Prasad violence broke out in Sitamarhi, who was the main culprit there. That was a MLA and MP of Lalu ji's party. What action was taken against him. I want to know about that. The violence which broke out in Patna city, what happened to that ...*(Interruptions)* We want to know all about these things therefore, Fatmi Sahab there is no need of arguing in this matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you will talk like this, it would be difficult for me to run the House.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I am addressing you only. I want to tell you that no industry or any state could flourish without electricity, but you just see the condition of all industries in Bihar. Let alone the villages even the small town go without electricity for months together. What to talk of the condition of villages. If a poll is erected in any village, wires are not there. The Centre releases funds for this purpose but for want of share of state that these funds are surrendered to the centre because state Government is not able to pay a its contribution. In the matter of electricity they have virtually ruined Bihar. You might have read in the New papers that the payment of coal has not been made. This resulted in a major problem. They have brought Bihar on the brink of destruction. When one travels in trains in Bihar he remember God out of fear. One Sub-Inspector of Delhi Police was travelling in a train in Bihar, decoity occurred in that train. He all along grappled with four decoits but could not do anything and as a result of which he was killed. Decoities in trains are the order of the day in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* In the case of agriculture the condition of farmers is like beggars. They relish in big talks. At any times they could say others party a party of dogs. When the Samata Party came into existence, he said it was a party of dogs. He says Rajput are dogs. Sometime he said the upper castes should be eliminated. He has got only gift of gab. His tongue is rather unleashed. He can abuse anybody, You might have seen yesterday only, he was abusing a member here and this is a way how he plays politics.

LALU PRASAD : ...* An enquiry should be conducted against the whole sale dealers trading in oil and the retailers. Dozens of daughters are suffering a lot as they have become widows ...*(Interruptions)* What is he talking about. ...*(Interruptions)* Is this the Debate? Should I continue to listen to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHU NATH SINGH : Who is the criminal, you or I. Now I shall come to this point. You just listen to me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was an independent member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly in 1985. Not a single case was filed against me at that time. I won in 1990 on the Janata Dal ticket. At that time Lalu ji became the Chief Minister, and not a single case was registered at that time also. We protested the wrong doings of Shri Lalu Yadav from the state Legislative Assembly to the streets. After one year Lalu Yadav expelled me from the party and we formed a new Party named 'Bihar People's Party' under the leadership of Chandra Shekhar ji for

some days. When we began to oppose the Government of Lalu Prasad then we were declared criminals by him but earlier we were not criminals. Shabuddin ji you just go through the judgement of the court. I don't want to comment on you. Later on cases were registered against us.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All those objectionable things will be expunged by me. It will be done by me. Do not worry.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Lalu ji, if your conscious is clear, fifteen days back we were coming together in the same plane from Patna and you told me on board that I was in wrong. My so and so minister involved you in a case wrongly.

You come to the state, we shall resolve everything. ...*(Interruptions)* You had said fifteen days ago ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Lalu ji, it is your business. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I would never like to end my rule in Bihar by inviting you to come to the state.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Shri Lalu ji, your rule has already ended, let the elections come, you will come to know and all you illusions will be dispelled. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this?

[Translation]

Are you talking in general or giving a speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Why do you not instruct him? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am directing him also.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is speaking because you are instigating him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : As far as the law and order situation is concerned, ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : If Shri Prabhunath Singh speak about the law and order situation then it would bring havoc to the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Shri Lalu ji, please sit down and listen. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please address the Chair and be relevant. It is half an hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You please speak, I wo'nt interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHU NATH SINGH : You please listen to me at least. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to draw the attention of the House to the increasing number of incidents of murders, loot and rape in the state. You may find such incidents on the front page of the news papers being published from Bihar and the persons in power are behind all those incidents. For instance, I would like to narrate one or two such incidents. When Smt. Rabri was sworn in as the Chief Minister a sixteen year old girl had gone to see Dussehra fair in Patna alongwith her mother. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Correct yourself she was eight years old*

PROF. RITA VERMA : He is telling a lie. The culprit belonged to his party R.J.D. and used to visit his home. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : When the entire city was under police siege, that girl was raped by as many as 10 persons and her case was not even registered. When the police got the information and went to the Chief Minister's residence, the culprit were at the Chief Minister's residence. This is the situation in Bihar. The culprits are given patronage in Bihar in this manner. In a case of kidnapping, a car was grabbed from a doctor in Patna. He was personal doctor of Shri Lalu Prasad ji. He tried to approach Shri Lalu Prasad ji to help recover his car and when he visited Shri Lalu Prasad ji at his residence, he found that his stolen car was stationed there as well as those who had grabed the car, were present there. When he informed Shri Lalu Prasad ji all

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

this, Shri Lalu astonishingly told him that those youths were unemployed and asked the doctor to give them money so as to recover his car. Such a person is the Chief Minister of a state.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : You must have heard several fairy tales, he is narrating a similar one here.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : See, what sort of people are there in your party.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : If these people mock at me I don't mind. At this, I can not help remember a story. This is for you Shri Fatmiji.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : He somehow got a job in Judge's house. He was absconding and hiding in the Judge's house, and finally the Judge also lost his job. You may verify it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You can not tolerate anything. Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would narrate a story which Shri Lalu Prasad ji would be willing to hear. We know each other well. Shri Shinde Sahib, you are right, I know Shri Lalu Prasad ji from the days when ...*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, where this debate is heading for?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whatever is objectionable, will be expunged, from the record.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) (U.P.) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that the debate which has been going on just now, is alright. But the debate would now continue in the Lok Sabha at this stage. I would request both of them and Mr. Deputy-Speaker that all this should be expunged from the record.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whatever is objectionable would be expunged from the record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All that is objectionable we shall expunge from the record.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I want to say that you just go through that one thing I will do say that those who are not present in the House and making a mention of their cheeks, faces, whoever makes such a mention be it Lalu Yadav or Prabhunath Singh, you please expunge all those remarks from the record. Since it belittles the dignity of the House. ...(Interruptions) Whatever has happened, has happened. And that should be not a permanent record. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : If it is to be removed, then whatever Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav has said, should also be removed.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : It is written there.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I am speaking the same.

[English]

Already he has spoken for more than one hour and everything is on record. When Shri Prabhunath Singh has started speaking, this kind of objection should not be there. This is a give and take policy which is being conducted over here. This should not happen.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As Shri Chandra Shekhar has said, anything objectionable or any indecent expression, either by Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav or by Shri Prabhunath Singh or by anybody else, will be removed.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : When Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav was making his statement, Shri Chandra Shekhar was present here. He should have suggested at that time. That would have been proper.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : That is true. But Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav was referring to the Government's action. He was not saying about rape and all that. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Shri Prabhunath Singh is telling about the law and order situation and that is within his right. Why should he not say that?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : May I request Shri Prabhu Nath Singh to wind up now?

[Translation]

Prabhunath Singh, now wind up your story and come to the point.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You have given him one hour's time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Who is going to prevent you.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : What the hon'ble member is saying, has become the property of the House.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : The members who are speaking from this side. Should also be given an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is capable to defend himself. Why are you trying to defend him?

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was telling about the incidents in Bihar and how criminals in Bihar have been getting protection from the Government. I would like to give one more example. An incident of rape with the wife and daughter of an officer of the rank of commissioner in Bihar.

SHRI LALOO PRASAD : When did it occur, tell the date?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : And the culprit was the son of a woman member of the RJD who happens to be the chairperson of the Social Welfare Board. Now you can imagine that the honour and prestige of officers also is not safe in Bihar. The officers of the Secretariat in Bihar have been bashed up. As far as they talk of law and order, I want to know from him that under whose rule Bhukhali Devi was made to march naked, and the caste to which she belonged to, does she not belong to Harijan? She was made to march naked, what action did you take against the culprit. Have you got any reply to that. One police constable embedded ammunition in the chest of a rikshaw puller in Muzaffarpur and he died in

pain. What action was taken against that policeman? Shri Lalu ji who pretend to be a votary of social justice promoted the policeman but the rikshapullar belonged to Neria Caste. A student agitation took place in Darbangha. A student was shot dead by a policeman. What action did you take against that policeman? You talk of social justice whether you know to which caste did he belong. You do not know anything but hypocrisy. What did you not do under your Government.

Earlier when you were the Chief Minister I was also a member of Legislative Assembly. Shri Hemant Shahi son of Congress Ex-Minister Shri Laliteshwar Prasad Shahi was also a member of Legislative Assembly. When he started opposing you, but he was murdered. He was murdered in the premises of Assembly and the murderer ran away after killing his bodyguards. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you will be surprised to know that Shri Lalu ji went to unveil the statue of that murderer as a Chief Minister. I want to tell all these to the Congressmen that this was the fate of all those who opposed him.

I do not want to tell the story how I was defeated in 1995 elections. Since I was defeated, I accepted the defeat. But after that, an MLA Shri Ashok Singh was murdered. We all i.e. my two younger brothers, my brother-in-law and my sister's husband were charged in that case. After three days Shri Lalu ji got included our names in the F.I.R. registered already. One against whom F.I.R. was registered pointed out that neither Shri Prabhunath Singh was present there at the time of incident nor any member of his family was there. We were implicated in this case at falsely. Shri Lalu ji wants to tell the same story. I want to tell the story of the murder of Shri Braj Bihari Mishra. When I was elected, I had not taken oath at that time. Shri Lalu ji and I were staying in Bihar Bhawan. You must remember that one day you had called me at one O'clock at night by sending a person. I had told you in that regard during our talk. ...*(Interruptions)* Just listen, it prepares grounds for imposing Article 356 in Bihar. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we were sitting there. Some criminals were roaming around Bihar Bhawan and there was some wispering. At that time I went to Shri Lalu ji and told him that I had come to know that Shri Braj Bihari Mishra was going to be murdered with three or four days. Shri Lalu ji tell the truth if I had intimated you or not and I had also told that arrangements for his safety should be made. You did not provide any security to him, so he was murdered.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : It is false and baseless point. He is making such points under a conspiracy.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You get it investigated by C.B.I. and see whether you will be under suspected or not. It will reveal who had murdered Shri Braj Bihari Mishra. Shri Ajit Sarkar was murdered. Shri Pappu Yadav was arrested on 22nd ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Sir, under Rule 353 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, no Member can level allegations against anybody unless a notice is given. They are levelling allegations ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal) : Just now Shri Lalu ji has levelled an allegation of murders against him. Let him reply.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There have been allegations made from both the sides.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please resume your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There have been allegations made from both the sides.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, for heaven's sake, do not indulge in it.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I am telling about the situation prevailing in Bihar ...*(Interruptions)* I myself have been victim, my family have been made to suffer during the twenty-two months ...*(Interruptions)* For which crime have I been in jail for twenty-two months. ...*(Interruptions)*

Please understand it. I am not levelling false allegation against anybody. I am telling the reality to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Excuse me, Sir, I have got a very small point.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : It is false. ...*(Interruptions)* He is telling a lie. He is making a false statement. ...*(Interruptions)* I refute it ...*(Interruptions)* What he is speaking is his own creation. ...*(Interruptions)* He is making a false statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my humble request to you is that the hon'ble member is making some statement. If, according to Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, the statement that is being made is false or misleading. I think, it is within the right of Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav to bring a privilege motion against him because everything is going on record. So, why should he not do that?

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : He is telling a lie ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : You should give a notice for privilege motion. ...*(Interruptions)* Let him give a privilege motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seat?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, if you are going to make allegations against anybody, then they will have the right to give their personal explanations and I may have to give them the chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Kusmaria, I have not even finished.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : He is giving his explanation. It is he who has levelled allegations ... (Interruptions) He is giving an explanation. ... (Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Let him speak ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have told that there have been allegations from both sides.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Agnihotri, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU NATH SINGH: You have a right to express your views.

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Sir, under Rule 353, whatever they are saying is not permissible.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is it?

[Translation]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kusmariaji please keep quite and sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, it does not apply only to Shri Prabhu Nath Singh. This is too bad. Please do not do it. Otherwise, we will have to reopen the whole debate. This is too much. (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Rules are meant to be observed... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir I am on a point of order.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : From the very beginning, I think arguments of this kind have gone on record.

My ruling is, whatever the Member says, unless and until it is unparliamentary, will go on record. If it is a privilege matter, it can be raised.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we are discussing the law and order situation in Bihar in the House. Kidnapping has become a major business in Bihar. You can get it enquired through any agency. When Mr. Sharad Pawar ji was delivering his speech, he was comparing Bihar with other States and giving the data in this regard. My opinion is that what sort of data he was presenting when no FIR is registered in Bihar. It will be shown in the Government records only when an FIR is registered. No FIR is registered in Bihar. FIR is registered only on the dictations from Patna. The S. P. gets the directions on phone that such and such case should be registered. so and so person should be put behind the bars or such and such case should not be registered. 25 percent cases of kidnapping are not at all registered. I want to tell you that the business of kidnapping is being done there like any other business and the kidnappings are being protected by the State Government. People from Bihar got a sigh of relief after imposition of President's Rule. You must appreciate the feelings of the commonman of Bihar. I again emphasise that the situation of Bihar may be reviewed and get it ascertained from any other agency. The people of Bihar are living in peace and tranquillity, earlier their condition was pitiable. Today it is being reported through the news papers and television that the motion moved by the Government would be passed in

*Not recorded.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

the Lok Sabha but not in the Rajya Sabha. When we go to our residence, we get phone calls as to what is being done on the other side of Bihar? People are worried about Bihar as they are scared that if he comes back to power again killings would be started again to take revenge and the Congress would be held responsible for such killings. I am saying so because MLA's have resigned from their posts. They know the feelings of the common man of Bihar and they are fully aware of the problems which Bihar is facing. You may not accept their resignations but you cannot be indifferent to them. You must appreciate that they have conveyed their feelings to the central leadership

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Nobody has resigned.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am requesting you to please consider this matter seriously.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh is capable of defending himself.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I want to tell you that neither we nor BJP is going to lose anything. Although Shri Laloo Yadav is going to gain but you are definitely going to be wiped out. At least learn a lesson from it and decide with your party members what kind of action you have to adopt. I am requesting you to cast your vote carefully at the time of voting. Please save Bihar from destruction. Please understand the problem of Bihar. Let not Bihar go into the hands of corrupt persons. I am requesting you to understand the problem of Bihar.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to tell a small story here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am very sick of story.

SHRI PRABHU NATH SINGH: The story is like this—once a king organised a marriage ceremony of his daughter in his court in which he invited wrestlers, warriors and others. All the people came there, but a Panditji came along with a boy keeping his " Pothi-Patri" on his head. A garland was put around the trunk of an elephant, who was supposed to choose the right bridegroom and garland him. The elephant took a round of the court and came to the boy and garlanded him. It

enraged the king who ordered to hold again the ceremony next day. On the next day also the garland ceremony was held. The Panditji left the boy outside of king's court. Even the second time, the elephant garlanded the same boy. It enraged the king again who warned him that he would kill him by throwing him in the oven. Next day the same process started although the boy was sitting in the garden, the elephant went to the garden to garland him. Thereupon the princess told the king, she would marry that boy. After the marriage when the boy was declared king, he started committing atrocities, malpractice, tyranny and adultery.

Some people rushed to Panditji and requested him to teach the king boy that the latter should work for public welfare since the latter was earlier his disciple. When Panditji went to meet the boy the latter listened him and offered cloth and Rs.500 to the Panditji and bid farewell to him. He again started committing atrocity. After some days, the public again rushed to the Panditji, who went to the boy again. The boy listened to the Panditji and offered Rs. 1000 and cloth. The Panditji went but boy's atrocities intensified further.

People asked Panditji to scold him, Panditji went to him, reprimanded him for the manner in which he was running the administration at which the boy turned king retorted angrily and asked him to behave and said that if the luck of his kingdom had been good then, why the elephant would have put the garland around his neck?

I believe that had the State of Bihar not been unfortunate, such a state of affairs would not have been happened in Bihar and the C.M. would not have been same who is out to destroy Bihar. It is again great misfortune of Bihar that the issue for writing the destiny of Bihar under the Article 356 has been raised here in this House, and I would request the Hon'ble Members to write the destiny of the State afresh. The State of Bihar has been divided and sub-divided on the basis of castes, fabric of social harmony has been disrupted, therefore with a view to restore all these things, all the Members should support the proposal for dismissal of the Bihar Government under the Article 356 and thus writing the destiny of Bihar afresh.

Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav was alleging that the Article 356 has been imposed in Bihar under pressure from Samta Party, Shri Nitish Kumar and George Fernandez and due to promise made during the Parliamentary elections. In 1990, I along with Shri Nitish Kumar and George Fernandez and our colleagues of the Samta Party were in the same Janta Party but when the law and order situation kept worsening, corruption got rampant then, we people left Shri Laloo Prasad. The Samta Party

was constituted with the sole purpose to topple the Government. If they had made such a promise to the masses in the elections, then, it was not wrong. It was resolved solemnly on the day of constituting the Samta Party that the members of the Samta Party would endeavour tirelessly to make a equalitarian society in Bihar. It is our Party's resolution to build a new Bihar. Therefore, it is all the more necessary to dismiss this Government with a view to bail out the State from total bankruptcy, lead it to new direction, to improve the law and order situation in the State, to nab the looters of public treasury, to improve medical system and to provide power and water to the common people.

I would request the august House to extend its support to Article 356 and help in dismissal of the Government in Bihar.

DR. SHAKEEL AHAMED (Madhubani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak. I am on my legs to speak on the proposal brought by the Home Minister for ratification of the President's rule in Bihar. I have listened to the debate. Barring the Home Minister, no member of the treasury benches gave a reasonable logic in favour of imposing the President's rule in Bihar and our leader of the Opposition Sarad Pawarji has fully given point-wise reply to the arguments given by the Home Minister in this regard. His one statement was enough. If the Home Minister had some understanding, he would have withdrawn that proposal. Every logic advanced by him has been satisfactorily replied to by him. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, dalits were killed at two places in Bihar. If such killings occur in any civilised society, that should be condemned.

This is not the first occasion when the dalits have been killed. Some times people of the forward classes have also been killed who fight for their rights. Killings also occurred during the Congress regime. In 1977 when Janata Party was in power our late leader Indrajit visited Belachhe. And that time you had changed your colour and name, but killings did take place then also. They were also in the Janata Party, killings are not a good thing and we all should condemn it but we should not play politics over it. And those very people are talking of killings and dignity of dalits. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the senior leader of the Congress, Babu Jagjivan Ram unveiled the statue of Sampurnanandji, it was washed in the Ganga water later on and now these very people are crying for dalits. They should feel ashamed of since they are playing politics in the name of dalits.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir it is true that Ranvir Sena has also accepted it that they have killed dalits. There is land dispute there because the distribution of land has not been made properly. The Ranvir Sena, the MCC and other people quarrel among themselves over land. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, here it is not worthy that at the time of land dispute, it becomes the Ranvir Sena. But to whom they cast their vote, everybody knows about it. The Ranvir Sena men vote for the B.J.P. and its allies. I hail from Bihar. A conspiracy has been hatched there and in the name of the Ranvir Sena, dalits are being killed in a planned way. So that the Rabri Devi Government is dismissed. This is a political conspiracy. I raise a demand through you that if the Home Minister is politically honest then he should conduct an enquiry properly about these two massacre which have taken place in Narayan Pur and which has been the basis of dismissal of the Rabri Devi Government. Such incidents have taken place in the past also. There is land dispute there and fight for honour and respect. I honestly say that these two incidents have been done to dismiss the Rabri Devi Government and an enquiry into this matter should be conducted by an apex institution of the country. This enquiry should be conducted by the agency for which this House gives its consent. The Hon.ble Home Minister has said in his speech that the offenders are not arrested, the Commission has not been given anything, its report has not been implemented. Adequate staff hasn't been given to it. But Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the treatment given to the report of Shrikrishna Commission on Mumbai riots by their Government is well known to all. The Home Minister is very particular about Commissions. But he is not showing concern for his Government and the Government supported by them. What they have done to the report of Shrikrishna Commission? (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you disturbing now? I will take the pleasure of the House when the time is over.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: My simple request is that if he wants to discuss anything about Sri Krishna Commission, he should come out with the facts. We are prepared to discuss it.

• [Translation]

(English)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: I am not yielding.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright. The House is now
adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How much more time
you want to take?

20.00 Hrs.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: I will take 10—15 minutes
more or will continue tomorrow.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
clock on Friday, February 26, 1999/
Phalguna 7, 1920 (Saka).*

CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

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Thursday, February 25, 1999/Phalguna 6, 1920 (Saka)

<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
348/14(from below)	Prof.Radhika Ranjan Pramanik	Prof.R.R.Pramanik
377/20	Shri Shyan Bihari Mishra	Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra
387/19	Shri Lal Krishna Advani	Shri L.K.Advani
465/15	Shri Laloo Prasad	Shri Lalu Prasad

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